**Creative Communities Programme**

Interim Report

# Activity to Date

In the first six months of 2017, out of the total of 63 projects, 14 have been completed, 19 are currently underway and 30 will take place in the remaining 6 months. In the Made in Hull season, projects: involved over 17,500 participants, received audiences of over 345,000, and reached over 10,000 people with online outputs.

Season 1 - Made in Hull (Jan – Mar) included:

* **105+dB** (Invisible Flock)
* **1940s-Now** (Hessle Road Network)
* **Not Forgotten Town** (Malcolm Joslin / Humber Film)
* **The Female Gaze** (Julia Roach Kingston Art Group)

The 105+dB project produced by Invisible Flock reached an audience of 342,000 during performances as part of the Made in Hull event in early January and involved 16,000 participants in a recording session at a football match in 2016. Three other projects delivered during the first season had over 1,606 participants, were seen by over 3,609 audience members in person, and online project elements received over 10,075 views.

Season 2 - Roots and Routes (Apr – Jun) included:

* **Playing the Bridge** (Nye Parry)
* **Voices Across The Humber** (Hull Choral Union)
* **Fountain17** (Fountain17)
* **Casting On Humber** (The Sobriety Project)
* **Our Street, Our Stage** (Assemble Fest)
* **Hull Refugee Week Gig in the Garden** (Hull City of Sanctuary)
* **UK Celebration of World Refugee Day** (Hull City of Sanctuary)
* **Pop-up Playhouse - Hansel & Gretel** (No Twaddle Theatre Company)
* **Fishing Heritage Art Exhibition** (St John the Baptist)
* **Art in the Park** (Bridgeview Whitehouse Sullivan Centre)

At the time of compiling this report, feedback had yet to be received from many of these projects as the majority took place during the latter half of the season making it difficult to provide accurate numbers of participants and audience members at this stage.

Projects which have begun and continue to take place throughout the year include:

* **Fly to Freedom** (British Association for Modern Mosaic North)
* **Albemarle Saturdays** (Selina Slater/Hull Music Hub)
* **Art Celebrating Equality** (The Warren)
* **Born into a city of culture** (Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust)
* **Bransholme 50** (Bransholme Community Arts Enterprise Ltd).
* **Celebrating The Bantu People From South of The Equator In Hull and Regions** (Catherine Israel/FAMILIES 4 FAMILIES)
* **Culture of Hull 5 Hulls Alive** (5Senses)
* **Spirit of Amy: Display model of Gipsy Moth** (HM Prison Hull)
* **Greatfield 60 Years On** (Greatfield Big Local)
* **Fuzzfeed** (My Pockets)
* **Hidden Voices** (SEARCH)
* **I Wish To Communicate With You** (Goodwin Development Trust)
* **Mad Pride** (Mad Pride Collective)
* **Reading Rooms** (Hull Culture and Leisure Library Service)
* **Re-Made in Hull'** (Hull Play Resource Centre)
* **Sound and Vision Project** (Kingston Youth Centre)
* **The Butterfly Effect** (Butterflies Memory Loss Support Group)
* **Trevor Key's Top 40** (Scott King)
* **Why Couldn't They Be Like We Were** (Local Works Ltd/ Greatfield Residents)

# Case Studies

From the projects which have been completed or begun to date, four case studies have been selected to demonstrate some of the successes and challenges faced.

1. **1940s-Now** (Hessle Road Network)

*Funded by Big Lottery Fund*

‘1940s-Now’ took place during March 2017 and include 30 sessions for participants leading to 1 performance, 1 exhibition and 3 new commissions in total. The performance was based around people’s experiences of growing up on Hessle Road in the 1940s including memories of World War II and the fishing industry. Young people visited residential homes in the area around Hessle Road and completed surveys with the residents. In other sessions, the young people undertook further computer based research, and made displays, mood boards and props for the final performance. The research enabled the young people participating in the project to understand their local heritage as well as gain insight into the characters they would portray in the performance. Six young people acted in the final performance, which was attended by 109 audience members.

A particular success of the project was the increase in confidence observed amongst the young people (particularly the boys) through the rehearsals and preparations culminating in their performance to a large audience. The projects funded enabled the purchase of costumes (which helped the young people get into character) and increased the quality of the performance through the creation of large backdrops and the use of professional lighting.

Young people’s absence from some of the sessions was a challenge during the project which lead to delays in the rehearsals. However, the time was used to make progress with the necessary props and displays instead. Project leaders identified further challenges related to the paper work needed for project monitoring and evaluation as it exceeded their expectations and time they had allocated to complete it; as well as a challenge in communication with Hull 2017 staff regarding updates to their webpage. Audience feedback was mostly positive, with the only criticism being that the stage could have been raised to allow those seated near the back a better view.

Through the project a number of partnerships were forged. The project co-ordinators worked with the vicar of St John The Baptist to use the church as a venue and this helped to highlight the heritage themes within the performance and locate it within the Hessle Road community. There were initial challenges in finding a technician for lighting and sound though, once Joshua Bell from L.A.D. Events was identified, he was able to support with the design and set up of these elements.

1. **Voices Across The Humber** (Hull Choral Union)

*Funded by Hull 2017*

‘Voices Across The Humber’ brought together choirs from Hull, East Riding and North Lincolnshire and culminated in four events at Hull City Hall on the 1st April 2017. During the day there was a touch tour for visual impaired audience members (attended by 1 person), ‘Come and Sing’ (attended by 38 people) and an open rehearsal. The performance in the evening involved 305 participants across five choirs, as well as Hull Choral Union Orchestra, and was supported by a BSL interpreter.

The composition of the project team was noted as a particular success as each member of the team contributed different skills. The project manager oversaw the process and liaised with the various choirs involved, whilst the musical artists ensured that the choirs were well trained and the orchestra of a high standard. In addition, the technical team at Hull City Hall were praised by the project team for setting up the stage, lighting and audio-visual elements in a short amount of time.

The main challenge identified by the project team was the need to assemble the final performance within the single day at Hull City Hall. In their evaluation they suggested that for a future project of this scale they would factor additional elements into their funding bid to enable an orchestral rehearsal in the venue and the set-up of staging the night before the performance. The project team were disappointed with the clarity of sound during the performance and would consider using a different large venue with suitable acoustics in future.

In total the project involved 17 partnerships, of which 12 were new partnerships. The project team reported that the majority of these partnerships were very successful. Praise was given for the Hull 2017 team for their advice and support and the project team indicated their intention to use volunteers again in the future to support Hull Choral concerts.

1. **Spirit of Amy: Display Model of Gipsy Moth** (HM Prison Hull)

*Funded by Big Lottery Fund*

‘Spirit of Amy’ involved seven HMP Hull inmates working with staff and representatives from other partners to construct a replica of Amy Johnson’s Gipsy Moth. The project was overseen by Governor Steve Murray and Engineering Instructor Dave Ellis over a six month period and the finished replica was installed at Hull Paragon Interchange in early February 2017. Participants encountered new manufacturing techniques and worked at a scale that exceeded previous projects within the prison. The project team reported that learners developed new skills and ethos by working on a long term project which required them to work to deadlines and meet high quality standards. As a result, prison staff hope this has raised their opportunities for gaining employment upon release.

The installation of the model aircraft at the interchange succeeded in achieving substantial coverage online and in broadcast media. The project team felt that this media coverage recognised what prisoners, the prison service and Novus could achieve. The project team and participants felt a great degree of pride and satisfaction from the project and the public comments they saw in response to the media coverage was reported to give “everyone an immense lift and a real feeling of genuine success in producing something exceptionally special”.

One of the main challenges of the project was getting access to specifications for the aircraft and this was overcome by working with a range of other organisations and individuals. The project team obtained model drawings from the USA and undertook a visit to Coventry Airport to photograph a Gipsy Moth that was being restored. After contacting B.Ae Systems for their manufacturing advice, two employees visited the prison workshop to demonstrate some of the techniques to learners.

Audience feedback for this project is still being collected by the Hull 2017 team from members of the public at Hull Paragon Interchange and the project team estimate that 200,000 will have seen the installation.

1. **Greatfield 60 Years On** (Greatfield Big Local)

*Funded by Big Lottery Fund*

‘Greatfield 60 Years On’ is currently underway with 16 exhibition days (with 201 audience members) and 10 participatory activities (with 153 participants) having taken place during the first quarter of 2017. In January 2017, volunteers cleared and painted a space at St Hilda’s Church to become a pop-up gallery for Greatfield. The launch event on the 27th January was attended by 75 people and 126 visitors attended the first exhibition ‘Beginnings’. In the first quarter of the year, people have begun to submit photographs to up a ‘Greatfield Wall’ of memories and planning meetings took place for ‘Art in a Cart’ and carnival arts workshops.

The project team reported: “The project has brought new arts provision to an area where there is very limited access. It has brought the City of Culture into the heart of a community”. Successes include the establishment of a community choir with 17 members and reports of visitors coming from other areas to remember their connections to the estate. The project team also praised the work of volunteers in their evaluation for creating the gallery and keeping it open during cold winter months.

The cold weather during the first months of the project was reported as one of the greatest challenges leading to the installation of a more powerful heater within the space. The project team also reported monitoring and evaluation to be a challenge for them and felt that far more was required than for previous grants they had applied for.

The project team reported that overall there had been a good level of partnership working and felt that “The project has revitalised St Hilda’s Church who have an aging congregation and volunteer base”. Feedback from one partner suggested that the project had been too focused on St Hilda’s Church – a criticism which the project team hope to address in the second half of the year.

# Interim Learnings and Recommendations

Overall, the reports received have been appreciative of the support offered to them to deliver their projects (either the financial resources or advice and assistance from Hull 2017). However, several projects have identified the ask on them in relation to monitoring and evaluation as a particular challenge. Most of these reports came in before the expansion in capacity within the Hull 2017 M&E team. For the remainder of the year, members of the M&E team will be proactively offering their support to the projects which are still in delivery to upskill project staff and volunteers and to assist them in completing the requested forms. This will serve the dual purpose of reducing the pressures on project leaders and also attempt to increase the quality and quantity of information collected about project audiences and participants.

If this programme were to run again in future, it would be recommended to use a staged payment model for all projects. Across the programme anecdotal evidence suggests that there tended to be a greater likelihood of a drop in engagement and communication from those projects which had received all of their funding up front.

# Appendix 1 - List of projects and Lead Organisations

* **105+dB** (Invisible Flock)
* **1940s-Now** (Hessle Road Network)
* **Not Forgotten Town** (Malcolm Joslin / Humber Film)
* **The Female Gaze** (Julia Roach Kingston Art Group)
* **(In) Visible Dancing** (Luca Silvestrini's Protein)
* **4th Hull Indian Mela** (Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Hindu Cultural Association)
* **A Sight to Behold** (HERIB)
* **A Song for Hull** (Hull Children's University)
* **Acorn project - "From acorns oak trees grow"** (Polish Community Centre)
* **Albemarle Saturdays** (Selina Slater/Hull Music Hub)
* **Art Celebrating Equality** (The Warren)
* **Art in the Park** (Bridgeview Whitehouse Sullivan Centre)
* **BLOCK PARTY!** (All Star Entertainment)
* **Born into a city of culture** (Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust)
* **Boulevard Mad Yard Art** (Anna Coromina)
* **Bransholme 50** (Bransholme Community Arts Enterprise Ltd).
* **Casting On Humber** (The Sobriety Project)
* **Celebrating The Bantu People From South of The Equator In Hull and Regions** (Catherine Israel/FAMILIES 4 FAMILIES)
* **Children in Care Visual Art Celebration** (Hull Children's University Looked-after Care Programme)
* **Community Arts Jam** (Child Dynamix - Paul Clark)
* **Culture of Hull 5 Hulls Alive** (5Senses)
* **Spirit of Amy: Display model of Gipsy Moth** (HM Prison Hull)
* **Do You See What I Mean? - Stories of Hull Visually Impaired People, Written and Told By Themselves** (Northern Academy of Performing Arts)
* **Extrordinary Parade in Orchard Park** (Handmade Parade CIC)
* **Fishing Heritage Art Exhibition** (St John the Baptist)
* **Fly to Freedom** (British Association for Modern Mosaic North)
* **Fountain17** (Fountain17)
* **Fuzzfeed** (My Pockets)
* **Greatfield 60 Years On** (Greatfield Big Local)
* **Hear in Hull / Ways of Listening** (Artlink Centre For Community Arts)
* **Hidden Voices** (SEARCH)
* **Hull Beermat Photography Festival curated by Martin Parr** (Lighthouse Creative & Digital Ltd)
* **Hull Cultural Festival 2017**
* **Hull Refugee Week Gig in the Garden** (Hull City of Sanctuary)
* **UK Celebration of World Refugee Day** (Hull City of Sanctuary)
* **Hull Transforming Lives in Freetown (H-T-LIF) Musical concert** (Rev Lansford Penn-Timity/ Freetown Mix/Jive Express)
* **I Wish To Communicate With You** (Goodwin Development Trust)
* **Mad Pride** (Mad Pride Collective)
* **Mela** (Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Hindu Cultural Association)
* **Noah** (Holy Trinity)
* **Our Street, Our Stage** (Assemble Fest)
* **Park Life'** (Sirius Academy West)
* **Playing the Bridge** (Nye Parry)
* **Pop-up Playhouse - Hansel & Gretel** (No Twaddle Theatre Company)
* **PresentINGS - Ings Past & Present** (Maxlife Youth Project)
* **Pride in Hull 2017** (Hull LGBT+ Community Pride)
* **Reading Rooms** (Hull Culture and Leisure Library Service)
* **REDboard** (RED Gallery of Contemporary Art)
* **Re-Made in Hull'** (Hull Play Resource Centre)
* **Sound and Vision Project** (Kingston Youth Centre)
* **Stepney Station Art Installation** (Paul Browning/ Stepney Primary School)
* **Terrace Enders** (Goodwin Development Trust)
* **The Big Gig** (Hull Red Community Interest Company)
* **The Butterfly Effect** (Butterflies Memory Loss Support Group)
* **The Electric Fence** (Annabel McCourt / Cut Ltd.)
* **The People of Priory** (Priory Primary School)
* **Tiger Rags - The fabric of Hull City AFC** (Les Motherby/Hull City Kits)
* **Trevor Key's Top 40** (Scott King)
* **Turn and Face the Strange** (Rupert Creed / Centre for Contemporary Storytelling)
* **Voices Across The Humber** (Hull Choral Union)
* **We Are The Future!** (Northern Academy of Performing Arts)
* **Why Couldn't They Be Like We Were** (Local Works Ltd/ Greatfield Residents)
* **Wired Differently** (Ganton School)