

ArtCore

ANNUAL
REPORT

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About

Artcore, located in Derby, UK, is a dynamic international hub for contemporary art and creativity, celebrating the cultural diversity and richness of Derby, the East Midlands, and beyond. Our mission is to make art and culture accessible to all, fostering talent, and infusing positivity into people's lives. Guided by our motto, "together we stand," we passionately engage with diverse communities in Derby, especially the marginalized and disadvantaged, offering art exhibitions, creative workshops, film screenings, artist residencies, talks, and festivals. Artcore is committed to bridging gaps in artistic provision and cultivating meaningful dialogue among individuals of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. We strive to build a more vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich community.



Overview

A year of remarkable transformation! I want to commend our team for orchestrating a diverse range of workshops, events, artistic residencies, and exhibitions. Their efforts in revitalizing communities post-Covid have been nothing short of commendable. Despite the challenges, we've seen a steady rise in workshop attendance, with more individuals venturing beyond their comfort zones to embrace new experiences. Artcore has been instrumental in providing a welcoming haven, where everyone, whether they're newcomers or long-time participants, feels embraced.

Moreover, I'd like to highlight the successful completion of Phase 1 of our building renovations, which concluded in May. This phase introduced critical accessibility features, such as a stairlift and double-glazed windows, ensuring a warm and inclusive environment. The eagerly awaited Phase 2 of our gallery's renovation journey commenced in September, focusing on constructing an eco-friendly space accessible to diverse communities, especially during the winter months, thus fostering a warm hub for creative endeavors. Artcore's unwavering commitment to sustainability is crucial in today's climate. We eagerly anticipate the gallery's grand reopening in April 2023, coinciding with the vibrant Holi Hai! exhibition.



ANDY BALL
Chair

Overview

I am pleased to present our annual report for the year ended 31st March 2023.

As the arts and gallery sector reopened to audiences and communities, we anticipated a challenging year, so we are delighted that our performance exceeded expectations. This recovery is due largely to a huge team effort across the organisation to ensure we reopened successfully.

Like others in the arts sector we continue to respond to a volatile and uncertain environment. Strong financial management throughout this time has ensured that we are in a good position to provide the support needed.

Artcore has progressed towards realising the charity's headline priority, working together with audiences and communities to recover and rebuild. Artcore has retained its passion to improve the lives of people in our communities and support artists and creatives. We have focused on activities designed to deliver our vision to work together to inspire, to share and to care for cultural heritage.

We have focused on improving the mental and physical health and wellbeing of our community, which is at the heart of Artcore's values. Working alongside professional artists we have been able to engage with diverse communities, in a programme of workshops at our Cultural Hub in the city centre and our Community Hub in Normanton. These programmes are inclusive and highlight the importance of using art as a universal language whilst supporting mental health and wellbeing. Our programmes for young people aged 6-15 years such as ReImagine and Darley Swifts focused on key ideas support building self-esteem and themed around the environment and sustainability.

Artcore Gallery has undergone refurbishments with match funding from Derby City Council for which we are very grateful. The building reopened following our event in May 2022. Thank you to all our staff for their hard work throughout the refurbishment of the ground floor. We're proud to provide an exciting arts venue that is accessible and welcoming to all. Phase 2 of the refurbishments with a capital grant from Arts Council England has allowed further improvements to the environmental sustainability of our building and for us to refurbish the gallery.

Our exhibition and residency programme supporting early, mid-career and established artists to create work which deals with pressing social, political and environmental issues has enabled Il Luminar, Shifting Terrain and Partition Parables residencies.

Artcore provides opportunities for artists in the UK to work with artists from different countries; encouraging an international cultural exchange. An international residency in March 23 during the spring festival of Holi in India provided emerging artists the opportunity to travel, explore, and connect with artists from diverse cultures. In May 22 'On the Move with Felix Nussbaum' international touring exhibition brought reproductions by Felix Nussbaum (1904 – 1944) from the Felix Nussbaum Foundation, based in Osnabrück, Germany to Artcore, Derby, UK.

We have been successful with funding from NPO bid to Arts Council England 2023/26, National Lottery Community fund from 2022-25 and Postcode Community Trust 2022-25, we are looking forward to the opportunity to deliver against them.

Finally, I would like to thank the staff team and the Board of Trustees for their support throughout the year. I would also like to thank our funders, audiences, artists and participants, without whom we would not be here.

RUCHITA SHAIKH
CEO Artcore

HIGHLIGHTS

BUILDING REOPENING

PEACE DOVES

FELIX NUSSBAUM


MARKETING DERBY

REIMAGINE

SWITCHOFF

HOLI HAI!

INTERNATIONAL RESIDENCIES



In 2018, Artcore made a decision to provide a special opportunity for artists in the UK to work and learn together with artists from different countries. We wanted to encourage a cultural exchange where artists could collaborate and share their experiences internationally. The first residency took place in January 2019, during the lively and colorful kite festival of Uttarayan/Utran in India. This residency was a great success and inspired us to plan more residencies, specifically during festivals when people and communities gather to celebrate their traditions and culture. These festivals blur the lines between art and craft, creating a vibrant and inclusive atmosphere. As we have been part of such an environment, we have personally experienced the joy of people coming together, the beauty of ancient traditions, the excitement of costumes, and the delicious food that brings everyone closer.

Therefore, we planned two more residencies: one during the spring festival of Holi in India in March 2023, and another during the Maiwoche festival in Osnabruck, Germany (which is the twin city of Derby) in May of the same year.

All of these endeavours reflect Artcore's core values and are deeply embedded in our culture. We strive to infuse the spirit of togetherness into everything we do.

At Artcore, we are dedicated to providing emerging and talented artists with the opportunity to travel, explore, and meet artists from diverse cultures. Through these experiences, we aim to inspire them to create artwork that is influenced by the visual richness they encounter and the emotions they feel.

ZAHIR SHAIKH
Artistic Director

HOLI

HAI!

The Holi Hai! Residency was held in India and the UK in the first half of 2023. The partnership between Artcore and FORMAT International Photography Festival supported the creative collaboration and exchange of 3 UK artists Nikki Culley, Huw Davies, Phil Basi and 1 Indian artist Masood Sarwer worked in lens-based and related media. The selected artists undertook the two-week residency in India, before travelling to Derby, to install the exhibition here in May 2023.

The Holi Hai! Residency was held in the picturesque Chhota Udepur district of the western-most state of Gujarat in India. This area is the home of the vast indigenous community of Rathwa tribals, where Holi is their most important festival and is celebrated across their villages for almost ten days. It offered amazing opportunities to create lens-based artworks. The community celebrates the festival through numerous large and small fairs where tribal families, dressed in their best clothes and jewellery congregate to enjoy themselves; participating in community song and dance, playing the flute, shopping, eating from food stalls and so on. The villagers reach the fair, almost dancing their way from their village; it is a sight that has to be seen to be believed! However, with the entry of technology in tribal areas some of the traditional tribal ways of life are giving in to the ways of the urban mainstream.

Our Residency artists visited rural fairs, attended community lighting of the Holika fire, met local residents and were invited to their homes where they saw Pithora wall paintings, visited the Museum at the Adivasi Academy at Tejgadh, interacted with contemporary Indian artists at the Art School at the M S University of Baroda, celebrated the urban version of Holi-Dhuleti by greeting each other with coloured powders, and wandered around the 15th century UNESCO World Heritage Site of Champaner-Pavagadh, in the Rathwa neighbourhood.

The Festival of Holi, celebrated joyously across India, marks the end of winter and the arrival of spring – a happy re-birth.

The walls of the Artcore Gallery are alive with the colours and crowds, drums and dances, sounds and songs, bright sunlight and clear night skies of the Holi Festival in India!



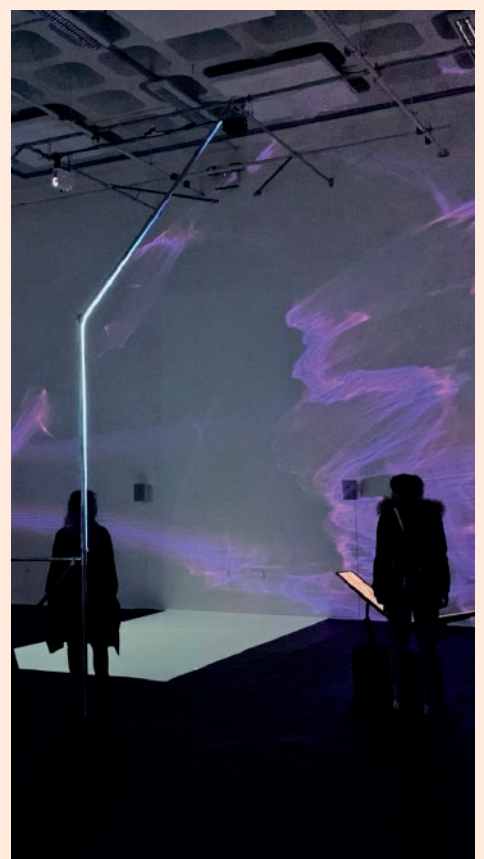
Local

Residencies

We have an extensive exhibition and residency programme which helps support early, mid-career and established artists to create work which deals with pressing social, political and environmental issues. The artists are selected following an open call and application process. Artist-residents are given the time, space, freedom and financial and mentoring support to create new work and focus on their artistic development.

Each year we host thematic Residencies for emerging artists in the East Midlands, providing them with a studio space, a bursary and curatorial support to help them develop professionally and artistically.

Through our residencies we aim to uphold art as a vital pillar of culture, providing a dialogue on current issues as well as enabling the expression, preservation, and understanding of diverse cultural identities, especially in Derby.





IL.LUMINAR

Artists Matt Woodham and Benjamin Shirley-Quirk present their work in the newly-refurbished Artcore Gallery.

The two East Midlands based creatives were selected for one of three Collaborative Project Bursaries, a partnership between Artcore and NMG Development Programme, aimed at pairs looking to work together collaboratively to develop and deliver a project together.

Thanks to new semantic enrichment technology, researchers Matthew Woodham and Benjamin Shirley-Quirk have reconstructed a kinetic, interactive lantern from plans found in manuscript fragments dating from the 7th to 16th centuries, transforming Artcore Gallery into a truth illuminating lighthouse.

Open Calls

The starting point for many of our residencies, is an open call that is put out on various social and artistic platforms.

Applications are then reviewed and selected artists undergo an interview process.



**OPEN
CALL**

**31.05
2022**
DEADLINE

**SHIFTING
TERRAIN**

IMAGE BY MELITTA NEMETH

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Artcore Gallery Artcore



Radiant Futures

Featuring artists
Clare West & Radhika Muthanna
with co - curator
Melitta Nemeth

Launching 12th August 6 - 8 pm
Open until 9th September

ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND Artcore Artcore Gallery

artcoreuk.com

Artists are selected by the panel involving professionals and Artcore team. Once selected, the artists spend the residency developing their work often resulting in gallery ready work for exhibitions. In May 2022, we released an open call for women creatives based across the East Midlands, specifically Derby-based creatives.

RADIANT FUTURES

In June 2022 Clare West and Radhika Muthanna were selected from our Shifting Terrain open call. The two artists have been in residence for one month leading up to the exhibition; responding to the gallery as a space for exchange. In different ways, the residency has created a testing ground for diverse practitioners and practices and aimed to adapt old structures to find better ways of living together and implementing care.

Co curated by Melitta Nemeth, winner of the Stand Up 2020 prize, who will be featured alongside the two resident artists in this exhibition at Artcore Gallery.

All three artists have an interest in exploring these possibilities and recognizing the multiplicity of women to embrace differences and connect to each other, the wider community and environment.







PARTITION PARABLES

The residency seeded from the sombre remembrance of the 75th anniversary (1947-2022) of the Partition of India; England's premier colony widely celebrated as the Jewel in the Crown, as well as the Independence of India. During 2022-23, several cultural events are being organised across England to celebrate the historic landmark.

The residency took this important landmark in the colonial history of England as a significant starting point for applying artists to think about the idea of Partition.

Artists, Rachel Magdeburg and Tarla Patel have in their own ways explored this idea investigating specifically the relationship between humans and plants. Through their individual projects, the artists have examined the theme of 'Partition Parables' and explicitly and subtly responded to the site and activities of Artcore, and the objects and communities of Derby. Tarla Patel presents her installation 'Seeds to Home' through photography, sound and video, and Rachel Magdeburg presents a new series of paintings 'Under the Walnut Tree: Cryptic Painting' using a range of media.





Felix

Nussbaum

An international touring exhibition of reproductions by Felix Nussbaum (1904 – 1944) from The Felix Nussbaum Foundation, based in Osnabrück, Germany. 'On the Move with Felix Nussbaum' is a multi-year project to raise international awareness of the artist's works.

Having made its first stop in Haarlem (Netherlands), where it was launched in Spring 2020, and then on to Sered'/Bratislava in Slovakia (Autumn 2021), the exhibition was hosted in June 2022 at Artcore Derby, UK.





Art in Education

REIMAGINE

Artcore worked with young people who responded to the theme of Reimagine by creating works around the impacts of global warming. They were involved in designing and developing responses to help deepen their understanding, through sustainable making and crafting.

At our community hub, polymer clay artist and silversmith, Fiona Adamson led the sessions.

The group investigated different body adornments, headwear and costumes from around the world including those from theatre, carnivals, festivals and other performance art forms. Children were introduced to items and packaging that we usually consider to be litter and were tasked with an activity to make props from it using minimal to no fixtures. Sessions continued with storytelling opportunities and an opportunity to design their 'Derby City Saviour'. It was amazing to see the imaginative ideas children came up with and the features they added to their character profiles.

Key ideas around Reduce, Reuse and Recycle were explored.

Reimagine sessions also took place in 3 schools with artist Chris Wright: Zaytouna Primary School, Pear Tree Junior School and St James Junior School. In these sessions students produced a fantastic range of headwear. All the schools worked hard to produce incredible and imaginative outcomes. These outcomes were displayed at the Reimagine celebration at Derby Theatre.

Our Reimagine workshops and final outcomes were documented in a film which showcased the amazing work created by the young people who were involved in the project.

This was premiered at Derby Theatre on the Reimagine Celebration day.





“

Working on the reimagine project was such a great opportunity. I got to work with some fantastic students, who despite not having any dance experience or having confidence to dance, they all put their best foot forward and through nurturing and bonding through our workshops we created a fantastic piece that stipulates that if we work together as human beings we will win. So to the students who participated in my workshops, thank you so much. It was such an honour working with you.

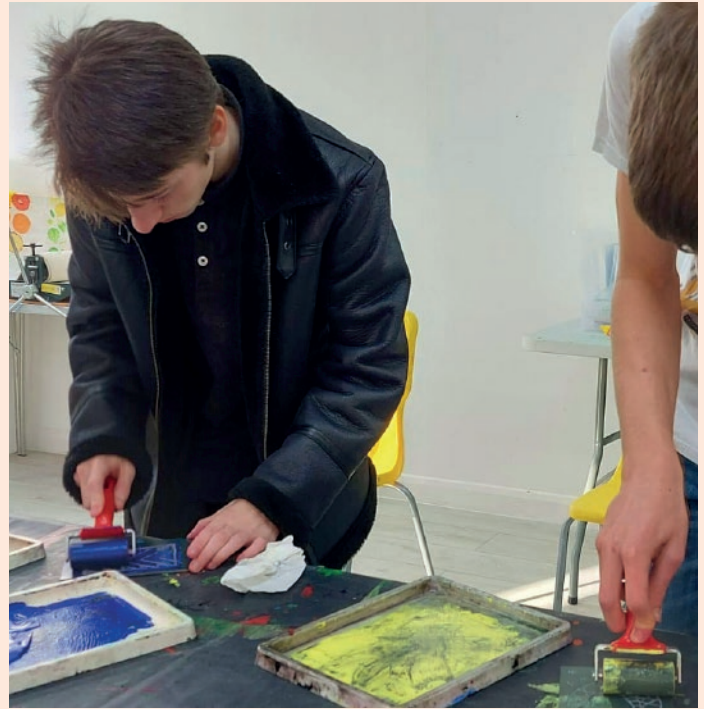
KIM JONES
Movement Facilitator

”

SHAPE YOUR FUTURE

Artcore is working with 7 students from Horizons Sixth Form using a variety of art mediums and themes to support students in their creative exploration. We are also supporting learning and development of transferable life skills relating to the five themes of the Horizons' 'SHAPE' curriculum: Safety, Health and Happiness, Aspiration and Achievement, Positive Contribution and Enterprise.

Through working collaboratively, students are creating a body of work to be showcased in July 2023 which will feature pieces created using painting, printing, clay, film, papier-mâché and collage. In preparation for our showcase, Artcore will co-curate the exhibition with the students to ensure that their work is exhibited as intended with everything from text panels and display to the introductions and invitations being decided together.



ART OF HEALING (AOH) CHILDREN'S WORKSHOP

Our free creative sessions for young people are held at Artcore, Charnwood Street, every Thursday in term-time from 4:30-6:30pm. The sessions are facilitated by professional artists and a range of art materials and activities are explored. The workshop aims to engage and support young people, aged 6-15 years, in meaningful creative activities which aim to build confidence and self-esteem. This year the group have explored a range of techniques and have developed a number of projects such as; collaborative largescale mural drawings, photography and light drawing, silk painting, dreamcatcher designing and creating their own 3D miniature art gallery.



Art in the Community

The community is at the heart of Artcore. Through our various workshops we aim to engage with diverse communities. Most of our workshops take place in the Artcore Community Hub, located near the Aboretum area. Our Cultural Hub in town also offers free craft workshops for people to come together and dive into a new craft while offering an opportunity for new connections.







UNTOLD STORIES

Our project 'Untold Stories', supported by the Baring Foundation, focuses on working with recent immigrants, refugees, asylum seekers and members of Derby's Bosnian and South Asian communities. We are delivering a programme of workshops which invite local communities to share their stories alongside those from Derby's diverse communities, through engagement with creative art activities.

Working alongside professional artists, we have developed a programme of workshops that highlight the importance of using art as a universal language to break down barriers to communication and to support creativity, confidence building, the development of social skills and improvement of mental health and wellbeing. Our aim is to explore the diverse stories and experiences that are interwoven through our community's rich heritage. Art enriches lives and is a catalyst for creativity and it can build confidence as well as a sense of identity, whilst also improving mental well-being.

AOH CHILDREN'S SESSION AT THE UKRAINIAN CENTRE

In March 2023 Artcore hosted an Art of Healing, Children's workshop, led by artist Nicki Dennett at the Ukrainian Centre. The group of young people learnt techniques of printmaking and applied paint onto bunting fabric using blocks made from everyday vegetables. The pennants created were joined together to make an attractive bunting display. All the young people involved were engaged and enjoyed experimenting to produce creative outcomes.



ART OF HEALING: COMMUNITY

This workshop supports adults from diverse communities to make positive connections in a creative and engaging way, whilst learning and developing new skills and experiencing art in a fun and relaxed environment.

Recently we had sessions led by Photographer Jon Legge, who facilitated postcard making workshops. These postcards have been sent to our twinned city of Osnabruck in a postcard exchange with the Anglo-German club. Jon engaged our group, sharing the history of the camera and how an image is created. Participants also experimented with making cyanotypes and they even got to create their own photoshoot.

Artist Jane Dearden facilitated a series of workshops with the group, introducing the participants to various artists and art history. In response to this, they developed their own outcomes influenced by their learnings.

TABLE TALK

Table Talk is our creative workshops designed to increase English language proficiency of learners, whilst also increasing a sense of belonging and greater engagement with local places, amenities and services. Artist Dawn Campion has been facilitating Table Talk workshops this year and has been encouraging participants to share their stories about home and what home means to them. Participants conversed with each other as they painted their favourite memories of home.





NUMBER NARRATIVES

Our Number Narratives workshops are open to adults aged 19 + who have not attained a higher maths qualification and want to gain employability skills. The programme is both inclusive and involves participants from diverse backgrounds. It has been highly encouraging to see participants showing increased confidence, which in turn has positively impacted their everyday lives. We have been working with our professional artist to develop effective projects to support our participants, to increase their confidence in using maths in everyday life, for example budgeting their finances, whilst we are also ensuring that we foster an enjoyable and stress-free learning environment.

During this year, participants have explored various projects. For example, participants have used recipe books to create a recipe on a budget and used mental-maths to calculate their shopping list, the group then created artwork based on the dishes they had put together. This was an effective project and discussions around maths in everyday life continued, with pertinent questions raised around budgeting and meeting the challenges relating to cost of living.

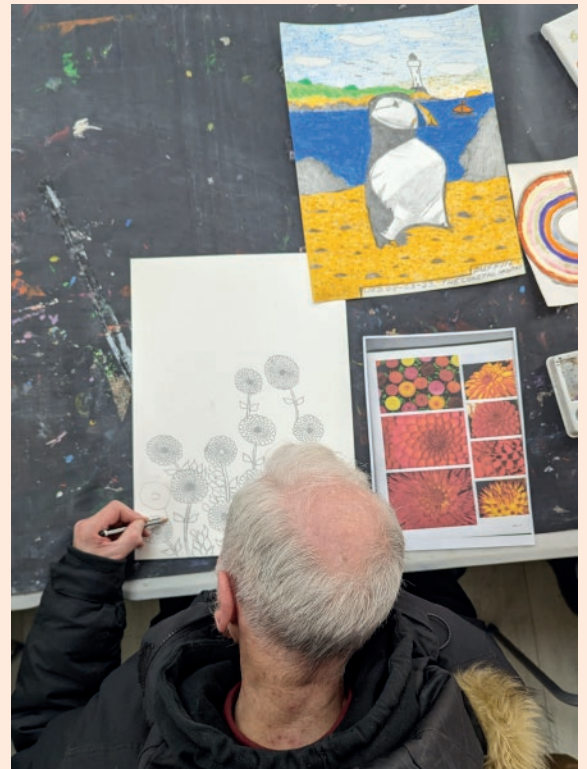
The participants have also explored hand building clay techniques to make a ceramic breakfast set. The participants were shown how to measure, weigh, and use angles in repeating pattern.

Recently our participants have been learning the craft of macramé and other craft techniques. The participants are being supported to show their costings for each piece they create and are learning how to use recycled materials. The participants will be calculating all costs of materials, time and selling costs, supporting them to develop business skills.

Art in Health and Wellbeing



ART OF HEALING: HEALTH & WELLBEING



THIS IS NOT A REHEARSAL

A programme of creative storytelling through art and making for the people in Derbyshire who are survivors of, or are living with cancer, funded by the Jennifer Anne Thorpe Trust. The programme supports to express and explore participants' stories and aspirations – engaging in a creative process. We aim to help to build confidence, encourage new relationships. Create opportunities to explore and express personal stories through creative practices and encourage the use of art to benefit mental and physical health & wellbeing.

Packs of art materials are donated to individuals who can create artwork at home and share it with us. We are also offering a drop-in space for participants on Mondays 11-1.

This project provides participants, moments for reflection and distraction helping them to see beyond their treatments and conditions and obtain a sense of accomplishment, which boosts positivity among the people leading to a happier life as well.

ART FOR LIFE

Art for Life is dedicated to those who feel more comfortable creating art in smaller groups. The sessions are aimed particularly at individuals with learning difficulties and the art facilitator can provide as much one-to-one help as needed. The sessions involve various art mediums and crafts that the participants can explore.





Cultural Events

Artcore has been hosting an array of cultural and social events for the community. Artcore's strength lies in our ability to connect with diverse communities by offering a welcoming safe space and removing the barriers faced by people from ethnically diverse backgrounds.

NAVRATRI & DIWALI



SWITCHOFF

Artcore has launched the "SwitchOff" initiative as part of our commitment to promote mental health and well-being, both within our community and within our organization. This initiative involves setting aside one Friday each month for relaxation and self-care. Our very first SwitchOff event took place in November, commencing with a poetry showcase featuring numerous local artists.

WINTER SWITCH-OFF



CHRISTMAS PARTY



EID CELEBRATIONS



VALENTINES SWITCHOFF



MARKETING DERBY EVENT



PEACE DOVES



REFUGEE WEEK



BBC DERBY BLANKET PROJECT

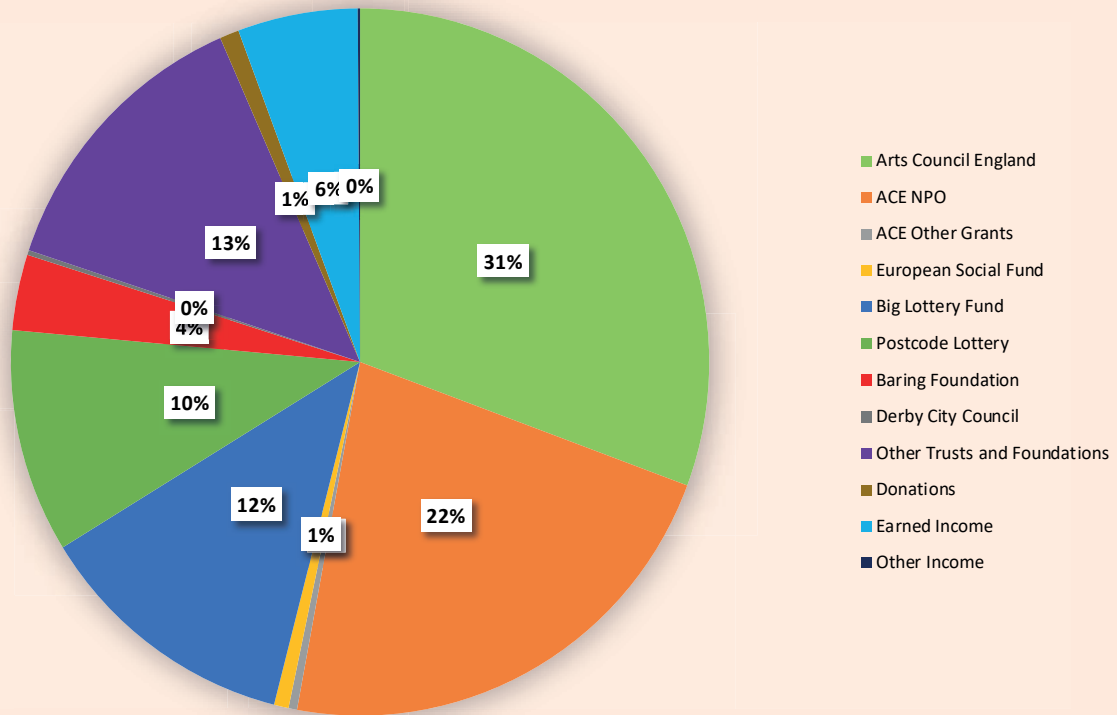


Time for Change

We can't wait to share with you the exciting new changes that will be happening to our gallery. We are making our gallery more sustainable and eco-friendly by opting for renewable energy sources and local materials. The Gallery will be re-opened in March! Our cafe, shop and all other workshops will be open as usual.



Financial Overview



The 2022/23 year saw a more normal way of working and was a busy period for Artcore. We reopened our buildings and welcomed back our community with open arms. It was a period of consolidation, with Artcore's income of £733454 (2022: £711503) being largely in line with the previous year. 2022/23 was the fifth year in which Artcore held National Portfolio Organisation (Arts Council England) status, and this has continued to strengthen the financial position and our work as a cultural partner nationally. The new city centre premises provided increased opportunities for earned income. The capital grant from the Arts Council supported the Phase 2 refurbishments of Art gallery space with renovations to include solar panels, insulation, efficient heating and a refurbished gallery space.

Income Analysis



Statistics

Creative
Activities
712

Artists
92

Staff
18

Projects
22

Onsite
Participants
4,270

Young People
1435

Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
Unique Visitors
62,764

Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
No of Visits
98,668

Artcore Gallery/
Artcore Website
Hits
2,394,108

Current Social
Media Followers
13,377

Youtube
Total Subscribers
62

YouTube
Total Views
10,182

Facebook
Likes / Followers
6,094
5,222

Twitter
Followers
2,883

Instagram
Followers
5,272

Funders and Supporters



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



LOTTERY FUNDED



Derby Adult Learning Service
Learning Opportunities for Adults and Young People



**The Baring
Foundation**

Project funded by:
Jennifer Anne Thorpe Trust



Artcore



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Twitter: @Artcore_shop_and_cafe