

Pier Projects Evaluation and Report, March 2020

'Inside Out': Creative approaches to mental and physical wellbeing for young people led by artist Caroline Wright

As the project developed, we realised that Caroline Wright's work with young people accessed by our partner Level Two, would face challenges in terms of engagement during the Summer months. We believed that by moving the project to Autumn would allow us to work in a more meaningful and impactful way to create a unique opportunity for the young people on a schedule that will better facilitate their participation. Structure and familiarity are vital to creating momentum with the young people who access Level Two as are external factors that determine participation, including seasonality. This decision was based on us taking seriously our duty of care to the young people involved and to our funders, both of whom we wanted to demonstrate the full potential of what artists can bring to a community of young people in the town of Felixstowe.

The project took place as outlined in the proposal but moved forward to start in October. Working in an incremental way, Caroline left provocations in the form of small, gifted artworks that began conversations and drew participants to the sessions which led to a 2 week exhibition of the work produced displayed in the Tourist Information beach hut.

Project Beneficiaries

The first number is the actual number engaged, the second is what we aimed for'
Caroline Wright engaged:

- Young people aged 15 -25 at Level Two (15/ 8)
- Level Two staff (4/ 2)

2. 'Shelter', a temporary public artwork by Anna Brownsted

Anna Brownsted successfully developed a new, immersive sound installation 'Sierra Tango Foxtrot'. As the project developed she decided she wanted to locate the new artwork on a piece of land close to historic monument Landguard Fort. The land was complex in terms of its ownership and use. We required the permission of Landguard Nature Reserve, Harwich Haven Authority (local authority) as well as Historic England. In order to achieve this, we wrote detailed proposals, risk assessments, methods of operations and created detailed drawings of the proposed installation on this piece of publicly used land. We were successful in achieving all of these permissions but they came too late and threatened the engagement aspect of the project.

Rather than compromise this, with two weeks until the launch date, we decided to go from the original opening date, the best option was to reconfigure the work in a different but

nearby location within Landguard Fort itself. The installation 'Sierra Tango Foxtrot' went on to run from early August to the end of October that spectacularly increased the number of people who experienced it to over 9,000.

Throughout this process, the relationship between ourselves (commissioners), the artist (Anna Brownsted) and Landguard Fort developed into a highly supportive one and Landguard expressed an interest in housing the installation within their historic context for the benefit of their visitors over the course of the Summer.

The placement of 'Sierra Tango Foxtrot' within a unique heritage setting means it offered an alternative to a 'gallery experience' and framing of contemporary art which was a key objective. We worked closely with Landguard to ensure there was no barrier to entry and that it had high visibility and everyone had an opportunity to experience it free of charge: the installation was a key feature within Heritage Open Weekend where the fort waived entry charge. We also programmed an artist talk and family-friendly making workshop on the final day of the installation to deepen audience engagement.

Project Beneficiaries

Anna Brownsted engaged:

- Community members in the collaborative build: (5/15)
- Visitor numbers 9,231

3. Cultural Networking Group

Locally, we initiated an Arts and Cultural Group in Felixstowe that has met three times. Those who have attended (25+) include regional practitioners, local artists and creatives and Local Authority and councillors. It has had the strong backing from stakeholders including Jayne Knight (Suffolk County Council Arts Development Manager) and Felixstowe Forward. The first event was held at Greenhouse Cafe and the second and Two Sisters Art Centre.

Pier Projects have outlined some aims for the network, redefined the name to 'Slow Socials' and will be seeking additional funding to try and support this endeavour as there are administrative costs to running it;

- raises awareness of planned events and activity
- facilitate collaborations, partnerships
- advocate for arts and culture in the town

Environmental Impact:

Keeping our carbon footprint low is incredibly important to us at a time. We choose to deliver our work without running a project space: delivering our programme in public spaces or within existing settings (such as Level Two) ensures we remain organisationally nimble, and 'light touch' to acknowledge the importance of environmental sustainability. Should our

next Arts Council grant be successful, it is highly likely the artists will respond to the climate crisis in some capacity. Furthermore, any print marketing will be on recycled materials.