



Project dashboard

TRANSPORTED

Fenside

Inspire, consult, build, empower, deliver

Lead: TransportedLauren@litc.org.uk

Strand: On Your Doorstep (public art)

When: August 2014 to November 2014

Where & what: Photography at Fenside Community Centre (artwork on the outside, exhibition and album inside).

Key people: Lauren (AEW), Sandra (Community Centre Coordinator), Paul Floyd Blake (Artist), community centre volunteers, Paul Kenny (Mayflower participation officer and ex-mayor) and Mick Taylor

Features for success

- Flexibility - Transported, artist, and community centre staff/volunteers re-shaped the project to meet the needs of the Fenside Community to ensure they were engaged.
- Choice of artist - process was thorough and the artist 'was right for the job - he shared our vision' (Community Worker)
- Working with key people to establish trust - former mayor and artist walked the streets together to connect with the community
- Participants also came to Family Arts Festival and Faceless Arts

Learning and challenges

- Short, 6 day project. More could have been achieved.
- Initial contact with community - the first day of the project no one came to the community centre. A different approach was needed quickly. The Eastern European community didn't engage as much as the team had hoped.

Beyond 2014

The photo album is now permanently in the community centre. Sandra aims to update it with the community, 'building on our history'. The exhibition inside the building will continue to draw people in. Residents have asked for a photography club at the centre and an art studio in a nearby centre which is soon to be demolished may be incorporated into Fenside. Paul Floyd Blake has been commissioned by Transported to record objects with meaning as new portraits for the community.

Drivers - How the project came about

Consultation led to On Your Doorstep, which invites communities to nominate spaces to be improved with art. Sandra heard from the CVS, and nominated an under-used community centre in a deprived community with a lot of tension, including with the migrant community. Sandra wanted to bring people into the centre to tell their stories. Conversations with Transported ensued and Paul Floyd Blake was appointed after a rigorous interview process.

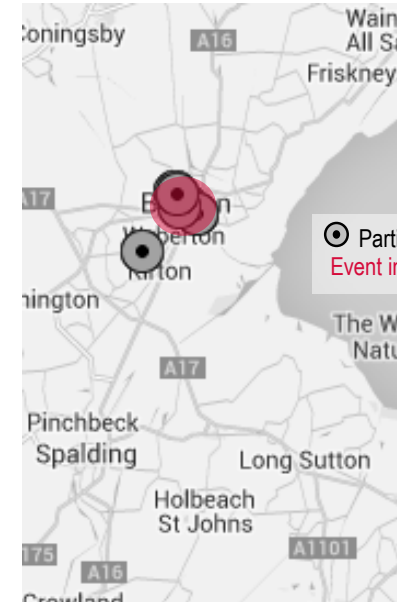
Delivery - What the project did

The 6 day project launched with a day at the community centre, which no-one attended. The artist and former mayor walked the streets on day 2 to meet people in the community. They told their stories and shared photographs. The artist took new photographs and with support from staff and volunteers, people brought their photos into the centre. A photo album was designed and created and is now a live history book in the centre. There is also an exhibition inside the centre that staff and people from the community curated together. Photos of people will be attached to the outside of the centre; launch 16 January 2015.

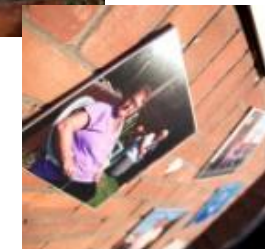
Difference made - Why it was done

1. People use the community centre more now, making its existence more justifiable - it is currently vulnerable as it is next to land being built on with flats. Some who haven't been for years came back to the launch.
2. Sandra and team can consult with the community now that they attend. There is greater trust between staff and the community.
3. The community centre is more vibrant - the exhibition and photo album were impromptu (the exterior pictures were the intended result) but as a result the centre is more welcoming. They create a reliable talking point.
4. The Facebook page is used by people to continue to talk about their stories. For example, photos have been uploaded of babies born since the project which will also be added to the album.
5. Fenside has a history and it is valued and recorded.
6. The community learnt a lot - Paul explained why he took a photo in a certain way to them and shared basic skills, which was not commonplace at the centre. The community were interested in learning. 'Communities like to be involved and commit - too many people are divided and put down (especially working class and unemployed)... people do want to contribute... when people had the chance to tell their stories they got animated and were proud and were validated.' (centre coordinator). A coincident careers cafe project has seen clients show great interest in the artwork.

118 people attended the events



Participant addresses
Event in Boston



Portraits