**2017/18 ANNUAL REPORT**

**Artsadmin enables artists to create without boundaries, connecting bold interdisciplinary work with local, national and international audiences.**

Everything we do is underpinned by our core values: Sustainable. Collaborative. Bold.

artsadmin.co.uk @artsadm /artsadmin

SEE THE WORLD DIFFERENTLY

We’ve always worked with artists whose work encourages audiences to see the world differently and this year has been no exception.

Passers-by were invited on an emotional and physical journey, to walk a mile wearing a refugee or migrant’s shoes and listen to their story, from a Syrian dentist to a Nigerian barber, when Clare Patey brought Empathy Museum to London’s Migration Museum. At the top of a skyscraper in the City of London, 9-10 year olds from Canon Barnett Primary School, next door to Toynbee Studios, revealed their fantastical visions of the future for Andy Field’s Lookout, a new commission for 2 Degrees Festival – our biennial festival on art and environment. Chris Dobrowolski showed us the impact of mass consumption, filling cars in an aquarium car park with sand, shells and plastic debris for Washed Up Car-Go, a commission by Hull UK City of Culture 2017.

Partnerships with organisations near and far continue to enrich the work we do. Unlimited, the commissioning programme we deliver with Shape Arts, challenges our perceptions of disabled people and has supported outstanding projects by over 75 disabled artists and companies with £2.8 million since 2013.

We continue to support artists throughout their careers with a plethora of opportunities, from one-to-one advice through to weekend-long artists’ labs, and to nurture experimentation, risk and emerging talent at Toynbee Studios.

Thank you to all of our funders, donors and supporters without whom the achievements in this report (and all of those we could not squeeze in) would not be possible.

**Charles Garrad, Chair, Board of Trustees**

ACROSS ARTSADMIN

* 98 touring events featured disabled artists and disability-led companies supported through Unlimited, a commissioning programme that Artsadmin delivers in partnership with Shape Arts
* £72,880 amount of EU funding for our artists’ projects and commissions
* We swapped single-use plastic cups for reusable cups in our Arts Bar and Café

“The five senses were put to use in creating and experiencing art, and the children became active arts ambassadors within the school.”

Teacher at Canon Barnett Primary School on **Playing Up**

2 DEGREES FESTIVAL

Over 4,000 people came to Artsadmin’s fifth biennial **2 Degrees Festival** on art and climate change in June 2017. With EU funding through the European collaborative project Imagine 2020, we commissioned two site-specific pieces: Daniel Gosling’s **Carbon Capture** encouraged audiences to take a lump of coal and put it back into the ground rather than burn it, and discarded plastic bags were woven into portals into an imagined future for Jo Hellier’s **Festival of Ancients**.

Children’s voices were central to the programme, especially in Ant Hampton’s Crazy but True and Andy Field’s Lookout, where we worked with the neighbouring Canon Barnett Primary School.

PLAYING UP

In collaboration with Live Art Development Agency, we re-visited Canon Barnett Primary School to play Sibylle Peters’ game **PLAYING UP**, exploring the potential of live art to bridge generations. Armed with felt pens, corn flour, wigs, dog leads, vegetables, string and more, we broke the rules, remade our own and staged a protest together.

ARTISTS AND AUDIENCES

* 108,000 people experienced Artsadmin’s work globally
* 25 number of cities we toured to worldwide
* 20,098 people visited Amy Sharrocks’ Museum of Water in Australia

“The wit and ingenuity Dobrowolski brings to all his work are very evident in **Washed Up Car-Go**.”

Derek Horton, Corridor 8

“It’s a way to give people a chance to share their story, and a musing on the role of museology itself.”

The Guardian on **Museum of Water**

“Before attending this I had no idea of the positive and healthy influence writing can have on a person’s frame of mind.”

Participant on **Take Up Space**

A SPACE FOR HOPE OVER FEAR

J&J (artists the vacuum cleaner and Jessica Huber) toured to 11 cities in Europe, running workshops and engaging with often marginalised participants struggling with mental health. These workshops make up one of three elements of **The Art of a Culture of Hope** – a long-term investigation into our system of values – which also includes a performance evening and archive.

WHAT’S HIDDEN IN THE SAND?

Chris Dobrowolski was commissioned by Hull UK City of Culture in partnership with The Deep aquarium to create **Washed Up Car-Go** – an installation inside three cars for the aquarium’s car park, which was seen by over 20,000 people. With plastic toy sea creatures tossed amongst shells and sand, the work touched upon issues to do with pollution, consumerism and the tradition of maritime art.

ROWDY REVIVALIST RALLY

Commissioned by The Yard Theatre, Marlborough Theatre, Norwich Arts Centre and Colchester Arts Centre, Stacy Makishi’s **The Comforter** reclaimed spirituality via 1980s and 90s pop culture. Stacy’s performance toured to the commissioning venues and Live Art Collision in Dublin.

PONDER OUR PRECIOUS LIQUID

Amy Sharrocks’ **Museum of Water** toured to Western Australia. The exhibition, commissioned by Perth Festival, included over 500 bottles, each displayed with an accompanying story. There were water samples from the Great Barrier Reef, a vial of tears and a splash from a Paralympian’s swimming pool. Accompanying the exhibition was a programme of events including some run by surfers, botanists and poets.

SPARKING DEBATES IN THE CITY

Steve Lambert’s neon sign **Capitalism Works For Me! (True/False)** provoked conversation about economy and equality on the streets of Birmingham during Fierce Festival in October 2017, with over 2,000 voting during the week.

POETRY THROUGH THE GATE

In October and November 2017, we brought our first creative criminal justice programme, **Take Up Space** to two men’s prisons in London, in partnership with Catch22. After a 6-week series of workshops with performance poet Joshua Idehen, the participants performed poems they had developed on the theme of ‘space’ to an invited audience. This year, we also started planning for **Unchained Nights**, an evening of poetry for those with lived experience of the criminal justice system, led by Lady Unchained.

ARTIST DEVELOPMENT

* 528 artists supported by the Artist Development team through one-to-one advisory sessions, workshops, labs and award schemes
* 25 organisations partnered on DIY, a professional development scheme for artists, led by Live Art Development Agency
* 90 artists attended Sweatshop, practical workshops on subjects such as fundraising, audiences and access

“**BANNER** has provided me with an artistically nurturing and professionally supportive transition out of academia.”

Elinor Lewis, BANNER artist 2017-18

WEEKENDS OF EXPERIMENTATION

Our **Weekender Labs** are curated and run with a spirit of play and collective experiment with the content of each reflecting the lead artist’s own practice while responding to the interests of the people in the room. Our labs were led by four internationally renowned artists: La Ribot, Simone Aughterlony, Tim Spooner and Jamila Johnson-Small.

AWARDS FOR GRADUATING ARTISTS

Our scheme for graduating artists, **BANNER**, supported two artists this year: Elinor Lewis (graduating from MA Performance Making, Goldsmiths) and Thulani Rachia (graduating from BA in Contemporary Performance Practice, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland). Working with Goldsmiths, Royal Conservatoire of Scotland and Live Art Development Agency, **BANNER** is a holistic programme of support combining ongoing dialogue, artist development labs, peer exchange and public presentation.

TOYNBEE STUDIOS

* 4,736 people attended events at Toynbee Studios featuring UK and international artists and companies
* 58 performances, discussions and screenings as part of our public programme
* We made our building more inclusive by introducing gender neutral toilet signage and investing in new accessible toilets

“You’re always top of the list whenever I need to look for external spaces to hire.”

Ben Tyreman, Royal Shakespeare Company

PUBLIC PROGRAMME

The public programme showcased some renowned artists including Franko B, Marcia Farquhar, Nando Messias and Reverend Billy. Regular sell-out and audience favourite Steakhouse Live continued to platform radical performance at its festival, taking place across Toynbee Studios and Rich Mix, as well as at its seasonal **Tender Loin** events. We hosted artist Louise Ashcroft’s darkly comic scratch night **Unperforming** and Khidr Collective who give a voice to young Muslim artists.

STUDIO HIRE AND ACCESS

We made our building more accessible for visitors, hirers and staff. Alongside commercial hires, we also continue to offer subsidised space for artists, supporting experimentation and research. We welcomed many new hirers including Almeida Theatre, Diverse City and Serpentine Galleries. We also hosted rehearsals of West End hits, including **Bat out of Hell**, **Singin’ in the Rain** and **Girl From the North County** and the Olivier-nominated dance production **Black Whyte Gray** by Boy Blue Entertainment.

FINANCE

**INCOME**

£2,600,245

Unlimited: £1,020,442

Arts Council England NPO: £533,072

Earned income from Toynbee Studios: £472,319

Charitable activities: £272,516

Fundraised income: £189,192

Other statutory funding: £111,074

Investments: £1,000

**EXPENDITURE**

**£2,357,656\***

\* In addition to expenditure, there is £314,369 total depreciation on fixed assets, £301,207 restricted capital funds and £13,162 unrestricted funds.

Charitable activities: £1,065,340

Unlimited: £903,714

Managing Toynbee Studios: £345,633

Raising funds: £42,969

**Board of Trustees**

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**Artists**

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**With thanks to our funders…**

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