



CIC 34 Community Interest Company Report

For official use
(Please leave blank)

Company Name in full

Creative Junction Community Interest Company

Company Number

06413339

Year Ending

31st March 2019

PART 1 – GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE COMPANY’S ACTIVITIES AND IMPACT

.....
During the financial year April 2018 – March 2019 **Creative Junction** worked hard to ensure thousands of people were offered memorable and meaningful experiences across art forms, through exciting events, festivals and projects. We have supported creative industry development empowering young people to gain relevant qualifications and real world opportunities and working strategically and collaboratively across sectors. We achieved this through the design, delivery and management of new projects; creative event production; creative and arts-led activity; facilitation and support of partnerships and networks; delivery of professional development and training; offer of placements, opportunities; and qualifications for young people.

Honour Who Fell – public art installation and participation workshops

250+ participants

The Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead commissioned Berkshire based social enterprise **Creative Junction** to create a piece of public art to mark 100 years since the end of the Great War and remember those from the borough who sacrificed their lives.

Honour Who Fell commemorates the lost lives of the hundreds of people from this area, installed on Windsor Guildhall’s Corn Market for Armistice Day and throughout the rest of November.

Local residents made individual poppies to create this artwork, inspired by original letters, diaries, photographs and their own hopes about peace now and for the next one hundred years.

This was part of a series of events and activities through Heritage Lottery Funded ‘For King and Country’, revealing the stories behind the names of the 200+ war memorials across the Borough – the title of this piece of public art took its name from an inscription on one of these memorials & echoes the cascades of poppies on the Corn Market pillars. The 2,500 individual hand cut poppies represent each of the lives lost in this area during the First World War.

Director Anna and associate artists worked with residents across Windsor and Maidenhead Libraries, Windsor Museum and at 10 related talks and events to create these poppies, inspired by words and pictures, writing and photography. Together, we began to imagine and empathise with the stories behind the names of those lost which appear on memorials around the Borough. Through an archive from Windsor Museum, local people began to relate to the stories of the men and women who lived during this period. With the 2018 centennial anniversary of Armistice and World War One peace and ceasefire, this ambitious project marked this by encouraging and enabling people to reflect over the last hundred years and what those who fought for us sacrificed as well as share wishes, hopes and pledges on their poppy about the next hundred years and what we can do towards peace – in our families, our communities, nationally and internationally

WW1 Now Light The Candles – exhibition and participatory workshops at Curve

100+ participants

Creative Junction, in partnership with Slough Museum and The Curve marked the 100th anniversary of Armistice and World War One peace & ceasefire with this participatory commemorative exhibition. We created and managed an exhibition marking Slough residents contribution to World War One at the Curve (Central library) This included display of medals, role of honour and a diary of the times kept by local boy Eric Currie. Eric was called up to fight a few weeks before the end of the war, and his diary entries revealed the impact of the conflict on Slough, and on family and British life.

The title of the exhibition Now Light The Candles took its name from the first line of the 1918 Siegfried Sassoon poem 'Repression of War Experience' and this and other war poets poems were on display, alongside local people's pledges for today's peace.

We designed and delivered free drop in storytelling and craft workshops every week in November where residents joined us to make a paper poppy to add to our poppy wall. We also displayed a tree of knitted poppies kindly created by the New Langley Community Association.

Walking Like Giants

29 participants, 30 audience

Creative Junction designed an early intervention action research project, commissioned by Slough's Cultural Education Partnership through funding from Thames Valley Housing and Artswork, using storytelling and multidisciplinary art forms (including movement, story making and craft) to support emotional wellbeing and mental health amongst children and their caregivers. The project was aimed at those identified as experiencing low self-esteem and at risk of poor emotional health.

From January – July 2018 director Jessica worked with Lent Rise Primary School and Orchard Avenue Children's Centre in Burnham, Slough, on a programme using storytelling and story inspired arts activity to raise self-esteem, confidence, sense of self worth, emotional intelligence and emotional and social wellbeing amongst children aged 2–7.

With children from care settings, the project also focussed on relationship building, developing bonds and encouraging consistent involvement. At the children's centre, the project focussed the potential for improved wellbeing through collaborative exploratory play and literacy activity – for both adult and child – and on relationship building and developing stronger bonds between family members.

The programme ran for 10 weeks, using children's story 'The smartest giant in town' by Julia Donaldson and arts activity which brought the characters and the messages of the book to life.

Lent Rise selected 16 children across three year groups, aged 4–7, to be involved. Year teachers put forward children identified as experiencing low self-esteem and/or disengaged from social interaction; including children from looked after care, foster care, with SEN or receiving pupil premium funding (identified as from disadvantaged background). Sessions ran as after school club offering a more targeted approach, attention and flexibility.

Orchard Avenue replaced their usual Little Learners session with a closed weekly session for children aged 2–4 and their families/caregivers; identified by the children's centres as those who would benefit from intervention for bonding through play, exploratory and early literacy activity. A closed session offered a more targeted approach and required care givers and children to participate together; Families were asked to commit to the 10 weeks and we had 6 families who saw the programme through to completion. After week 3 no other families were permitted to join, to protect the emerging group dynamics and relationships being built.

Jessica designed activity to introduce the children to feelings and different emotions, encourage involvement and interaction and to improve wellbeing: starting each session with the same intro/hello song and using emoji faces to introduce and explore emotions and enabling sharing of feelings before ending with similar exploration of feelings to gauge enjoyment and offering opportunity feedback.

Each session included a retelling of part of the story, a craft, an activity and encouragement of dialogue/understanding of key messages of the story, in turn exploring wellbeing and emotional intelligence. We led all kinds of creative and arts activity, from painting to dancing, role play to game playing. All weekly activities were inspired by the story and tailored to age across both settings.

Both settings came together at two points in the project:

Towards the end of the programme, there was a visit to the Story Museum in Oxford to provide further inspiration through the Museum's rooms inspired by different stories with lots of interactive activity, where children can explore and have fun!

We ended the programme with a celebration sharing event at Burnham Library at which family and carers were invited to attend to: see all the wonderful work the children created; learn about their children's progress/see some of the experiences they had; watch a short song performance by the children; join in some participatory activity; have some refreshments and snacks; join us in celebrating their achievements.

Given the age of the children we used the Leuven Scale to assess progress; a tool which focuses on two central indicators of quality early years' provision: children's 'wellbeing' and 'involvement'. At all sessions, we planned activity to encourage improved involvement and wellbeing.

In addition to the Leuven Scale, we explored the Anxiety vs capability scale, suggested by Young Minds. Here, we devised a few simple statements to highlight anxiety vs capability and then asked the children to give an answer using thumbs up, side and down or by standing in one of three corners.

Statements included *I feel a bit nervous about this activity; I'm not sure how I feel about this activity; I'm looking forward to this activity.*

Key Findings Summary

- All children increased on the Leuven Scale from week 1 to week 10.
- Even slight increases offered adults an opportunity to see how the child can be engaged/what they respond positively to.
- All children became more familiar with emotions and feelings, and behaviours we might attribute to these.
- As the weeks progressed, more and more children wanted to share their feelings – this enabled us to immediately use a peer support framework to address any problems or concerns an individual might share. Empowering the children and developing emotional awareness.
- Caregivers learnt not to force participation which elevated upset/bad behaviour – but instead observe what activity their child did respond well to and encourage this.
- Children engaged consistently well in singing, games (e.g. high five games) and listening to short stories and we discussed with caregivers how they continue this at home.
- Disengaged children became more engaged as the weeks continued and rapport between each other and with the practitioners developed and grew stronger.
- The School reports seeing the children participants still speaking to each other at school.
- The developing relationship with Jessica – a consistent face – arguably substantially enabled the increase of the involvement and wellbeing amongst those who scored lower at the beginning of the project.
- Children's Centre staff frequently commented on gaining new ideas and the principle of planning activity around a theme/story, facilitating and bringing the group together; as opposed to simply providing a range of activity corners across the space, for independent and solo engagement. They observed the quality of parent/carer engagement through the project and increased involvement.
- One mother reported great learning for herself. It established her understanding and appreciation for why we introduce reading so early in a child's development and ways to make story telling more engaging and memorable. She confessed that she had not read to her eldest, not understanding why it was necessary to introduce books and reading before the child could understand language and speak. Over the programme she created a story corner in her child's bedroom and reported several ways in which she now makes time to read books and do activity with her children.

- At the sharing, the children showed their families their own work. There was a tangible sense of pride and achievement in all the children.
- Parents asked questions about their child's wellbeing and social skills, understanding the ambitions of the programme.
- Whilst simple to use and offering a helpful and considered approach to assessing involvement and wellbeing, it should be noted than other factors can affect a child's score. E.g. tiredness had a significant impact on a young child's observed behaviour/score, which could be argued was not indicative of the general involvement and wellbeing of that child.
- Family engagement and caregiver involvement and learning increased over the project, evidenced in quotations.
- Families were invited to promote and attend the end celebration sharing event to which at least 30 adults attended.
- Children independently led their families around at the celebration/sharing event, participating in activity at the sharing and encouraged care givers to help or take part. Very little facilitated/instructed activity had to happen.
- They shared what they did, showing their creations with pride.
- They created a number of things over the weeks and the took them all home as they left the sharing. Parents too demonstrated pride as they collected their children's work.

Past Present Future – Winter Festival

400+ active participants + approx. 250 audience

Creative Junction, in partnership with Slough Libraries & Culture Service and Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation Emergency Exit Arts (EEA) were awarded an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant to deliver Past/Present/Future – a combined art form, multi-site Winter Festival across Slough throughout November & December 2018. This grant was awarded for Creative Junction to lead on: work with new people; create & commission new work; reach new & different audiences; try out new approaches; and undertake both organisational & personal professional development.

Overview of activity and what was achieved

Past/Present/Future Winter Festival provided an opportunity for residents and artists in Slough to celebrate our hidden history & heritage, our current artistic & community achievements, and look to and consider our future...

December 2018 marked the 175th anniversary of Charles Dicken's novel 'A Christmas Carol' and Past/Present/Future connected to this occasion, the normally private site of Dicken's Slough based publishers The Bentley's and the core themes of his story as a starting point for creating work. Past/Present/Future echoed the ghosts that Scrooge meets and was also broad enough for all to interpret in their own artistic and secular ways. The connected themes in the novel of redemption, forgiveness, family, community and what makes us truly rich provided rich ground for our imaginations to flourish.

In partnership with Slough Libraries & Culture Service we programmed twelve participatory sessions across five Libraries to explore the Past/Present/Future themes through writing, poetry, storytelling, craft & object handling. These were delivered by Slough artist and Creative Junction Director Anna Jones, with EEA, Slough Museum and The Charles Dickens Museum.

In partnership with The Curve Choir, Slough Music Education Partnership and Slough residents from the Age UK Berkshire choir, Slough artist Rob Harris co-created three original pieces of music/lyrics exploring Past/Present/Future themes that were performed by the combined choirs.

In partnership with EEA we installed 'Paper Peace', a 12-foot poem light sculpture by artist Robert Montgomery at two Slough locations, The Curve and The Mere, as part of its national tour, encouraging a further level of engagement with art experiences. 2018 also marked the centenary of World War One Armistice and this piece alongside the Past/Present/Future connected themes showed the power of art, words & togetherness in rethinking our world.

In partnership with Slough artist Peter Cox we supported two Innerverse monthly spoken word nights at the Herschel Arms Pub and created a participatory pop up exhibition 'Reflect With Us' that featured Past/Present/Future themed words & poems by Anna & Peter and subsequently created by passer-by contributing participants. We were given space for this exhibition at the newly opened HOME on the High Street, part of Arts Council's Creative People & Places programme. We installed the exhibition in the former fitting rooms of this empty shop, the first time this 'found' space had been used in this way.

Director Anna produced the Festival Finale at the amazing heritage backdrop of The Mere, the site of Dicken's Slough based publishers The Bentley's, to host 'Paper Peace' and local spoken word, poets & writers of all ages who shared their experiences of Slough Past/Present/Future. Local choirs and musicians created and shared their work. The Mere, usually inaccessible to the public, not only offered a beautiful building & grounds, but the opportunity to explore largely unknown Slough history & heritage as creative inspiration for creating, performing, reading & hearing poetry, prose & lyrics today. Over the course of the Past/Present/Future Winter Festival, we delivered 16 x participatory sessions across 5 x Slough Libraries and at the HOME Shop and two Innerverse nights at the Herschel Arms Pub. In addition, our 'Reflect With Us' pop up participatory exhibition at the HOME Shop involved people going to other HOME activities & meetings. On the finale event day/night we installed 'Paper Peace' at The Curve Plaza and at The Mere, where choirs, spoken word artists & writers & the public joined the celebrations. Past/Present/Future Winter Festival reached 405 x active participants engaging with 12 x artists/museum specialists and an audience of over 250 experiencing the spoken words, stories & songs of 45 x artists.

Key learning and organisational & artistic development

We learnt more about producing work and live performance outside, especially large scale installations, and discovered more about the possibilities (and limitations) of The Curve Plaza and The Mere, learning alongside EEA and The Curve facilities team – and we will be even more mindful in future of the benefit of professional stewards to support this work.

This work reminded us to not take for granted that everyone will know what you consider established cultural references – at least a third of participants had never heard of A Christmas Carol, let alone read the book (or seen The Muppet Movie!)

We learnt that our key focus remains working with families & communities, because this provides wider reach to participants and is what feels authentic to us – this learning was compounded by schools that wanted to engage dropping out at the very last minute due to illness and permissions, making the Finale day & evening more stressful than necessary.

We learnt about creative uses of non-Gallery spaces to exhibit – both at the HOME Shop & The Curve – learning we are now applying to an International Women’s Day exhibition in partnership with a young photographer & Slough Youth Parliament.

Longer term impact

For Creative Junction, this Festival has further established an excellent working partnership with Slough Libraries & Culture Service – we are currently planning arts & heritage led activity for CrossRail opening celebrations at The Curve and Slough Train Station with the Libraries & Culture Service, Slough Museum and the Royal Collection Trust – as Queen Victoria made her first train journey from Slough in 1842. We are also currently planning together for Get Creative Festival 2019 across Slough Libraries with a Local Authority Adult Learning commission to build on our initial Grants for the Arts supported work.

The ‘Reflect With Us’ exhibition in the HOME Shop developed Anna & Peter as artists and developed their collaborative creative relationship; they also worked together during Winter 2018 to create ‘Honour Who Fell’, a large scale public art commission by the Royal Borough Windsor & Maidenhead Museum & Libraries to mark the centenary of World War One. Creative Junction & Peter are now working with Maidenhead Big Read on their inaugural Book Festival to decorate the two empty shops they are using as pop up spaces for a month, as well as external décor at The Nicholson Shopping Centre. The exhibition also built our relationship with Slough’s Queensmere Observatory Shopping Centre who are now exploring empty shop space options for young people to display artwork as part of our recent Slough Education Partnership commission.

The Festival also built on our excellent working relationship with EEA with who we are considering further opportunities to co-produce & create; built our hub links with Slough Music Service (who lead The Curve Choir) who are now working with us on our Slough Education Partnership commission; and established a new relationship with The Charles Dickens Museum – who had not delivered in Slough

before, or delivered the outreach work they provided at The Curve outside of London.

The EEA Projects & Events Producer shared “... *this allowed us to develop new workshops and engagement activities around the Peace Poem as part of our ongoing arts and heritage project. Taking part in Past, Present, Future allowed EEA to engage a new collective of artists to research and develop new engagement activities...skill share and explore new facilitation practises. This learning will be shared with Paper Peace’s National Partners and activities will have a strong future life as part of the tour. The project allowed for a junior member of the producing team to take on responsibility and own strong elements of delivery overseen by EEA and Creative Junction. Through working closely together to develop ideas and deliver, EEA has also had the opportunity to strengthen ties with Creative Junction and build relationships for future work together.*”

The HOME Slough Programme Manager shared that the Past/Present/Future Winter Festival “... *brought new artists and a range of arts forms (to their HOME Shop), enriching our existing offer and linking us to new artists and audiences.*”

We were also told by artists involved that there will be a longer term impact on their work, that this was the first time most had performed outside and had benefited from this experience. The Festival has been a catalyst for creative collaborations developing independently from us – between poets & musicians, between choirs, between The Curve and artists.

Overall, this Arts Council grant and Festival has strengthened and honed our core work, and Anna’s artistic practice, as activity with & by families & communities, inspired by the heritage & stories of a diverse range of lives & locations and reflecting on the resonance with our experiences of today. We are even further committed to producing work in ‘found’ & outdoor spaces and working with Libraries so that more & different people engage with & share in arts opportunities.

Whitfest – Reading community arts activities and showcase

300+ participants and 100+ audience

Creative Junction organised WhitFest 2018/19, on behalf of Aspire2. This year, WhitFest became WhitFest Showcase!: A new initiative to showcase the arts and celebrate community in Whitley – an entertaining evening of creative performances and art exhibitions, community togetherness and celebration. We sought aspiring artists or people from arts groups to take the opportunity to exhibit and perform at this brand–new local arts platform – to create, share and celebrate. In readiness for the Showcase, we organised community workshops for local residents to be inspired–get creative and chat Whitley. Residents could drop in to free workshops delivered by local artists at local venues or request an artist to deliver free workshops at their club or group; to participate in arts activity, develop skills and practice and perfect for those who wished to perform or exhibit at the showcase.

All schools and some local groups were given the opportunity to work with an artist in their setting to create artwork in response to the theme ‘my Whitley community’.

Twenty workshops ran from November 18 – February 19 with the finale Showcase event taking place @ Whitley Social Club and café on Friday 1st March 2019.

As part of Whitfest, Creative Junction director Anna designed and delivered Whitley Words. She worked with members of The Bluebell Club at residential Cedars Court in Whitley, Reading, to reminisce about their lives & loves, family & friends. The Bluebell Club told Anna their stories – about times when they worked in Whitley, as builders, as trolley bus drivers and on parent's allotments and Anna created poems with them, particularly inspired by three of the residents & members – Barbara, Joyce & Dave. Anna also worked with Whitley Library during National Poetry Day to create the poem Witelei, about the ancient history of this place, that dates back to the Doomsday Book.

On the 1st March 230 people packed out Whitley Social Club to celebrate local creativity. WhitFest Showcase engaged 19 choir performers; 12 dancers; 4 belly dancers; 3 soloists; 1 keyboard player; 1 MC; and 3 welcome artists. 6 acts received praise and applause for their performances. Creative Junction director Jessica worked closely with the acts, together with artists, to support their preparation for their performance. One participant shared her anxiety concerns – at the first session it was a struggle for her to sing in front of two people. With mentoring and encouragement, she performed in front of a room full of friends, family and strangers, despite breaking her glasses and a technical hitch! It was a tremendous moment for her.

We worked closely with 9 community and voluntary organisations including: South Reading Community Centre; Hexham Community Centre and Whitley Wood Community Centre, Whitley Museum, Age UK Berkshire Bluebell group, Whitley Library, Whitley café, Whitley Social Club, Whitley GrowAllot increased awareness and excitement amongst community 'leaders' and therefore residents. Supported by Whitley Pump and Reading Borough Council.

A key success of this year was collaborative working with community organisations in organising the Showcase event and connecting to existing events, which generated a greater sense of pride and ownership: Whitley residents greatly valued the opportunities, connection to artists and others.

"It was brilliant – I was really nervous – I can't believe I did it!"

"I think your efforts and hard work were rewarded by a packed room".

Inspiration Programme

90 participants

The Inspiration Programme, managed by the Buckinghamshire based charity Action4Youth, is designed to broaden the horizons, thinking and experience of young people, to make them aware of how our society works and to help them understand what their place in it is and can be. **Creative Junction** deliver the Arts and Culture Pillar, using creative and arts led facilitation techniques and support the programme aims to explore the group's understanding of arts and culture, its importance, how it is relevant locally and individually to them and how they can relate in terms of self-expression. Exploring performance in terms of self-expression and the spoken word – Creative Junction deliver

these sessions to support young people to find and share their own voice and support the programme aims of 'young people to understand the relevance of arts and culture to them, essentially to help them find their own means of self-expression.' Students sharing to express their story as they've progressed through the programme – facilitated reflective conversations using Arts Council England quality principles mapping document and supporting the presentation of student experience.

SouthWestFest

650+ participants + over 7,000 festival attendees

SouthWestFest is a large scale community festival celebrating all that's great in SW1 and attended by over 7,000 people each year. **Creative Junction** Director Anna event managed and produced the Community Parade.

The Parade transformed the streets of London into a festival extravaganza of colour, costumes, music and dance before arriving at St George Gardens and taking to the main stage.

In addition, the Parade was joined by a London double decker bus, supplied by Metroline; a vintage police car supplied and driven by the Metropolitan Police and a classic London Taxi supplied by sponsor KnightFrank. Plus over 200+ residents and passer-by pedestrians joining in impromptu took the total number of participants to over 450. We also delivered a Teddy Bear Picnic as part of the festival follow up activities to a further 200+ participants.

Summer of Fun Bracknell Forest

1200+ visitors to Creative Junction outdoor arts activity

In Summer 2018 **Creative Junction** returned to Bracknell Forest's 'Summer of Fun' organised by Bracknell Town Council, Binfield, Warfield, Crowthorne, Winkfield and Sandhurst parish councils, delivering family activity at 8 fun days across 8 different parks, attracting thousands of families.

We designed activity to promote reading and storytelling through imaginative play; bringing to life well known children's stories through movement, themed songs, games and craft activity. Using well known and well-loved books 'Aliens love underpants' and 'The very hungry caterpillar' we told the stories using actions and sounds and engaged families in a simple take home craft like alien head dresses and flying butterflies. Activity also engaged the younger age range 0-5 years with a story tent, soft toys and colouring. To promote outdoor play and physical activity we created a story trail though the park encouraging families to hunt out a number of bugs or underpants or underpants before returning to our tent to collect a sticker. We wanted to ignite children's imaginations and inspire families to use the outdoors through stories, going on purposeful and fun adventures, and exploring new ways to play with the natural environment.

"This is my very favourite stall." "Jessica was a great storyteller, the kids just wanted more!"

This work has received wonderful feedback from the organisers and strengthened new relationships in Bracknell Forest. As such, the activity fed directly into an Arts Council project grant application for our Enchanted Forest Festival with South Hill Park and Bracknell Forest Libraries which proved successful in May 2019.

Herschel Park family fun day

100+ participants

During October half term, **Creative Junction** Director Jessica designed and delivered Halloween themed activity at the beautifully restored gardens of Herschel Park, organised by Slough Parks. Inspired by well loved stories 'Funny bones' and 'Spider sandwiches' we engaged families in spooky shenanigans, crafting pop up ghosts and other ghastly characters and making a grossly green garden soup, with children adding rats tails (sticks), toad eyeballs (pine cones) spiders legs (grass) and other nature inspired ingredients.

We continue to find opportunities to inspire and empower families to grow a love of storytelling and story making through creative play.

Arts Award Leadership Network – mentoring training

Creative Junction, in partnership with OYAP, John Hansard Gallery, South East Dance and Turner Contemporary, continued the commission from Artswork, Arts Council England's South East Bridge organisation, to develop an Arts Award Leadership Network – supporting arts, cultural, heritage and learning organisations across the region, and to:

- act as sub-regional advocates and leaders for Arts Award
- encourage growth across all levels (Discover to Gold)
- connect providers to enable strategic planning using Arts Award as a tool or framework
- support organisations to develop and progress their Arts Award offer
- develop youth leadership and progression
- encourage collaboration to embed Arts Award in the local arts and cultural learning offer
- foster a culture of openness and peer development between all members

Creative Junction has a particular focus on the delivery of events and activity in the sub region of Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. This has included sessions for arts, cultural and heritage organisations as part of the Kids In Museums Take Over Day roadshows; at the Langley Academy Museum Learning conference and as part of Trinity College London development of Arts Award Gold. In this reporting period, the network reviewed work to date and trained in mentoring for the next phase to begin Spring 2019.

Creative Wellbeing – movement and music sessions

14 participants weekly

In 2018, **Creative Junction** director Jessica continued to deliver movement and music sessions in two supported living homes in Slough, managed by care provider Dimensions UK. Between 5–8 participants together with their support workers from two care homes in Slough regularly engaged: all females with learning disabilities and most non-verbal with severe physical disabilities. The sessions continued to offer disabled people exciting activity, tailored to their needs and musical tastes. The ladies continued to improve their physical wellbeing, through improved flexibility, increased body awareness including now being able to inflate and deflate the stomach through practiced breathing, and independence of movement; emotional wellbeing, looking forward to the sessions each week and nurturing relationships with the staff beyond basic care – the sessions capture the imaginations of the staff, many of whom now request to be rostered on for the sessions, who increasingly dance with the ladies, being silly and having fun, making the ladies laugh and clap; and social wellbeing, the ladies spend a good deal of their day in the same room as each other but alone in activities such as watching television, listening to music or similar, the sessions bring them together for interaction, fun and dialogue. For the warmer months of the year, the sessions were delivered from a local hall to get the ladies out of the house and somewhere different. In the colder months, we return to the intimacy of their home.

The sessions include warm ups, repetitive movement, asking the ladies to lead some movement, use of props and instruments, moving about in the garden, stretching, sensory touch and cool downs with breathing.

The session was filmed by Dimensions UK regional office for a short presentation video, to be shared across the other homes.

Find Your Way

To date – all year 9 students in Slough + 10 Arts Award advisers trained

In March 2019, **Creative Junction** was commissioned by Slough Cultural Education Partnership to deliver Find Your Way: a new programme that celebrates arts, cultural and heritage participation in Slough and supports children and young people to understand creative career pathways and gain relevant qualifications and experience.

The programme includes a town centre creative challenge competition for schools/groups; participatory skills development workshops; creative careers school touring activity; Arts Award Discover in a Day sessions & an Arts Award Gold programme; Artsmark support; and a final arts and careers festival at The Curve, Slough. In addition to our local partners, The Curve and The Langley Academy, we are working in partnership with other arts, cultural, heritage and learning organisations, local networks and Slough businesses to embed the initiative across our town; raising the aspirations and enabling the creative ambitions of all the children and young people who live, and want to work here. This is a Slough Cultural Education Partnership commissioned priority, supported by Artswork.

In February, we attended the local Careers Fair, organised by Learning to Work to showcase the Creative Industries amongst year 9 students from all local secondary schools and raise awareness of the breadth of the sector. We were then asked to attend a local school to deliver a session on creative careers. We began engaging organisations and in turn young people with Arts Award Gold. We trained 10 advisers in March to support them in starting Arts Award Gold with their young people.

The programme continues through to March 2020.

Women Leading Women – events to mark 100 years of women’s right to vote

300+ participants

Creative Junction worked with Slough Borough Council Youth Service and Slough Libraries and Culture Service to design and deliver a series of events and activities to mark 100 years of women right to vote. This included EqualITEAS – a tea party hosted by Lydia Simmons, who has great local respect and importance, as well as national (international) importance as the first Black female Mayor in the UK; International Women’s Day theatre, spoken word events, arts and crafts, health & wellbeing activities and a Women Leading Women exhibition. This exhibition brought together the photographs and stories of 100 inspiring women and girls who live and work in Slough. Leah Finney, an inspirational young woman, took on the challenge of photographing the 100 women that were part of a giant collage art installation at The Curve Upstairs Gallery. We are working with Leah on her Arts Award Gold – a national qualification recognising communication skills, creativity and leadership.

Get Creative Festival – delivering partner staff training & planning for 2nd Festival

10 people trained

In March 2018, as previous report, **Creative Junction** worked with Slough Library Service (SLS) & 7 established Slough artists + 3 emerging Slough artists to engage over 500 residents in active arts participation over 9 days of the national Get Creative Festival. These culturally & creatively diverse artists shared their practice, encouraged wide participation were supported to design, develop & deliver a rich & varied programme with & for people. Art activity happened in 9+ locations – 4 Libraries; 2 Libraries/Children’s Centres; Windmill Centre residential and The Curve for the sharing. During this reporting year we designed and delivered training for ten staff from Slough Borough Council libraries & Culture Service and made a (subsequently successful) application to Heathrow Community Trust for delivery of a Get Creative Festival in June 2019.

PART 2 – CONSULTATION WITH STAKEHOLDERS

Creative Junction strives to consult with all stakeholders in all of our work as detailed above: in particular artists and young people, but also with local authorities, arts and cultural organisations, community groups and families, education settings, youth settings, skills development initiatives and other leaders. Creative Junction continues to involve the people our projects, programmes and activities are created for at every stage of project planning, delivery and evaluation whenever possible.

Creative Junction have adopted and recommended the use of the national Family Arts Standards and Age Friendly Standards that inform how we best welcome families to arts organisations, festivals and experiences. For example, understanding the needs of families of different ages, from different communities and being flexible and responsive to them. www.familyarts.co.uk/family-arts-standards/

Creative Junction continuously engage with multi agency partnerships and community, voluntary, arts creative & cultural organisations, local authorities & others to advocate for the work we do and to share best practice. Most importantly this relationship building, dialogue and consultation is how we ensure the work we do is informed and links in with other agendas, strategies & initiatives. This includes:

HOME Slough – Arts Council England Creative People and Places strategic funding application

£1 million+ investment awarded

Creative Junction Director Anna Jones worked with Resource Productions CEO Dominique Unsworth to develop, research and write the subsequently successful application for HOME Slough, on behalf of consortium lead Slough Council for Voluntary Services. This included funder and stakeholder consultation, including Slough Borough Council and local residents, artists and arts, cultural and heritage organisations. HOME Slough is part of the [Creative People and Places programme](#), initiated and funded by Arts Council England through the National Lottery. Creative People and Places is about more people taking the lead in choosing, creating and taking part in art experiences in the places where they live. There are 21 independent projects, each located in an area where people have traditionally had fewer opportunities to get involved with the arts. Creative People and Places projects have reached over 1.2 million people, 90% of who do not regularly engage in the arts.

Work Experience

We hosted the annual three-week undergraduate Reading University Further Development Placement.

Creative Junction is as a consortium member of the Cultural Education Partnership in Slough.

Slough's Cultural Education Partnership is a consortium of cultural, health, children's service and education organisations, with the aim to create an evidence-based strategy, supported by funding, that will shape the future of arts and cultural provision for children and young people in Slough, increasing access, ensuring high quality and supporting their health, social and economic needs

Creative Junction attends the bi-monthly Slough Town Centre Partnership meeting, organised by Slough Borough Council Town Centre Manager. This group is attended by local organisations and retailers with the aim to ensure that town centre trading and initiatives are shared and joined up and to work together to develop Slough town as a clean, safe and vibrant place to be. Creative Junction is particularly able to inform the 'Vibrant' part of the campaign.

Creative Junction is a member of the steering group for the Music Education Hub in Slough. We support the hub in meeting their core and extension activities around music strategy and provision.