

2016-2017 IMPACT REPORT

Artspace Lifespace

ASLS

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A NOTE FROM THE TRUSTEES

Bristol has a reputation as a cultural city that champions independents and the creative community has played a huge part in developing Bristol's reputation as a great place to live and work. Our mission is to provide resources and facilities that enable sustainable, creative communities. We do this through the acquisition, provision and maintenance of a diverse portfolio of quality facilities; where artists can make, collaborate and present works and where communities can access affordable arts locally.

2016/2017 was a year of many changes. Artspace Lifespace became a registered charity and we took on new projects at SPACE, Jacobs Wells Baths and The Vestibules. Jane Hartoch took on the Centre Manager role at The Island, Dina Ntziora stepped down as Company Manager to work with the British Council in Greece and our new Company Manager Kathryn Chiswell Jones started in May 2017. Ruth Essex, a creative urban regeneration specialist became a board observer in 2017 and is invited to join the board of trustees in 2018. We hope to expand the board by a further two members in 2018. Ryan Corkery is to be appointed as treasurer and the chair role will be rotated among the trustees at the board meeting every month.

Our first year as a registered charity has been a great one. Thanks to our partners and supporters in 2016 and 2017 including all the artists, tenants, musicians and other performers at the heart of making our venues vibrant creative community hubs, Bristol City Council Arts & Development Team, Bristol City Council Community Property Team, Bristol Civic Society, Bristol Community Land Trust, Creative Youth Network, The Invisible Circus, Knightstone Housing Association, Trinity Community Arts and Workplace Support (City Hall). Many thanks also to those who funded work on Jacobs Wells Baths including Quartet, the Architectural Heritage Fund and Bristol City Council. Thanks also to Bristol City Council Key Arts Provider Funding which supported ASLS and Invisible Circus core costs.

In 2018 our work on Jacobs Wells Baths will draw to a close but as we look towards what the year ahead has in store, we are optimistic that the momentum of our creative contribution to Bristol will not only continue, but grow with new leases planned for the Island and the Vestibules and other potential projects under review.

Sincerely,

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**RACHEL BUCHANAN, RYAN CORKERY,
DOUG FRANCISCO AND WIM PENHAUL**

MISSION & VISION

MISSION



Providing Access, Space, Logistics and Support for a vibrant creative community in Bristol and beyond. Our organisation purposes are to promote art for the benefit of the public by the establishment and maintenance of facilities for artists from a variety of artistic practices to create works, to collaborate, and to present and perform those works for the public.

VISION



Our vision is for everyone to have a place to create. We envision developing our offering so that we are actively involved in promoting artists through the curation of programmes of high quality work and developing artists' work. We also plan to target underrepresented areas in Bristol and become known as an arts organisation that not only helps developing artists but helps improve diversity across underrepresented groups of people in the arts.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

SUPPORTING ARTISTS

Hosted: **564** events comprising exhibitions, classes and workshops, showcases and performances

Provided: **52,245** individual experiences

Supported: **593** artists

Provided affordable work space for: **92** artists

FORMALISED OUR ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

Through registering as a charity, establishing a clear constitution, board recruitment and development, we now have a suitable structure through which to achieve our aims over the next five years.

ONGOING USE OF THE ISLAND AND DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE OFFER

We celebrate 10 years at The Island in 2018. Through developing our offer and partnership with asset owners Creative Youth Network (CYN), we plan to fundraise for capital works which would include undertaking essential repairs, creating a more accessible space and introducing a communal / public facing area.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS 2016-2017

JOINED BRISTOL ZERO TOLERANCE

Artspace Lifespace joined this new initiative set up by Bristol Women's Commission working towards Bristol becoming a city free from gender-based violence, abuse, harassment and exploitation and members of our team undertook Good Night Out Training.

CULTURAL INVESTMENT PROGRAMME 2018-2022

We have been recommended for funding for 2018-19. Panel feedback was that Artspace Lifespace are *"Leaders in their field with strong partnerships and examples of previous work they demonstrated how they share assets with less well established artists and cultural organisations."*

RAISED THE PROFILE OF ASLS ORGANISATION AND BRAND

Our organisation is acknowledged as contributing to the cultural identity of the city. The Island won Bristol Doors Open Day Marketing and Communications award 2017 for delivering a holistic marketing campaign from designing original brochures to a complete social media operation. We welcomed over 1500 people through our doors over the course of the weekend.



Artspace Lifespace
PROJECTS

THE ISLAND

A multi-use arts facility and creation centre based in the old police station in Bristol city centre. The Island hosts a wide variety of creative spaces from circus training, dance and rehearsal rooms, artists' studios, dark rooms to gallery space, recording and music production studios and a suite of early 20th century police cells.





GALLERY

"It has been really straight forward to work with you on this - very relaxed and supportive - which is really appreciated when the making process is already a challenge. The Island's offer to enable the development of emerging artists is really valued and quite unique in Bristol. Thank you again for your support."
Jude Hutchen



EXHIBITIONS

19 exhibitions providing
2,010
individual experiences.



SHOWCASING ART

Featuring installations, photography and community art. *"The Island's offer to enable the development of emerging artists is really valued and quite unique in Bristol"* - Jude Hutchen



TALKS & ART RESIDENCIES

2 Art Residencies: Abigail Burt's *Whether or Not it is Clear to You 2017* including an experimental live bronze cast and Jude Hutchen's *DI:Woman without a shadow* exhibitions.



CHARITIES & FUNDRAISERS

Charities supported include Cause & Complexity, *The Dragons we Slay* curated by Ruby Hinton in association with Kinship Carers UK and *Trash to Treasure* Emmaus Fundraiser.



POP UP SHOP

Bristol Bazaar returned in Dec 2017 selling an amazing range of quality, locally made items from 50 independent artists with profits up 75% on last year.



VENUE

"The venue is just that - converted police cells turned into a dark, ominous space that's just about big enough for a dance event. Labels like Timedance manage to draw in some big names to play at the venue, namely Ben UFO a few months ago, surely intrigued by the opportunity to play a set in such a unique setting. The Cells aren't easy to find, but very easy to get lost in once you find your way inside."
365 Bristol



EVENTS

34 events with approx.
5,350
audience attendees



FEATURED IN DJ MAGAZINE

Loose Lips 3rd Anniversary Rave
Featured in DJ Magazine's Top 30 UK Club Events in October 2017.



ONE OF BRISTOL'S BEST

Featured in Bristol 365's guide to some of the best club venues in Bristol.



BRISTOL ZERO TOLERANCE

Good Night Out Training as part of our pledge to support Bristol Zero Tolerance to address gender-based harassment.



CHARITY & REBRAND

The Venue is a vital source of funding for Artspace Lifespace. The venue and basement also hosted the Children's Hospice South West charity event in May 2017. The Venue will relaunch with a new name in 2018: The Lockdown.



CIRCUS & DANCE

"The Island team supported me practically and creatively in various ways leading up to and throughout the residency period. One aim of this project was to bring attention to my work, raising my profile in Bristol. It was extremely beneficial to receive support from the marketing department and promotion through the Island website, various social media platforms and local press. I felt as always encouraged by the Island team and an genuine interest and enthusiasm in my artistic endeavours."

Brenda Waite
Dance Space Member



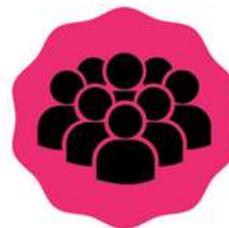
CIRCUS

62 classes with 930 attendees



DANCE

287 classes with 2,870 attendees



DEMANDS ON SPACE

There is huge pressure on space for Dance in Bristol and our training spaces are hugely popular.



CHARITABLE EVENT

Movement Mash up - Dance for Katie
// Dance Space // 19th March 2017 by
Rise Youth Dance and Movement



photo credit (c) Sidz photography

ARTIST STUDIOS

"The Island is an excellent example of an established and respected Arts hub that was started from very little means, that grew to become a significant and vital resource for Bristol Artists. Its continued support of creativity in Bristol and the championing of talent is a prime example of what can be achieved by a strong vision and unwavering determination. The Island's community past and present have created together eclectic and inspiring spaces open to all."

Quote from Island Tenant

The Island is home to over 90 artists working across a wide range of disciplines. In 2017 we conducted a survey of our tenants of which a third responded.

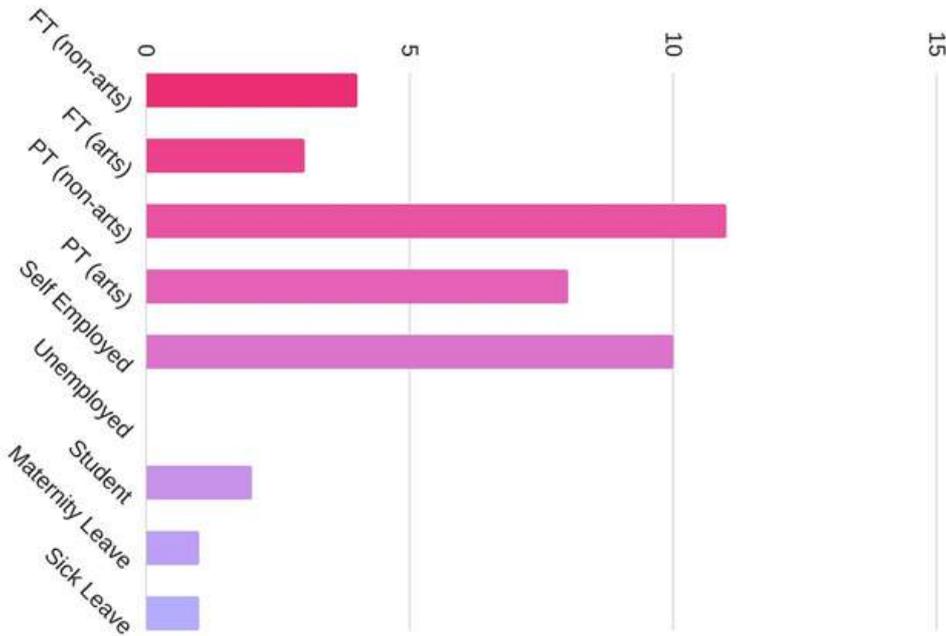
The survey firstly evaluated artistic disciplines, and use of the building in order to get an overview of our users. We asked the tenants questions about what we could do to improve our service and around our brand. Respondents almost unanimously cited the need for a communal space and more networking / socialising opportunities.

We also asked our tenants what artistic facilities were lacking in Bristol, multiple users pointed out the lack of affordable art space such as that provided by The Island as well as the transient nature of art venues. Also lacking are amenities and support for progressing professionals (particularly over the age of 25), mid-to high level contemporary galleries, rehearsal rooms, recording rooms and reliable music promoters.

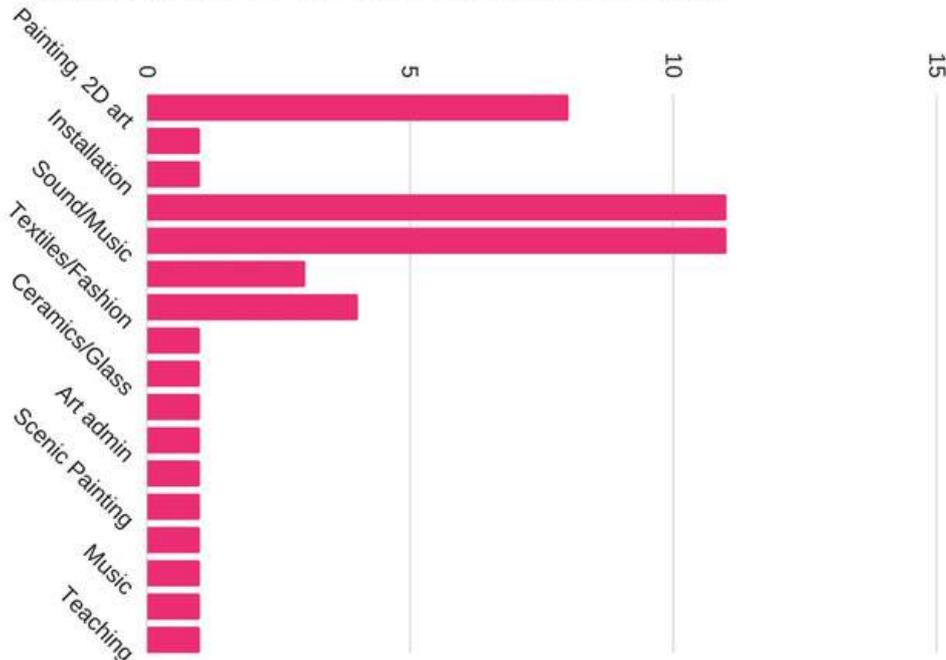
Using the feedback from tenants, we plan to improve our service offering more networking and training opportunities in 2018.

TENANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

Present career status.

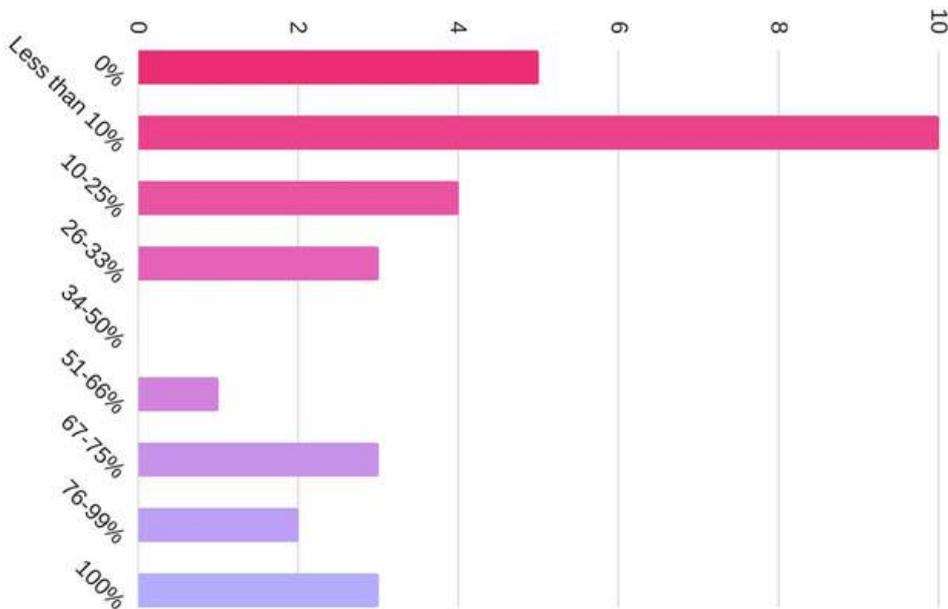


Main area of artistic involvement

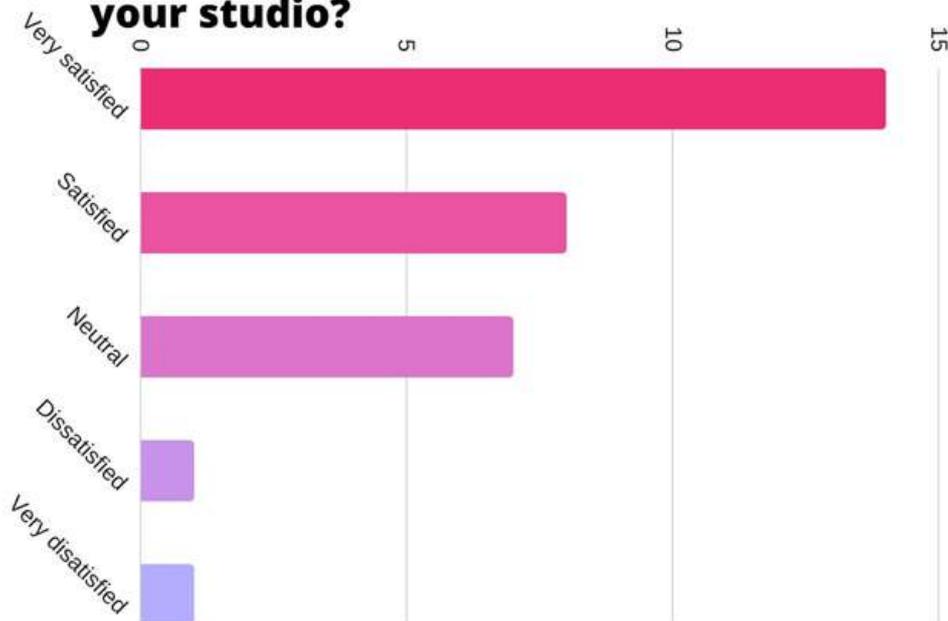


TENANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

% of income from art

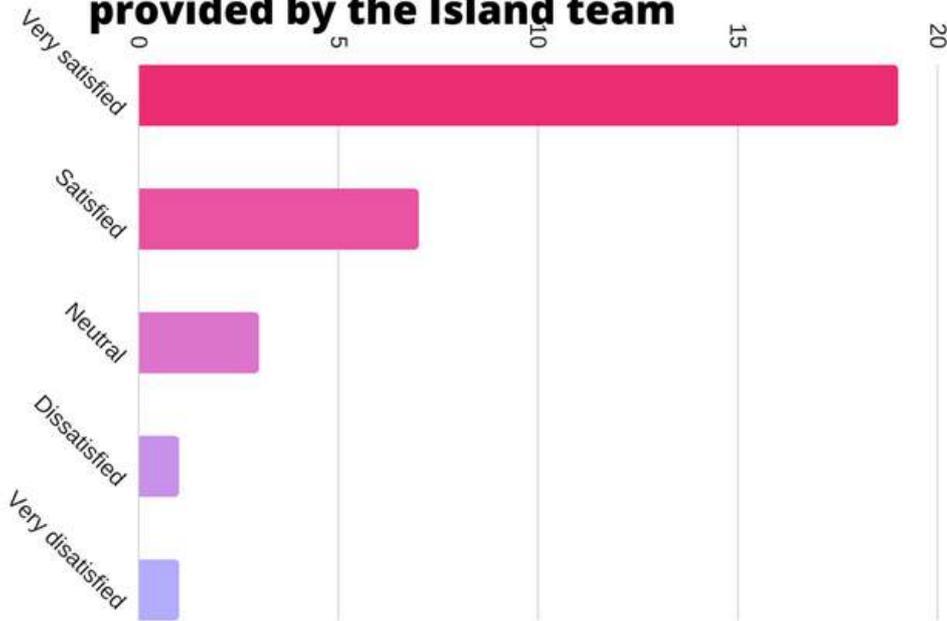


How happy are you with affordability of your studio?

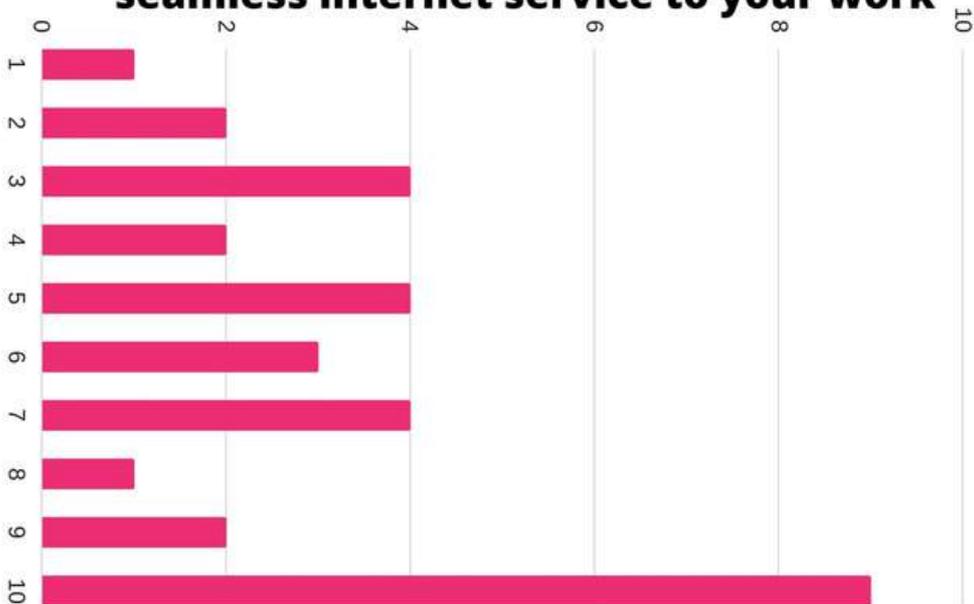


TENANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

How happy are you with the service provided by the Island team

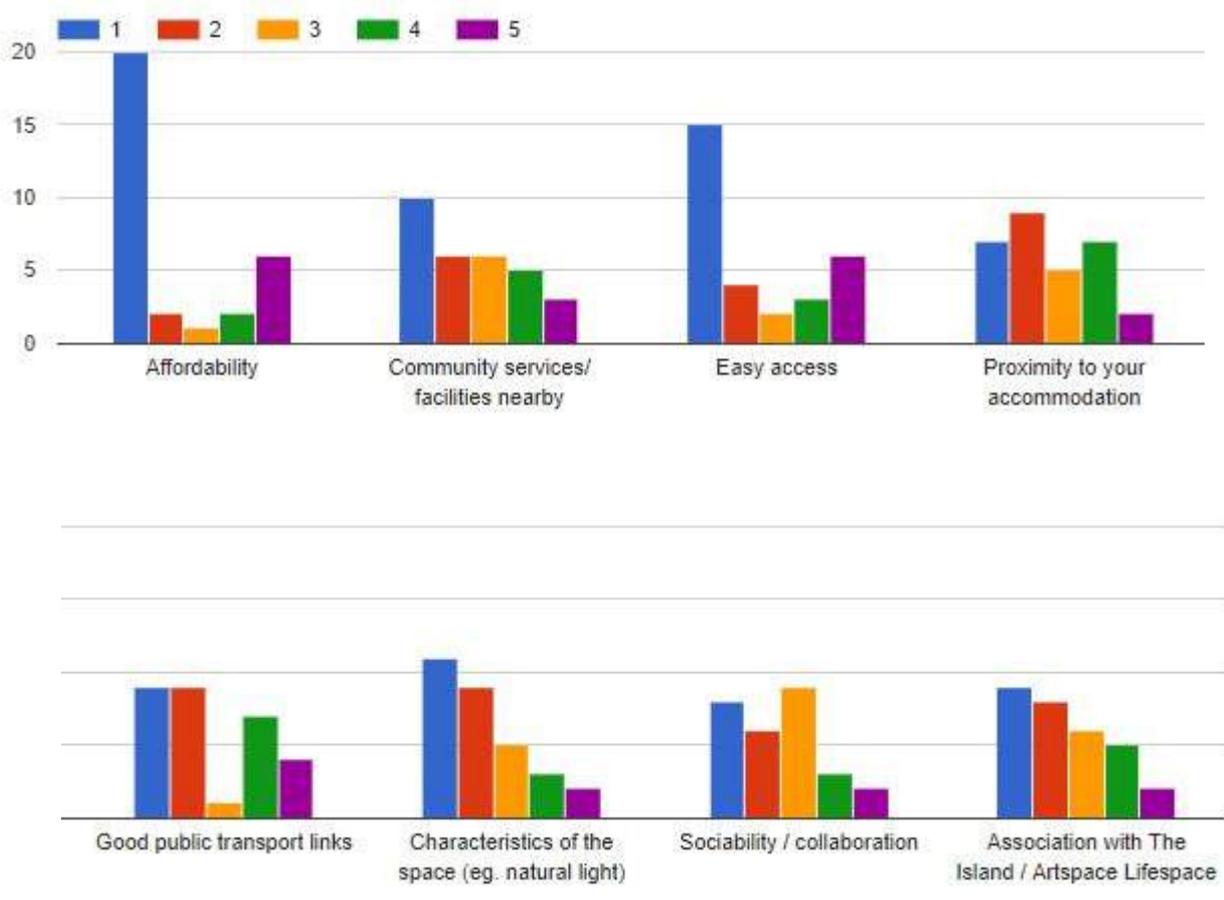


On a scale of 1-10, how important is a seamless internet service to your work



TENANT'S QUESTIONNAIRE

On a scale of 1 to 5 (with 1 being the highest) how important are the following to your current choice of artwork space?



SPACE



SPACE (Sound-Performance-Art-Community-Engagement) launched in Partnership with Trinity Community Arts at Arts West Side (AWS) in 2016 as an Island satellite project.

SPACE is a light, bright gallery and event space with white washed walls and a large front window. The downstairs gallery is accessible for wheelchair users. The Creation Room on the first floor is suitable for workshops, rehearsals, small community gatherings and wellbeing workshops. SPACE enables artistic experimentation and a testing ground for creatives to present their work.



In December 2017 Artspace Lifespace in association with Knightstone Housing Association launched weekly free drop in art classes for the over 50's at SPACE. In March 2018, we will launch Lifespace Community Together Classes thanks to £9,393 grant which we have been awarded through the National Lottery Awards for All (AFA) fund.



The collaboration of Trinity and ASLS demonstrates the possibilities and success of combining resources to make projects happen. AWS / SPACE has raised the profile and visibility of local community activities and increased a sense of neighbourhood in this diverse area of the city.



l, The Poet, You The Poet Exhibition

"As a self-financed project the affordability of the studio space has been a key factor in being able to provide free events over the past year for the local community and beyond. Art spaces such as SPACE are integral to the survival of small projects such as mine and Pixel Whipped would not be around today if not for this kind of support."

Shane Perry, Pixel Whipped
SPACE / AWS
Artist in Residence



EVENTS

37 exhibitions celebrating fine art, photography, installation art; pop up shop; scratch nights; hub for Bristol PRIDE 2017.



COLLABORATION

Our collaboration with Trinity Community Arts has demonstrated how strategic collaborations can strengthen smaller arts organisations.



ARTS & COMMUNITY

SPACE has curated a very exciting programme of arts and community events well received by residents, local groups and organisations in the voluntary and arts sectors providing **2,957** individual experiences.



ART CLASSES FOR 50S+

14 free art workshops for the over 50s funded by Artspace Lifespace and Knightstone Housing Association.



LIFESPACE TOGETHER CLASSES

In December 2017 we were awarded Big Lottery Awards for All funding to enable us to hold free community classes at SPACE from March 2018.

THE VESTIBULES

"We would recommend the Vestibules as a place to hold creative activities and to take advantage of this wonderful space in the heart of the city"
All Day Breakfast

Marvin Rees, Mayor of Bristol opened up the Vestibules as two brand new art spaces at City Hall to showcase Bristol talent and give cultural and community groups unique environments to display their work. Bristol City Council's Arts Development Team joined up with Artspace Lifespace to provide space for groups to share their projects and ideas through exhibitions, performances, cinemas and pop up art markets. Artspace Lifespace was granted a license to use the Vestibules from 20th February 2017 – 19th February 2018 and we hope to continue our successful relationship with the Arts Development Team and City Hall in 2018-2019.



Images of Start up stories and Going Going Gone Exhibition and Fundraiser



Bristol Arts on Referral Exhibition

"Not only was the Vestibules a visually delightful venue in which to showcase my latest project, it was also a joy to hire. I felt confident every step of the way with the Artspace Lifespace team, who balanced perfectly hands-on help with supportive, stepped-back trust in my artistic ideas - the ideal attitude to have! Thank you for helping me put on the best possible show!"

Martha Kelsey
Latte Leninism Exhibition



EVENTS

24 exhibitions providing
4,271
individual experiences



LOCAL ARTIST SUPPORT

Through hosting a range of exhibitions, installations, pop up shops and photography and community art, The Vestibules supported over **150** artists.



ARTIST RESIDENCIES

In 2017 we supported two creative seed funded projects: Bristol Arts on Referral Exhibition, Community Shelter and enabled four artist residencies.



DIVERSITY MONITORING

BCC City Arts and Events team will be supporting us in 2018 with ipad installations to improve monitoring. Our monitoring shows 6% BAME and 8% LGBT engagement.



FESTIVE VESTIBULE POP-UP

Made in Bristol hosted a festive pop up shop at the Park Street Vestibule selling hand-made Christmas gifts.

JACOBS WELLS BATHS



In September 2016, Bristol City Council Property team approached Artspace Lifespace and offered us a temporary lease for the recently vacated Jacobs Wells Baths while exploring options for the building's future.

We completed a number of maintenance works and a deep clean of the premises and undertook repairs with the support of Bristol City Council Community Property Team. Thanks to the Architectural Heritage Fund we were able to commission a consultation and building survey. We worked with Vivid Regeneration LLP on Consultation / Community and Arts Open Days.

We also worked closely with local dance organisations and Jacobs Well Community Hub to learn the needs and preferences of the local community and aspirations for the Baths.

Programming and management of the Baths was supported by funding received from Quartet Community Foundation.

In December 2017 Bristol City Council announced that sports and leisure management organisation Fusion Lifestyle will take on the new long lease of Jacobs Wells Baths. Artspace Lifespace handover of Jacobs Wells Baths is planned for March 2018.





Bristol Capoeira

"You'd be hard pushed to find a more collaborative, supportive and dynamic organisation than Artspace Lifespace. Working with them throughout the process of delivering Ice Road was an absolute joy - we were supported at every stage, and there was always someone there to offer assistance or advice, whether on build, administration, marketing or more."

Claire Sklelcey
Raucous



EVENTS

Jacobs Wells Baths opened its doors to over **3,050** people hosting showcases, theatre shows, workshops, dance performances, circus and dance rehearsals and Bristol Doors Open Day.



THEATRE

3 Arts Council funded theatre shows including a 2 month run of Raucous's 'Ice Road' described by The Reviews Hub as impressive, immersive and emotive.



ART

Jacobs Wells Baths hosted exhibitions from local artists and was home to internationally renowned sculptor Lucianne Lassalle, artist in residence.



DANCE

Numerous dance workshops, shows and rehearsal space for various groups including the English National Ballet. Impermanence Dance theatre was the resident dance company in 2017.



COMMUNITY

Artspace Lifespace gave free space and support to Jacobs Wells Community Hub group. We aided the Community Asset Transfer process, applying for grants, commissioning surveys and consultations and facilitating CAT visits and meetings

FINANCE



£246,566

INCOME

Unrestricted £234,257

Restricted £12,309

£201,917

EXPENDITURE

Unrestricted £191,969

Restricted £2,361

£44,649

RESERVES

Unrestricted £42,288

Restricted £2,361

FINANCE



£24,537

GRANTS

Our activities have been supported by **Bristol City Council**, who funded ASLS as a Key Arts Provider.

Many thanks also to the following funders who supported the Jacobs Wells Bath project including:

Jacobs Well Community Hub - £150 donation

Architectural Heritage Fund - £5000

Bristol City Council Property Team - £5,900

Quartet - £1,909

DIVERSITY

Part of our vision is not just to support developing artists but to help improve diversity across underrepresented groups of people in the arts. In 2018 we plan to appoint an officer to focus on engaging Bristol's increasingly diverse community.

13.8% of our tenants at the Island identify as mixed / multiple ethnic group, 6.9% as other ethnic groups and 79.3% as white. However representation of BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) audiences at exhibitions is below 10% for many events. The BAME group make up 16% of the total population in Bristol. This is an increase from 8.2% of all people in 2001. Three of our projects sit in wards with a BAME population of above 14% which include Lawrence Hill and Cabot.

All of our venues are inclusive. Two of our venues SPACE and the Vestibules were hubs for Bristol Pride 2017. Exhibitions such as the 'Women From Here' photography exhibition at SPACE by women who were part of The Bourke-White Programme and the 'Gender and Sexuality' exhibition at the Island received a diverse range of visitors as well as LGBT (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender) audiences.

We are committed to promoting and embedding diversity across our projects in 2018.

ENVIRONMENT

In recent years there has been a growing body of literature, studies and reports supporting the value of historic and existing buildings in building sustainable communities. ASLS imaginatively and efficiently reuse existing building stock and bring difficult, unused buildings back to life.

Re-using or adapting an existing building has a number of tangible environmental benefits. Using the existing stock reduces the use of new materials and the environmental impacts and CO2 emissions connected to their production, while the embodied energy of the existing material is preserved and not wasted. Furthermore the substantial wastage from demolition that would otherwise go to landfill is also avoided, especially given that approximately a quarter of the waste in the UK is building waste.

In 2018 we plan to increase our commitment to sustainability by looking at ways we can compost waste produced by the Venue and where reuse is not possible, ensuring supplies are biodegradable.

ARTSPACE LIFESPACE

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Bristol
BS1 2LE**

**artspacelifespace.com
theislandbristol.com**



Artspace Lifespace

Artspace Lifespace Reg Charity No: 1168150

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