

Reach
Inclusive arts

ANNUAL REPORT 2017-2018



funded
through



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



The Jack Lane Charitable Trust
A Charity for Gloucestershire & Wiltshire



Mark Smart - Report from Chairman



I believe that we are in the midst of a remarkable moment in time, where the mainstream is finally getting to grips with inclusivity. Disabled artists are engaged in mainstream culture and entertainment in ever more visible and creative ways. In fact there has never been a better time for disability arts. Nowhere is this more true than in Swindon and that this is largely due to the work of Reach Inclusive Arts. This year was a record year for the level of activity that Reach Inclusive Arts achieved!

Received opinion has long been divided on whether disabled artists should fully embrace the mainstream and effect change from within or plough their own course, operating in an exclusively disabled-friendly environment and wait for the world to catch up. I am convinced there is no wrong route and that every chance to increase access and engagement, in as many ways as possible, should be embraced.

The success of Reach Inclusive Arts in Swindon is due to both its focus on artistic integrity and inclusivity. Reach Inclusive Arts has been at the forefront of creating opportunities for high quality disability arts and increased access for over 30 years. Reach responds to the wants and needs of our participants and works hard to provide the best artistic experience possible.

In this year Partners Theatre Company mounted a revival of their Tripwire show due to popular demand. I was lucky enough to see the public performance and was so impressed with the professionalism of the participants and the depth and significance of the story they told. The Tuesday art group increased their ambition and the variety of their work whilst also growing in number and in diversity. New strands of work began with both Uplands Educational Centre and Horizons College which produced new public shows and inspired new performers. Our youth work with Special Needs Schools in Swindon continues to provide valuable signposting and excitement at the transition to adulthood. The Marlborough House Street Arts project has become a fixture in our busy calendar of events. Moreover, Big Hat Cabaret is bigger than ever!

Reach Inclusive Arts benefits from the loyal efforts of many volunteers who return week after week, year in year out. We work hard to keep our funders informed and invested in the work that we do. There is much to look forward to and much to be proud of. Thank you to everyone who plays a part in our work!

Street Arts 2017-2018

Street Arts 12th, 13th, 18th-20th April 2017

Monday 12th – Friday 16th February 2018



Street Arts is a therapeutic arts project that nurtures self-confidence through creative arts practice combining visual and performance art. Reach worked with young people from Marlborough House, Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust, that provides physical and mental healthcare for children and young people with psychotic disorders.

These were two projects that took place during the Easter holiday and the February half-term holiday with drama sessions each morning followed by reflective visual arts and crafts in the afternoon. The projects culminated in performances outside the Wyvern Theatre.

The February project's creative element was a robot formed from cardboard boxes and painted during the afternoon art sessions. The drama piece used this robot as the central theme for the performance.

The Partners Theatre Company performed alongside Marlborough House during the afternoon outdoor shows on the last day. This worked well in supporting the young performers and providing a chance for them to settle their nerves before they performed. Having both groups created diverse afternoons of Street Theatre for a very good sized audience to enjoy. Partners also gained a further opportunity to explore a different form of theatre.

The street performances enabled the young people to navigate a movement piece that demonstrated some of the aspects of life that they found hard. The project explored ways that they could support each other to overcome their issues and move forward.

"Even though it isn't my thing, it is good fun and the people are lovely." Participant





Big Hat Cabaret 2017

June 23rd 2017

This event took place once again at the Steam Museum of the Great Western Railway. Big Hat is an inclusive cooperative group of organisations from across Swindon who enable people, most of whom have disabilities, to produce some highly creative work. Reach project managed the event which included coordinating the contributing acts, liaising with the venue producing the performance line up, engaging staff, including volunteers and ensuring the smooth running of technical rehearsals and final performances. This year, the event was joined by The Big Sing Thing, a local community choir, who performed a number with singers from Crowdys Hill School, and Music Alive who were able to join us again.

About 240 people took part either by creating films prior to the event or performing on the night. The event attracted an audience in excess of 375.

"It is such a great mix of styles and everyone is really good." Audience



The Crafty Friends



The therapeutic benefit of this art group supports people with a diverse range of life experiences. This social group can be whatever you want it to be! They meet weekly at the Wyvern

Theatre and the sessions are facilitated by professional artists. This year they worked on a range of arts projects including sketching and painting styles, jewellery making, textile pictures, seascape painting, plate painting and collage.

During the year, the group enjoyed a sketching trip to the Steam Museum and exhibitions of work have been displayed again on ArtSite. In June, Reach were invited by Nationwide to bring an exhibition of work to one of their monthly Goodwill Wednesday Events. Cards made by the group were sold to raise further funds for the sessions.

Reach has had contact with the charities Circles and Threshold, who work with people who can benefit from joining this group.

"Everyone communicates well with each other and I enjoy the friendship." Participant

"It is a lovely way to spend a morning and I like the friendliness of everyone." Participant

Partners Theatre Company

A group of performers all with disabilities who meet every week to develop their theatre skills. They act as mentors to younger people and, working with professionals, devise original dramas they then perform in a range of public arenas. During this year, Partners appeared at the Big Hat Cabaret and the Street Art performances, and formed part of Reach's end of year sharing. Partners have also again completed a two week tour of local schools, colleges and public venues, again funded by a one year Arts Council grant.

Partners Tour – Monday 2nd October – Friday 13th October.

A two week return tour by Partners Theatre Company of their play 'Trip Wire' was performed to Swindon Schools and wider public venues such as Cirencester College, Nationwide Head Office, Npower and The Wiltshire Music Centre. The drama is a comedic work that explores the issues around internet security and electronic information. The piece again received very positive feedback and requests for future bookings. The group performed to over 1,000 people in shows and workshops over a two week period.

"The messages were portrayed excellently and the acting was superb!" Audience

"The show made me feel happy and extremely impressed by what people with emotional and physical disabilities can achieve." Audience



Partners Drama Group

A group of adults who all have disabilities and whose health precludes them from going out on tour with the theatre company. This group met for a number of weeks in September and October 2017 to develop their theatre skills. Working with professionals, the drama sessions took place at Uplands Community Enterprise Centre in Penhill and culminated in a performance in the unit to friends and staff.

End of year Sharing & Annual General Meeting 4th December 2017

Reach once again combined the Annual General Meeting with the end of year gathering of project participants. Thus essential charity yearly reports were presented whilst also providing a fun-packed evening of performances and an exhibition of project art-work. This event was well supported by participants, families, carers and friends of the charity.

Jean Kelly from The Crafty Friends group gave a presentation about what the group means to her and what she believes the project provides for those who attend. Partners Theatre Company entertained us all with a brilliant pantomime about Hansel and Gretel meets Mary Berry. Many people took part in the presentations and the event was well attended. The Sharing concluded with everybody singing Christmas carols accompanied by Kath Lucas on keyboards.

This is always a fun evening and one where all our project participants have a chance to show their work and meet each other to celebrate a year of high quality work.

Making it A.R.T. 2018

Schools workshops began in January 2018 leading up to the Wyvern Theatre performance on Thursday 8th March 2018, with young people from three Swindon Schools, Uplands, Crowdys Hill and Commonweal Special Needs Unit. The show was a great success, with compere, Naz Osmanoglu, supported by Pudsey Bear from the funders, BBC Children in Need.

Our arts workers each devised drama pieces with the young people that were amongst some of the most sophisticated that we have seen yet. The event attracted a good sized audience and we were fortunate that a number of volunteers came forward to help on the day, including three employees from Columbia Threadneedle Investments. We were joined this year by a group of staff volunteers from Welcome Break who are corporate fundraisers for Children in Need. Trustee Millie Hammond helped with all the sessions at Uplands School and also on the day. The show was opened by Swindon's Deputy Mayor, Councillor Maureen Penny.

The event was attended by family, friends, carers and members of the public. The project involved 47 young people with disabilities aged from 14 to 19, and full colour programmes were supplied by Nationwide Building Society print services.

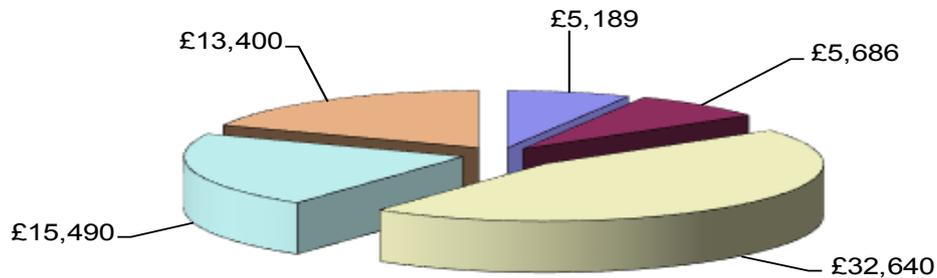


"It was awesome because it was lots of fun." Participant



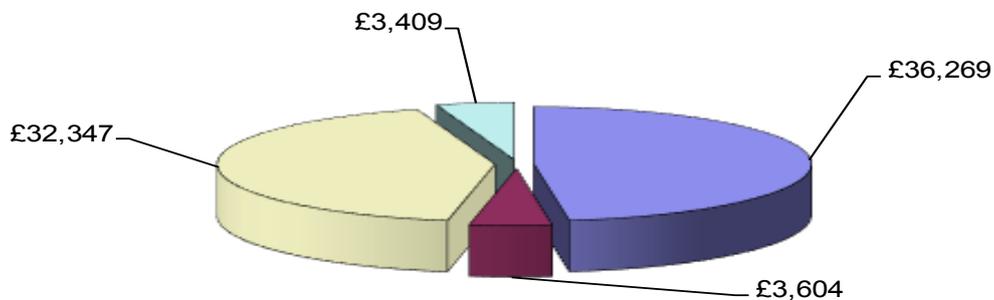
Financial Information 2017—2018

Income - £72,405



■ Fees & Earned Income ■ Trusts & Donations ■ Project Grants
■ Arts Grants ■ Local Authority Grants

Expenditure - £75,629



■ Direct Project Costs ■ Indirect Project Costs ■ Salaries ■ Office

The directors have referred to the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit when reviewing aims and planning activities. The directors are mindful of how the activities contribute to the aims that they have set. The activities of Reach are fully accessible, widely advertised and are open to the public to enjoy subject to the number of places available in each activity.

Reach Inclusive Arts would like to thank:



Funders 2017-18

Arts Council England	Nationwide
BBC Children In Need	People's Health Trust
Columbia Threadneedle Foundation	Swindon Borough Council
The Jack Lane Charitable Trust	Wiltshire & Swindon Community Foundation

Arts Workers 2017-2018

Laura Barnes	Billy Beaumont
Julie Black	Mark Bishop
Kerry Boorman	Sarah Fletcher
Marie-Lou Flexen	Sian Gainham
Natasha Garbutt	Ruth Hill
Sumita Majumdar	Rebecca Osborne
Sue Welsh	Sian White

Volunteers 2017-2018

Jan Armitt	Kim Baines
Sari Burgess	Joe Dickson
Celia Ford	Helen Forster
Oli Houndsell	Millie Hammond
Kathy Jerome	Sumita Majumdar
Christine O'Neil	Susan Marley
Kaleigh Ody	Rebecca Osborne
Nick Weaver	Oliver Webb
AFL volunteers	Threadneedle volunteers
Virgin Money volunteers	

Welcome Break volunteers

Technician: Rhys Maule

Evaluation: Naomi Crowne

Nationwide Document Management
Customer Service & Operations for
printing this leaflet

Trustees 2017-2018

Mark Smart (Chairman)	
Joe Dickson	Millie Hammond
Kayleigh Keville	Catherine Lomax
Kay Malko	Susan Marley
Joanna Ryan	Bal Sandhu
Victoria Slatter	

Staff 2017-2018 Yvonne Chamberlain
& Helen Whelehan

Contact details: Reach Inclusive Arts

Wyvern Theatre, Theatre Square, Swindon SN1 1QN. Tel No. 01793 520318

reachinclusive3@btconnect.com

www.reachinclusivearts.org.uk

Charity Number 1116680 Co. Ltd Guarantee No. 5421272