

digital:works

participation through creative media



ANNUAL REPORT 2008

digital:works

Participation Through Creative Skills

digital:works is a group of artists and trainers who work with local communities, providing training and creative assistance, to produce arts and media projects.

We are committed to a participatory approach. Creative arts are an exciting way for people of all ages and backgrounds to engage with and learn more about others from their local community – especially if they are the ones shaping and leading the creative process.

Thanks to our breadth of experience and expertise, we can provide training and creative support in a wide range of media, from web development, video and digital animation, to textile and oral history projects.

Accessible Projects for All

Our commitment to participation means we place great emphasis on inclusivity.

Our projects actively involve people from all corners of the community – be they young or old, visually or hearing impaired, or someone for whom English is not the first language.

The skills required in taking part in our projects do not depend on advanced media literacy or prior experience with digital equipment.

Community Ownership

Our goal with all projects is to encourage and maintain participants' sense of ownership of both the process and the final product. This, we believe, is the guiding principle of true participation work.

Background

digital:works was established in 2004 by Sav Kyriacou and Lindsay Starbuck. They were soon joined by Joe Stevens and Matthew Rosenberg.

In 2007 digital:works became constituted and run by a group of trustees. Charitable status was gained in 2008.

Chair's Report

One of our prime objectives for this year had been to secure Registered Charity status and it is a matter of great pride that we have successfully achieved this.

Projects recently undertaken have been based on partnerships built up over the past few years but we have also made contacts with a range of other Arts organisations and providers. Our Registered Charity status will allow us to pursue more ambitious projects and increase the opportunities for expression and communication available to the groups with whom we work. We have a number of funding applications pending and, given our track record and previous experience, we are confident that these will be successful.

A fuller record of this years' work and a Financial report are attached.

Peter McKenna, Chair



Review of the year

It has been a busy year for digital-works. In addition to completing new projects for existing clients, we have been commissioned by new groups who have heard of us through word of mouth, which is very encouraging.

We have continued to make new contacts with other arts organisations and charities which should lead to interesting projects. Next year looks set to be an exciting one with a project bids already in with potential finders and another underway for MIND.

Great White City

We have recently completed our latest project, 'My Future City', working closely with Artswest and the BBC. The work, which involves a website (www.greatwhitecity.com), a 30-metre banner around the BBC's White City building plus supporting publicity, is about how the White City area of west London has developed over the last 100 years.

In 1908, the Franco-British Exhibition transformed this part of west London. In fact, the area took its name from the fantastical, white stucco exhibition palaces created for the event.

One hundred years later, we are on the brink of another major transformation of White City, so local children and young people were asked to say what they wanted their future city to be.

Pavilion Past Film Project

We worked with young people, volunteers and teachers from Westfield Technology College and St Andrew's School in Weymouth on the Pavilion Past Project.

We partnered with Dorset History Centre to help the children understand history through a contemporary issue. The children learned research skills, which they later used to explore the history of the Pavilion. We built links with older community groups and filmed interviews with local people to record their memories and experiences of the theatre.

Our findings were put together on a website, on which we

created a blog for the children to update. The interviews were compiled into a short film that we presented to more than 240 people in Weymouth's Pavilion Theatre, alongside an exhibition of photographs and a timeline of the theatre's history. This film was nominated for a BBC Big Screen Award.

Anti-Social Behaviour: The Movie

Funded by the Hertfordshire Police Authority, we were commissioned by Three Rivers District Council to make a film with an intergenerational group of seven teenagers and four pensioners about anti-social behaviour.

The participants interviewed the general public, politicians, council officers and the police, as well as one another. They then created dramatised scenarios which sought to confront what they saw as unfair perceptions of young people.

The finished film will now be distributed around the district by the council.



HFUSC Climate Change Project

Hammersmith & Fulham Urban Studies Centre commissioned us to provide all the design and media for their Climate Change Educational resource for Key Stage 2 children.

This consisted of a film presented by young people, featuring interviews with architects, politicians, campaigners and energy suppliers. It also included an interactive game called 'Energy Savers', and a pack of educational resources including bespoke illustrations and classroom activities. These were all presented both on a website [www.hfusc.org.uk/climatechange] and in a dual disk package.

Art at the Abbey

In March 2008 we worked with artist Sally Booth to make a film documentary of her residency at Merton Abbey Primary School. We interviewed teachers, funders, as well as the artist and the young people involved.

The theme was local landmarks and Merton Abbey Mills was chosen for the young people to study. We accompanied them on their visit to make preliminary sketches. They used the Wandle Trail, the local environment and unconventional and recycled materials as inspiration.

Integrated Working

In January 2008 we began a participation project with a group of young people in Camden, north London to develop materials for their new Integrated Working initiative.

We began by running a design and writing day where the young people interpreted written work about the initiative in a way that would communicate to other young people. They then decided on layout, fonts, colour schemes and chose images to illustrate the materials.

They followed this up with a session to develop a logo for the campaign. Using the young people's ideas we developed a range of brochures, posters, forms, questionnaires and banners for the project.

'Beautiful' Photography Project

We worked with residents of Old Town, Poole and Parkstone in Dorset to document their lives through photography. The 'Beautiful' project has enabled the group to create a series of

images that reflect the extraordinary and the beautiful in their everyday lives. The stimulating body of photographic work that resulted was subsequently exhibited in a number of places around Dorset.

Training workshops

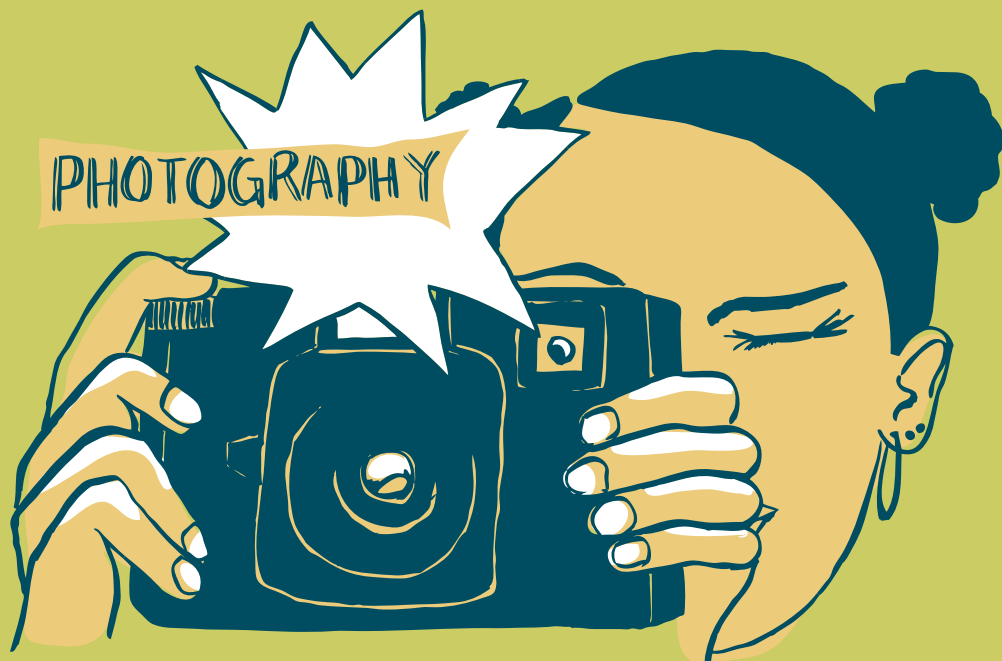
We continue to provide training in digital video, podcasting and animation. Recent projects at the BBC include work with children and young people with learning disabilities and/or physical disabilities.

Slavery materials for schools

We used illustrations, animation, stills and audio to create a film about slavery for teachers to use in the classroom. Teachers use the film to make otherwise dry historical information much more engaging for young people, aiding discussion and learning. The film is part of a printed educational resource pack which is available on an accompanying website www.hfusc.org.uk/slavery.

Surrealism animations

We worked with three different Year 10 art classes at La Sainte Union School in north-west London to create animated films as part of their GCSEs. The project has built on the last two year's successful efforts.



Financial Report

Our bank account was opened in December 2007 but the first activity didn't take place until April 2008. With that in mind the first year's accounts will be prepared for an independent examination at the tax year end of 5 April 2009.

The following is an interim report as at 18 August 2008. The account was opened with a £50 gift in December 2007. Other income totals £10,250 from Three Rivers District Council for the Anti-social Behaviour project, and Hammersmith & Fulham Urban Studies Centre for their Climate Change project. All outgoings for the period were for staffing costs and amounted to £9,950 leaving a balance of £350.

We have no fixed assets as yet so are not affected by depreciation.

We have no current liabilities and only one long-term liability, that of an independent examination of our accounts, which should easily be covered by our current assets.

Trustees

Peter McKenna (Chair)

Robin Haywood (Treasurer)

Sally Booth

Lourdes Colclough

David Rogers

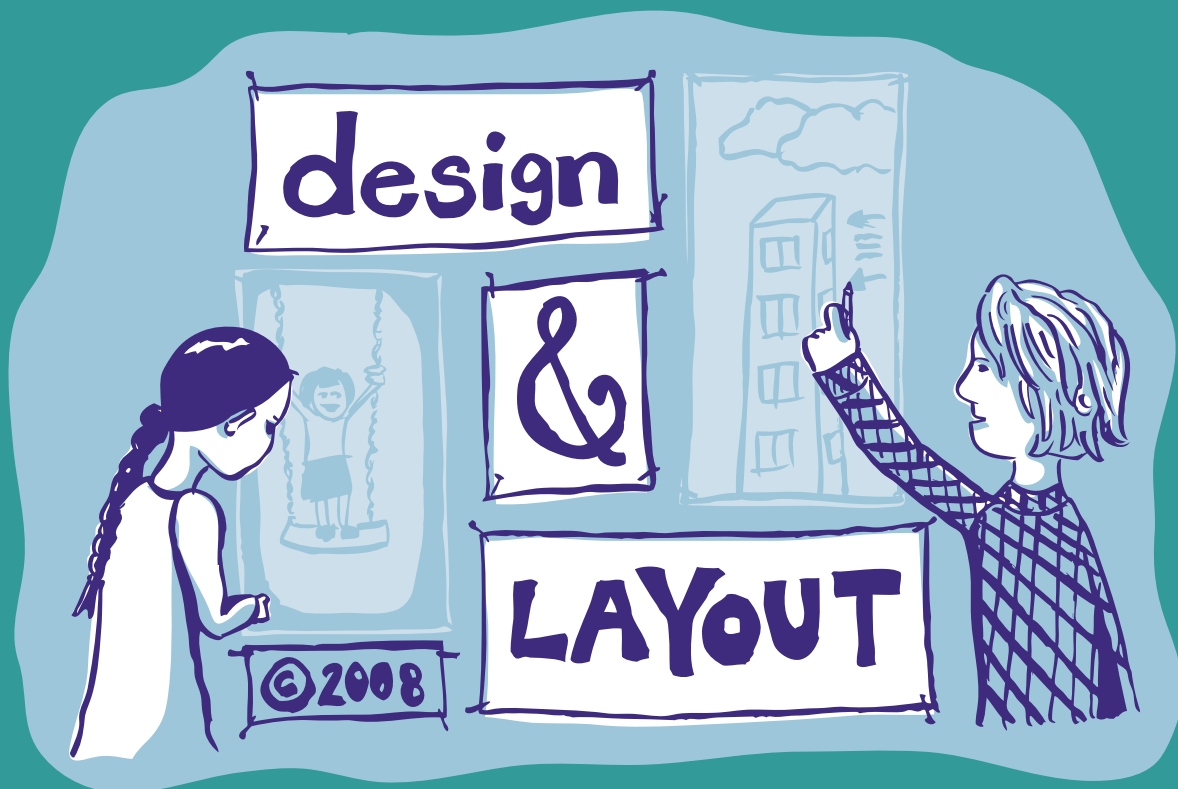
Workers

Sav Kyriacou


Matthew Rosenberg

Lindsay Starbuck

Joe Stevens



Report written, illustrated and designed by digital:works
with thanks to Matthew Cunningham for sub editing.

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