



arts depot

ARTSDEPOT SOCIAL IMPACT REPORT

APRIL 2024 - MARCH 2025

A MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO & CREATIVE DIRECTOR, MONIQUE DELETANT

What a year of creativity and performance!

The start of our 20th birthday celebrations began with a special performance from Dame Evelyn Glennie – and the launch of a major heritage research project supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund linked to our 20th anniversary year.

As our home in North Finchley became ever busier we focussed on enhancing arts and creativity across Barnet as part of our mission to reach every family in Barnet by 2027. Alongside the international and world leading performances at artsdepot in 2024-2025 which welcomed Horatiu Malaele, Michael Palin and Dame Evelyn Glennie we continued our rich programme of workshops, classes and artist residencies.

Following the work we have done with Colindale Communities Trust providing the Fun Palace Festival, and support for West Hendon Arts and Wellbeing Society we have secured funds for a three year Beyond Our Walls programme which will see a Community Producer supporting local creatives in Burnt Oak, Colindale and West Hendon.

We have been listening and working to expand our offer so that we have performances for all ages. We are broadening our music offer and in 2024-2025 presented shows by Joe Orton and Alan Ayckbourn.

As a charity we exist through a delicate balance of donations, fundraised support and earned income. Whilst this is becoming increasingly challenging we continue to focus our efforts on being a creative home for everyone and showcasing the best arts and culture.

Many thanks for your support.



Monique Deletant
Chief Executive



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

- 418** ticketed performances
- 78,893** tickets sold
- 187,000** attendances
- 1,645** people reached through outreach activities
- 10,608** children and young people took part in creative learning and performance
- 1,045** children from nine schools saw touring show Boxville in their School Hall
- 7** artist residencies supported and 16 creative businesses mentored
- 3** free festivals (including Fun Palaces in Colindale) and 11 free exhibitions
- 96** performances had access provisions

“It’s her dream to be on the stage. We don’t have much opportunities to be in places like this, except now because of the offer of free spaces – they really like it; they practice at home – I’m proud of them.”

Summer Camp Parent



ARTSDEPOT AS A DESTINATION

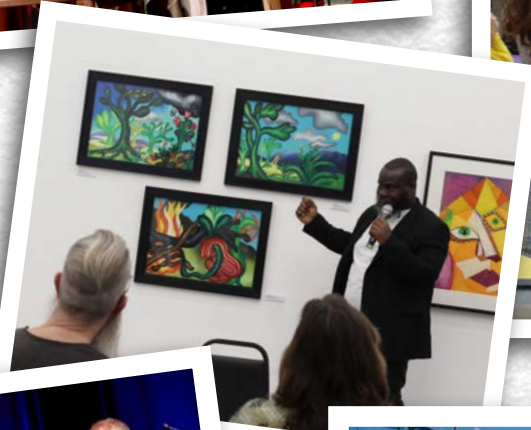
PROGRAMMING HIGHLIGHTS

Our first co-production in several years; *The Fir Tree* by How It Ended presented in our Studio Theatre to **1,292 attendees**, and we co-commissioned Crescendorius with their new piece *A Message for the Future*.

488 participants took part in our *Department of Winter* festive installation.

11 free exhibitions including a selection of works on loan from Inside Out who support artists facing significant barriers to the art world due to health, disability, isolation or social circumstance. The exhibition was curated by artist **Abdul Waheed Adeniran** – mentored by artist **Julia Elmore**.

1000+ attendances at **3 free festival events** including Book Buzz, Big Draw and Fun Palaces.



OUR AUDIENCES



Young audiences

Tall Stories' December 2024 presentation of **The Gruffalo's Child** proved as popular as ever attracting **12,355 audiences**, with the second most popular children's show **The Gruffalo** delighting **3,563 visitors** over October Half Term.

Family Audiences

Our family programme continued to delight with **storytelling, music and dance**, including **Nick Cope's Family Show**, **Pirates Love Underpants**, **The Smeds and the Smoos** and **Dogs Don't Do Ballet**.



Dame Evelyn Glennie – 20th anniversary performance

20 years on from when Dame Evelyn Glennie performed in our inaugural programme she returned to share her incredible talent for music, and intriguing life story, overcoming deafness to become a world renowned percussionist.

Adult Audiences

We continued our modern-day classics with Joe Orton's **What The Butler Saw**, Alan Ayckbourn's **Just Between Ourselves** and Oscar Wilde's **The Picture of Dorian Grey**.

ARTSDEPOT AS A SECTOR LEADER

SEN Work Experience & Work Placements

9 young people with Special Educational Needs joined us for a ten-week, 1 day per week, group learning programme where they gained an insight into roles and responsibilities required to run a busy arts centre. All 9 went onto work placements.

"Before I joined the programme I was mostly at home looking for work getting very bored and feeling a bit low. At Arts Depot I enjoy having some structure to the week, learning new things and meeting new people."

Romania Day @ artsdepot

In recognition that Romanians have been the **largest migrant community** to Barnet for several years, artsdepot presented its second Romania Day festival including an art exhibition, poetry recital and book stall, drama workshops and food stalls.

Matinee Lunch Club

197 attendances at 3 Matinee Lunch events: Ragroof Tea Dance, Tricity Vogue's All Girl Swing Band and Hop Skotshne Klezmer Band.

"He has dementia and can be very serious, but when he was dancing his face lit up and he looked so happy."

Artist residencies & support

In addition to quarterly **newsletters to 7,000+ e-subscribers** we delivered **5 CPD workshops**, and announced **8 new artist residency projects** receiving a package of support worth £6,000 each.

Co-Commissioning and support

We co-produced **The Fir Tree** with How It Ended and co-commissioned **A Message for the Future** by Crescendorius.

With backing from The Shared Prosperity Fund via Barnet Council we were also able to mentor 16 creative businesses providing seed funding to 8 applicants worth £500 each.

We continued to manage the **Barnet Arts & Culture Network** growing membership from 130 to 204. In this role we share information, host informal networking meetings, and contribute to consultation, scoping and planning.



ARTSDEPOT ACROSS THE BOROUGH OF BARNET

We delivered our annual Fun Palaces festival at the Colindale Communities Trust. 251 people took part in workshops and creative activities.



SPRING SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Over Spring 2025 we worked with **MATT+FIONA** – an award-winning social enterprise that asks young people how their built environment might be improved and empowers them to bring that vision to life. The project engaged **119 pupils from three schools** who designed and built structures out of found and recycled materials forming an exhibition in our Gallery in Easter 2025.

“These sessions have sparked my creativity and has made me want to write a book about a girl who goes to school outside in the forest.” Pupil

“The workshops have created a space for students to work in groups on a large-scale project that is adaptable to cater to different learning styles and needs. They develop skills such as negotiation, compromise, and collective decision-making.” Teacher

UPSTANDING CITIZENS

Our falls prevention dance and movement **classes** relocated from The Age UK Ann Owens Centre in East Barnet to Tarling Road Community Centre in East Finchley. A second pilot group was established at the West Hendon Community Hub. Across these two groups we are helping **15 older people build their strength** and improve their wellbeing.

“I have seen many physios but none of them have managed anything which comes close to this.”

“I have felt a huge physical improvement and made new friends.”



BARNET & CULTURE FOR YOUTH (B&CY)

artsdepot is the administrator of B&CY – the cultural education partnership for Barnet. Examples of our 24/25 projects include:

Touring show - Boxville

Boxville was performed in **5 schools for 1,045 pupils** – with **11 performances** presented to groups coming from **9 participating schools**.

“It was wonderful. Highly engaging and something different for our pupils. They were a part of the story and went on a journey with the production group. They developed the confidence to create, the wonderful memories. A brilliant show.” Headteacher

Pavillion PRU Residency

From October 2024 – January 2025, we placed **Young Urban Arts Foundation** in the Pavillion PRU Whetstone site facilitating **10 weeks of workshops**. Music producer Sterling worked with young people on rap, lyric, production and music skills. **2 participants returned to mainstream school**.

“the songs have been very successful, we have created a project with good vibes, I have learnt to think outside the box, I look forward to each week and engage very well.”

Participant

“There has been an enhancement in the SEMH (social, emotional mental health) of students. This is evident in the positive attitude towards each session, their ability to work closely together allowing each other to take creative risks in a safe and non-judgemental space.” Teacher



Residency at Mapledown SEN School

In Autumn 2024 we placed **artist Xavier Leopold** in Mapledown School for a **10 week residency exploring identity**. The artworks were collated into one collective collage, exhibited at Mapledown and then artsdepot.

“In this session, I used leaves as a tool to discuss the concept of uniqueness. By comparing the intricate veins of leaves to our distinctive fingerprints, I highlighted the beauty of individuality in nature and ourselves.” Xavier

A youth leadership in the arts event welcomed **over 100 artists, educators and young people** for a day of shared learning and professional development.

Autumn Term 2024, we launched a **monthly Spark home educated workshop programme** led by artist **Jasmine Kahlia**. Young people have explored beatboxing, rap, looping and illustration.

ACCESS & INCLUSION

Staff diversity

A significant focus on access and inclusion has seen disabled staff members increase from 12.9% to 23.3% over the year to April 2025.

Free tickets

We provided **360 free Access Fund tickets** via referral partners, and a further 265 free tickets were claimed under a new scheme for people in receipt of state benefits. **In future years we aim to distribute 1,000+ tickets annually across the two schemes.**

Accessible performances

2024/25 saw expansion to interpreted & accessible performances partly driven by a co-production with How It Ended theatre company making Hans Christian Anderson's The Fir Tree. The show was designed to be accessible for audiences with autism & sensory impairments, all performances were relaxed.

96 performances had access provisions including 60 relaxed, 21 with interpretation for people with sight and hearing loss, and 15 presented in non-British languages including Farsi, Hindi, Hebrew and Romanian.



Inclusive Summer Camp 2024 – ‘We Will Rock You’

In our 4th year of delivering an **Inclusive Summer Camp**, **47 children and young people** joined us for 11 days learning about musical theatre. This year's group included 20 fully funded places provided for children and young people eligible for Free School Meals, 2 part funded places (50%) for young people from low income families. 12 participants had support needs, conditions included ADHD, autism, dyspraxia, a severe stammer, one wheelchair user, a hearing impairment, epilepsy, and type 1 diabetes.

“I really enjoyed the camp - the acting, the singing, basically everything. I felt nervous before camp but now I’ve made some good friends – I didn’t know anyone before I started. I know my parents are feeling proud.”

Participant



COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Our hires and community events continue to be a key part of our business model **generating £371k over the year**. Importantly, the events and workshops presented by third parties also enable us to support and engage a broad variety of cultural activities, often produced by other charities, voluntary organisations and education providers.

Last year 7 hired productions were presented or translated in non-British languages. Events of particular relevance to diaspora communities include for example: **Axis Trust Gala** and **Acacia Arts Exhibition** for the Turkish community, Dorna Art Group **Solitude** performance for the Iranian/ Persian community, Suchismita Ganguly Dance Company's **Raga & Rhythm** for the Indian Community, **Sunt un Orb** by Horațiu Mălăele for the Romanian Community, and **Guri Alfi Stand-Up Comedy** for the Jewish community.

Over the year 1,924 classes were hosted with total attendances estimated at 65,629. The team managed 246 bookings including 136 theatre performances. 5,410 tickets were provided as comps to third party hirers to distribute at their discretion, and we sold 24,354 tickets on their behalf.



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

We have moved to a new waste supplier which allows us to separate glass from other recycling waste and continue to partner with local organisations to be a bee friendly buzz stop and our café has achieved the Kids in Museums family café standard.

We secured a **£5,000 grant from Barnet Council** to complete an eco audit and have begun fundraising to install a solar array placing **117 photovoltaic solar panels** on our roof with the potential to **reduce our carbon emissions** by 18.6 tonnes per year – 9% of our annual use.

INCOME & EXPENDITURE

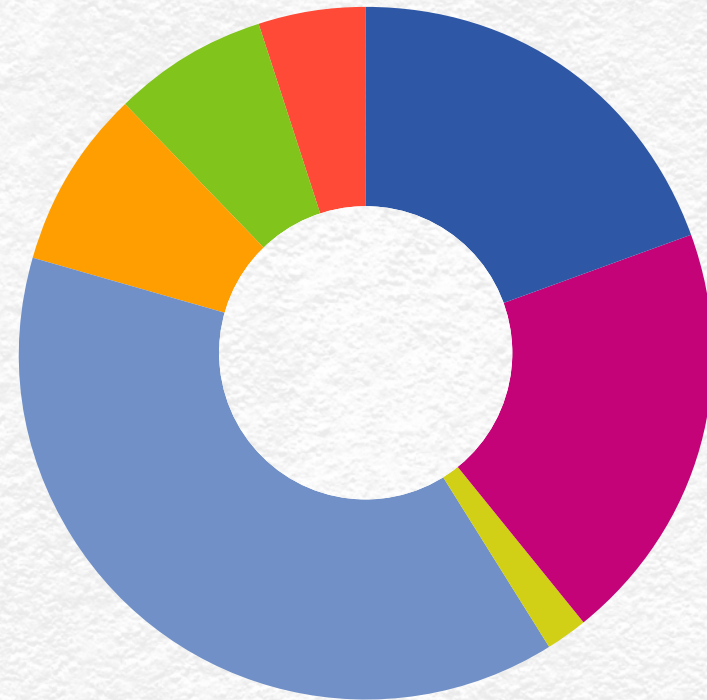
GROSS INCOME £2.580 MILLION



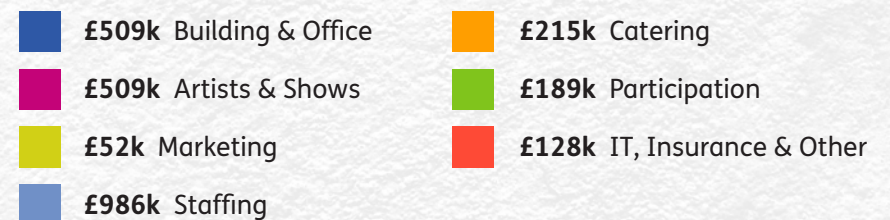
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GROSS EXPENDITURE £2.589 MILLION



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OUR SUPPORTERS

Many thanks to over 1,500 patrons who supported us through ticketing donations and memberships including artsdepot Associates and Advocate Supporters: Jeanette Adak, Johnathan Beeston, Benjamin Cowsill, Mina Egan, Joan Fogel, Rolanda Hyams, Nicola Koppelman, Martin Norwood, Caroline Powls, Michael Pritchard, Lesley Reuben, Himanshuh Shah and Dr Andreas Zollmann.

WE ARE ALSO VERY GRATEFUL TO THE FOLLOWING SUPPORTERS

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

