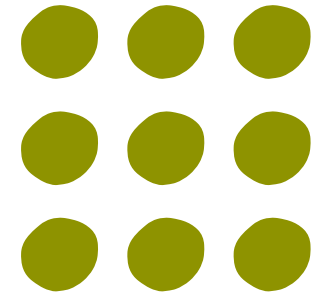


Glasgowlife

**Creative
Communities**
Artists in residence



Introduction



Creative Communities: Artists in Residence (AiR) is an ongoing Glasgow-wide initiative placing 23 artists and arts organisations into the 23 wards of Scotland's largest city.

Launched in 2018, Phase 1 sought to engage local communities to ascertain their art needs and Phase 2 built on this, during the pandemic, to generate genuinely outstanding change. With Phase 3 soon to begin, we wanted to share the story so far.

Summary

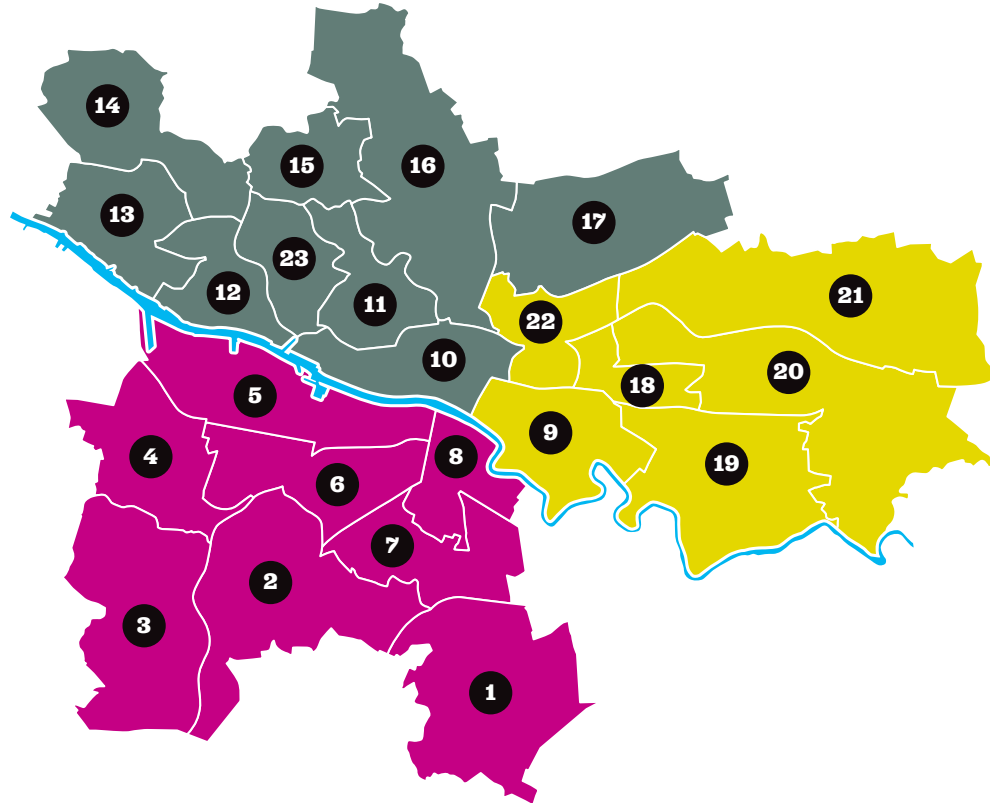


Aimed initially at creating more opportunities for artists to work locally in Glasgow, the Creative Communities: Artists in Residence (AiR) initiative has developed into much more.

Bringing communities, groups and individuals together during the incredibly isolating heart of the pandemic, residencies pivoted to find new ways of working and continued to support local people, including some of the city's most vulnerable and disenfranchised.

Phase 3 begins as we emerge into the 'new normal' and it could be argued that the pandemic, although presenting untold challenges, not least to those within the arts community, created conditions conducive to these initiatives really taking root, and we can't wait to see where they take us next.

Glasgow's 23 Electoral Wards



- 1 Linn 2 Newlands/Auldburn 3 Greater Pollok 4 Cardonald 5 Govan 6 Pollokshields
- 7 Langside 8 Southside Central 9 Calton 10 Anderston/City/Yorkhill 11 Hillhead
- 12 Victoria Park 13 Garscadden/Scotstounhill 14 Drumchapel/Anniesland 15 Maryhill
- 16 Canal 17 Springburn/Robroyston 18 East Centre 19 Shettleston 20 Baillieston
- 21 North East 22 Dennistoun 23 Partick East/Kelvindale

North East

Calton, Springburn, East Centre, Shettleston, Baillieston, North East, and Dennistoun

Ward Artists

North-East wards artists: John Binnie, Robin Mitchell, Tina Freeland, Mandy McIntosh, Skye Loneragan, Rebecca Fraser, Alasdair Satchel, Walker & Bromwich, and The Bit Collective.

North West

Anderston/ City Centre, Hillhead, Victoria Park, Garscadden/Scotstoun, Drumchapel/Anniesland, Maryhill, Canal and Partick East/Kelvindale

North-West wards artists / organisations:

Donna Rutherford, Janie Nicoll, In The Making Glasgow, Ignite Theatre, Nevis Ensemble, Louise Nolan, Saffy Setohy, and Tricky Hat Productions.

South

Linn, Newlands/Auldburn, Greater Pollok, Cardonald, Govan, Pollokshields, Langside, Southside Central

South Glasgow wards artists / organisations:

Deirdre Nelson, Village Storytelling Centre, Daniele Sambo & Hannah Brackston, Fiona Fleming, Paul MacAlindin (The Glasgow Barons), Martin O'Connor, Julie Fraser, and Ando Glaso.

Music



Of the 23 residencies 5 focused their activity on music, reaching hundreds of people. In **Govan** there were weekly singalongs, guitar and piano teaching and music video making, and in **Southside Central** two entirely new pieces of music were created.

Song writing was also one aspect of the **Calton** residency and in **Baillieston** and **Partick East / Kelvindale** music was brought to many via performances in the great outdoors.

Impact

Marginalised Communities

This included marginalised communities. In Govan the residency welcomed their asylum seeking musicians into a community created by the lead artists the Glasgow Barons, where they could create and share together. Entitled Musicians in Exile this pre pandemic project went online and managed to create a new music video every 4-6 weeks.

Those with complex learning needs and sensory deprivation mastered creating verbal and body percussions through another strand of the residency, the classes giving them something to look forward to during a very isolating time.

Isolated communities

In Baillieston outdoor performances were held for care home residents, from whom musicians took requests. Creative solutions such as gazebos and sheds were employed to ensure concerts went ahead, whatever the weather.



Film



Film and video making featured in many of the residencies, including in **Garscadden/Scotstounhill** where the film company Ignite brought film making skills to the local community.

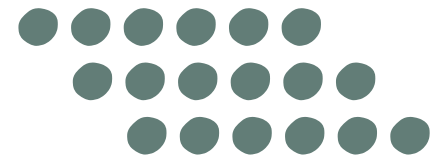
In **Drumchapel/Anniesland** musicians worked with two primary schools, reaching a total of 120 children for six weeks, creating a new piece of music and a series of videos, each covering an aspect of music - Pulse, Rhythm, Melody and Lyrics.

Impact

Young People

In Garscadden young people from diverse backgrounds were trained in how to use camera and sound equipment, providing them with skills for life and an opportunity to look at life through a different lens.

In creating a series of videos for teachers to use in classrooms and pupils to follow at home, the Drumchapel/Anniesland residency leaves a legacy that can continue to inspire younger generations into the future.



Writing



From sessions exploring free writing and structured poetry in **Pollokshields**, to an online journaling club in **Maryhill**, and language and writing focused activity in **East Centre**, the written word also featured prominently across the city.

Becoming Woodlands Project in **Hillhead** used writing as part of a nature focused programme of encouraged activity and in **Langside** the Detectives Club project incorporate creative writing alongside art, photography and storytelling.

Impact

EASL Learners

Language is a powerful tool and in East Centre the residency worked primarily with those for whom English is a second language, supporting them to improve both their spoken and written English, by exploring the ins and outs of language.

Men

In Pollokshields creative writing sessions with a men's gardening group explored free writing and gave a much needed creative outlet to many, including those struggling with the impact of the pandemic on their jobs and identities.

Women

And in Maryhill a 10 strong woman group took part in an art journaling club hosted via Zoom, also providing a safe and supportive space to share and be creative.

Visual Art

In **Linn** residency participants created dyes from food waste while others created paintings and visual maps of the journey, and carbon impact, of various foods, while in **Victoria Park** artists used handwritten postcards from the community to create a new local font.

In **Greater Pollock** over 100 people received socially distanced sculpture kits and in **Springburn** 40 local school pupils received art packs with publication and materials with some meeting up for a live outdoor workshop.

In **Calton** local residents helped regenerate Elcho Garden and in **North East** more school kids met up outside for creative workshops as well as taking part in activities from home.

Impact

Sustainability

By highlighting the importance of sustainability through activities around where food comes from, how much we waste and how much we could still use, Linn laid legacy groundwork young people locally, while also giving them a place to ask questions and engage with each other.

Intergenerational

In Calton the artists in residence created a platform for intergenerational engagement, working with and involving everyone from school children to poets of 20 plus years.

At a time when many children had been starved of a creative outlet, and everyone had been missing out on human contact, the project had huge benefits for all involved.

Not alone

Asking 'what anchors you' on postcards shared with/completed by the local community, the Victoria Park residency gave a positive focus to the pandemic and generated hundreds of responses, telling each other they were not alone. The creation of a neighbourhood font has further cemented the bonds built through lockdown, via this artistic outlet.



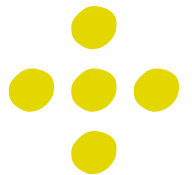
Recording

Recording was used in various projects, from music video creation through to documentary style podcasts. In **Anderston/City Centre** the residency generated interviews with 18-24 year olds and in **Dennistoun** 9 episodes of a bespoke podcast series were produced and shared with over 700 listeners online.

Impact

Driver for Change

In Anderston/City Centre the residency recorded different female voices of different ages across Phase 1 and Phase 2 and concluded that many of the issues faced by the women locally remained the same now as they were in past generations. This kind of social insight is a huge driver for change.



Photography

In **Cardonald** local residents were tasked with taking and providing photographs of their favourite views and their images were then referenced in pieces by the artist in residence.

In **Shettleston** photographs were used to tell stories of local life and to encourage other members of the community to walk new routes located locally.

Impact

In Cardonald the residency had the impact of making the local community feel seen. Not only was the result beautiful images of places they saw every day, the artist identified that 'dignifying something with closer attention' gave rise to a sense of pride.



Nature & Art

For the **Canal ward** residency, a co-designed participatory project with local womxn (women) in the community, responding to the canal as a site of regeneration and re-wilding as an ecological and personal practice, took place.

In the **North East** ward a nature focused visual arts project saw ecology themed work packs delivered locally and the residency developed links between local people and indigenous communities in Colombia as part of work toward and beyond COP26.

The **Newlands/Auldhouse** residency used storytelling, writing and design workshops to develop a new walking the local Faery Trail, encouraging those taking part to look at things differently and perhaps through the eyes of another.

Impact

Discovery

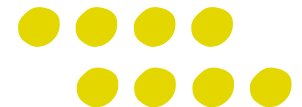
Carried out both in person and online this residency allowed for participants to share their thoughts and experiences linked to the local area of the Canal, enabling them to see it through the eyes of others.



Phase 2 engaged with over

24000

people either online or in person, and over 100 artists were involved in the delivery of the work across the city.



Next Steps

Funded by



In October 2021 Phase 3 of Creative Communities: Artists in Residence kicks off, building on the incredible work carried out in Phase 2, which saw artists and communities alike pivot in face of the pandemic, to create projects that have truly captured both the hearts and spirit of the great city of Glasgow.

