

City Bridge Trust – Monitoring Visit Report

Organisation: Triangle Arts Trust	Grant ref: 10545 (Jenny Field)	Programme area: Bridging Communities\b) Joint work
Amount, date and purpose of grant: 19/05/2011: £48,300 over three years (3 x £16,100) towards the salary of the Education and Outreach Co-ordinator (2 days per week), plus an outreach programme encouraging social cohesion in North Lambeth.		
Visiting Grants Officer: Tim Wilson accompanied by Mr Mayhew	Date of meeting: 27 March 2013	
Met with: Katie Orr (Education and Outreach Coordinator), Zoe McCloud (Deputy Director) and several project beneficiaries.		
1. Introduction to the organisation: Triangle Arts Trust (Triangle) is a contemporary arts organisation based near the Oval in studios called <i>Gasworks</i> . The studios run regular exhibitions and residencies, rent space to local artists, and participate in a global network with comparable organisations in New York and South Africa. In addition to the professional arts activities, Triangle is also concerned with community outreach, and runs participatory workshops involving local residents. This community project is called <i>Even Better Together</i> .		
2. The project funded: Triangle began running <i>Even Better Together</i> five years ago, with the intention of making Gasworks a location where people could meet neighbours. Oval is a very diverse area, with high-density social housing and limited public space. At time of application the project had already worked with 450 local families as well as groups from several schools and neighbouring charities. Triangle requested funding for three years, covering two days per week of the Education and Outreach Coordinator's time (the remaining three days being funded by Arts Council England). Triangle proposed to expand the reach of the programme by engaging housing associations, schools, youth centres, children's centres and other charitable organisations. It set targets of 30 artist-led workshops annually (each involving 20 participants), the engagement of 30 local residents to promote the programme, and work with a smaller number of Community Ambassadors who would be trained and mentored as future volunteer workshop facilitators.		
3. Work delivered to date: At the end of the first year Triangle exceeded its output targets, running 44 workshops involving 649 participants. The charity has established a group of 9 Community Ambassadors who meet with staff every six weeks to advise on local community needs. Triangle has established new contacts with local organisations, but notes that some local partners have experienced high staff turnover and that it has taken time to re-establish relationships in those cases. Nonetheless, Triangle has developed an extensive local network.		

4. Difference made:

The aim of the project is to increase community cohesion through improved understanding between different cultures and generations. Delivery is workshop based, and monitoring takes place at the end of each activity. The charity asks whether participants worked with people they did not know (89% reported 'yes' in year 1), and asks the open question 'what went well'. The year 1 monitoring form included testimonies relating to community interaction, many noting the benefit of making new friends and getting to know others.

The ongoing work of the Education and Outreach Coordinator ensures that different groups are put together for joint work. The smaller network of local residents and the demographic monitoring data Triangle collects helps to identify who might be missing out.

5. Grants Administration:

The Trust received Triangle's first monitoring report on 31 August 2012 and rated it 'good'. The report provided a number of comments from programme participants and showed the charity had exceeded its targets for the year. An article written about *Even Better Together* for the November 2011 'engage/enquire' international conference at Turner Contemporary gallery was also included with the return.

Triangle provided a copy of form P11 during the visit for the post-holder (Katie). City Bridge Trust's funding has been acknowledged as required in the financial statements that accord to the first year of grant funding (audited accounts for 2012-13 should be available by December 2013).

6. Concluding comments:

The visit included an enjoyable opportunity to take part in an artist-led session and witness first-hand how the charity seeks to build stronger relations between neighbours. The facilitating artist introduced the session with a short discussion of her own practice, explaining how she explores ideas, before encouraging participants to interact with each other around the production of an art work.

City Bridge Trust's support for the Education and Outreach Co-ordinator has allowed Triangle to make and maintain contact with a wide range of community organisations. The charity connects its resident and contact artists with local groups, providing activities through which participants meet new people, engage with the contemporary arts and explore new ideas.

Triangle hope to maintain *Even Better Together* after City Bridge Trust funding has concluded and is currently making applications to a number of grant-makers.

Since Trust funding was awarded, Triangle has strengthened its financial position and now hopes to buy its current building and extend the site.

At Mr. Mayhew's recommendation, Triangle has made contact with the Creative Learning team at Barbican and discussed mutual interest in community arts projects.