

Nottingham Contemporary



Learning Highlights 2022



In 2022, we worked with 80 city partners and 13,000 people took part in learning activities with us.

Alongside brilliant partners, we use art and creativity to develop skills, contribute to wellbeing and respond to local priorities.

Our focus is on building relationships and creating work together.

We'd like to share our work and warmly invite you to respond and connect.

The Place We Imagine – an exhibition by and for children

Over the summer our galleries were transformed into a playground. City school children worked with local artists and Assemble, the art, design and architecture collective to create playable artworks.



‘As soon as my class realised their work was exhibited, they were so excited. The look on their faces in the gallery was amazing.’

Teacher, Melbury Primary School

We welcomed 40,000 visitors and 40 school and community visits.



‘It’s wonderful to see them playing together. I’ve never seen so much collaborative play. It makes them collaborate.’

Family visitor

Installation by Assemble and Schools of Tomorrow. The Place We Imagine at Nottingham Contemporary, 2022. Courtesy Nottingham Contemporary. Photos: Julian Hughes

Schools of Tomorrow – creativity in the classroom and beyond

Schools of Tomorrow is a partnership that brings teachers, pupils and artists together to nurture creativity, support skills for learning and respond to priorities in 8 city schools.



Nottingham Nursery School are exploring how young children can shape their own learning. With their families, children lead creative experiments and make discoveries in the world – and on their own doorsteps!

‘Above all the traffic noise and hustle, you could hear a child’s laughter. There was something so powerful in that moment.’

Headteacher, Nottingham Nursery School after encountering a doorstep workshop



Southwold Primary School are developing ways to support children’s independence, innovation and decision making. Children take on tasks, takeover spaces and develop immersive environments.

‘Our artist has challenged our thinking. Driven pupil leadership and voice, with pupils feeling wholeheartedly part of the school’

Headteacher, Southwold Primary School

**(L) Doorstep workshop with artist Sian W Taylor, Schools of Tomorrow. Photo: Sam Kirby
(R) Pupils changing the school environment with artist Charlotte Tupper, Schools of Tomorrow
Photo: Charlotte Tupper**

Our team of artists, Gillian Brent, Laura Eldret, Peter Rumney, Sian W Taylor and Charlotte Tupper are resident at Edna G Olds L.E.A.D. Academy, Huntingdon L.E.A.D. Academy, Jubilee L.E.A.D. Academy, Melbury Primary School, Nottingham Nursery School, Robin Hood Primary School, Southwold Primary School and The Milford Academy.

Schools – developing skills and an enriched curriculum

We offer a dynamic programme of workshops with artists and free resources to support connections to art and ideas.



We welcomed over 2,500 students to create and learn with us.

‘The free resources enabled us to engage children in an inclusive and high-quality experience that provoked thinking beyond the obvious.’

Teacher, Rosslyn Park Primary School



School workshops in the gallery. Photo: Catherine Masters

Schools - valuing and developing teachers

In 2022, we expanded our offer to teachers and early career teachers by working with universities, schools and trusts.



With education partners we develop teacher practice through shared projects and workshops - 400 teachers and trainees took part in 2022.

'It's one of the highlights of our year: an opportunity for playfulness, creativity and connection. There's a respect and appreciation we all feel for our partnership.'

Senior Lecturer, Education, Nottingham Trent University discussing a CPD partnership for trainee English teachers.

Loudspeaker - women use creativity to see themselves anew

Loudspeaker develops women's skills and confidences on their journeys towards work.



Over the last 3 years 161 women took part in Loudspeaker.

39% had an employment related result

(employment, training & job search)

82% had a support needs outcome

(mental health, domestic violence, housing, substance misuse & offending)



'Being here has improved my mental health. I know that if I need to talk, there are people that will listen and take notice.'

Loudspeaker participant



Women supported other women as peer mentors. People with lived experience shaped the programme and gained work experiences.

'It just made me feel so much better about myself. That I had something to offer people.'

Loudspeaker Peer Mentor

Loudspeaker is part of the national Building Better Opportunities programme through the Opportunity and Change project which is funded by The National Lottery Community Fund and the European Social Fund.

(L & R) Workshop at St Anns allotments. Photos: Catherine Masters
(C) Photo: Katy Culbard

Career pathways for young people

Through paid work experiences, commissions and placements young people develop skills and portfolios. This year they've created events, guides and podcasts.



'Being trusted to get on and deliver allowed me to gain confidence in myself and feel valued in my role.'

Creative Pathways intern

Creative Pathways is a paid internship programme with the city's cultural sector led by the University of Nottingham

'We learned so much from the event. We always were helped but also given the freedom to express our own ideas.'

WAHAD member



Nottingham Trent University students took part in 6-month placements to produce a publication, exhibition and events.

'It has really boosted my skills and will unquestionably benefit me with my future career.'

NTU placement student

(L) Young person involved in a paid internship. Photo: Wingshan Smith
(R) Capoeira festival; part of a residency with WAHAD and Capoeira Collective. Photo: WellAware

Future of Futures – a platform for young people’s creativity and voices

Over the last two years young people reimagined the city with us. They programmed events and developed work to share visions of the future with us.



Gamechangers

Working with staff and students at Confetti, young people used videogame art and software to build a digital role play world



Outburst Oracle Cards

Young people at Base 51 created a set of oracle cards to share hopes and experiences from an LGBTQ+ perspective.



A Sensory Museum

Young people at Space Inclusive created and displayed sensory artworks to create a museum of the future.

Sharing spaces and ways of working

With community partners we're sharing resources and growing projects together to help us learn and change.

Spring Meadows Day Centre

Spring Meadows is a centre for adults with learning disabilities. With service users and staff, we co-developed tools to encourage creativity and experimentation.

'All the citizens involved in the project have thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Everyone is really enthused and speaks about their time with you.'

Spring Meadows, staff member

ArtSpeak

Provides people aged 60+ with opportunities to take part in arts and socialise. We've been delighted to host weekly dance improvisation sessions.

'Being over 60 should not exclude you from exciting contemporary dance experiences. To use Nottingham Contemporary adds a further message that we older people are worth it!'

Cool Company dance participant

Imara

Imara supports young people affected by sexual abuse. Young people at the gallery and with Imara created artworks together. The group use our spaces and we're developing more ways to work together.

'It's been great to see relationships form between 1525 and young people from Imara.'

Imara Co-ordinator



Spring Meadows workshop at the gallery with artist, Charlotte Tupper
Photo: Natelle Morgan-Brown

Part of the city

We find and build ways to be part of the city, helping to make Nottingham a more inclusive and creative place.



Nottingham Refugee Week

With community partners we develop a city-wide programme of culture to welcome and celebrate Nottingham's newly arrived communities.

'Nottingham Contemporary demonstrates the vital role of the arts in creating a climate of sanctuary in our city.'

Chair, Nottingham Refugee Week



Reclaim the Night

Women worked with an artist to make protest banners and women's experiences visible. Together, we are part of the annual march across the city.

'There's such an amazing feeling in the room with women and their families collaborating and supporting each other.'

Associate Artist, Nottingham Contemporary

(L) Nottingham Refugee Week celebrations, Photo: Natelle Morgan-Brown

(R) Reclaim the Night event. Photo: Natelle Morgan-Brown

Free activities for families

Each school holiday families play and make together in our immersive environments.



This year we welcomed 6,000 family participants back.

'We love what you do. It's such a great way to spend the day together.'

Family participant

'I absolutely loved watching the development of their ideas into something I would never have arrived at in a million years!'

Family participant

During school holidays, Rainbow Parents Carers Forum, a support group for families with children with special educational needs, have exclusive use of the galleries for workshops with artists.

'An invaluable partnership that opens up their world and let's young people be themselves and be creative.'

Staff member, Rainbow Parent Carers Forum

Working together

We're working to improve what we do by developing more ways for people to create and shape programmes with us.



1525 Collective

1525 are a Young People's collective. They meet at the gallery each week to socialise, develop creative work and programme events for wider groups of young people.

'We put on our own exhibitions and events and I've been involved in exhibition openings and interview panels at the gallery. It's beefed up my CV with customer service, public speaking and decision-making experiences.'

1525 Collective member



Ubuntu

Ubuntu are a community research group. We've been working together to invite reflections and build new ways for local people to lead activity.

'We need more spaces where people from the community run things for the community. We want to use our skills to bring people together.'

Ubuntu member

(L) 1525 visit to Backlit Studios. Photo: Chan Fagan-Clarke

(R) Workshop in the gallery led by Ubuntu. Photo: Natelle Morgan-Brown

Coming up in 2023



Between January and March there's a new warm hub for families with free films, drinks and snacks. Nottingham City Transport are providing free bus tickets too.

We'll have more teacher development opportunities. We're looking forward to hosting and being part of the National Literacy Trust's Secondary Conference in the summer.

We've loved working with Nature in Mind on creative workshops in the outdoors. Look out for more creative walks to support health and wellbeing soon.



We're looking forward to working with young people at Imara, Juno Voices and Green Action - Youth Climate Assembly.

We're celebrating Schools of Tomorrow with children and teachers in April. To mark the end of our long-running Loudspeaker programme, we're sharing an artwork and insights from the amazing women who were Peer Mentors in March.

Thank you!

Thanks to everyone who has been part of our learning programmes in 2022 and to our friends and partners from education, arts, health and the community and voluntary sector.

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Cover Images:
Top (L) Workshop with Ubuntu. Photo: Natelle Morgan Brown
(R) Schools of Tomorrow. Photo: Sam Kirby

Centre (L) Assemble and Schools of Tomorrow. The Place We Imagine, 2022. Photo: Nottingham Contemporary
(C) Capoeira festival. Photo: WellAware
(R) Schools of Tomorrow. Photo: Catherine Masters

Bottom (L) Loudspeaker. Photo: Katy Culbard
(R) Schools of Tomorrow. Photo: Sam Kirby

We would love to work with you in 2023, please get in touch with Amanda.

0115 948 9750

learn@nottinghamcontemporary.org

www.nottinghamcontemporary.org

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