



City Arts

July - September 2015



Director Jamie Beddard in the opening ceremony of the Cerebral Palsy World Games

Welcome to our new-look review of what's being happening at City Arts lately.

We want everyone to see the full range of our activities so, as well as updates on our work in the city, we are also including here news from First Art, a major arts programme that is taking City Arts into North Nottinghamshire and North Derbyshire.

City Arts in Hockley

Activities in City Arts' planned season of classes, talks and performances proved very successful. A regular programme, accompanied by a brochure, will now be a permanent fixture at City Arts, listing events and activities coming up every three months. A number of classes led up to the 2015 Nottingham Carnival parade, with our troupe growing out of carnival dance classes for children and adults, samba for the over 50s, costume making and percussion workshops. Carnival workshops continued into the Autumn season.

By offering an eclectic mix of drop-in classes and high-level masterclasses, City Arts has developed a better understanding of the types of courses and events the public are looking for. There are encouraging signs – currently, our Twitter followers stand at 6290, our Facebook has 1213 likes and our e-flyers reach over 1200 people. **This makes us the most followed participatory arts organisation in the East Midlands!**

Productions

Cerebral Palsy World Games

The Cerebral Palsy World Games ran for one week in early August, bringing competitors from around the world to Nottingham, and were bookended by incredible City Arts-produced opening and closing ceremonies, performed to an audience of 1200 people, at Harvey Hadden Stadium.

The opening ceremony was directed by acclaimed actor/director Jamie Beddard, who has cerebral palsy. Its theme was 'Aspirations', focusing on the athletes' hopes for the competition, their expectations for the Games and the hard work they have invested into training for the event.

The ceremony kicked off with a procession of the athletes led by Queens from East Midlands' carnival troupes. An amazing group of dancers, assembled and choreographed by Dance4, alongside actors from Unanima Theatre Company led the audience through a story inspired by artwork created by pupils from Nottingham's Seely Primary School.

"Thank you for a truly inspiring Opening ceremony to the 2015 Cerebral Palsy games. Well done for assembling a team of world-class artists and staging such a spectacular event, full of diverse and talented performers. Only City Arts could have achieved that blend of artistry and celebration"

- Cllr Trimble, Portfolio Holder for Leisure and Culture, Nottingham City Council

"At the Opening Ceremony, I was impressed how performers with a disability participated and how they were integrated in the show. It felt as if one could identify oneself with

some of the performers. There was also an element of: "what will be next" – looking forward and wanting to see more. The theme - "Aspirations and Transformations" - was appropriate!

I hope that you and your organisation will be able to continue with this excellent work!"

- Koos Engelbrecht, President of Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association

'I was literally blown away by the whole experience and it is up there with one of the best things I have done – I'm still buzzing which is down to the amazing teachers and the brilliant performers. [We] had become one big family. Absolutely amazing – thank you!'

- Dancer in the Show

In the run up to the event the schoolchildren were invited to produce illustrations exploring the idea of 'Aspirations. Ali Petty from Kinetika, and artist Jessica Kemp, transferred their beautiful drawings onto huge brightly coloured silk discs, which featured heavily in the opening.

Magical moments from Extraordinary Bodies, a partnership between Diverse City and Cirque Bijou, punctuated the show, including an incredible performance by aerial artist Karina Jones, who has a visual impairment. Composer Damian Coldwell and electronic musician Si Tew provided an impressive and insistent soundtrack to the night, interspersed with samba rhythms from a band of Nottingham musicians, led by Ceri Howels and Michael Davis,.

'I think Jamie and the creative team created something very special and unique that was believable and engaged the audience in a way I wasn't sure was possible when we started this journey. He understood disability



Opening ceremony of the Cerebral Palsy World Games



Director Jamie Beddard in the opening ceremony of the Cerebral Palsy World Games



Closing ceremony of the Cerebral Palsy World Games

and how to best showcase what artistically can be created in an empathetic but beautiful way.'

Ali Talbot, the Games Director and CEO of CP Sport

Jamie's production for the Closing Ceremony focused on 'Transformations': reflecting the athletes' experience of the Games, the new friendships they had developed and their sporting achievements. Opening with an athlete's procession led by Zodiac All-Stars' colourful carnival kings, with Stickman Higgins and Mark Evans keeping the audience warmed up, it featured two inspiring illuminated dance pieces: a performance by young people from Cauldwell House children's home and a beautiful routine, choreographed by Extraordinary Bodies' Claire Hodgson, in which local people and performers danced with glowing umbrellas.

Throughout the games, video artist Barret Hodgson captured key moments and experiences to produce a short film celebrating the athletes' journeys. Composer Damian Coldwell created the soundtrack for the night.

A spectacular finale saw Jamie Beddard hoist high into the sky, soaring above the dancers below.

Our work on the ceremonies programme was of particular benefit to first year Nottingham Trent Theatre Design student Nikki Charlesworth. Offered a placement on the project, she was able to shadow the whole creative process, eventually taking on elements of the production costume design:

'It seemed unlikely that an event would occur in my hometown that encapsulates three of my main interests – theatre design, large-scale theatrical production and disability

arts. I was born with cerebral palsy, so to have a creative role in the ceremonies of an international sporting event that celebrates the achievement of people with CP feels like a perfect combination of circumstance and skill.'

Nottingham Carnival

On the 23rd August 2015, following an strenuous but hugely enjoyable procession around Victoria Embankment Park, Can Samba & City Arts' 'Flying Free' troupe took home the titles 'Best Troupe' and 'Nottingham Carnival Band of the Year' for their amazing performance in the Nottingham Carnival parade.

Having joined forces with new Nottingham-based carnival company Can Samba, City Arts produced its biggest, most inclusive, carnival troupe to date. The theme was 'Flying Free'; a celebration of birds, bees and other creatures of the sky.

A fleet of mobility scooters gave people whose mobility issues previously excluded them from the parade the opportunity to get involved. Boasting specially designed "shells", adorned with flapping birds and dangling flowers, these mini-floats were the centrepiece of the troupe, attracting lots of interest and praise. They joined City Arts' massive parrot, created last year by older people from Abbeyfield's Millbeck House care home, Nottinghamshire Hospice and Radford Care Group.

Betty, aged 95, was one of the care home residents who helped to build the bird. This year she was in the parade, piloting a flamboyant mini-float.

"Thank you for inviting me to join in. I had a great day feeling part of it all. So many



gave me care; decorating the scooter and those keeping an eye on me throughout the parade. I'm looking forward to other activities!"

Can Samba's Ceri Howell led a band of incredible percussionists, including young people from the Bloco Notto Samba Group. Our dance group performed a vibrant and political routine highlighting the plight of our buzzing friend the bee, currently under threat from government policy on pesticides.

Can Samba is a partnership between artist and performer SaRena K and percussionist Ceri Howells. With support from City Arts, they successfully applied for Arts Council England Grants for the Arts funding. The funding supported a series of costume making, samba dancing and drumming workshops open to people of all abilities that took place at City Arts over the summer. A team of brilliant volunteers, recruited through City Arts' summer programme, invested over 1000 hours of their time bringing the troupe to life.

Work with young people

Express Yourself

Summertime saw a series of successes for our long-standing and much loved Express Yourself programme, which offers a diverse and inspiring range of creative projects to young people facing mental health and wellbeing issues.

We were delighted to learn that our applications for funding to Children in Need and Boots Charitable Trust were approved.

The money will ensure that we can continue to provide this essential and life-changing service for a further a year. For the first project supported by these grants, young people will work with artist Graham Elstone using Apple Mac software to create intricate musical soundscapes.

In addition, twenty people who took part in the programme received Arts Awards. The Arts Awards are nationally recognised qualifications that help young people build confidence, enjoy cultural activities, and prepare for further education or employment. Fifteen young Express Yourself participants were given the bronze grade award, a further five the Explore grade.

Earlier in the year an "Express Yourself" group designed and created an incredible wearable puppet. For Arnot Hill Carnival 'Fred the Dragon' took a holiday in Gedling, greeting visitors to the area's Civic Centre. In August, Fred and his creators joined our troupe for Nottingham Carnival.

Young Producers

The Young Producers are a group of young people, aged 18-30, who support our work whilst we support their professional development and give them access to City Arts' resources.

Members of the group got involved in a number of City Arts projects that took place over the summer. Vicky Litchfield, Anika Nanchahal and Nikki Charlesworth ran a series of engaging workshops at The University of Nottingham, covering silk painting and creating art from recycled materials, for over two hundred young people involved in the National Citizen Service.

Following an approach by The Big Wheel, an organisation that promotes sustainable travel in Nottingham, three Young Producers



Hockley Street Fayre art activities



Yarn-bombed mobility scooters at Hockley Street Fayre



Art activities for Armchair Gallery

took part in a street festival celebrating European Mobility Week. Artists Emily Aves and Vicky Litchfield teamed up with a local historian to lead an art walk exploring Nottingham's Creative Quarter. Along the way participants undertook a series of drawing exercises helping them to take a closer look at the area's beautiful, yet often unnoticed, architecture.

Theatre Design student Nikki Charlesworth 'yarn-bombed' two mobility scooters. Driven by Nikki and her father, and announced by Adam Sharrock's insistent drumming, they looked incredible weaving in and out of the gathered crowds.

City Arts was able to offer employment to two of the group during the summer. Vicky and Meridith Dicken joined our team, supporting us to run workshops and manage the building whilst gaining valuable experience of employment in the arts.

Write Minds

City Arts offered support to Mouthy Poets Education Co-ordinator, Hayley Green, who has received Arts Council England Grants for the Arts funding for a new project, 'Write Minds'. Aimed at young people, aged 16-24, who have been affected by self-harm, the project holds weekly writing workshops at City Arts. Participants work with professional poets to develop their creative skills.

This is the latest in a series of initiatives in which City Arts has supported local artists to develop ideas, and draw down Lottery funding to turn those into reality. This has brought an estimated £40-50,000 into the local economy.

Student Placement

Cindy Sissoko, a De Monfort University student studying for an MA in Cultural Events

Management, began a placement at City Arts as a requirement of her course. She proved to be of invaluable assistance to the organisation over the summer, making a major contribution to our programmes for carnival and the Cerebral Palsy World Games. Cindy has gone on to take a six-month internship at the Attenborough Arts Centre in Leicester.

Work with Older People

City Arts' Imagine – Arts and Older People programme is one of only four nationally to be awarded money from Arts Council England and The Baring Foundation's Arts and Older People in Care fund. The 3-year project uses the arts to enrich the lives of older residents, better involve them in the wider community and support them to connect with people of all ages. Here's what has been happening in recent months:

Armchair Gallery

Twenty-two professionally produced short films form part of the 'Armchair Gallery', an iPad app, currently in development, which will allow older people in care settings to explore some of the country's best art collections.

For the pilot project, Imagine has worked with the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire to give care home residents access to Chatsworth House's collection of art and antiques. In the series of short films the Duke and Duchess give a personal tour of their home and speak about their favourite items in the collection.

Orod Razeghi, a PHD student from the University of Nottingham, is coding a basic prototype for the iPad application, working to designs produced by City Arts' Communications Co-ordinator, Joe Pick.

Currently the short films are being used in workshops at Abbeyfield's Millbeck and Sycamore House care homes. With the support of artist Sam Metz and dancer Andrea Haley, residents are taking inspiration from the treasures of the Chatsworth collection and creating their own artworks. The finished app will include instructions for creative activities that care home staff can run with older people.

Other museums and galleries will be contacted to work with Imagine for the next stages of the project.

Puppetry and Storytelling

At Nottinghamshire Hospice, Melbourne and Millbeck House care homes, artists Jess Kemp and Amanda Smith ran workshops in puppetry and storytelling.

It was very interesting to see how residents responded to non-verbal artforms such as puppetry. One to one sessions with residents were particularly successful; including a workshop for which Jess had created a series of beautiful fabric pockets, each containing a familiar items including keys and shells. The participants displayed palpable delight in exploring the memories provoked by these objects.

Acclaimed puppet maker, Tony Mason, has been commissioned to build a puppet based on what was learnt in these workshops. In 2012, Tony Mason created the two giant lions that led the Team GB Olympic winners' parade.

Imagine Digital

Roma Patel, from the University of Nottingham's Mixed Reality Lab, finished a 13-week placement with the Imagine programme. Her work involved using a series of cutting edge technologies, from "Ototo" boards to paintable circuits, to run creative workshops in Nottingham care homes. At a training session for artists and care staff, participants were able to see the results of the work produced during the project.

In a celebratory end to the project, we organised for care staff, partners and volunteers trip to see an exhibition of the work of artist Joseph Cornell at The Royal Academy of Arts in London. Cornell's mixed media artwork provided inspiration for a number of Roma's projects.

Lacy Days

A selection of stunning 3D portraits of elderly visitors to Radford Care Group were taken as part of Lacy Days, one of the Imagine projects. These formed part of 'The Dreaming House', a fine art textile exhibition at Newstead Abbey.

The photographs are accompanied by the older people's memories of the world famous Nottingham lace trade and sat alongside Turner Prize-winning artist Grayson Perry's "Coming Out Dress", a flamboyant party dress made for his alter-ego Claire, and garments by Caroline Broadhead, Lucy Brown and Naoko Yoshimoto.

Artist Annabel Elliott devised Lacy Days for Imagine on behalf of Nottingham City Museums & Galleries.



Puppet making



Care home residents at Nottingham Contemporary

Wired Aerial Theatre
at Active Ashfield



Work with Nottingham Contemporary

Nottingham Contemporary held five workshops at their gallery offering care staff practical advice on how to explore creative ideas and opportunities.

Following this they arranged for seven residents from Sycamore and Millbeck House care homes to visit their 'Grand Tour' exhibition. Curated by artist Pablo Bronstein, it featured treasures from the Chatsworth House collection presented alongside some of the artists own work. The residents, who hadn't met each other before, really enjoyed the visit and commented on how special the experience felt.

Work in North Notts & Derbyshire

First Art

City Arts is a one of the core partners in First Art, an Arts Council funded Creative People & Places programme working in the former coalfields of North East Derbyshire and North Nottinghamshire. During the three year programme, we aim to bring inspiring cultural experiences within reach of everyone in Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and NE Derbyshire.

We want to do this because evidence shows that communities with culture, creativity and imagination at their heart are stronger and more resilient. By 2017, dozens of artists will have been commissioned to work on more than 30 events and projects, involving

at least 40,000 new people, and we hope many of them will come back for more. The programme has a range of integrated strands including Events, Commissions, Go Sees, work with young people and community activities.

Following a fantastic launch in Mansfield earlier in the year, during the summer, First Art focussed on getting out and making contact with as many people living in the area as possible. Highlights were:

Active Ashfield

First Art supported Active Ashfield, a project encouraging Ashfield residents to get actively involved in sport and physical activity and to lead a healthy lifestyle.

We brought a wonderful day of arts, entertainment and spectacle to an event launching Kirkby-in-Ashfield's new plaza. Wired Aerial Theatre performed 'Straw Dog' - a stunning contemporary dance piece, interpreting a fight scene, with an operatic soundtrack. Four performances drew shoppers from the adjacent Morrisons and shopping precinct, getting a great reception from audiences.

The arts & sport theme continued, with audiences of over 2500 enjoying interactive 'walkabout' acts in the shape of 'geriatric free runners' Grandparkou, and Sporting Stars' giant Aussie cricketers - a nod towards Kirkby's own Larwood and Voce cricket connections!

Get Started

Twenty-one young people, participants of First Art's Get Started programmes, received the Bronze Arts Award.

First Art developed Get Started with support from the Prince's Trust. The course

First Art at Active Ashfield



is designed to give disadvantaged young people the chance to learn more about the arts, gain confidence, learn new skills, and create and exhibit their work. First Art is currently recruiting for the next programme, which will take place in Mansfield this December.

Go Sees

First Art is running day trips to some of country's best arts events, performances and exhibitions for people in the project area, with tickets and transport provided

'Go Sees' included a visit to Yorkshire Sculpture Park on 6th August, with people from the Selston and Dronfield area touring the exhibitions and vast sculpture park. On 3rd September, members of the Hucknall University of the Third Age experienced the Grand Tour exhibitions at Nottingham Contemporary and Derby Museum and Art Gallery. Groups from Mansfield attended 'Hood - the legend continues' at Nottingham's Theatre Royal on 18th September.

Quarterly Stats

Introduction of new audiences to City Arts work	3680
Total number of opportunities for participants in workshops and drop-in activities and events	40
Events & exhibitions	10
Partnerships engaged	20
Events and activities specifically for young people	14
Artists supported/ employed	57
Total number of participants	1581

