



BS3 beyond 2025

Role of Arts in Regeneration and Placemaking

What roles do art and artists play in shaping and re-imagining the places they live?

Wednesday 27 September 2023, 6pm-9pm

St Francis Church, North Street

George Ferguson:

- Perception of this neighbourhood over time, history of the area
- Bought Tobacco Factory North St BS3 in 1993
- Saw monoculture being built and wanted to create variety
- Believed in rough and ready development
- Art spaces can be created economically and can be a spark to kick off social regeneration
- Bringing buildings to life
- Bristol has a good mix of arts and culture
- Individuals have had an impact – 1000 small things can have a big impact rather than a few ones
- 25% of the space Tobacco Factory is for the arts. Means the remaining space is twice as valuable
- Need to talk to developers early on and ensure they have an obligation to contribute more to arts and culture
- Harder to measure the 'value' of art
- Have to create balance with gentrification

Stephen Hayles, Upfest:

Steve used an example of an email he had received from a local woman, describing the positive impact a piece of Upfest artwork had had on her mental health. Upfest has 50,000 visitors, creates 150 new murals in the area, and brings £3 million per year into the economy over the Festival weekend.

Malcolm Brammar, Bedminster Winter Lantern Parade:

- Largest community arts event in South Bristol, involving children from all primary schools in BS3 plus community groups.

- 3 month project, placing artists in schools and community over the autumn term, culminating in a parade of lanterns large and small one Saturday in December or January
- Voluntary steering group of local people and 100 local volunteers on Parade day
- Budget of circa £23K- funded entirely by local businesses and individual donations, no public grants
- Is a celebration of community, has added to community cohesion and pride of place
- Participants and volunteers learn social and team skills as well as creative skills

Jo Plimmer, Arts Development Officer, Bristol City Council:

- Bristol has an ambitious and successful track record for public art; formal and informal. Through its formal, development management policy it has commissioned over 100 projects over the last 20 years.
- As a Council BCC recognises the important role of culture, cultural activity and public art in contributing to the vision and sense of place for key regeneration areas in the city.
- These areas often bring together multiple developers and stakeholders. We are exploring and testing ways to take more cohesive and joined up approaches to public art planning in these places.
- The Bedminster Green and other developers have a requirement to commission and fund arts residencies (a process towards this will be in place by February 2024)

Wide Ranging Discussion:

- Does the Local Plan include art?
- How do developers publicly advertise their commissions?
- AGB – role to ensure developers connect to communities
- Role of CIL
- Legacy
- Importance of working with young people and local

Bristol Arts District (created by the Bedminster BID):

- Importance of creating a collective voice
- Opportunities for new relationships
- Enabling and facilitating people to get projects off the ground
- Funding – how much can be done for free and how do we ensure those that need paying do get paid. Valuing art and contributions
- Role of larger contributions v individuals....
- University community is v aware of BAD/North Street
- Need to ensure BAD draws on bottom up input as well as top down
- Shout about what is here already, be proud

Social prescribing:

- Art very important for mental health and wellbeing
- Art courses are very popular – can we provide more?

Inclusivity and participation:

- Need to ensure we are welcoming everyone from the full area

- Can we map activity? Do social prescribers do this already? Can our asset mapping include this?
- Supporting people to achieve what they want. Process of negotiation and renegotiation
- Keep doing what we're doing – art is in a good place!!