

Date: Thursday, 25th September 2025

Time: 18.00-18.45

Location: The Island, Bristol, BS1 2BE / Hybrid zoom

meeting: (A recording of the video is available upon request to info@artspace.uk)

Trustees' Annual Report and Financial Statements

AGM Slides

AGENDA

1. Welcome and Apologies
2. Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting held on Friday, November 15, 2024 and matters arising
3. Overview of Accounts for Year End 2024
4. To receive and consider a [report from the Board of Trustees, including the accounts](#).
5. Overview of 2025 and Looking ahead to 2026
6. Any Other Business

Chair: Richard Irvine

Attendees: Aran Dasan, Ben Stephenson, Doug (James) Francis, Melissa Blackburn

Apologies: Kara de los Reyes, Peristera Stefanou, Wim Penhaul

MINUTES

1. Welcome and Apologies

AGM Returns In-Person Post-COVID

The AGM of Artspace Lifespace was held in person for the first time since COVID, with Richard Irvine chairing the meeting.

The board welcomed new trustees Ben Stephenson and Aran Dasan while noting the departure of Peri Stefanou and acknowledging the contributions of Anthony Elliott and Clarissa Jenkins in the YE 2024 period.

2. Minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting held on Friday, November 15, 2024 and matters arising

The minutes of the 6th Annual General Meeting, held on Friday, November 15, 2024, were approved without amendments.

3. Overview of Accounts for Year End 2024

Kathryn Chiswell Jones, CEO of ArtspaceUK, presented the financial report for the year ending 2024. Key highlights:

Artspace Lifespace ended the year in a positive financial position, with a surplus above the minimum reserve requirement.

The investment in Sparks Bristol was repaid.

The surplus was largely due to increased trading income from the inclusion of new projects Sparks and BroadmeadXP.

Despite rising staff costs, other operating costs were kept lean. Staff were paid the Real Living Wage plus 12.07% for freelancers.

Acknowledgements were given to the team, bookings officers, studio holders, and to Laura and Alice for securing core cost funding from the Nisbet Trust.

Earned Income Contributions by Project:

- 14%: Arts Mansion
- 35%: The Island
- 38%: Sparks
- 1%: The Vestibules
- 4%: BroadmeadXP

4. To receive and consider a [report from the Board of Trustees, including the accounts.](#)

A motion to accept the year-end accounts for the fiscal year 2024 were officially accepted.

5. Overview of 2025 and Looking ahead to 2026

ArtspaceUK Funding and Project Updates

Kathryn discussed their recent funding, including the continuing organisation funding grant from Bristol City Council and Nisbet Trust and two new project grants.

She expressed gratitude for pro bono legal support from Womble Bond Dickinson and UWE's research project funding which greatly helped demonstrate the impact of Sparks Bristol.

ArtspaceUK highlighted their partnerships with the Friends of Ashton court Mansion and the Vacant Property Task Force.

Kathryn also reflected on their successful Sparks project and its impact on the community and the brilliant partnership with Global Goals Centre without which Sparks would not have been possible.

She discussed winning the Power to Change grant and how they hope the toolkit they are creating will be useful to other artists to use in the future and help create a legacy for the future and resources for others, no matter what the future brings to Artspace.

Indigenous Home and Cultural Connections

Kathryn discussed the No Place Like Home project, exploring the concept of home and Indigenous connections, highlighting how movement and storytelling can bridge cultural gaps and foster community. She showed [a video](#) from the project which emphasised the importance of creating a sanctuary for participants to express their identities and concerns, while also addressing issues like climate change through shared experiences and collective action. The project, funded by the British Council, aimed to bring Indigenous knowledge and practices into the UK, promoting a sense of belonging and unity among diverse groups.

Artist Income and Studio Survey

Kathryn informed artists that the survey results had now been published and thanked artists for submitting their surveys. She presented survey results showing that only 31% of respondent artists earn a living from their art, with many earning less than £15,000 annually. The survey highlighted that nearly 70% of artists would work full-time as artists if income were not a barrier, and the space was identified as the most important characteristic for studio holders. ArtspaceUK plans to use these findings to campaign for

better funding, living conditions, and wages for artists, and touched upon the Bristol City Council Cultural impact survey results which demonstrate the cultural value of arts organisations to Bristol and how the Arts Council England and West of England Combined Authorities proposals that artists should seek funding from private investment were completely unfeasible.

ArtspaceUK Trustee Recruitment

Melissa Blackburn shared her experience and passion for supporting Bristol's creative community, encouraging others to consider becoming trustees.

Residency Applications Open

Doug discussed the importance of providing free space for artists, highlighting how residencies have enriched the cultural landscape and supported artists in creating work, even without funding.

ArtspaceUK is now accepting applications for residencies next year and can provide support and letters of recommendation to help artists in their efforts to secure dwindling funding.

6. Any Other Business

Gallery Accessibility and Funding Plans

Question from Ben Anthony about what Artspace's plans were to make the Gallery accessible. Kathryn discussed their efforts to secure a longer lease to enable capital funding, with sustainability and accessibility a priority. She emphasised the importance of making the venue accessible not just to the gallery and dance space but also to the venue below, particularly for wheelchair users. The discussion also touched on creating social spaces for artists, with a

mention of the Creative Council run by Jenny at Sparks, and the organisation's ongoing efforts to balance accessibility with limited resources due to short meanwhile leases.

The AGM concluded at 6.45pm and was followed by the Island Studio Holder Exhibition Preview until 20:45

Prepared by: Kathryn Chiswell Jones, CEO

Date: 26th September 2025