



MAKING A DIFFERENCE



**IMPACT
ARTS**

“WE ENVISAGE A SCOTLAND WHERE EVERYONE
VALUES AND BENEFITS FROM THE POWER
OF CREATIVITY TO TRANSFORM LIVES.”

Widely recognised as one of Scotland's leading charities and social enterprises, Impact Arts has been supporting people and communities to transform their lives through creativity and the arts since 1994.

We have a clear mission: **to tackle inequalities in Scotland through Creative Engagement.**

Delivering services across Scotland, we work in areas affected by multiple disadvantages and with those often seen as the most vulnerable in society. The common challenge faced by all our participants is that of poverty and its side effects; mainly: low aspiration, low self-belief and a lack of personal and community confidence – all of which are often compounded by lack of educational opportunities, low or no qualifications, high levels of localised unemployment, poor physical or mental health and social isolation.

Our ability to think and deliver creatively has ensured we are able to transform lives by reaching out to those who are under supported and under represented and underrepresented and our alternative creative approach offers a new way to successfully engage with them.

Over the last 12 months demand for our programmes has never been higher and is driven by both the social and political landscape.

We listen carefully to the needs of the people and communities we seek to serve while creating opportunities for their voices and views to be heard more widely. As such we: provide art therapy to children and families experiencing trauma; support disengaged young people to move closer to positive educational employment outcomes; work with care experienced young people and those experiencing homelessness in order that they are better able to sustain their own tenancies; offer various programmes that focus in increasing mental health & well-being outcomes as well as working with those in contact with the criminal justice system and more.

All of our projects are delivered in partnership with local people and local organisations. Our role is often one of facilitation and empowerment, enabling communities to lead and realise positive change.

Our partners and funders recognise our ability to design creative solutions to their identified issues and we cut seamlessly across sectors, providing opportunities for engagement throughout people's life journeys.

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JIM SWEENEY

MBE, CHAIR

2020 was a year that was more trying than most of us can remember in our life time. From the initial shock of the Covid pandemic and the full lockdown of April 2020 to the second and third waves that hit us in Scotland, we have seen the people and communities that we support struggling with the impacts of this devastating pandemic.

Like many other charities, we rose to the challenges that it presented. At the heart of Impact Arts' response, has been kindness – kindness in how we support our service users and communities and kindness in how we support our staff and our volunteers.

Internally, the Impact Arts team have demonstrated increased resilience, adaptability and creativity in how they quickly adapted to new virtual delivery models which proved hugely successful and represented a life line to many. Increased support that has been available over the year for digital transformation and supporting people to get online and to stay connected has been invaluable.

Externally, our response has allowed us to meet emerging needs in particular those related to the mental health crisis that has been a real issue across all of the age groups we work with.

Some examples are:

- Our children's art therapy supported our most vulnerable children, working in a multi-agency approach to ensure joined up support was available for children, their families and carers.
- Huge increases in youth unemployment and disruption to education have put young people at risk. Impact Arts programmes such as Creative Pathways and CashBack to the Future successfully engaged young people from over 18 local authorities across Scotland.
- The heart breaking isolation of our older people, both those living in their own homes as well as those in care homes, has come to the fore in the last year. Our artists and wellbeing support workers provided a life line during this time, sharing techniques for the self-management of health conditions and encouraging older people to use the arts as a means of expressing their feelings about the ongoing crisis.

The year has brought into stark focus, just how important the arts and creativity are in bringing people together and creating a sense of connection. Engaging in creative activities is not only therapeutic but allows people to have a voice, to have their ideas and stories heard and brings joy to many people's lives.

The Impact Arts Board and Leadership Team firmly believe in the importance of putting creativity at the heart of Covid recovery. We are working on our plan for the future, imagining new ways in which we can support people and communities, who are most in need.

A massive thank you to all of our funders and partners who have allowed us great flexibility and support during these most challenging times. Thank you too to our committed staff who have gone above and beyond on countless occasions, supporting people in crisis and to our excellent Leadership staff who have guided and supported the team to navigate these challenging times with care and concern for their wellbeing. I am proud to be able to commend this annual report of our activity to you on behalf of the Board.



FIONA DORING

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

When times are challenging, there are always opportunities that arise, and throughout 2020/21 Impact Arts has demonstrated across all of our work, our ability to respond to challenge with innovation and creativity.

The vast majority of our work continued (in a virtual capacity) and the team have provided a life line to those most affected by the pandemic. Credit to our artists, youth workers and wellbeing support workers who took things in their stride, redesigning projects, creating art packs and delivering all of our creative workshops online and by phone. While nothing replaces face to face contact, we have been astounded at the response to this approach.

The vast increase in digital delivery has highlighted our need to adapt and update our own digital systems. We are extremely thankful for funding which has allowed us to invest in our hardware and to embark on a full digital transformation journey where we are driven by the needs of all of the people we work with; where Digital enhances our delivery and grows our reach; and crucially, where Digital supports Impact Arts to do what we do best with greater ease and joy.

Our mission of using creative engagement to tackle the inequalities that exist in Scotland has never been more relevant than at this time of emerging deep divides within our society. We are clear that we cannot leave the people and places that we support behind. We are committed to working with participants to design new services that respond to emerging needs and sustain those existing services that have proven to be a lifeline.

Staff wellbeing has been a significant priority throughout the last year and the care and enthusiasm that the Impact Arts team have demonstrated to one another as well as to all of our participants has been inspirational. The team were supported to adapt to the virtual way of working with weekly yoga sessions, monthly socials and Hygge wellbeing packs all designed to ensure that their wellbeing is prioritised with the awareness that we can only support others if we are well ourselves.

There has been a huge amount of rich learning and we will take that into future years with us, ensuring our services continue to be at the heart of how Scotland builds back and recovers from the pandemic. Thank you to team Impact Arts for their unwavering commitment over the last year, for living our mission and ensuring creativity was at the very heart of supporting Scottish people through the pandemic. Thank you to all of our funders and partners whose support and understanding over the last year allowed us to deliver our services in new and agile ways, directly responding to the needs of people and communities as they changed.

However challenging the year ahead looks to be, I am confident that Impact Arts will respond with determination and vigour putting people at the heart of all we do.

COVID-19

2020/2021 has been a difficult year for us all, with the Covid-19 pandemic. At Impact Arts we had to adapt, moving over 90% of our programme delivery to virtual engagement models in March 2020 when we had very little prior engagement solely through digital means – this was a huge learning experience for us all.

Our flagship programmes continued to operate via digital mediums – e.g. Zoom, Facebook, etc. – with staff teams primarily working from home. From the end of summer 2020 we resumed limited outdoor activities e.g. Creative Play, in Edinburgh

In adapting to virtual delivery we developed the following activities during 2020/21:

→ A new online programme; Make Space, focussed on supporting the mental health of young people. We sent over 800 art/resource packs to our service users, many of these were bespoke, based on interests and the creative focus of individual/groups of participants.

→ Created member-led newsletters for participants in our Older People's programmes containing; activities, health and wellbeing advice/guidance, stories/letters/messages from members to the wider group.

→ Provided more support for our older participants – recognising the low levels of engagement with digital technologies of our members, we put in place daily/weekly phone calls, moving to door-step visits (as appropriate), and we established a phone tree system alongside key members. Additionally, we introduced a new role for a dedicated Health and Wellbeing Worker for our Craft Café programme.

→ Tackled digital exclusion – Distributing over 310 devices (laptops, tablets, and mi-fi devices) to participants to address the needs related to digital access.

Organisationally, we recognised the significant challenges shared by many organisations during this period, but have realised key successes as well.

Positively, over the past year a lot of our young people benefitted from working online. It has been a great tool to build confidence and we have benefited from various funding to provide digital equipment to young people so the course content is accessible. We have been able to engage more participants from areas across Scotland we wouldn't normally work in, and have reached a new audience in those young people that simply would or could not engage in face-to-face activity. Our extended geographical reach is also reflected in our staff team, we were able to facilitate working remotely and had people working from across the UK.

We have had the opportunity to develop a new programme of online delivery from our learning, accessing new platforms and levels of partnership working and our team continues to grow to support the successful delivery of our projects.

Today, we continue to build on our strong foundations and values - ensuring that the people of Scotland are valued as a central, indispensable and celebrated part of our rich society.

CRAFT CAFÉ GOVAN MEMBER DAVID

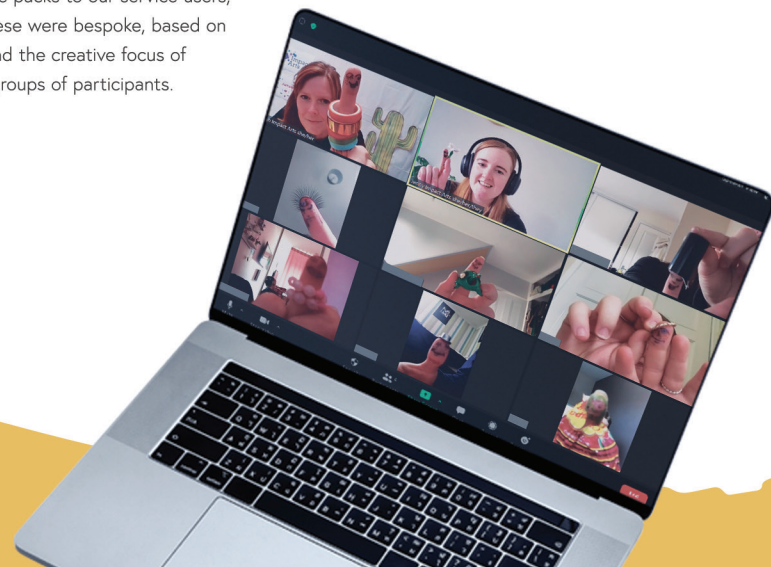
SHARES HOW CRAFT CAFÉ HAS SUPPORTED HIM THROUGH THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

"It's good for you mentally, it helps stress and it relaxes me! Art really relaxes me, and with lockdown and Covid-19 over the past year, Craft Café continuing in some form has been a massive help for me. It's been like a silent friend, especially the support from the tutors and creative assistants.

Attending Craft Café Govan use to be the highlight of my week, and nothing was going to stop me coming down to Elderpark Community Centre for the session. I know a lot of member's are really missing Craft Café. No matter what was going on in the world, it was as if all the problems stopped for a few hours when you attended the sessions. Members mingled together, had a laugh and a great time doing different projects together.

I've missed it a lot over the past year, and it's not just the craft and the arts, it's the enjoyment of being around people. I use to attend Craft Café once a week but when this is over and we are able to attend again, my plan is to go more. Not attending face-face sessions has really made me realise the benefits of it and how much it helps my mental health and wellbeing.

All the staff I have met and spoken to on the phone in the weekly well-being check-ins have been so consistent in the way they have treated people. They have such a positive manner and outlook and if that is a representation of Impact Arts, then they are a very lucky company, they don't know how lucky they are!"



OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

7,347
people engaged in creative activity with Impact Arts; projects, events & exhibitions

We delivered
3,166
workshops sessions

Distributed over
300
devices /data bundles

510
people engaged in young people projects

81%
of young people moved on to a positive destination

Engaged with over
100
older people

Sent out almost
800
art packs to participants

HIGHLIGHTS 20-21



CHILDREN

ART THERAPY

Art therapy offers a safe relaxed space for children to express themselves through creativity and play. Sessions work on the basis that it can be easier to address difficult emotions through art than talking about them directly. In sessions our art therapists offer support and help children get a better understanding of their worries and concerns.

Creative activities can be particularly helpful for children who find it difficult to verbalise feelings and can help improve communication skills. Our Art Therapy programme provides positive outlets, alongside wrap-around therapeutic support and develops an individual's self-awareness, resilience and confidence.

North Ayrshire, a region most affected by multiple disadvantage and poverty, saw its residents hit hard by the pandemic. Income levels are dropping, mental health needs are rising, and children's needs have been exacerbated. We continue to be the only Art Therapy service provider in the area and as such are continually striving to manage the high levels of referrals to the service, – which are currently at an all-time high.

The Pandemic and resulting legislation affected our ability to deliver face-to face services from March 2020. However, quick to respond to the needs of existing service users, our Art Therapist Coordinator, Danielle Devin continued to deliver on-line support to our existing Dyadic families until June 2020 and ensured our most vulnerable children remained in contact thanks to individualised art packs sent to them all during the summer.

Additionally, we were aware of the increasing needs of Care Experienced Young People (many of whom were most affected by lockdown) we extended the Art Therapy service in May 2020 for Care Experienced young people throughout North Ayrshire via a series of weekly creative on-line activities/projects and engaged with 39 15-25 year olds. We were thrilled to receive such fantastic feedback on this new approach which sought to focus on the health and wellbeing of these young people – giving them the tools, support and resilience to face up to challenges presented.

“**Thank you very much! This project came along at a really scary part in my life and the support, projects, delivery and genuine self-care from you guys helps 10,000%. All the best and thank you.**”
- SM, Care-Experienced young person

Under the essential service category in August 2020, 1-1 Art Therapy resumed – operating in a Covid safe manner from our Irvine base and we look forward to resuming delivery from within schools and community venues once it is safe and appropriate to do so.

“**The children seemed calmer when they returned from art therapy, like a weight had been lifted from them. They were starting to be able to use their words rather than explode when something wasn't going their way. It has just reminded us of how many needs and difficulties these pupils have and highlighted how fragile their emotions are.**”
- Kerry Finlayson, Principal Teacher, Hayocks ESR Base

In February 2021, we set-up remote 1-1 working through Microsoft Teams with children based at Hayock's Educational Support Base and in March, we brought in a new freelance Art Therapist to support with delivery going into Year 3.



113

1-1 art therapy sessions delivered through a mix of face-face & virtual



CREATIVE PLAY

Creative Play help's children's imagination run wild, while developing strong links to their local community. Sessions are designed to encourage children to develop creative skills, improve confidence outdoors and help them make new friends. After joining us, children will have met new people, learned games they can play outdoors with little or no materials and discovered their local park through a completely different lens.

Despite Covid-19 bringing its challenges, and having to stop our Creative Play sessions in Edinburgh, during the lockdown periods we were able to keep in touch with the parents of some of the children that had been attending the play sessions, and pass on activity booklets filled with outdoor activity ideas that they could do in their garden or in their local park.

In August 2020 we were able to start the sessions back up, and engaged with 46 children over 51 sessions, helping the children build their confidence, independence, interpersonal and creative skills.

The children who participated were from the Moredun and Liberton areas of Edinburgh with many attending Liberton and St John Vianney RC Primary Schools.

The programme achieved their five main objectives:

- Nurture self-esteem & gain confidence
- Realise creative potential
- Enhance children's communication and social skills as well as ability to work as a team
- Develop healthier bodies
- Equip children with love and respect for the outdoors

And above all, it presented the children to the amazing world of nature and a whole new concept of creative, outdoor play in a form they had not experienced before.

“When I am outside and with my friends it always makes me feel happy!”

- Participant

“It's been huge for their mental health”

- Parent

Worked with

65

children

81%

showed increased confidence

84%

improved communication skills

YOUNG PEOPLE CREATIVE PATHWAYS

Creative Pathways is our key employability programme targeted at 16-26 year old's with a focus on 16-19 years old's, funded by Skills Development Scotland and the Employability Fund. It offers a fun and engaging way for young people to increase their employability skills, gain a qualification and work on creative activities. We work with participants to gain an accredited Employability Award and support them to progress to a positive destination; further training, college or employment.

Acknowledging the needs of the targeted group, and the adverse effects that lockdown and the pandemic were having on them, we quickly pivoted the programme to virtual delivery from April 2020. As a result we successfully engaged with over 160 young people who attended 417 workshop sessions, delivered across 8 week blocks. Online communities of young people were created, and it provided a safe and creative space for participants during what could have been a very lonely and challenging time.

Creative Pathways Projects ran simultaneously across different areas and online facilitation allowed the groups to work together in a way which would not have been possible when working face to face due to geographical limitations. A wide variety of speakers were invited to share their expertise, and the groups partnered with a variety of organisations, including: Bike for Good in Glasgow, where a group of young people spent a week learning how to build a bike and exploring green. Participants in Edinburgh carried out a beach clean on Portobello beach in collaboration with Keep Scotland Beautiful and others partnered up with Edinburgh Libraries and Scottish Book Week to look at the future and what it means to them.

We were also able to run digital showcases on our Facebook page, celebrating the participant's work, with showcases being viewed by more than 2,000 people!

166

young people engaged
in Creative Pathways

78%

of young people moved
on to further education

“

"This has been amazing, because at school I never wanted to do stuff, in this I just got out of my comfort zone and gave it a try."

- Participant

“

"My self-esteem improved, I wouldn't have applied for college if it wasn't for this project."

- Participant

“

"Can't praise Impact Arts more highly. They supported her to join Facebook, speak on camera, write a CV, try new art mediums and have a reason to get up. We have never seen her more motivated or determined to achieve her dream of being an artist. The staff really went above & beyond."

- Parent



CASHBACK TO THE FUTURE

We were lucky to still be able to run our **CashBack to the Future Summer programme throughout the month of July 2020 for young people aged 14-19, in a digital setting over Zoom.** Participants chose from a number of creative workshops including Visual Art, Music, Creative Writing, Digital Arts and performance, with the project theme looking at Identity, Unity and Solidarity.

Each young person was sent an art pack and support in the form of tablets and data cards were available for those who needed them.

We were also delighted to secure funding from Glasgow City Council to allow us to provide hot meals for our Glasgow participants, cooked by Phillies of Shawlands, who prepared almost 800 meals over the course of the 4 weeks.

For many young people the format adopted via our digital approach brought structure to their day, gave them a sense of purpose and made them feel more connected to others.

Establishing this community of interest where participants could learn, share, play and have time working quietly together created a sense of connectedness - which was lacking in many participants lives.

Virtual delivery also allowed us to overcome barriers including geography and poor mental health/anxiety and ensured we reached a wider cohort of young people than we had previously. Engagement amongst participants was high, and sustained throughout the project, and thanks to a focus (and new support) on mental health, all reported increased wellbeing as a result of attendance.

Participants celebrated their success via a live digital showcase, and a video of their work was shown live on the Impact Arts Facebook page reaching almost 3,000 views.

“I think Cashback has been a really positive influence on my life. I've made some pieces I'm very proud of, gained more confidence in my work and set a realistic routine.”

– Participant

“I really enjoyed Cashback. It was a great experience. I learned a lot and my confidence grew throughout the programme.”

– Participant

“Natalie loved it, it came at the perfect time for her, she really needed structure, a routine and a timetable to keep to...she would not have coped with attending something in person so it was great that it was online and that she could tune in from her own home...it was something that was really achievable for her, that fact that she was able to experience success really boosted her confidence”.

– Support Worker

221

young people engaged in CashBack to The Future Summer/Hubs

659

creative workshops

110+

young people reported improved confidence

Engaged young people from

18

of Scotland's Local Authorities

Live Showcase on Facebook reached almost

3,000

members of the public

MAKE SPACE

Make Space was designed at the beginning of the Covid-19 pandemic to enhance and protect the wellbeing of young people during the pandemic. It offered a virtual, creatively-focussed, wellbeing hub for those aged 16+ and responded directly to challenges of Covid-19 lockdown while supporting participant's emotional and mental wellbeing through therapeutic arts-based activities. Additionally it was designed specifically to target those young people who lacked the confidence/skills to engage in face-face support or activities.

At a time of great uncertainty and isolation Make Space provided consistent and positive support for young people most affected by the lockdown. Participants were encouraged to attend regular group workshops throughout the week delivered via Zoom. This helped to create a sense of routine which was lacking during lockdown for many of the young people no longer engaging in school, college or training courses. 162 art boxes were posted out to the participants as well as digital devices & data, where required, and they were able to access pre-recorded online content (at a time to suit their needs), wellbeing activities, and one-to-one Youth Work support.

Young people were able to bond with one another and encourage each other during workshops. A Make Space community was formed and the young people felt part of something supportive and fun despite being geographically distant from one another. Wellbeing sessions were responsive to the needs of the group and covered topics requested by the young people.

We hope to be able to return our Make Space programme, helping to support and develop more young people's emotional and mental wellbeing on their terms.

“He is thoroughly enjoying it, he loves to tell us about his sessions. We are seeing a more mature side to him, it is lovely to see him enjoying himself.”

– Parent

100%

had improved communication skills

Engaged with

134

young people

100%

were more engaged with learning

94%

had improved resilience and coping skills

94%

had improved mental health

Jay

Jenny Impact Arts

Maggie Lilly

Em

Hope

Katy

Brandan

Rayne

Hollie

Stergios

35

Security

Participants

Chat

Share Screen

Polling

Record

Reaction



MAKE IT YOUR OWN

Our Make it Your Own programme is in its 3rd year and was designed as a creative solution to support key life transitions for care experienced young people, empowering them through skills development and the transformation of their home, in 1-1 and group workshops to provide them with a sense of belonging and security.

In March 2020 due to Covid-19 and having to stop all face to face delivery, we took the opportunity to pilot MIYO working in a digital format to allow us to continue engagement with current and new participants. The team delivered a variety of creative materials to each participant's home to enable the young people to carry out DIY projects independently, which included supporting them in decorating a room within their home, upcycling items, ordering & building furniture and more.

Over 50 young people engaged with Make it Your Own throughout 2020/21 and we saw a higher level of consistent engagement from

those young people, when we moved everything online. Participant's adapted well to virtual delivery and enjoyed being able to take part in workshops from the comfort of their homes. By adopting a remote delivery model it removed/reduced certain anxieties some of the young people had.

Our tutors also supported many of the participants who were attending college and were struggling with the implications of the new restrictions to engage with an online learning platform and as a result had* stopped attending regularly and therefore had, had their college care experience bursaries suspended. Due to the support we have provided, a number of our participants have been able to continue with their college courses, have successfully completed them and even progressed onto further studies, volunteering/employment.

Online delivery also enabled us to engage with young people from across Scotland, in areas that we were unable to previously.

With the success of the online digital model, we plan to continue to deliver MIYO digitally in some capacity post lockdown, offering in centre/workshop delivery, online delivery or a combination of both styles of delivery to fit into the young person's personal preference.

“Planning the design for my home has been amazing – you guys offered a guiding hand and I don't usually have that. It doesn't feel like a house anymore, it actually feels like a home.”

- Participant

“I didn't expect it to be as rewarding as it has been – I've done a lot more than I thought I would. So many practical life skills like budgeting. I have had a lot of encouragement than I was expecting.”

- Participant

Delivered
850
1-1/group sessions

Worked with over
50
young people

Worked with over
100
partners across Renfrewshire,
Glasgow, Ayrshire and
Edinburgh

OLDER PEOPLE

CRAFT CAFÉ EDINBURGH

Over

50

Craft/Creative Café members reported an improvement in their mental & physical health

70

members reported an improved quality of life from being part of Craft Café sessions



Our Craft Café in Edinburgh takes place in Viewpoint Care Homes. With the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in all delivery coming to an abrupt halt, we looked at ways we could continue to engage with the residents of the care home, however, many of our members do not have access to digital forms of communication. For those living with dementia, many do not even have phones so this limited the amount of remote support we were able to provide to our members during this time.

In November 2021 we were able to start back delivery, in one of the care homes, providing shorter workshops sessions to the residents. The team worked with smaller groups, allowing for more 1-1 time with individuals and while we were not able to offer the same amount of engagement time as previously, we were able to engage a wider group of people.

Residents who previously would not have felt comfortable leaving their units, or would not have been able to leave their units, were now able to access Craft Café workshops.

CREATIVE CAFÉ EDINBURGH

Our Creative Café programme for elderly people in Edinburgh continued to be a success throughout 2020-2021. Sessions at Inch Park Community Sports Centre were suspended, however like Craft Café Govan we were able to continue to engage with the members remotely through bespoke art parks, monthly newsletters and weekly phone calls.

For some members these measures proved to be a lifeline and became the highlight of their week, providing regular support and stability during such unpredictable times.

Luckily through a thorough risk assessment and implementation of stringent health and safety measures in line with government guidelines, we were able to re-open Creative Café in early September 2020 much to the delight for the members!

The members even still managed to have their end of project showcase. Using windows as gallery walls, the members created a community gallery through an art trail, using various locations across the Inch Park area to display their work for members of the public to view on their daily walk.

Postcard Project, provided members with blank postcards and pre-paid envelopes to decorate with their own artistic designs, from poems to quotes and drawings to paintings, alongside personal messages which were then be passed on to other members.

“

"Thank you so much for the parcel that came in the post, it felt like Christmas opening it to find all these lovely surprises so beautifully wrapped, and wow with my drawing on the front cover of the newsletter, I am so chuffed!"

– Member

“

"For me it's not exclusively about the art, it's about the company, being able to get out and do something and have a blether."

– Member

Delivered

73

face-face sessions

Engaged just under

40

participants

Produced

6

newsletters





CRAFT CAFÉ GOVAN

Craft Café provides a safe, social, and creative environment where older people age 60+ can learn new skills, renew social networks and reconnect with their communities. The activities, facilitated by artists, are self-directed by participants and harness the joy of creativity, artistic expression, experimentation and learning.

In March 2020, our team adapted the programme to remote delivery of support activities, working incredibly hard to mitigate the effects of the pandemic affecting our older members, including feelings of hopelessness, worry, anxiety, memory loss and confusion.

In response, we recruited a new wellbeing support officer, provided a more intensive wellbeing programme, and ensured participants felt supported as members of Craft Café. Understanding these needs allowed us to acknowledge that for many, virtual delivery was not going to work. Instead we engaged with 66 members through wellbeing phone calls, delivered 430 art packs and 7 monthly newsletters as well as guidance and support. We also formed new partnerships with The No.1 Befriending Agency to overcome digital exclusion, and Glasgow's Golden Generation to reach and tackle social isolation among the wider community of older people in Glasgow.

In the past year, a participant-led steering group was also formed within Craft Café to identify priorities, and exchange ideas. Learning from this informed the remote delivery of Craft Café.

The pandemic allowed us to work with our participants in a more intimate way, allowing us to be reactive to their changing needs and implement change quickly. We now have an established platform for remote delivery, proven to successfully engage participants, regardless of their levels of mobility/physical health.

This range of new resources and services highlight the incredible resourcefulness and flexibility of our team and participants, making Craft Café our pioneering project of the year.

“The friendliness, the variety of activities, the staff are brilliant, you are able to do stuff you would only dream of doing and would never usually get access to.”

- Member

“This is the first time in my life I've had a truly supportive group of friends.”

- Member

All our members took part in a community-based activity, creating a display in an empty shop window in Govan to brighten up the community.

Engaged with
66
people

Distributed
430
art packs &
7 newsletters

55
members received
weekly wellbeing
phone calls

COMMUNITIES

MAKERS & ARTISTS MENTORING

In October we launched our Makers & Artists Mentoring (M&) project in North Ayrshire, in partnership with Craft Town Scotland, West Kilbride, Magnox Socio Economic Scheme, Creative Scotland Place Partnership, and North Ayrshire Council.

We trained 10 Makers/Artists from across North Ayrshire who were unemployed or under-employed, to focus on a structured programme of training and hands-on experience in participatory arts practice and reaching up to 300 people in communities across North Ayrshire via bespoke projects.

The programme aimed to equip the makers/artists with the tools and skills needed to have a viable and sustainable career within participatory and community settings and/or to support the development of a Self-Employed Portfolio Career. Each trainee was given one-to-one professional creative and business Mentoring support from skilled and respected Mentors, and access to industry contacts and networks.

Over the course of 8 months they worked with 20 community groups across North Ayrshire, including the following.

- Primary 7's from Hayocks Primary in Stevenson, where the pupils decorated fabric flags to brighten up schools gates. The classes were studying WW2 with a theme around hope and transitioning from a dark time to a more uplifting time as well as the changes coming out of lockdown.
- St Anthony's Primary, in Saltcoats, through North Ayrshire Active Schools programme, the P6s were exploring clay figures and shapes, and re-imagining a story inspired by a ceramic scavenger hunt around the school yard.
- South Ardrossan Larder & Food Bank took part in abstract line drawing challenges and a scavenger hunt book to inspire children to see their everyday places a little bit differently.
- They also worked with residents at Abbotsford Nursing Home in Ardrossan, running craft activities, including decoupage glass jars, 'painting with scissors' collages and stitched coasters.

The group were fortunate to be able to host a physical exhibition at the end of programme, bringing together some of the highlights of the creative projects and showcasing the talented Artists and Makers. 'Create, Connect, Celebrate'

ran 14th- 26th June 2021 at The Barony Centre, West Kilbride. Due to Covid-19 restrictions on the venue, capacity was limited, however we were delighted that over 150 people came to see the exhibition, including community group members, partners and funders.

This is very much a legacy programme. The person-centred approach of MAMP, means we not only nurture the talents of these aspiring Makers and Artists, but also have a lasting and meaningful impact on communities in the area, forging new connections and creative sparks.

“I joined M& as I felt that it was an amazing opportunity to explore community arts and discover more outside my own discipline of silver jewellery. I have never wanted to, or felt motivated focusing on one thing. I have really enjoyed motivating others to have a go at drawing within my community arts projects. Feedback has been so positive and many have said that they find drawing relaxing, good for the mind and meditative. Some have even said they will continue to keep drawing in a sketch book, which is extremely encouraging! I have really pushed sculpting and printing as much as I could during this past year.”

- Katie Lowe, Artist



CREATIVE INSIGHTS

Creative Insights was a project aimed at understanding young people's perspectives on health inequalities across Glasgow.

Working with Glasgow University, artists Beth Farmer and Jack Sandcliff, worked with young people aged 14-19 from Glasgow, to explore the causes and consequences of health inequalities and discuss potential policy solutions, pursuing those issues which young people prioritise as most important and most relevant to their lives, communities and peers. With the aim of producing creative outputs to inform policymakers.

The team worked over zoom with 9 young people over 3 blocks and spent time reflecting on their own experiences of the covid-19 pandemic, how they could have made it better and looked at how key workers and members of the public coped during covid-19. They also discussed income and wealth inequality, intersectionality, where they looked into individual characteristics and the relationship to equality both from a societal, economic and health perspective. As well as the current life expectancy in Glasgow at the present time. They used Miro boards to generate solutions to the problems they discussed during the sessions.

The project allowed young people to engage in a broad range of art forms which included creative writing, drawing, photography and cyanotype paper explorations. With the majority of the participants expressing that they were able to voice their thoughts, feelings and ideas in regards to difficult subjects and themes being discussed.



PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

We have worked with This Is Milk throughout 2020/21 on the creation of a digital roadmap and aim to embark on the journey of implementing this in 2021. This will see us move to a cloud based operating system with enhanced cyber security, recognising the very real threat that this poses to organisations. We will create new systems that improve communication across our staff team, recognising that staff will be working a hybrid mix of home and office based working across a wide range of geographies in the future. We will redesign our systems and processes to increase efficiency and ensure our staff are supported and trained to feel confident in this new approach. We are extremely excited to have appointed Parachute to lead on the design of a new website for Impact Arts which will integrate fully with our new digital systems, and refreshed branding which we look forward to launching later in the year.

OUR PEOPLE

People are at the heart of everything that Impact Arts does and it is important to us that our staff team feel listened to, empowered and supported. Recognising the tremendous achievements of our team in the last year while working from home, Impact Arts have worked with Flexibility Works on a whole team approach to designing Flexible Guiding Principles that will see vastly increased flexibility in the way that every Impact Arts employee is able to carry out their jobs.

Support from the Flexible Workforce Development Fund will allow us to invest in our future leaders, developing the leadership and management skills of our team, ensuring that we can nurture our talent within.

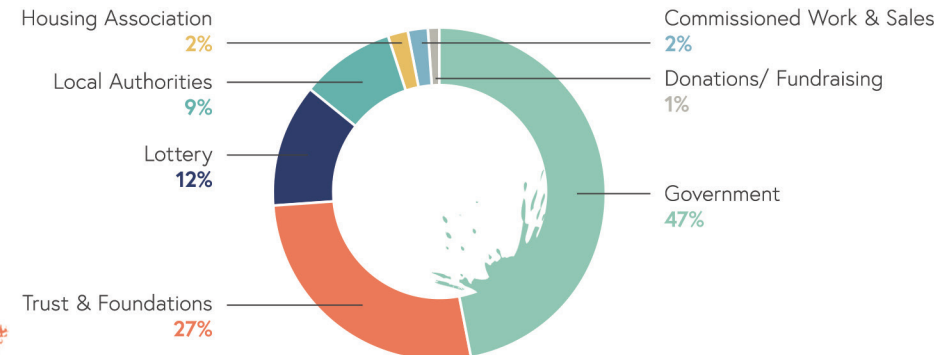
OUR HOME

Impact Arts embarked on a review of our Glasgow home, The Factory in Dennistoun, in 2019, with a feasibility study carried out by DO Architecture. The results were ambitious and exciting and highlighted the need for us to inhabit a space that reflects the value we place on the people and communities we serve.

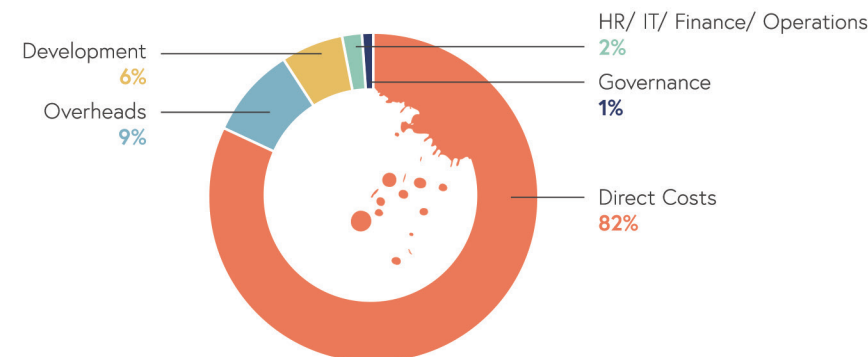
After much consideration, the Impact Arts Board have reached the conclusion that on balance, the specific location of The Factory is always going to be problematic, lacking outward facing profile and requiring investment to ensure the building is fit for purpose. Plans for a relocation to a more central, higher profile location will allow Impact Arts to fulfil our potential and to grow our reach. We will progress these plans in 2021 and look forward to sharing news of these as they are confirmed.

FINANCE

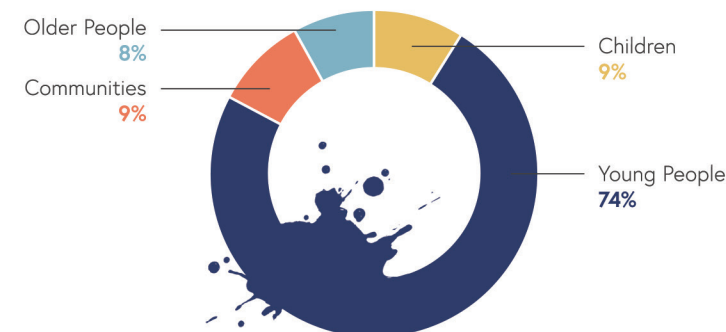
INCOME BY SOURCE



SPENDING BY TYPE



INCOME BY THEME



PARTNERS & FUNDERS

WE ARE EXTREMELY GRATEFUL TO EACH AND EVERY ONE OF OUR FUNDERS, PARTNERS, DONORS AND SUPPORTERS, WITHOUT WHOM WE WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO DO THE WORK WE DO. THANK YOU!





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