



arts depot

**SOCIAL IMPACT  
REPORT 2019/20**

#WeAreartsdepot







## 724 individual donors who supported our Stabilisation Appeal

A New Direction | Arts Council England | The Big Lottery Fund | Chapman Charitable Trust  
 City Bridge Trust | The Edward Gostling Foundation | Eleanor Palmer Trust  
 Ernest Hecht Charitable Foundation | Friern Barnet Educational Trust | The Hobson Charity  
 The Ironmongers' Company | John Horniman's Children's Trust | John Lyon's Charity  
 The John Thaw Foundation | The Leathersellers' Company | London Borough of Barnet | MariaMarina Foundation  
 Mayor of London (Young Londoners Fund) | Ove Arup Foundation | Pentland Brands Plc | People's Postcode Trust  
 The Radcliffe Trust | Red Hill Trust | RTR Foundation | The Sobell Foundation | Souter Charitable Trust | Waitrose  
 The W.G. Edwards Charitable Foundation | Young Barnet Foundation

All of our Friends, our artsdepot Associates and Project Supporters including Jeanette Adak, Neelam Christie,  
 Rolanda Hyams, Dr Raymond Hunt, Martin Norwood, and Dr Andreas Zollmann.

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**MAYOR OF LONDON**



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**





OVER  
96,000  
VISITORS AND  
43,961 TICKETS



**2019-20 was a year of great highs and lows.** artsdepot suffered a major cyber-attack wiping out 18 months of organisational memory, and then Covid-19 forced our closure and tore apart our business model. However it was also a year of adaptability and resilience where we welcomed **96,000+ visitors** and issued **43,961 tickets including 9,980 free tickets** for family events, carers and access and engagement work. In total we presented **260 performances of 114 shows** – significantly down on a normal year but still an impressive number. Total number of **children and young people engaged in learning and performing** was 7,490.

It is testament to the commitment and collaborative nature of the team that we pulled through the many challenges of 2019/20 delivering an impressive array of impacts outlined in this report. We have evolved, adapted, taken work online, introduced social distancing and engaged an ever wider pool of donors and supporters to ensure our continued sustainability and success. It is with great gratitude that I thank our many supporters who have remained committed throughout this challenging period. And it is with delight that I confirm we reopened on the 1st September 2020 at the end of the period covered in this report. My heartfelt thanks to all our supporters who made that possible.

**Tracy Cooper** Chief Executive



# PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

## SEPTEMBER

### Black is the Colour of My Voice

Inspired by the life of Nina Simone the show follows a successful jazz singer and civil rights activist seeking redemption after the untimely death of her father. Written and performed by Apphia Campbell.

*"A hypnotic, immersive and emotional evening"*

★★★★★ Musical Theatre Review

### TRIBE// - Still I Rise

Contemporary dance inspired by Maya Angelou's life affirming poem.

## OCTOBER

### Holocaust Brunch

A dark comedy exploring whether we can heal from ancestral trauma. Over bagels and cream cheese, Tamara Micner brings to life the true stories of two Holocaust survivors with personal connections to the artist.

### Hocus Pocus

Lausanne-based choreographer Philippe Saire directs an ethereal work, with dance, theatre, mime and stage trickery set to music from Grieg's *Peer Gynt* - part of Dance Umbrella 2019.

### Race Cards

An exhibition by Selina Thompson offering 1000 questions about race and identity and inviting responses which contribute to the evolving work and associated research.



## NOVEMBER

Stephen K Amos, Mark Thomas and Sindhu Vee

### Yukon Ho!

The story of Jennifer Irons' life and survival in the remote wilds of the Yukon Territory, Northern Canada... and her ultimate escape. Part of our season of Canadian Theatre.





## DECEMBER

### Cinderella

Our first ever Rockin' Pantomime co-presented with The New Wolsey theatre, Ipswich received rave reviews and many return visits. *"Best performance we have ever seen. My children were not keen on going, but absolutely loved it. 12 year old son is now in love with panto and asked when we are going again!"*

### All Wrapped Up by Oily Cart

An interactive studio theatre show which created an inclusive, accessible environment, designed for under 5's and children with additional support needs.

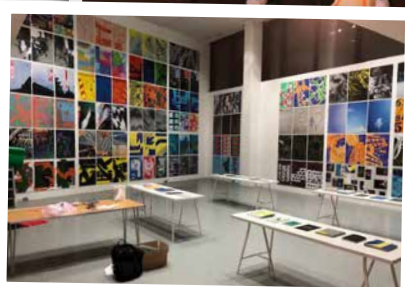
## JANUARY

### Comedy Club 4 Kids

It's like a normal comedy club, but it's on in the day, kids are allowed, and there is a higher than usual chance of heckles like "why is that your face!"

### Mimi and the Mountain Dragon

A theatrical interpretation of Michael Morpurgo's children's favourite by Skewbald Theatre.



## FEBRUARY

### An Indian Abroad

Through the lens of an Indian student on a gap year to the exotic island of Great Britain; the show explored race, culture and identity in contemporary Britain.

### FAR by Company Wayne McGregor

Ground-breaking new dance from one of the world's most exciting choreographers.

### Madame Butterfly

A new English version of Puccini's masterpiece created by OperaUpClose in association with Belgrade Theatre.

### Visual Explorer : Finchley

Middlesex University Graphic Students' Exhibition.

## MARCH

### The Twisted Tale of Hansel and Gretel

A high quality professional show created and performed by young people with learning disabilities co-produced by METRO-BOULOT-DODO, Open Theatre Company and Birmingham Hippodrome.

### Little Monster

Touched Theatre took 3 - 5 year olds on a forest adventure helped by two hapless, hopeless storytellers and their terrible rhymes.

Photo credits:

Hocus Pocus © Philippe Pache  
Mark Thomas © Jane Hobson  
Cinderella © Aenne Pallasca  
FAR © Ravi Deepres  
Hansel & Gretel © Kate Green



# CINDERELLA ACCESS FUND

LIVE  
INSPIRING BA

As we staged our first ever Rockin' Pantomime *Cinderella* we went into partnership with three local charities to raise funds providing free or subsidised tickets for underprivileged groups.

Audiences were invited to make a donation to our collection as they left the show. In total £3,791 was raised, with artsdepot's members and supporters contributing a further £4,496 resulting in a total spend of £8,287 on free or subsidised tickets and refreshments.

**We distributed a total of 505 tickets and provided 87 hot lunches.**

Highlights included:

- **68 free tickets** provided through Finchley, North Enfield and Chipping Barnet Food Banks.
- **69 Matinee Lunch Club attendees** brought by local care homes and day care centres served a festive home cooked lunch.
- **118 tickets** received by **Barnet Young Carers**.
- **166 tickets** provided to **3 local schools** who hadn't visited artsdepot in over 5 years.
- **72 tickets** providing **memorable** and in some cases **first-time theatre visits** through the Somali Bravanese Association, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice, Rays of Sunshine, and Christians Against Poverty.
- **14 tickets** for **BSL sign interpreted** performances distributed through Blanche Nevile School for Deaf Children and the National Deaf Children's Society.

**"It was absolutely amazing! I'm not sure who enjoyed it most, the grown-ups or the kids. It is definitely something I would recommend to others. Thank you so very much. It's a memory we will cherish as a family for many years to come!"**

Noah's Ark Children's Hospice family visit

**"I can't thank you and everyone at Arts Depot enough for what you did on Saturday. You brought so much joy to my group. Some of them never watched a pantomime ever or even been to a theatre"**

Christians Against Poverty





# ARTIST RESIDENCIES

**Fly High Stories** workshopped a new script and musical score looking at how to explain aerodynamics to children through theatre.

**All For One** theatre company worked on a sensory and musical show to include makaton aimed at integrated and inclusive audiences, engaging both mainstream and disabled children.

**Pinecone Performance Lab** working on *H.O.T. (Helen of Troy)* a patriarchy-smashing comic feminist takedown of beauty standards throughout millennia.

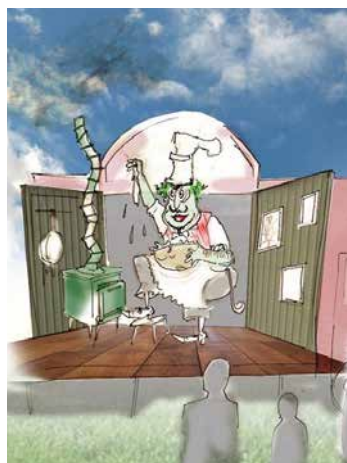
**Sona Lisa Dance Company** working on *Breaking Ground* - an exploration of the migratory journey, and ensuing identity issues, of Sonia Chandaria Tillu's family across India, Kenya and UK.



**Alice Boyd & Rosa Garland** developing their characters Alan & Ron, two hot sweaty and a little bit sexy - sometimes idiotic - guys stuck in the middle of a climate disaster.

**LASTheatre** worked on *The Rascally Diner* show exploring healthy eating, nutrition and its impact on the environment - a creative, messy and joy-filled participatory performance.

**The Gramophones Theatre Company** break down the princess archetype - they worked on *Aidy the Awesome* - an aerial and acrobatic show about a young girl becoming a superhero.





# ARTIST RESIDENCIES

## Leo J Skilbeck and Theo Oloyade (produced by Milk Presents...)

Theo Oloyade is one of the UK's leading choreographers in Krump, and Leo J Skilbeck is one of the UK's leading maker/directors in queer theatre. This R&D brought together their unique practices to ask what

queer krump might look like, using Shakespeare's sonnets to explore love, lust and heartbreak.

**Mighty Mini Productions** worked on a baby show for mums who have experienced postpartum psychosis and postpartum depression.



# PARTICIPATION

We continued working with vulnerable girls excluded from mainstream school in a project led by inspirational women from the creative industries, building motivation and ambition. This year a facilitated discussion took place with a group of boys (also excluded from mainstream school) around masculinity in the music industry. 10 young people took part. In this photo you can see course leader Arfa Butt (music industry executive, Trustee of Music for Youth & Chair of Governors of a free school in Newham) with inspirational speaker Kimberly Nichole, singer songwriter, as seen on *The Voice* Season 8 USA.



Our **SEN WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME** ran over **10 WEEKS** with **10 PARTICIPANTS** recruited via **3 LOCAL SEN SCHOOLS** and Face Front Theatre – an inclusive theatre company based close to our venue. **9 YOUNG PEOPLE** earned Bronze Arts Awards equivalent to a GCSE Grade D-E.

Sadly the work placements which were due to follow were cancelled due to Covid-19.



# BARNET CULTURAL EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

On Wednesday 30th October 2019 we hosted a BCEP Launch event where over 100 attendees including partners, members, artists and teachers got to learn about Cultural Education Partnerships, celebrate local talent, and begin sowing the seeds for a 3 year activity programme. The event was introduced by BCEP Chair Susy Stone – a retired Headteacher and recipient of Barnet Council's Lifetime Achievement Award 2019. The event included performances from local schools, teacher-artist networking, and introductory sessions to the three working groups: Cultural Heritage, Health & Wellbeing, and Performing Arts in Education. Since the launch a youth panel group has worked with Sisterhood design consultancy to develop a name and brand for the BCEP for launch, November 2020.



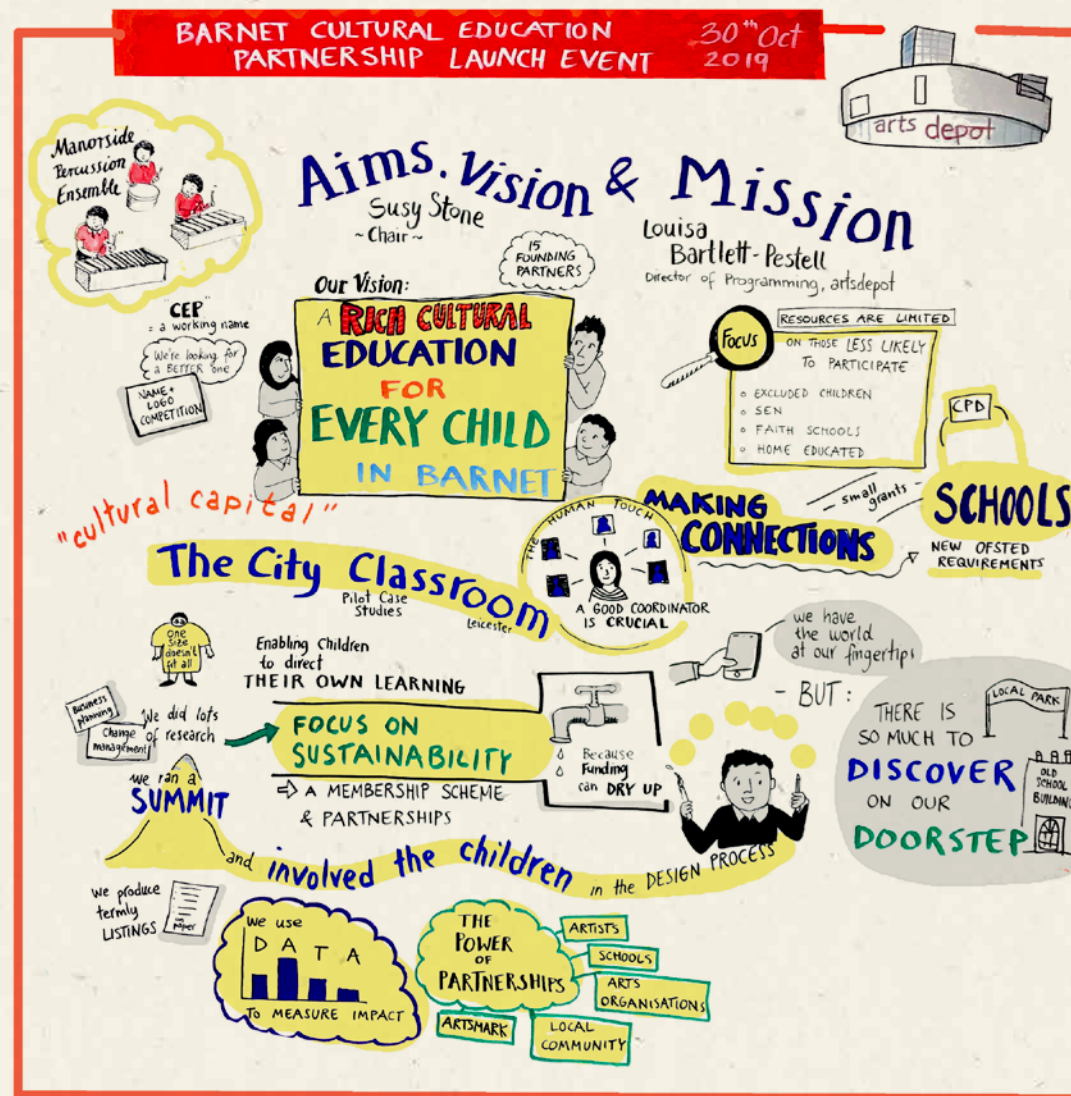
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**A NEW DIRECTION**  
We create opportunity



JOHN LYON'S CHARITY

BCEP Founding partners & steering committee members include: artsdepot, Barnet Education Arts Trust, Barnet Partnership 4 School Sports (Dance Festival), Middlesex University, Barnet Schools Improvement Service, Barnet Libraries, RAF Museum, London Studio Centre, Unitas Youth Zone, Barnet CAMHS Service / Raphael House, Young Barnet Foundation, The Pavilion Study Centre, Compton Secondary, Mapledown SEN and Hyde Primary.





# MATINEE LUNCH CLUB

Over **3 events** (*Swing That Music*, *Cinderella* and *The Little Prince*) we welcomed **217 attendees** and served **144 hot lunches**. Sadly we had to cancel Tricity Vogue's VE Day Cabaret scheduled for May that already had 50 guests signed up. Thanks go out to programme partners Age UK, Jewish Care, The Fremantle Trust, Your Choice Barnet, Jesus Hospital Charity, Friends in Need, and all the individual care homes and day care centres.



# YOUNG LONDONERS FUND PROJECT

## CONEY & THE PAVILION STUDY CENTRE @ UNITAS YOUTH ZONE, SUPPORTED BY THE MAYOR OF LONDON

Coney are **interactive theatre makers and experts in digital engagement**. The Pavilion Study Centre supports young people excluded from mainstream school, and Unitas Youth Zone is a new accessible youth facility in Grahame Park, Barnet. This project was designed as a series of workshops called *Some Things You Don't Know About Me* which encouraged **34 young people** (including a group removed from mainstream school) to recognise their talents and super-powers, and re-direct negative behaviours and energies towards positive outcomes. The 9 sessions generated content to be transformed into a digital game the young people can then participate in. Covid-19 closed the project before completion although a number of young people had engaged in a consistent way, whose voices come across in the draft game script.





## CREATIVE INDUSTRIES INSIGHT PROGRAMME DELIVERED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HIGHRISE THEATRE

For several years we have collaborated with HighRise Theatre on **projects which engage diverse and disadvantaged young people** providing an insight into the creative industries and work placement opportunities. This 2020 programme was due to launch in the Spring when Covid-19 forced us to postpone to Autumn 2020 and Spring 2021. We are currently rescheduling 4 insight projects with partners The Pavilion, 4Front Project, Youth Realities, and Oak Hill School.

## APTHORP GALLERY SCHOOLS PROJECT AUTUMN 2019 - CLIMATE EMERGENCY!

Climate Emergency was a collaborative project between architecture practice Studio Bark, Take Stock Exchange, artsdepot and 3 Barnet schools: 1 primary, 1 secondary and 1 SEN.

Students were invited to **explore the climate crisis and what it means to them**. The project used Studio Bark's revolutionary U-Build system for the students to create sustainable sculptures and responses to the theme which were then exhibited in artsdepot's Apthorp Gallery throughout December. **53 pupils participated in workshops** and then attended the exhibition.

Supported by

 **The Ove Arup Foundation**





# ACTIVITIES UNDER LOCKDOWN

In the early Summer of 2020 following an application to the London Rescue Fund we were delighted to receive generous support from John Lyon's Charity, in addition to their multi-year funding of the Barnet Cultural Education Partnership, towards a programme of online activities. Whilst much of that work will be featured in our 20/21 report here are some updates on activities delivered in the final months of our 19/20 financial year.

## LOCKDOWN ART EXHIBITION

**145 artworks** exhibited on our website submitted by **48 artists** of all ages.

## HOMEQUEST

Online interactive, immersive and game based theatrical adventure with Dean Rogers, **6 participants aged 10-14** joined over 4 sessions.



## LIFE AFTER LOCKDOWN

**6 sessions** delivered with young people **aged 11-14** exploring the **impact of Covid-19** and their hopes for the future. A 22 minute film documents the outcomes available on our YouTube channel.



Art Exhibition, top to bottom:

*Spongebob* by Genesis Brown age 7

*Pictures of Pokemon and The Tree of Memories* by Anwar

*Custard on Toast* by Sophie Young

*We Will Beat This* by Roxi







## EVENTS DELIVERED BY OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS INCLUDED

### BIG BEAT PLAYGROUND

Regular family-friendly, festival style events with DJs, dancing, creative activities and chill out spaces.

### SILK ROAD DANCE FESTIVAL

UK China Performing Arts

### QAJAR THEATRE, SEVEN THEATRE GROUP

Persian Iranian Theatre

### HEMANTIKA KATHAK FESTIVAL 2019

Sujata Banerjee Dance Company

### CORAM SHAKESPEARE SCHOOLS FOUNDATION

'Giving young people across the UK the confidence to succeed in life'

"Qajarian Theatre written by Darioush Ra'ya and Directed by Darioush Rezavani was unforgettable and interesting, audiences gave very good feedback and comments. It was absolutely incredible and emotional for audiences and good organising for Arts Depot theatre efficiently and safely. Iranian artists have a wonderful good memory in Arts Depot and this theatre is familiar for Iranian audience who live in London."

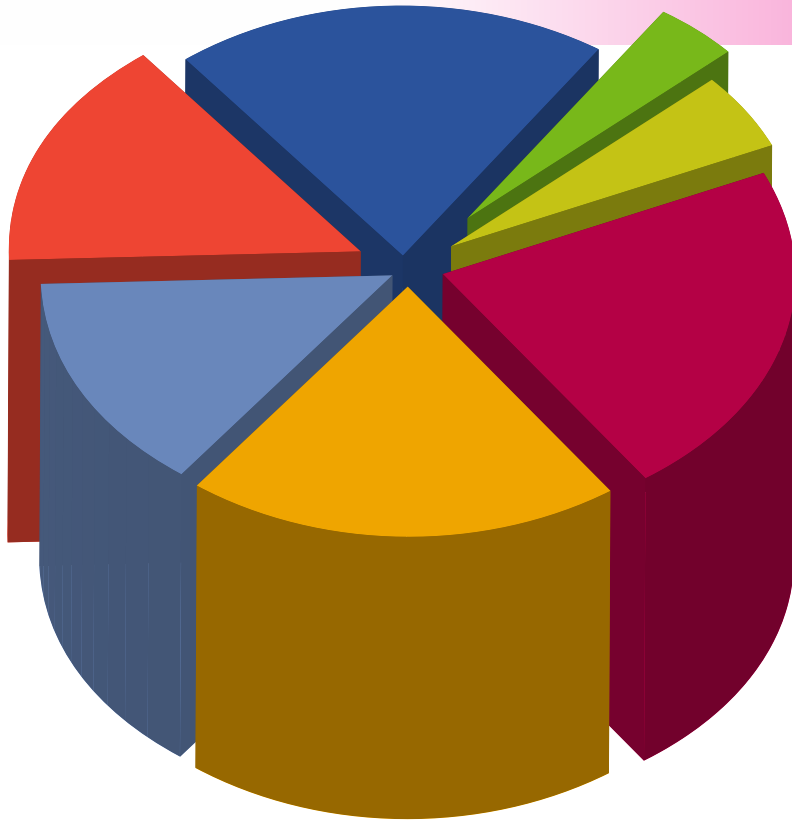
### AND A SHOUT OUT TO PARTNERS THAT DELIVERED WEEKLY SESSIONS AT ARTSDEPOT DURING 2019/20:

Adult Art | Adult Ballet for Beginners | BoxFit | Children's Art | Fashion and Design | Diddi Dance | Give Into Dance | Kids Yoga with Tulika | Little Volcanoes Science Club | The Finches Choir | Mini Mozart | Theatre Life Academy | Pilates Matwork | Musical and Sensorial Spanish Activeplay | MAMA.codes | Little London Ballet | Singing and All That Jazz | North Finchley Life Drawing | New Horizons Theatre Company | Step & Sweat | POPCORN Film Making | Sing Mama Sing | Latin American Cantora Workshop | Resources for Autism





## Income £2.1 million



### KEY:

20% Box Office

4% Hires

5% Catering

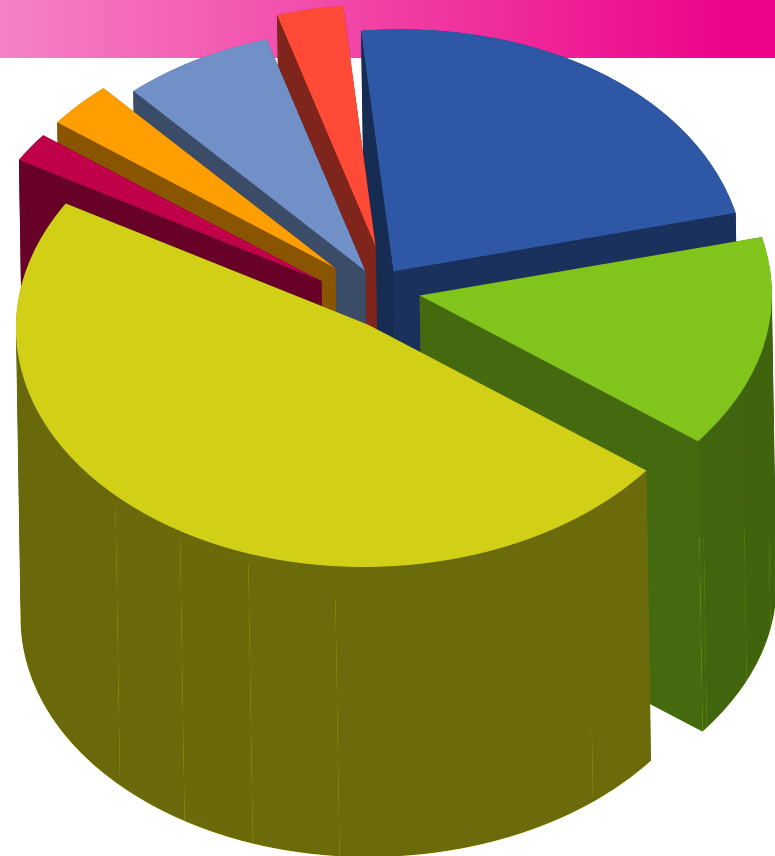
22% Rent

20% Arts Council

14% Fundraising

15% Furlough Grants

## Expenditure £2.1 million



### KEY:

23% Artists & Shows

14% Venue Costs

48% Staff

2% Marketing

3% Education

7% IT, Office, Legal

3% Catering



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**MAYOR OF LONDON**

  
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artsdepot, 5 Nether Street, Tally Ho Corner,  
North Finchley, London, N12 0GA





