Successful Applicant: No Regrets

Awarded £10,000 for major building works to add rooms, toilets and improve accessibility



Tell me about your charitable work.

I started Mastectomy Tattooing Alliance with co-director and tattoo artist Tanya Buxton.

It's a charity for women who have suffered from breast cancer that offers realistic areola tattooing or illustrative designs.

Tanya also trains more professionals in this school of tattooing to be able to offer nipple and areola tattoos to more people. The standard in medical tattooing hasn't historically been very high. By training talented tattoo artists in this new style we can deliver a much higher quality.

The charity helps women move past a difficult period of their lives. Anyone who's experienced that level of trauma deserves to regain confidence.

We currently have monthly raffles across the company that our customers can pay into and we donate the money for someone to be able to get this procedure for free. The idea is to start offering this to one person per studio.

Tattooing is such a nice way to make a living and we're all so grateful for that. This is one very simple and obvious way for us to be able to give back to the community.

Interview with our Grant Advisor, Crover: crover.james@bristol.gov.uk

Tell me about your business.

I'm Ben Lakin (he/him) and No Regrets is a tattoo studio, event and exhibition space at 26 Stokes Croft, BS1 3QD

We've been running for 14 years and currently have six studios. Two in London, one in Exeter, one in Cheltenham and now two in Bristol. We focus on premium, quality tattooing. We bring together the best artists who work in lots of different styles from all over the world.

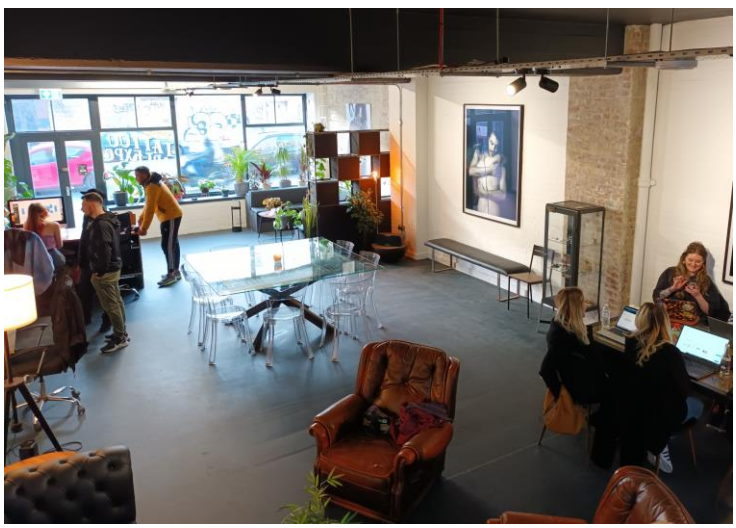
'Tattooing is such a nice way to make a living... [through our charity] we are able to give back to the community'

How have you diversified Stokes Croft?

There haven't been any tattoo studios on Stokes Croft until now. As well as tattooing we've opened an art gallery and event space, which is available to hire for artists and community projects throughout the local community.

We've just had an opening event with an art history doctor and tattoo historian giving a talk on 400 years of western Tattooing history. I've been in this industry for 14 years and I already knew that most of what he'd talk about would be new to me, so I was really excited!

Stokes Croft has a great sense of community. There aren't really any big chains here. It's got a real local feel and it's just buzzing!



How do you make Bristol better for our residents?

Tattooing is a very open minded community. Being a bit of a misfit myself growing up I've found a whole community of like minded people who are all very welcoming to all kinds of people.

Tattooing itself is a very powerful tool that allows anyone to express themselves as an individual however they please.

Stokes Croft is such a hub of independence and creativity and our exhibition space really supports the local community.





How does your business support apprentices?

We've always taken on apprentices from the start. We've had around 20 or so already. Almost all of them have stayed on to work with us. We'll be taking another two apprentices in the Stokes Croft unit this year.

In Bristol we have an apprentice who was previously working as an artist for Damien Hirst. She was unfortunately made redundant due to covid, but came to us looking to diversify her skills. She is now a full time tattoo artist.

We also have a videographer who's been with us a year and finishes his apprenticeship in May. We'll be taking him on salaried full time to work between Bristol and Cheltenham. Tattooing is so visual, so content is king. Our clients find us on social media. Supporting a videographer to work with us full time has been great.

'Tattooing... is a powerful tool that allows anyone to express themselves as an individual however they please'





How do you support local artists?

Our core business is tattooing and the profits from this have enabled us to invest in this large property with loads of flexible space for local artists to exhibit.

None of our internal structures are fixed. We can move everything round to suit the artists and their work.

We've created a welcoming space that's available for any kind of event.

'...the grant's been of huge importance... It's much appreciated!'

How has this funding helped your business to trade and achieve your goals?

Well, this new property is an enormous space. The biggest we've taken on by far. Previously we've had pop up events and exhibitions but we feel very fortunate now to have this space in house.

Our landlord has been really supportive of what we wanted to bring to the area.

Since this unit is so much bigger than we're used to just getting all the rooms finished has been a huge undertaking. The building work has been really hard so the grant's been of a huge importance since everything became so expensive. Yeah, it's much appreciated!



Visit No Regrets & learn about Mastecomy Tattooing Alliance

26 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS1 3QD
Web: nrstudios.co.uk / Book a consultation

Web: mastectomytattooingalliance.org

Find out more about our Vacant Commercial Property Grant
Part of the City Centre & High Streets Recovery & Renewal Programme

WEST OF ENGLAND Combined Authority

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL