

Key arts providers: funding for 2012 - 2015

Acta

Acta is a community theatre company, providing arts opportunities to excluded communities in the Bristol area

Projects are developed in consultation with partner organisations, and are aimed at creating positive change in individuals - raising aspirations, improving skills, confidence, self-worth, and employability - and in communities - providing opportunities for diverse people to work together, improving community cohesion.

Activities cover a wide range of artforms including: theatre; music; creative play; visual arts; community celebrations; installations.

www.acta-bristol.com

Arnolfini

An international centre for the contemporary arts including visual arts, performance, theatre, dance and film. Arnolfini aims to deliver a high quality, mixed arts programme of international significance that embraces the strategic priorities of Experimentation, Collaboration, Interaction, Social Context and Internationalism, to develop a diverse range of audiences, positioning Arnolfini as a relevant and vital hub for Bristol and to place audience engagement at the heart of everything we do, whilst raising the profile of the institution and its programme through better communications.

www.arnolfini.org.uk

Asian Arts Agency

The Asian Arts Agency delivers an annual programme of performance, film, visual and digital arts, participatory workshop and education events (through producing, presenting, promoting, commissioning and facilitating activity). A large proportion of this activity takes place in Bristol in mainstream venues, community venues, public space (including outdoor space) and in educational establishments. It also provides and enables high quality professional development support to South Asian artists and practitioners (developing leadership and talent through strategic initiatives).

The approach is inclusive, seeking to engage not only all of the South Asian communities, but to share South Asian arts with the wider community.

www.asianartsagency.co.uk

Boomsatsuma

Boomsatsuma is a network of youth arts co-ops run by young people for young people, empowering them to create their own offer; fuelling the next creative generation. They deliver high quality arts projects to schools including a new Arts for Schools programme

They will put children and young people at the centre of cultural development by providing high quality arts opportunities that engage the widest diversity of children and young people in the arts and grow a vibrant, coherent and sustainable cultural ecology for all children and young people in Bristol and the surrounding area through the empowerment of artists, commissioners and children and young people themselves.

www.boomsatsuma.com

Bristol Cultural Development Partnership

BCDP delivers its mission through an expanded annual Festival of Ideas, and biennial projects bringing together all cultural organisations in the city in 2012, 2014 and 2016, and by developing and implementing a new cultural strategy for Bristol 2012-2016, and developing a cultural plan for the West of England. BCDP works in partnership with the private, public and voluntary sectors to develop and deliver an engaging programme of activity, raises funds for all projects, and supports cultural organisations in the city to deliver excellence, thereby strengthening the cultural offer of Bristol, making key organisations sustainable and helping more people appreciate and participate in the arts. Its programme is backed by extensive research and widespread consultation.

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Bristol Ensemble

Bristol Ensemble (formerly Emerald Ensemble) is Bristol's professional chamber orchestra, and is renowned for its accessible, passionate, warm and virtuosic performances.

The group holds a pivotal position in South West music, presenting a varied programme of concerts and events in the region's major venues. Formed in 1994, Bristol Ensemble is a musicians' collective, bringing together the best of the region's performers.

The group regularly work with outstanding international artists and soloists, including Willard White, Emma Kirkby, James Bowman, Andy Shephard (Jazz Saxophone), Wayne Marshall (Piano), Leslie Garrett, Emma Johnson (Clarinet), Victor Hugo-Villena (Bandoneon), as well as exceptional young artists such as Natalia Lomeiko (Violin), Jiafeng Chen (Violin) and Adam Walker (Flute).

They are particularly known for their collaborations with other art forms and their film and media work as well as their highly acclaimed contemporary music series Elektrostatic at the Colston Hall where they work with such artists as Gabriel Prokofiev, Juice, Get the Blessing, Charles Johnston and welcomed USA group Eighth Blackbird to their series in 2011.

They are proud of their active and innovative education programme, both with 'Preludes' in Bristol schools, and with their adult education arm 'all 4 music'.

www.bristolensemble.com

Bristol Old Vic

Bristol Old Vic is a renowned regional producing company with an acclaimed worldwide reputation for quality at the heart of British theatre who work in three different ways; through Bristol Old Vic Productions, Bristol Ferment and Outreach.

They work with world class artists and companies to create work that can celebrate their unique building and city. They help them to develop their ideas and bring them into full production.

They offer creative development opportunities to artists who live and work in Bristol through Bristol Ferment. They find the most inspiring artists that live locally and develop their creative ideas by giving them rehearsal space, creative support, opportunities to show their work and paid commissions.

They aim to ensure that every Bristolian has the opportunity to connect with them. This can be through their artistic programme, but other times it is through different forms of engagement. They run a programme of work in partnership with schools, prisons and community groups.

Their Young Company runs every week during term time; they tour professional work to community settings such as village halls, pub gardens and community centres and run a professional and creative development programme for young artists who work in community settings across the city; and partner with organisations such as the National Theatre, National Student Drama Festival and Edinburgh Festival to give people across Bristol the chance to be involved in projects outside the city.

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Circomedia

Circomedia provide professional and community training in circus-theatre, and run a successful venue in St Paul's Church, Portland Square. Their current courses include a two year foundation degree in partnership with Bath Spa, a two year BTEC course and a One Year Diploma. They run year round evening classes and an extensive youth and community programme. St Paul's Church, as a professional venue as well as training centre, is a well established part of the Bristol cultural landscape, and has hosted a range of arts events and performances, from this year focusing on local and international circus, dance and live art

www.circomedia.com

Cirque Bijou

The Companys core activity is based around three strands of work:

The creation of innovative and risk taking new work, indoors and outdoors that crosses different art forms including the use of new technologies, circus, street theatre, dance, and live music.

Supporting all young people, whether vulnerable or exceptional, from Bristol and the South West that have an interest in developing new work outdoors for festivals and events through programmes like Step Up, Project 3 Sixty, Remix (Dorset) and Revolutions.

Support for festivals and events in Bristol, through the creation of new shows and programmes for events like the Bristol Do, Bris Fest, Bristol Harbour Festival, and smaller neighbourhood events.

www.cirquebijou.co.uk

Dance Chora

Dance Chora create and tour original full-length dance works nationally and internationally. The company employ professional dancers and collaborators from a wide range of disciplines including theatre, music, design, costume and literature. The company produce dance initiatives that develop expertise, give training and opportunities for younger and emerging dance practitioners. The company work with young people in a variety of settings, to develop their dance expertise and artistic practices, and to offer them qualifications and progression routes into careers, deeper practice and understanding of dance as an art form.

www.darkinensemble.com

Encounters

Encounters Bristol International Film Festival is the umbrella festival for Animated Encounters and Brief Encounters which together presents one of the world's best-known showcases and meeting points for new and established international short film and animation talent.

The Bristol Encounters International Film Festival presents 20 competitive programmes with 19 internationally renowned awards.

Accompanied by a variety of engaging screening programmes and knowledge exchange events including; guest programmes showcasing the latest work from international partners, retrospectives from established film, animation and creative media talent; special industry guest; talks by industry specialists; panel discussions about the latest trends and innovations, master classes in technique and trades; showcases of innovative emerging digital talent; cross-over events with music; gaming and digital media; workshops in the latest technology developments; debates covering the current industry issues, trend symposiums and networking opportunities.

The festival works with local, national and international partners. The primary partners are the main venues Watershed and Arnolfini, additional activity takes place in other venues including; Cube Microplex, M Shed, Spike Island, Showcase Cinema De Lux. The festival also works with local community filmmaking organisations including Calling the Shots and Knowle West Media Centre alongside city Colleges and both Bristol based Universities.

Encounters will in 2012-15 will develop new partners including St George's, Colston Hall, and Bristol Old Vic to develop innovative cross-over activity.

www.encounters-festival.org.uk

Knowle West Media Centre

Knowle West Media Centre work primarily with contemporary visual artists whose practice utilises digital, moving image and photography. Their core activity is the delivery of socially engaged arts and digital media projects in communities. They work on local, national and international projects, working with the community in innovative ways, for the benefit of local people and deliver an extensive arts programme that includes exhibitions, artists talks, residencies, writing on arts practice and artists creative "data" labs.

They often describe their work as having three strands; Arts and Activism, Youth and Education and Green Digital Neighbourhoods, however it is the creative programming that drives the development of the organisation. Although they work with statutory, voluntary and business sectors on a wide range of issues linked to regeneration (such as health, education the economic sustainability of communities, digital inclusion, and climate change) their focus is always on creative programming with the community.

www.kwmc.org.uk

St Paul's Carnival

St Pauls Afrikan Caribbean Carnival aims to promote and advance the education, appreciation and practice of Afrikan and Caribbean arts, culture and history. They do this through the delivery of a sustainable, safe, annual free Carnival celebration, encouraging people of all ages and ethnicity to participate in Carnival arts, promoting inclusion across the diverse multiracial population, educating the local and wider community on the history and issues affecting Black Afrikan and Caribbean people embedding artistic innovation through all activities and by optimising the organisation performance and ensure compliance with legal requirements – promoting ethical governance.

www.stpaulscarnival.co.uk

The Poetry Can

The Poetry Can initiates and manages a number of education events, activities and projects across a range of life-long learning situations, which bring poetry into the community and develop new audiences for poetry. They present and support a range of high profile events each year, including the Bristol Poetry Festival.

The Poetry Can provides advice, training and support to individuals, groups, agencies and organisations through its website, monthly e-bulletin, individual poetry surgeries, and by answering general enquiries.

www.poetrycan.co.uk

Royal West of England Academy

The Royal West of England Academy (RWA) is one of only five Royal Academies of Art in the UK. They operate a regional centre for the visual arts and maintaining an art school by means of the following:

Exhibiting contemporary and historical art in 7 galleries and other spaces through programming of quality and integrity - balancing both populist and specialist elements.

Maintaining a permanent collection of art works of Bristol artists and British artists with connections to Bristol or the Academy and which dates from the founding of the Academy in 1844 and mainly covering the period from 1941 to the present day.

Running art related educational programmes and activities including lectures, talks, workshops, the operation of Bristol Drawing School and events and initiatives for schools and young people.

Sustaining the RWA's Academician body of professional artists who are appointed on merit and by peer review and developing complementary artist members or associate schemes as well as encouraging widespread amateur artistic practice through Friends and other groups.

Operating and developing complementary visitor attractions including gallery tours and events, retail and our café.

Maintaining and conserving our heritage building in Queen's Road, Bristol, including placement of artworks or interventions on the balcony, forecourt and in public areas (visible to passers-by, estimated to be 2 million per annum).

www.rwa.org.uk

Show of Strength

Show Of Strength is a professional theatre company based in South Bristol who commission and produce new theatre that engages and involves the diverse communities of Bristol and South West England. They identify, encourage and showcase new and emerging playwrights from Bristol and the South West of England and use spaces and venues that are not normally used for theatre to encourage diverse and engaged audiences.

www.showofstrength.org.uk

Spike Island

Spike Island is a national centre for research, production and presentation of the visual arts and design, it offers time, space and resources for artists to work to the best of their ability. One of Europe's largest studio complexes, it offers low cost artists' studios and desk spaces for designers, plus workshops, test spaces and equipment, the largest print studio in the South West and access to experienced and internationally networked in-house staff.

The Associates programme supports the development of artists who may not require a studio space by offering a dedicated office space and library with computing and video editing facilities as well as a programme of talks, crits and practical workshops, plus small travel and project bursaries.

An international residency programme brings artists into the building for short periods during which they can concentrate upon the production of new work. This, and the fact that studio space is let to 200 fine art undergraduates from the University West of England, fosters a dynamic environment in which ideas and approaches are constantly being refreshed.

Through its exhibitions, public programme and education work it seeks to demystify the making process, creating opportunities for people to visit studios to see work in progress and participate in art production themselves, as well as to experience exhibitions by international artists curated and presented to the highest standards. This link between the production and presentation of art under one roof is unique within the UK.

www.spikeisland.org.uk

St George's

St George's is one of Britain's leading concert halls and recording studios, famous for its exceptionally fine acoustic. The world's best in classical, jazz, world music and opera.

Their objectives are:

To advance for the benefit of the general public in the City of Bristol and neighbouring area the art of music, by the promotion of, the education in, and the appreciation of, the said art and its study and practice;

To preserve for the benefit of the general public in the city of Bristol and neighbouring area the historic and architectural heritage of the building and immediate surrounding land of St George's Bristol, and in pursuance thereof to restore and refurbish the same as a venue for the performance, recording and broadcasting of music.

www.stgeorgesbristol.co.uk

Theatre Bristol

The development of Bristol's theatre industry:

Theatre Bristol's core activity is to be catalyst, advocate and leader and a model for theatre development nationally and internationally. They commission and produce new work across the spectrum of performance (from circus to soundwalks), offer bespoke artist support and training, run a dynamic user-generated web resource, undertake strategic research, and develop national and international exchange opportunities.

www.theatrebristol.net

Tobacco Factory

The Tobacco Factory Theatre takes people on a journey. They support artists through the whole trajectory of their careers: working with fledgling artists and companies and with those that have been in the industry for decades. They work with partners on the whole spectrum of the creative process, supporting ideas from conception through to production and maximising quality work's potential.

They intrigue audiences by presenting a daring and innovative contemporary programme alongside modern classics and timeless masterpieces and have a national reputation for promoting artistically adventurous and culturally broad work and attract a socially mixed audience of all ages.

www.tobaccofactorytheatre.com

Travelling Light

A professional theatre company creating innovative theatre for young audiences. Highly regarded locally, nationally and internationally for the quality of work they produce. Travelling Light work at a grass-roots level from their base in Bristol to engage people in theatre watching and theatre making.

www.travellinglighttheatre.org.uk

Trinity Community Arts

Trinity Community Arts - empowering communities through the arts is a not for profit organisation with a mission is to engage the local community of all ages in imaginative and socially inclusive projects. They are based in a legendary venue with four decades of live music gigs, theatre performances and community event heritage, at the Trinity Centre and now have a second venue at West Street.

www.3ca.org.uk

Watershed

Watershed is a media centre offering a space for cultural exchange, promoting engagement, enjoyment, diversity and participation for all. Its year round cultural programme of world cinema, emerging moving image forms, projects, talks and events exist to foster a culture of curiosity, create greater access and deeper levels of engagement.

Watershed produces and co-produces a diverse range of seasons, festivals and touring programmes to showcase excellence and develop strands where there is major cultural opportunity regionally, nationally and internationally.

Through a growing portfolio of engagement projects, screenings and events, we offer young people opportunities to develop and realise their creative, economic and social potential with a view of developing the producers, artists and audiences of the future.

Now recognized as a national centre of excellence for development of creative digital practice, talent and knowledge exchange, Watershed plays a key role in developing Bristol's status as the place to develop new ideas in emergent cultural practice.

www.watershed.co.uk

World Stage Festival

World Stage: England's first festival of international live arts performance, for children and young people*. With audiences drawn from education, family and community settings, their core activity contributes to the expansion and inclusivity of Bristol's year-long festival programme. World Stage Festival is developed and hosted in partnership with a number of Bristol's key performing arts venues, thereby developing the reach and diversity of the city's arts venue programming for young audiences. Core activity also takes place in some of the city's non-traditional performance venues and in neighbourhoods outside the centre, to increase opportunities for engagement by the widest possible community sectors and contribute to the revitalisation of our urban landscape.

* Edinburgh is the only other city in the UK that boasts such an international event: "Imaginate" - a world-recognised festival that has brought fame and business to the city.

www.worldstagefestival.com