

WARWICK
ARTS
CENTRE

PLAYING OUT IN CANLEY



REPORT



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About



Playing Out in Canley is a programme of creative activity and partnerships taking place in Canley from 2021 to 2024. It is a collaborative project between Canley residents and Warwick Arts Centre designed for and by participants of all ages.

Working with a Community Steering Group and the wider Canley Community, the project has developed a significant presence through regular activities such as the Canley Samba Band, Creative Workshops, the Canley Newsletter and the annual Outdoor Cinema in Prior Deram Park. The biggest community event is the annual Canley Parade.

Playing Out in Canley is made possible through the collaboration of partners and residents across the Canley community: Bonneville Place, Canley Community Church, Canley Community Centre, Canley Library, Canley Pop-Up Café, Canley Stakeholders group, Cannon Park Primary School, Charter Primary School, St Stephen's Church, Westwood Academy and Willowbrook Residential Village.

The project has been kindly supported by Spirit of 2012 and presented as part of Birmingham 2022.

Introduction to Playing Out in Canley

Over the duration of the project, Warwick Arts Centre has worked collectively with Community Leaders, residents and artists to deliver 263 community sessions across visual arts, poetry, movement, music for over 7,000 people. We have supported 27 local community events such as Pop-Up Cafes, fetes and celebrations, delivered 600 art packs for people to get creative at home, developed 11 partnerships across community venues, schools and care homes, and compiled and distributed 40,000 Canley Newsletters across 10 issues to all homes in the area.

We held 3 Canley Parades, which developed over each iteration, gaining in numbers, scale and ambition each year. Our last Parade in Summer 2023 had 130 residents joining us to walk, dance and twirl to the beat of our Samba Band, waved on by 280 more from doorsteps and the pavement. The parade ended in Prior Deram Park with The Big Lunch where we were joined by 800 people to enjoy food by Canley Pop-Up Café, St Stephen's Church and Canley Community Church, along with creative activities, an ice cream van and community stalls hosted by residents.

Each September we have worked with our friends at Flatpack Birmingham to bring 3 Outdoor Cinemas to Prior Deram Park. At our first cinema event a resident approached to say how magical the experience had been and that 'things like this don't happen in Canley.' This solidified the steering group's decision to make this an annual event, which we have seen develop each year as the project has grown momentum. Our last film screening in September 2023 welcomed over 500 people to see a screening of Super Mario Bros: The Movie with one father expressing that this was the first time his children had been to a cinema due to the cost.



There has been a tremendous amount of learning throughout the project. After lockdown stilted the start of the project and original team members moved on, a new team came in place in Autumn 2021. Our main focus was getting to know the community, building trust and ensuring the project remained relevant, meaningful and most importantly collaborative. We now have friendships, an ease of communication, positive feedback from Steering Group members and residents and a commitment to continuing to work together beyond our Spirit of 2012 funding ending. Trust, communication and understanding has been the framework we have built the project upon and that feels strong, robust and real.

A large part of our learning focused on the parade and the logistics around road closures, traffic management, security and keeping people safe, which we have built on as each annual parade came together. The last parade had community micro-grants for each section, pause moments on the parade route for dance and music performances, and combined with the community Big Lunch to make it one big special day of community cohesion and joy. We now have an event manual which is a tool for future parades, the skills are embedded within the Playing Out team and a passion for it to continue from the steering group and residents.

We have explored different ways of communicating the project across print, digital and word of mouth. We discovered that highest attendance came when we posted reminders for workshops on the day via Facebook. The Canley Newsletter was a great tool for communication, as were posters across community venues and in poster boards throughout the area. The best form of communication was word of mouth, and this developed as the project embedded into the area and can be seen in the increasing attendance at workshops, and for the annual larger scale events of the parade and outdoor cinema.

We have worked with artists throughout the project, with an aim to embed creativity in the area. On top of the artworks made in the workshops, we have commissioned a series of creative outcomes by the artists who have worked closely with residents. We are working with Assemble Studio and artists Jane Thakoordin, Niall Singh and Carrie Backhouse on a series of public art pieces to mark the parade route, due for completion in July 2024. In addition, our digital publication shares a newly commissioned poem for Canley by poet Navkiran Kaur Mann and a written documentary piece by social historian and 'Canley kid', Dr Ruth Cherrington that transports us to the Canley Parade. Finally by watching our film, you experience the parade's movement and sound as created by residents with artists Dave Barrett and Francesca Robson.

The project has been one of creativity, joy, community cohesion and social connection. We began the project as individual organisations with a desire to work together and are now a group of friends with strong partnership bonds, high levels of trust, and a clear commitment to continue the work as a team.

There is a motto in Canley which we have used as our guiding force for the project and it will shape how we now move forwards. 'WE CAN IN CANLEY'... we certainly can!

Gemma Wright

Head of Creative Learning, Warwick Arts Centre

Steering Group Member and Project Lead, Playing Out in Canley





Evaluation and Monitoring

We evaluated the programme in a number of ways to gather data and feedback against our outcomes and indicators. We built regular reflection points into the process to ensure open communication and so residents' voices could continually shape the activities as the project progressed.

These were:

- Surveys online and in person at events and activities, gathering quantitative and qualitative data.
- Monitoring attendance and activities at weekly workshops, events and all activities.
- Register for workshops to log regular participants.
- Attendance levels throughout the project, and the development of these each year.
- Group monitoring data for schools.
- Continual feedback and debriefs from community leaders and Canley partners after weekly workshops.
- Monthly steering group meetings, with reflection time built in.
- Artworks and outcomes created from the activities.
- Registration data for the Canley Parade.
- Facebook polls.
- Followers to Playing Out in Canley Facebook page and engagement with posts.
- Team and community debriefs after large-scale events.
- Community feedback sessions at groups, cafes and community venues.
- Bi-annual monitoring of data.
- Creation of two films as case studies.
- Annual evaluation report.





Facts and Figures

From July 2021 – December 2023

Activities

263

community sessions
across visual arts, poetry,
movement, music

10

issues of the Canley
Newsletter

3

Canley Parades

3

Big Lunches

11

partnerships across
community venues,
schools and care homes

40,000

Canley Newsletters
distributed to over 4,000
homes per quarter

1

Creative Fun Day

600

art packs to support
engagement as we
emerged from lockdown

1

Canley Newsletter
Committee formed

1

Community Film Club
formed

9

Pop-Up Cafes

3

Outdoor Cinemas on Prior
Deram Park

1

Festive Cinema Screening
in Community Centre

15

community events

22

steering group meetings

Attendance

7009

Overall attendance
across activities

8

Community Steering
Group members

15

regional artists
employed

151

volunteers

Participant data

200,370

INSPIRED

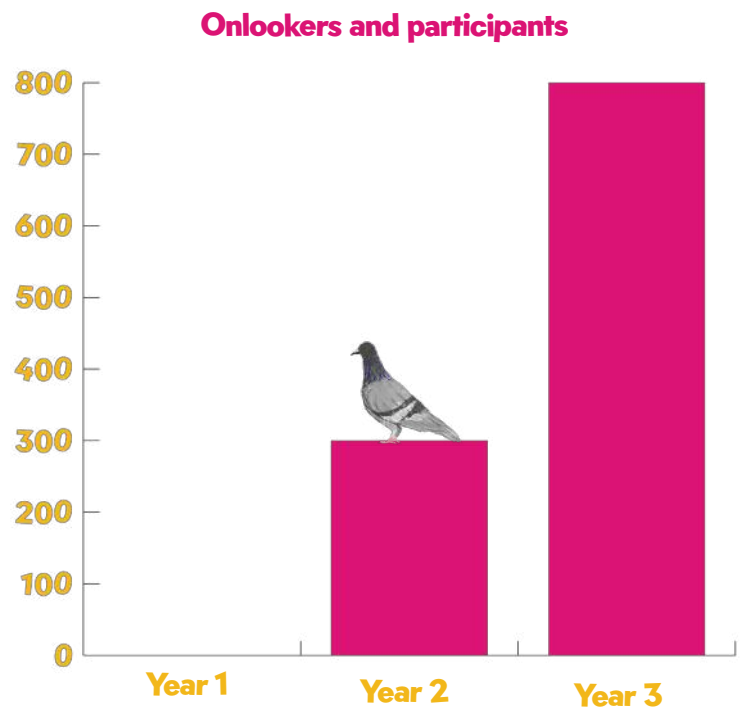
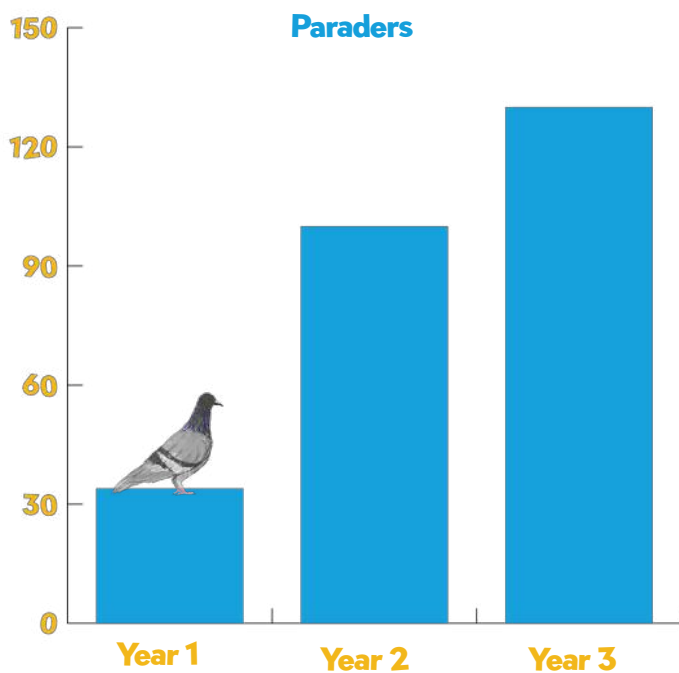
6,601

ENGAGED

408

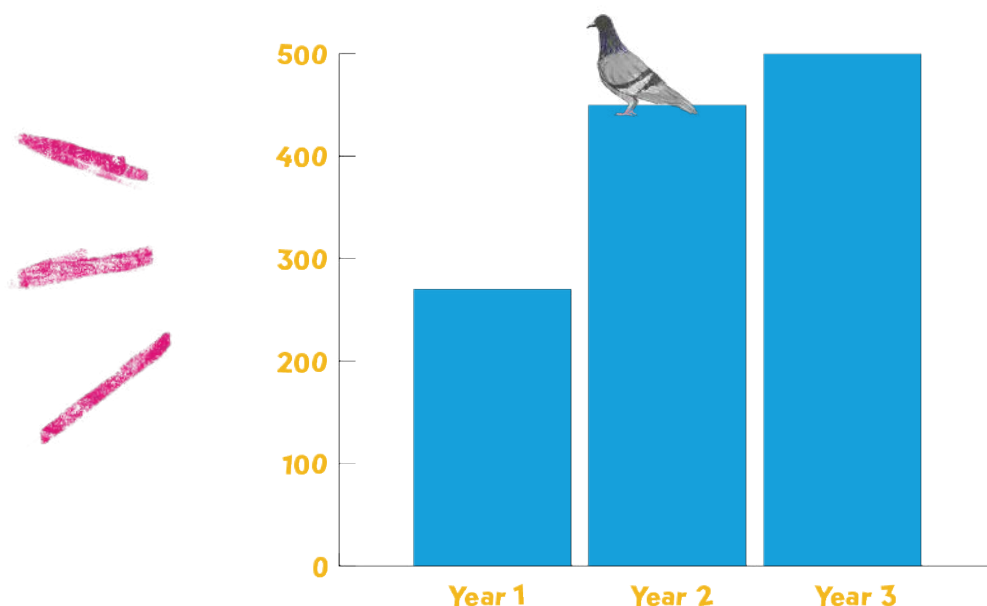
ENABLED

The Canley Parades





Outdoor Cinema audience



To inspire our audiences and share the project we:

Print

- Distributed 40,000 Canley newsletters. 10 editions each sent to 4,000 homes, shops and community venues.
- Created over 5,000 flyers and posters throughout the project to communicate the activities to residents and peers.
- Dedicated half a page in Warwick Arts Centre's brochures twice a year, each sent to 72,500 people.

Digital

- Created a community website for Playing Out in Canley.
- Set-up a Playing Out Canley Facebook page.
- Created a project page and blog posts on Warwick Arts Centre's website.
- Made two films sharing the Canley Parade and Playing Out in Canley project.
- Interviewed by BBC Coventry and Warwickshire Radio three times around the Parades.
- Created a digital publication sharing a newly commissioned Canley poem and piece of documentary writing about the Parade.

Word of mouth

- Supported 15 community events outside of our Playing Out activities, leading creative workshops and talking about the project and its activities.
- Worked with our Steering Group, partners and regular attendees to help spread the word.
- Created display boards at Canley Community Centre sharing creations and photos from the Parades.





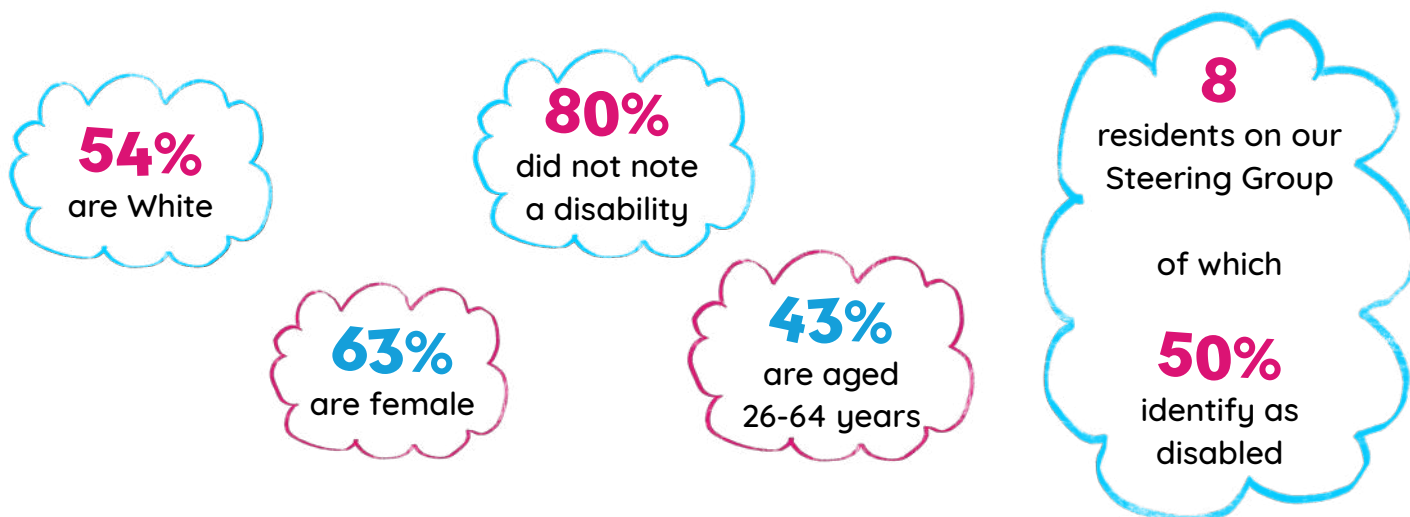
Audience



Baseline taken in October 2022 (79 people):



Current data against baseline as of 31 December 2023 (152 people):



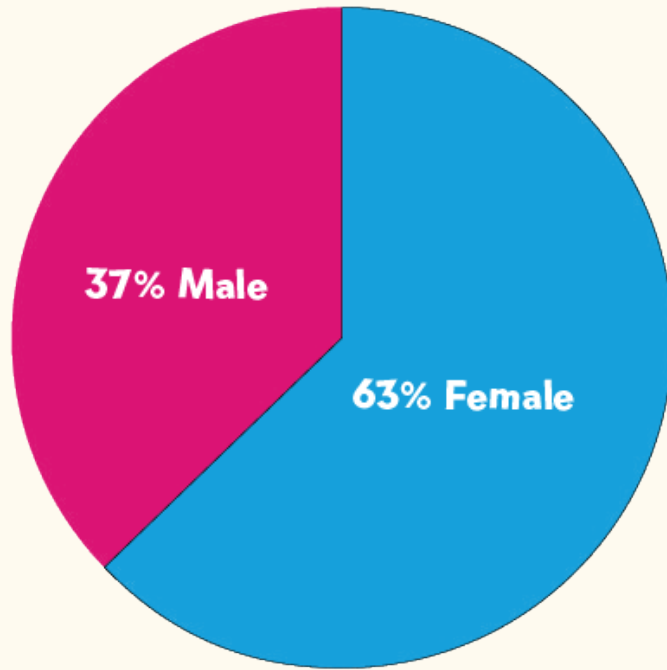
Breakdown

- An increase in how people feel about their community and their place within it, rising from 65% to 92% responding strongly agree or agree.
- The percentage of male to female became more balanced, with more male identifying participants than at baseline.
- An increase in people identifying as having a disability.
- An increase in young participants with a more balanced range of ages. This is due to the schools workshops and elders workshops in care homes.
- Whilst the percentage of people who describe their ethnicity as white is still the majority, it has decreased, with 40% identifying as being from the Global Majority and therefore a more racially diverse range of participants took part.

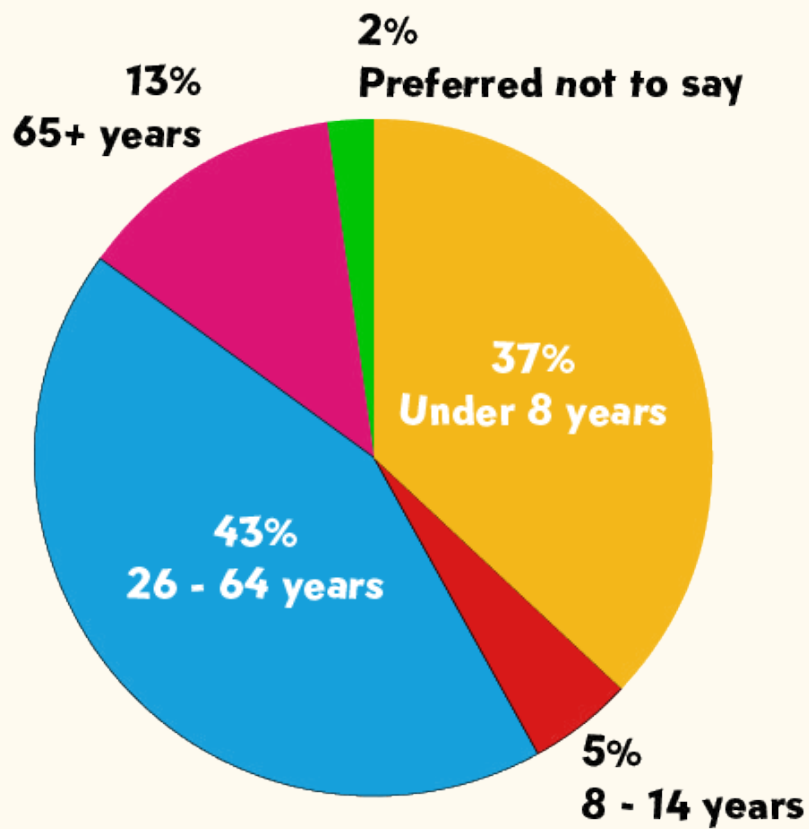


**“Amazing turnout
and possibly the
happiest, nicest
vibe I’ve felt in a
long time.”**

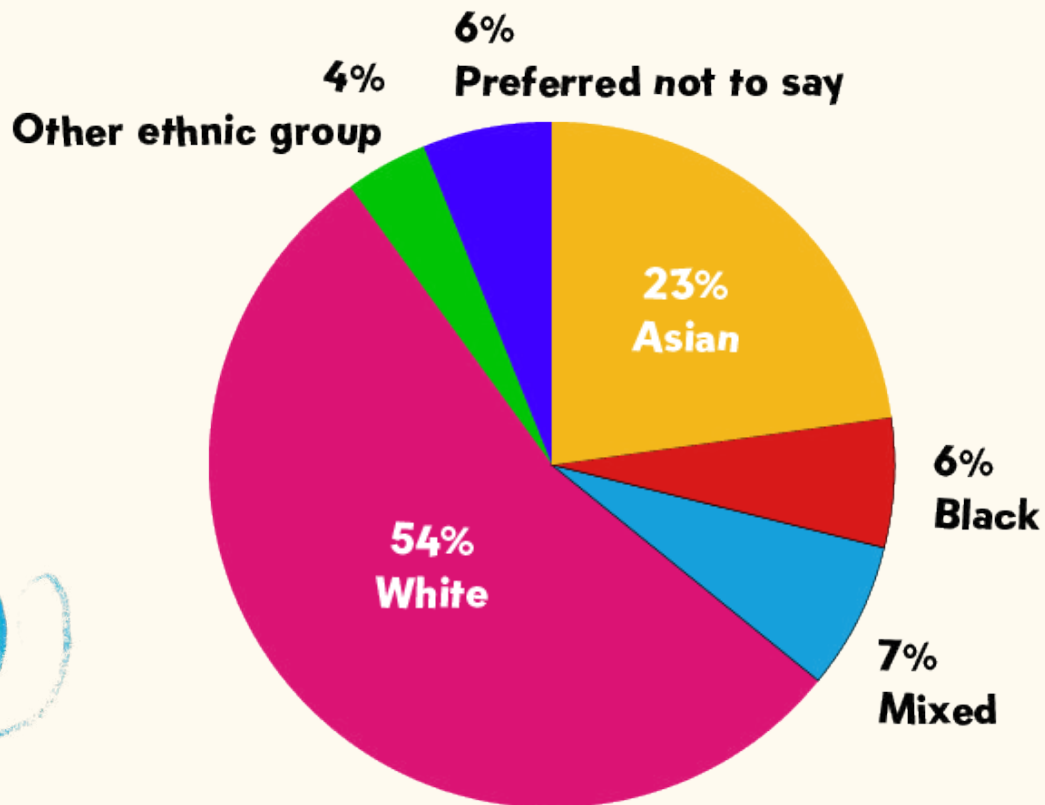
Gender



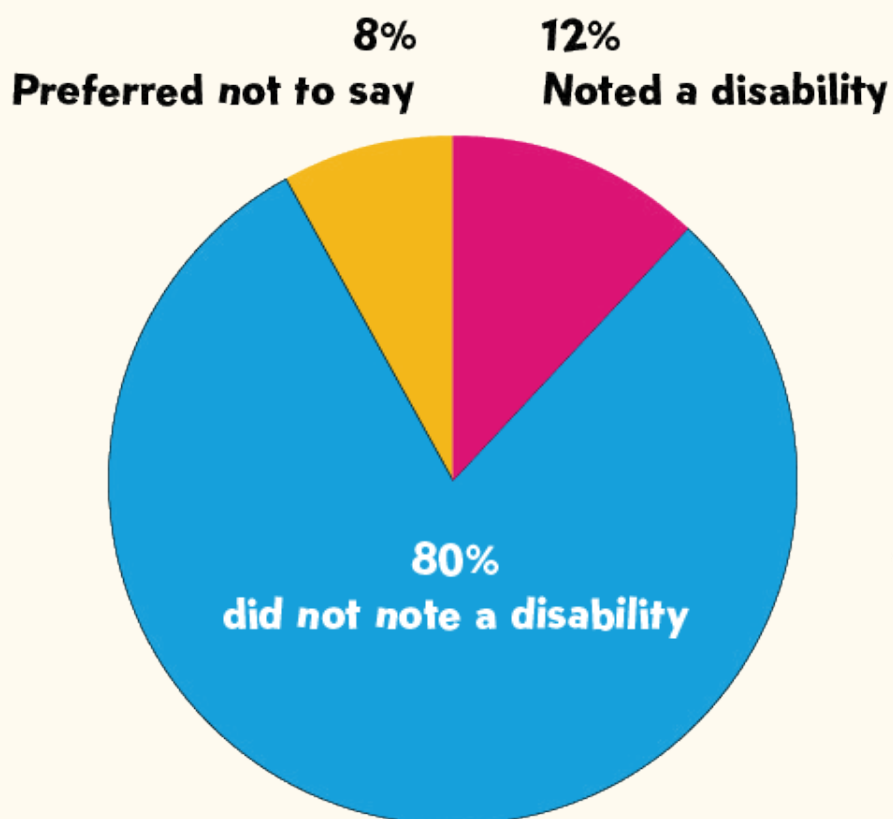
Age



Ethnicity



Disability





Highlights

“My highlights from the Playing Out in Canley project have been the parades. These have been such joyful, colourful and inclusive occasions. It has been wonderful to see the results of the creative workshops displayed in the parade through art work, costume and dance, as well as people from different Canley institutions taking part. The weather has been wonderful, which helped, but just to be part of an enthusiastic, noisy, parade of people of different age and background has been a real privilege. As the project draws to a close, I hope that this will not be the end of the Canley Parade!”

Karen Curran, Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

“For me it has been the artists visiting the library and seeing how engaged families and children were. I thought the 2 parades I saw were wonderful and the feedback from the community was so positive. It was really good to talk to so many people at all the events and workshops. I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the project and it has been a lovely way to bring people together in such a positive way to celebrate what a great place Canley is.”

Julia Steventon, Library Development Manager, Canley Library

“For me the highlight of it all was the parade and the big screen. It brought so much joy to the families in this area. I would thank everyone who was involved in such an amazing project, I feel truly honoured to have been a part of it.”

Anna-Marie Corbett, Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre







“The Parade - the commitment, creativity and meaning embedded in staging the parade offers locale-specific insight into the importance of community participation and placemaking.”

Nor Aziz, Founder of Canley Pop-Up Cafe, Canley Resident



“The people I’ve met and worked with. Canley residents have been so welcoming and receptive to all kinds of random ideas and offers. They’ve taken part in activities, volunteered their time and supported the Playing Out project as advocates and advisors. The creative activities have become integrated into Canley life and I have a better understanding of how the arts can be a valuable way of enabling other kinds of community development to happen organically - just through spending time with people.”

Anne Forgan, Playing Out Community Coordinator



“Since its inception St Stephen’s Canley have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the playing out steering group. As a church we have found joy in being able to partner with other organisations in the community to strengthen community spirit and encourage each other. Part of St Stephen’s mission is ‘church in the community, community in the church’ and being involved in such a valuable project has enabled us to create closer and mutually beneficial relationships with the community. Our hope for the future is that over the years to come we will continue to support the vital projects and events that Playing Out organise and that we will continue to be part of fostering healthy relationships within our community.”

Jenni Dunne, Administrator, St Stephen’s Church



“I loved walking around Canley afterwards and seeing the things people had made and carried in the parade displayed outside their front doors and in their gardens - it made me feel like people were taking pride in being involved in the event and were proud of living in Canley.”



Outcomes

Outcome 1

Warwick Arts Centre and The University of Warwick's community and cultural practice changes as a result of responding to and learning from community-led planning and programming in Canley.



Indicators

Participants reflect that the project team are responding to their needs

- Project team have increasing examples of their practice being influenced/changed as a result of community engagement and new programmes are developed with this learning embedded. Strategies for 2024 forwards embed and extend this learning.
- Co-production is a core value and approach of our Creative Learning programme at Warwick Arts Centre (WAC) and becoming more so across the wider programme team.
- WAC's Head of Creative Learning, and Playing Out Project Manager, now chairs a Learning Circle for the University which focuses on Co-production and Collaboration with Communities.
- Our Elders programme, new youth programme and schools programme all have co-production as a cornerstone to how they have been developed with steering groups built within the model of each project from inception.
- In addition, we are developing a community project in the Coventry wards of Foleshill and Hillfields that uses, at its heart, the approaches of Playing Out. However the difference being that the bulk of activities and events will take place at WAC. Leading us to consider how our building is used as a civic space, with travel built into the funding.
- Lastly, we will continue our work in Canley and on the steering group to support activities in the area. We have shared this approach in staff training, meetings with University colleagues and presentations at conferences and seminars.



Residents' voice, ideas and needs were captured via the following elements:

“I have enjoyed being part of the steering group. I think the workshops have raised the profile of the library. I think there has been a lot of engagement with the local community at events and workshops. There has been lots of positive feedback about the newsletter.”

Julia Steventon, Library Development Manager, Canley Library

“Canley voices have been heard effectively through the steering group meetings. Members of the group have been able to feed back the ideas and needs of Canley people and these have informed the planning of events. At no point has it felt that one particular group or stakeholder has pushed their own agenda over others and this is a great testament to the way in which the project has been led.”

Karen Curran, Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

“Being a part of this project alongside others has been amazing as we all got to have our suggestions listened to and we had a say in what we'd like to see happen and be a part of something amazing.”

Anna-Marie Corbett, Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre

“A regular delivery of intergenerational creative and art-based activities workshops that took place at various venues in the neighbourhood – the community centre, local library both primary and secondary schools and churches. They involved various artforms that met diverse needs of audience from various ages and backgrounds - visual spectacles, dance, crafts and film screening.”

Nor Aziz, Founder of Canley Pop-Up Cafe, Canley Resident

“I'm not a resident but as the Playing Out Community Coordinator, it felt really important to spend time and learn about Canley from its residents and ensure that we provided a programme that used creativity as a way of meeting needs and improving social cohesion. There are some very energetic and passionate people in Canley who have been doing great things in the area for many years. We were there to build on and support their work, as much as offer new activities.”

Anne Forgan, Playing Out Community Coordinator

Outcome 2

Community collaboration with artists and connections, as co-creators and participants of large scale cultural events nurtures critical engagement with ambitious future thinking.

Indicators

Plans for the new Community Centre reflect learning from the project.

Due to alternative plans the community have in place for a new community hub, we paused this indicator to rethink how to best work with Assemble Studio on the project. What has emerged is a new community commission with a brief created with the steering group. This commission is in 2 parts:

- **A series of public artworks to mark the Canley Parade route.** Assemble have worked with artists Jane Thakoordin, Niall Singh and Carrie Backhouse to use the work created on the community workshops – motifs, processes, imagery - in the run up to the parade and during autumn to feed into the design for this. The steering group were clear they wanted to see something tangible from the commission. We are currently finalising permissions for install with the aim to have these installed by July 2024.
- **The Canley Proposals.** There are key areas of Canley that people talk about, whether this is the disused Canley Hall, the old Children's Centre, the tin houses, or the green spaces. Assemble have worked closely with our Community Coordinator and a member of our Steering Group to lead workshops to gather residents' ideas for spaces in Canley they'd like to see developed. This has been created as a set of proposals which outlines scoping, design idea, costings and next steps. This will form part of the legacy work for the area.

Suggestions for future activities draw on engagement with larger scale cultural activity.

"I think Canley has become more visible and known across Coventry. Especially since the City of Culture year; other areas of the city haven't continued to have the same level of support for community arts activities. I don't know if local people feel this - I think they must do - we've had feedback from people who live in Tile Hill and other areas that travel to Canley to participate in activities. I think the programme has offered reasons for local organisations to work together and learn more about how they work and the issues they face. It's enabled them to work in a more joined-up way so that they don't duplicate each other."

Anne Forgan, Playing Out Community Coordinator

Stakeholders reflect on engagement with artists and are able to draw out what did and didn't work for their community.

The evaluation with the steering group has been incredibly positive throughout the project, in particular how the artists have built relationships in the community and how they understood the needs of the community. This is demonstrated through the community requesting that artists lead extra workshops in their regular groups or event or seeing the need for an artist to be part of their larger scale events. We have had continual feedback through steering group meetings but also regular debriefs with community leaders at the venues. We are at a stage of the project now where trust is high and also the community's views are embedded in all we do.



Anne Forgan, our Playing Out Community Coordinator said:

“I think creativity has been normalised and become much more of an everyday thing that people do together and also on their own. The artists we've employed have been really flexible - working in different spaces, with very different participants. It's always a challenge for artists to design activities that are suitable as one-off experiences, but also build to something bigger. Making work for the Parade provided a clear focus for participants and I think that through working with the artists, there is now a core group of local makers that could take this on in future. Artists bring something beyond a simple craft activity; they bring purpose, fresh ideas and new ways of seeing things. The activities sparked many interesting conversations and new connections; including newly arrived Hong Kongers wanting to learn about British culture, older people with revived making skills and young parents needing support with their autistic children. The activities don't solve these issues but provide a way in to identify needs and strengthen networks.”

Increase in wellbeing as a result of connection with artistic activity.

There has been an increase in wellbeing levels from the baseline taken in October 2022 as follows:

35% more residents said they were satisfied with their life nowadays.

15% more residents said they felt their life was worthwhile.

43% more residents noted a higher happiness level.

However, **13%** more residents noted higher levels of anxiety. This is unsurprising considering factors such as the cost-of-living crisis and the mental health crisis that has followed COVID-19.

Overall, **97%** of participants answered that they felt better about their life and future as a result of being involved in this project.

“I think it has been good for people to do relaxing artwork, poetry in relaxing circumstances. It has enabled people to talk /work together to produce some interesting pieces of work. All the artists have been friendly and worked with everyone that wanted to be involved at the library.”

Julia Steventon, Library Development Manager, Canley Library

“It’s 100% supported wellbeing. Covid hit hard and people needed this to help bring them out and together again.”

Anna-Marie Corbett, Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre

“By attending and experiencing creative workshops in public spaces and by interacting with friends, neighbours and new people, local residents tend to create meanings, values, not only to building up other meaningful layers of the place but also to define their own identity that allow for a strong sense of belonging.”

Nor Aziz, Founder of Canley Pop-Up Cafe, Canley Resident

Outcome 3

Those who have historically been the least engaged in social and cultural activism are encouraged to influence their neighbourhood and be represented in volunteering and leadership.

Indicators

Community members participate confidently in cultural and related social activities and gain skills and confidence to determine their ambitions and lead cultural programming.

Participants responded strongly agree, or agree to the following questions:

93% It helped me feel part of the community

86% It made me feel proud of my local area

85% It's important that it's happening here

89% I feel better about my community and its future as a result of being involved in this project.

85% I can make a difference in my community (baseline 65%)

92% This local area is a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together (baseline 65%)

91% It has made me want to get more involved in my community

Other data collected:

54% of people had been to a previous session, **46%** hadn't.

92% would recommend the project to friends and family.

When asked how often do you engage in arts and culture events or activities **14%** answered once a week, **38%** answered once a month, **26%** answered 3-4 times a year, **16%** answered 1-2 times a year and **6%** answered never.

This shows us that more of our participants are now engaging more regularly and we are reaching people who do not normally engage at all.

Outcome 4

The community engagement in developing programmes of work generates inclusive attendance in events, including Warwick Arts Centre and City of Culture.

Indicators

A broader cross section of the community attend large scale events and participation is reflective of the changes the community wish to see; a broader intergenerational uptake.

We have worked hard to develop the intergenerational engagement in the Playing Out project by ensuring creative workshops happen in primary and secondary schools, community venues and care homes. In particular we wanted to engage the older generation of Canley where loneliness and isolation are issues. We worked with a social historian for the final year of the project who led reminiscence sessions, looking back at Canley history, but also those of the residents.

We had 130 people parade with us this year which included 1 primary school, 1 secondary school, 1 church, Coventry Giddha Group, the Canley Samba Band (accompanied by SoundLab, a group of young people with Coventry Music) and 2 open community sections. This was a broad range of age, but also demonstrated music and dance from different cultures. The parade itself was themed on showing the diversity of Canley, with fabrics on banners and costumes showing the variety of countries and cultures that make up the Canley population. Residents at Willowbrook Care Home stationed themselves with tables and chairs, flags to wave and got dressed up to cheer us on. For many of this group, who have disabilities and health issues, even leaving their apartment and coming out of the front of door of the care home is a big effort. We started the parade outside the care home so they could enjoy the Samba Band and 2 schools performing their sound and dance pieces before we paraded. It was a truly intergenerational event.



Outcome 5

Through empowering, involving and including non-disabled and disabled people to participate together; people's perception (including self-perceptions) and attitudes towards disability and impairment is challenged and changed.

Indicators

Disabled people represented in stakeholder group and leadership.

50% of this group (4/8) identify as disabled. This has ensured that accessibility has been a key component of all event planning and discussions and has impacted how we have led sessions and where. For example, one steering group resident felt passionately that the project needed to go into the local care homes where residents have high care needs and mobility impairments that are barriers to engaging outside of their safe spaces. Steering group conversations ensured the parade route was carefully planned, ensuring we could pass by care homes and residents' houses where people are mobility impaired. We considered mobility scooters or wheel-based vehicles to support residents who wanted to parade and built in key rest points and a safe and accessible pace to the parade. It has also supported how we communicate the project, considering neurodiversity. The project has at all times considered mental health and wellbeing within the workshops.

All participation and co-creation is inclusive of the voices and experiences of disabled people.

With **50%** of the steering group identifying as disabled, the voices and experiences of disabled people have most definitely been part of the co-creation of the project and its activities. In addition the care home residents, many of whom are disabled people, put forward ideas to the artist working with them for activities and themes for sessions.

A large part of increasing participation for disabled people has been considering where the workshops take place. In the final year of the project we led workshops across care homes and community venues in different parts of Canley, making engagement more inclusive by ensuring a spread of activity across spaces that people feel safe in and have a familiarity to. These regular workshops resulted in engagement in the Canley Parade as residents told us what they needed to participate as well as us building trust and interest in the larger scale event.



Impact

“The impact of the Playing Out project in Canley over the last three years has been huge. In the past different institutions and community groups have planned activities separately and these have been very positive for the area, but by working together we have been able to plan more effectively, supporting each other’s activities and building a better understanding of what we all do. The biggest impact has probably been in facilitating communication - which has then led to more co-operative planning. The Canley Newsletter has given us all a real understanding of just how much goes on in Canley and has been a wonderful resource to all of us. I’m sure that the legacy of the project will be that greater understanding of how we can co-operate and work together for the good of the people of Canley.”

Karen Curran, Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church



“I think the Playing Out project has brought the people of Canley together, more so since the pandemic. It’s made them feel like they are a part of the community again.”

Anna-Marie Corbett, Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre



“I think it has brought all the groups that work in Canley closer together. It has raised the profile of Canley throughout the city particularly with the parade. The workshops have brought different age groups together. It was good that the workshops were in different venues as it showed the different facilities in Canley such as the library, churches and community centre.”

Julia Steventon, Library Development Manager, Canley Library

“A collective connection of common interests among the local residents, stakeholders and partner organisations resulted in the following:

- kickstarted and nurtured Canley very own cultural traditions – community big lunch, the parade and community newsletter.
- strong commitment from the local residents in a steering group as a sounding board to the various voices in the Canley.
- increase in a variety of activities run at the community centre and attendance at local library.”

Nor Aziz, Founder of Canley Pop-Up Cafe, Canley Resident



“Information sharing has been a key element of the programme - having regular steering groups to ensure that local people are engaged in the planning and development of activities and also having their say in terms of recruitment of staff and artists.

The newsletter has also been a really important piece of progress; it's a simple and not really very exciting idea but has acted as a mainstay of the project. The idea to create the newsletter was driven by the residents as well as the need to have print as well as online sources of information, ensuring people without internet access could also receive information. By having the newsletter as a regular source of information it's highlighted what activities already exist locally as well as the Playing Out activities. "My Canley Bible" as one mum described it as! I think it's also a bit of a chicken and egg thing; if there's a resource to advertise and promote community activities, it somehow generates more, by developing a can-do culture. It's been important to distribute it directly to Canley residents' homes - as it ensures it gets to people who don't visit the community organisations. Overall, I guess the biggest impact is that there is still an appetite to continue the work that Playing Out began. The Playing Out Steering Group is currently being developed and refreshed as 'You Can in Canley' group with a new purpose and plan of action.”

Anne Forgan, Playing Out Community Coordinator



“Playing Out built on two under-utilised strengths of the community: there was creativity bubbling away behind people’s front doors, and they have Warwick Arts Centre on their doorstep. This project brought those two things together and now the creativity is radiating around the neighbourhood. I’ve seen some of the widest grins and heard the heartiest of laughs, and we’ve also played a role for people who fell on hard times.

During the parade in 2022, as the procession were taking a break from the sun, a woman came out of her home for the first time since the pandemic just to see the parade. She was so emotional to have made those first steps to reconnect with her neighbours after a very isolating couple of years.

How did this happen? Playing Out brought together the movers and shakers in Canley. The funding was a vote of confidence for us all to work together and demonstrate we could build momentum behind impactful community activity.

We weren’t starting from a standing position – a few people were already running special events, small groups and developing services – but three years later we have an aligned programme of activity, driven by a growing resident-heavy team. We’re now having conversations about how we increase volunteering resilience, maintain flagship moments in the year and have spaces that bring people together day to day in Canley. These things are no small feat but there is more energy, trust and experience to pull them off.”

Ben Hayday, Community Partnerships Manager, University of Warwick





Legacy

As we move forwards beyond the Spirit of 2012 funded project, Playing Out in Canley and the relationships and work continues. A legacy planning meeting with the steering group in September 2023 demonstrated a clear desire to continue with the annual Canley Parade and Outdoor Cinema and the Canley Newsletter for joint funding applications to be made and for the steering group to continue to meet monthly.

We are expanding the steering group and will focus on events and activities to continue to embed creativity, community cohesion and social connection in the area. We have collectively applied for funding to continue the large scale events and Canley Newsletter.

In addition, the community commission for Assemble Studio will act as a legacy of projects to explore and enjoy and to focus some of the steering group's work on placemaking. We will support residents interested in taking The Canley Proposals forward and the public artworks that mark out the parade route will be a continual reminder of Playing Out in Canley.



“There is starting to get a really good vibe around Canley now as we have been able to do more events that bring the community together.”



The Playing Out Team

Nor Aziz, Founder of Canley Pop-Up Cafe, Canley Resident

Rev. Sarah Ashelby, Church Leader St Stephen's Church & Canley Resident

Marlene Brooker, Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

Anna-Marie Corbett, Centre Manager, Canley Community Centre

Karen Curran, Community Church Worker, Canley Community Church

Jenni Dunne, Administrator, St Stephen's Church

Anne Forgan, Community Coordinator, Warwick Arts Centre

Ben Hayday, Community Partnerships Manager, Warwick University

Tara Johnston-Comerford, Creative Learning Coordinator, Warwick Arts Centre

Mark Hinton, Community Engagement Development Manager, Warwick University

Anna Martin, Children's Discipleship Worker, St Stephen's Church

Dotti Sallis, Canley Resident and Creative

Julia Steventon, Library Development Manager, Canley Library

Diane Tolley, Chair of Canley Stakeholders, Canley Resident

Jenny Watson, Volunteer Development Officer, Warwick Volunteers

Sophia Welby, Creative Learning Apprentice, Warwick Arts Centre

Gemma Wright, Head of Creative Learning, Warwick Arts Centre



Thank You

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To our funders Spirit of 2012 and Birmingham 2022.

Most of all, to the Canley community that have made the Playing Out project what it is. To everyone that came to the workshops, events, parades, outdoor cinemas, community events and to the readers of the Canley Newsletter.

