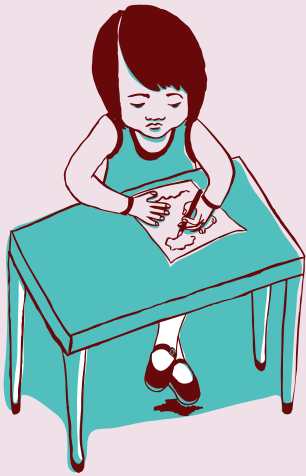




digital:works

annual report 2016-17

About 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.

Chair's Report

The reporting year of April 2016 to March 2017 has been a busy one that saw us collaborate with a new partner, Totally Thames, on a major project focusing on people living on houseboats on the tidal Thames. Well received by all involved, we worked with students from King's College and volunteers from the Geffrye Museum of the Home.

We also extended our 'Stall Stories' project on London's Street Markets to South of the river focusing on Tooting's two indoor markets. These are currently on the cusp of change that has seen the character of many of the capitals other markets radically altered among accusations of gentrification and commercialization. We also built on last year's 'Children's Play' project looking at people in Chelsea by turning our attention to North Kensington and the resulting film is now part of our North Kensington trilogy.

'Fares Please! - An Oral History of the London Bus Workers' was our major project of the year. Resuming our partnership with the London Transport Museum we worked with two primary schools throughout the summer term teaching camera, sound and interviewing skills before embarking on the filming process. For our final project of the year we returned to the river to film 'An Oral History of Eel Pie Island'. Determined to avoid focusing exclusively on the history of the Hotel for which the island is most well known, we extended the study to its residents, the boatyards, artist studios, rowing club and yacht club as well as its developments in housing and work spaces.

We are always aware that the success of all these projects depends on everyone involved in making them happen and we remain indebted to the Heritage Lottery Fund whose funding helps us make links with other organisations, often leading to further opportunities. The Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea's 'City Living Local Life Fund', Richmond Civic Pride Fund, Wandsworth Grant Fund and trades union 'Unite' have also supported our projects and we would like to extend our thanks to them too.

Peter McKenna, *Chair*

Review of the Year

digital:works ran fewer projects than the previous year but some were larger projects. One of our major projects this year was Life Afloat with Totally Thames - a partnership which has since been extended beyond this project. Much of our work has seen us revisiting older projects such as extending Stall Stories to include Tooting's Indoor Markets, bringing our Play project to North Kensington and working once more with London Transport Museum to look at the lives of London's Bus Workers.



Life Afloat: An Oral History of Houseboats on the Tidal Thames

Commissioned by Totally Thames we worked with university students and volunteers from the Geffrye Museum of the Home to record an oral history of people living on houseboats on the tidal Thames. The story of houseboat living is largely unknown and one with no written account. Based on archive research and oral history interviews Life Afloat draws together the past and the present – for the first time ever the public have access to this untold history.

Just over 1,000 people live in floating residences on the tidal Thames. The first of these mooring communities dates back to 1930s, with numbers increasingly on the rise since the 1980s. However for many, life afloat lacks security and is a very fragile existence.

Life Afloat delves into the stories of Thames residents and uncovers how tidal life for these communities has changed throughout the decades.

The film can be viewed at www.totallythames.org/Life-Afloat



Fares Please! - An Oral History of London's Bus Workers

This project was an oral history of the workers on the iconic London Bus, exploring the lives of drivers, conductors, cleaners, mechanics and designers.

The project engaged children who explored this wonderful history through research, museum visits, a guided trip on an old Routemaster Bus but mainly through meeting and interviewing the very people who have made the bus the symbol of London it is today.

digital:works worked with two London primary schools to chart the history from the first London Bus in 1829 to the present day. This project put London bus workers at the forefront of this history and allowed them to tell their story in their own words.

The children worked with Westminster Archives and The London Transport Museum to study the

history of London Buses and then conduct oral history filmed interviews with current and former London bus workers. They also produced some historical and creative writing for a booklet and exhibition.

A documentary film based on these oral history interviews was launched at The London Transport Museum in the summer of 2016. The film also forms part of an exhibition which, along with the children's writing, has been shown at libraries and archives around London as well as in schools. This website hosts the young people's work including the full interviews they have undertaken, their final edited film and their writing, both historical and creative. There is also a blog which shows the progress of the project.

We are grateful to Unite the Union and the Heritage Lottery Fund for financially supporting this project.

www.faresplease.org.uk/



Tooting Stall Stories - An Oral History of Tooting's Indoor Markets

“Tooting Stall Stories” was an oral history and arts project working with Furzedown Primary School and the community to explore the history of Tooting's covered markets.

This project explored the history of the markets focusing on the lives of the people who run the shops and those who shop in them. It explores their life stories, their family history on the market and in the area, some dating back generations, some more recent.

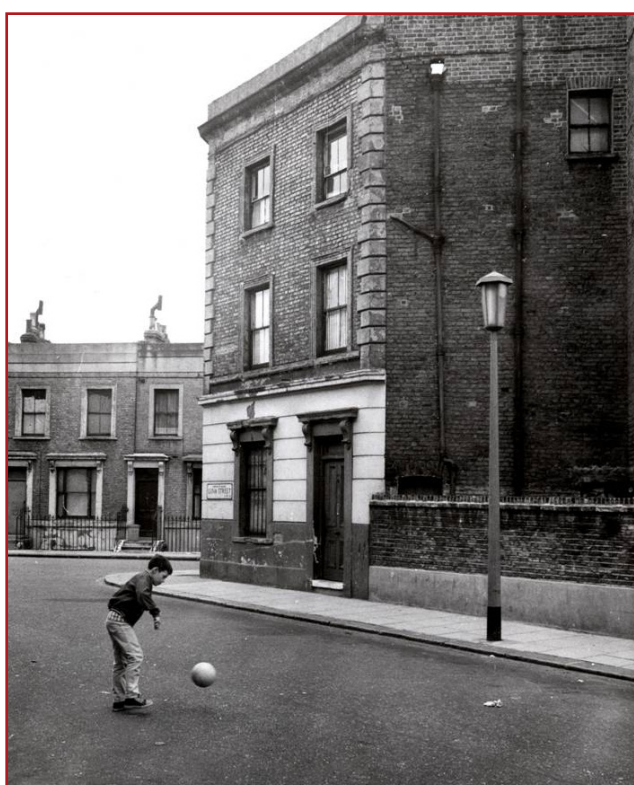
With funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Wandsworth Grant Fund,

digital:works worked collaboratively with Furzedown Primary School and Wandsworth Local Studies to explore the history of the markets. The children worked with historians to understand the history of Tooting in the development of London to give a context for the role of the markets in the area.

With workshops, training and support from digital:works the children visited the markets to meet the people working there and conduct and record oral history interviews with traders and shoppers.

These interviews were edited to make a documentary film starring the people on the markets and screened back to them at a fabulous public event in the market itself.

The children also produced artwork and creative and historical written work inspired by the people they met and their research on the project. Furzedown School had their very own shop on the market run by the children to display the artwork, the writing and the film. All of which, alongside some of the full interviews can be found on the project website: www.tootingstallstories.org.uk



One Potato - Two Potato: An Oral History of Children's Play

One Potato is an intergenerational oral history project that is exploring the history of children's play over the past 80 years in the north and south of the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea.

“One Potato” began as a Heritage Lottery Funded project working with Servite Primary School, Age UK Kensington and Chelsea, the V&A Museum of Childhood and local residents in Chelsea. This initial project based in the south of the borough was great fun and has led to a wonderful oral history based documentary. It was so successful that the project was expanded - and called Two Potato - with digital:works working with Colville Primary School and residents in North Kensington. Both projects have been supported by RBK&Cs City Living Local Life Fund and can be viewed at www.onepotato.org.uk

Clinging to a Mudflat - An Oral History of Eel Pie Island

Although not completed until after the financial year end this project had completed all its 32 interviews by the end of March 2017.

This project was run by digital:works who set up a group of local residents from the Richmond area. They researched the history of the island at Richmond Local Studies Centre, were treated to talks by two local historians and took part in a guided walking tour of the island. In Spring 2017 they undertook oral history workshops with digital:works before researching and meeting current and former residents to record oral history interviews with them.

They explored the rowing club, the history of the music scene, the boatyards and many of the island's quirky residents.



These interviews have been deposited with Richmond Local Studies Centre and the Eel Pie Island Museum and also sit on this project website.

The interviews have been edited to make an oral history based documentary about the island that is free to view online and a shorter version concentrating on the history of the Eel Pie Island Hotel has been shown on the Community Channel. The film has also been shown at local events and also at two launch events in September 2017.

The film and all the interviews are available here: www.eelpieisland.org.uk/



Future Projects

Confirmed projects for 2017/18 include working once more with London Transport Museum on a project about the London Cabbie; looking at Boatyards on the Thames with Totally Thames; working with Westminster Archives on two projects, one about Waterloo and the other Passchendaele and working with Crayford Reminiscence and Youth on a project about the London Blitz in WW1.

Financial Report

The independent examination covered the year 6th April 2016 to 5th April 2017.

Our total income for the period was £79,141 [£86,901] made up mainly from Restricted Funds (successful funding applications) consisting of £47,637 [£66,120] accounted for by London Bus Workers and Tooting Markets as well as final and first grant instalments for other funded project just beginning and ending their life. Designated Income (commissions) amounted to £28, 145 [£18,985]. The balance is made up from voluntary and investment income.

Our total expenditure to date is £102,961 [£66,705] which has mostly been spent directly on costs relating to the HLF funded projects £67,093 [£50,467], the commissions £32,470 [£14,660] and governance costs of £3,398 [£1,578] made up mainly of insurance costs and accountancy fees.

The difference between income and expenditure over the year can be accounted for by projects being funded in one financial year while expenditure takes place in another.

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

Please contact us by email if you would like a copy of the full accounts.

[Last year's figures in brackets]

Trustees

Peter McKenna (Chair)
David Rogers (Treasurer)
Sally Booth
Jenny Donaldson

Workers

Sav Kyriacou
Matthew Rosenberg

Thanks to Peter Daniel, Aashish Gadhvi, Maggie Tyler, Celia Holman and Michele Whitby



One of the 'Shacks' on Eel Pie Island

digital:works
participation through creative media

5 Lyncroft Gardens, London W13 9PU Tel: 020 8354 7349
info@digital-works.co.uk | www.digital-works.co.uk

Registered Charity No. 1124659