



September 2023 – February 2025
Annual Review



In September 2023 GLOW Newcastle was established as a registered charity, with the aim of achieving a future where all young people aged 0-25 have equitable access to high-quality cultural opportunities, both in and out of school.

We work to support children and young people to flourish as creative, connected, active, and engaged members of communities.

The charity grew out of the Newcastle Cultural Education Partnership, a voluntary partnership of education and cultural sector representatives working together for the benefit of young people in Newcastle.

We decided that to achieve our Vision and to generate the resources required to do this we needed to become a charity.



In the first 18 months as a charity, we have achieved:

1500 children and young people, and their wider communities engaged through events, screenings and longer-term exhibits.

50+ cultural and educational organisations and schools have engaged in our activities.

500+ children and young people took part in creative residencies, projects and events.

80+ teachers and artist-practitioners took part in continued professional development opportunities: attending training, events and learning alongside each other in creative projects.

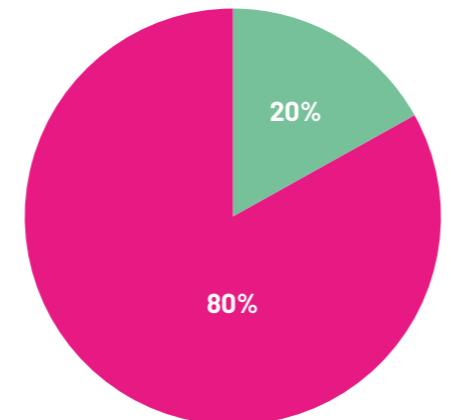
18 freelance artists commissioned



We launched our #GlowTogether network and our newsletter, The GLOW which supports information sharing, partnership building and advocacy.

151 people joined the network including those who work with cultural organisations, schools, practitioners, public and third sector organisations and as freelancers.

Income in our first period
September 2023 to February 2025:
£104,835



● Earned income and partnerships: £21,335

● Trusts, Foundations and Grants: £83,500

We brought a further £49,434 into our accounts, which was money raised against the work of the partnership before becoming a registered charity.

We build relationships and convene sectors who are interested in children and young people's creative education, arts and culture.

We have an active role as a conduit supporting relationships within and across sectors. At our launch and celebration event at Live Theatre in November 2024, we were delighted to welcome the then Minister of State for School Standards, Catherine McKinnell, who gave a keynote speech about the important role of arts and culture in young peoples' lives.

Catherine McKinnell MP spoke alongside Cllr Lesley Storey from Newcastle City Council, Director of School Improvement at Prosper Learning Trust and GLOW Newcastle Board of Trustees member Gary Wright, founding Board of Trustees member Becky Jackson and GLOW Newcastle's Director Bex Mather.

All speakers talked about the profound role cultural experience had in their childhoods, and the influence it had on shaping who they are today. Our founding Chair, Anna Disley, thanked GLOW Newcastle's vital network of supporters who have helped us reach this stage of development. We were heartened by the great attendance, which included representation from over 50 cultural organisations, local authorities, education settings, youth and health sector organisations as well as freelance colleagues.



We co-designed eight Artists Residencies in a range of learning settings including first, primary and secondary schools, alternative academy provisions and further education. We promote co-creative approaches and we build relationships between these residency communities and cultural organisations.



Put Your Stamp On It: Graffiti and Mural art, with Mary Astell Academy

Artist Dan Walls worked with the pupils to design their own tags or signatures, and practice spray-painting, before embarking on a magnificent large-scale mural at the main entrance to the school.

'Working with Dan the graffiti artist was an amazing experience, it gave the pupils the opportunity to learn new skills and to build resilience. The pupils started small on class-based activities practicing their skills before attempting work on the wall. After creating their own tags, along with Dan they came up with the final design that will welcome pupils to Mary Astell for a long time. I think it is safe to say that this is a great achievement and we are all very proud of what the pupils have achieved.'

Sarah Bendelow Assistant Headteacher, Mary Astell Academy



Storytelling through Movement and Visual Art with South Gosforth First School

We worked with South Gosforth First School and multi-disciplinary artist John Quinn, to explore creative expression and imagination through storytelling, movement and visual art. Together they created an immersive film and performance with Year 3 pupils and teachers. The film was shown at the Star and Shadow Cinema in Heaton, Newcastle.

'By taking part in the project, the pupils have had a wonderful, creative and enriching experience which I believe they will remember for a very long time.'

Senior Leadership Team South Gosforth First School



Building up STEAM: 'Create to Empower' with Newcastle College Childcare Department

Artist Lindsey Stevenson worked with Level 1 and Level 2 Childcare students to make STEAM (Science, Technology, Art and Maths) products. The project aimed to increase the students' own creative confidence, as well as emphasise the role of creativity in children's early development – the work was installed in an exhibition and highlighted in the college's Ofsted report.

'It [The residency] has significantly changed our approach to teaching lower-level students and to use creative practice as a more central part of studying.'

Trish Pearson Curriculum Leader, Newcastle College Childcare Department



Listen Up, Pass the Mic! Play, Lead and Communicate with Hawthorn Primary School

Hawthorn Primary School were keen to build on their oracy work to enrich the communication skills of children in years 3 and 4. Artist and theatre practitioner Jonluke McKie collaborated with the children to create a beautiful short film which explores making friends. The project supported children to explore and understand how they can help each other feel valued, heard and connected. The project culminated in a celebratory screening at Tyneside Cinema attended by students, family, carers and wider community.



'I haven't worked in a school before, most of my youth work has been community-based. This has been a great opportunity to grow my practice.'

GLOW Newcastle Residency Artist-practitioner

'The artist brought a range of experience and knowledge to school, not only when working with the children, but also delivering staff CPD. The classes he has worked with have gained a lot, most especially, the children having the opportunity to use their voices to share ideas. It was also lovely that parents could join us at the Tyneside Cinema for the celebration event.'

Feedback Hawthorn Primary School



Singing Sculptures: quests, values and transitions with Sacred Heart Primary School

With Sacred Heart Primary School Ceramicist Annabel Talbot Bonin and songwriter and composer Dave Camlin worked with the pupils to create a sculpture trail and a song. The project explored personal growth and transitions from primary to secondary education while supporting children's understanding and resilience through change. It will form part of the 50-year anniversary of the school's core values in the Summer.

'I was always looking forward to the GLOW time like every time Wednesday. Yeah, it made my day when we listened to the "intellect rap" part.'

Young Artist-participant

'I have thoroughly enjoyed the integration and how the children have worked collaboratively. I have learnt to focus more on the process rather than the outcome, which will help me evaluate our own art curriculum and teaching.'

Participating Teacher



Show Up, Stand Up: My Voice My Choice with Walker Riverside Academy

Walker Riverside Academy invited us to work with their Year 9 pupils to co-create a residency exploring experiences of racial discrimination reported by students in the school. We partnered with Northern Roots artists Kema Kay and Kay Greyson to devise and shoot a film drawing together personal experiences shared by the group and positive messages of change and renewal.

'A really fantastic opportunity for students and staff, with excellent artist contacts. I have learned a lot about the creative process and how to shape young people's ideas in a productive way.'

Kate Perry Careers Lead, Walker Riverside Academy

'I love it! It helps with self-esteem!'

Year 9 Participant Walker Riverside Academy, Newcastle



Spark, Mix, Connect: Our Art, Our Way with Newcastle Bridges School - Kenton site

Lindsey Stevenson of Crooked Halo Crafts worked with pupils whose SEND creates significant barriers to learning, to create designs and models of their dream house and ideal city. The students exhibited their work at the Farrell Centre for Architecture at Newcastle University and became Exhibition Explainers in a private showing for their parents and carers.

'I enjoyed the freedom to adapt and develop the project to meet the needs of the students and allow them to take the lead in its direction.'

GLOW Newcastle Artist-practitioner



#MOBO2025 Fringe "Beyond the Screen"

We engaged a locally based, Black and Global Majority creative team, and recruited over 70 young people from schools and youth groups across Newcastle and Gateshead. Over three weeks we managed workshops and film shoots where young people learned original choreography and were filmed for a "Behind the Scenes" documentary.

'When I arrived, it was brilliant to see me and all of my friends on the screen, I was very proud, the place was very special.'

Young Artist-participant

'The kids all enjoyed watching it [the films] as well and it was lovely to be able to have families along as this doesn't happen very often for us [...] The experience as a whole was amazing for the kids and staff, it was lush to see them challenge themselves and get involved in something different.'

Team Manager Newcastle Young Carers



Autumn Transformations: Turn yourself into a Colour Change Catcher, a Falling Leaves Forager, a Hibernation Hunter, a Migration Mapper, and a Specialist Spotter of Shifting Seasons with Atkinson Road Primary Academy

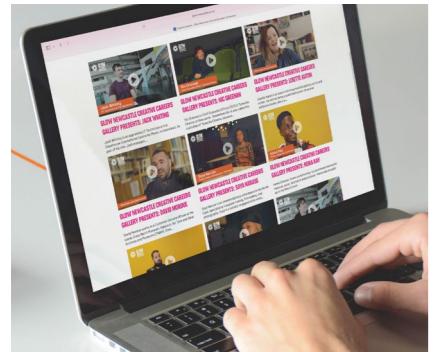
Lindsay Duncanson and John Quinn worked with Atkinson Road Primary Academy to support the children to describe their local Benwell environment and community through photography, audio-visual technology and creative writing. This contributed to research and development for a new photography club at the school, and a beautiful immersive exhibition was planned for the spring term.



GLOW Creative Connections Action Research Project

We were delighted to receive funding from the North East Combined Authority Excellence in Education programme to develop three new residencies in the upcoming year as part of an action learning project: Glow Creative Connections. This work is focused on improving understanding and practice between creative and cultural sector practitioners and teaching teams working with young people to support their social, emotional and mental health needs. We were very pleased to appoint Dr Florence Darling to work with us and our partners: Walker Riverside Academy, Mary Astell Academy and Newcastle College, on the project. Watch this space!

We promote and improve access to creative careers.



Creative Careers Gallery

Professionals working in a broad range of roles in Newcastle's Creative and Cultural sectors, including freelance, senior management, apprentices, directors, public facing and technical staff, have been interviewed on film about their career pathways. Each has a unique page on our website, which includes links and referrals they have provided for young people interested in working in these sectors.

This resource aims to demystify roles with the cultural sectors and myths regarding who can have a career within arts and cultural organisations. Some interviewees speak candidly about their own backgrounds. The resource aims to support inclusion and aspiration for all children and young people to consider roles within the creative and cultural sector. Our aim is to keep building this resource with new contributors and use it in a range of different contexts.

We provided continued professional development (CPD) for over 80 teachers and artist-practitioners in this period.



We incorporate continued professional development (CPD) for colleagues working in education, into all of our artist residencies. Alongside these opportunities we also programme specific stand-alone CPD opportunities. In this period this included sessions led by Kate Maines-Beasley on music and movement play practice with children in their early years and a session with multidisciplinary artist John Quinn entitled: Dealing with Feeling: Relate, Create and Thrive.

'The session was relaxed and the artist supported all staff to take part and engage. The practical activities were fun and we were able to reflect on how we might use them with the children. I have some new ideas to take into the classroom.'

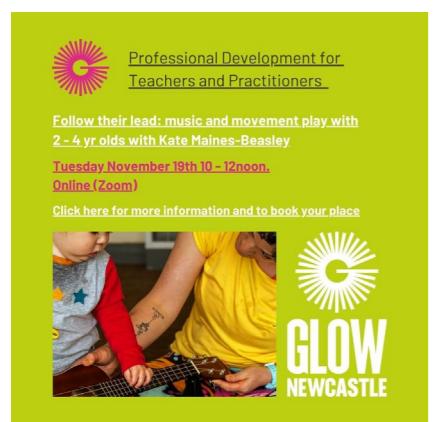
Participating Teacher feedback

'My takeaway from this session is that mindfulness and being in touch with my playful side will help me relax and form a better relationship with my pupils.'

Anonymous teacher feedback

'So brilliant. I'm now more aware of movement in my sessions.'

Anonymous participant feedback



Key priorities for the future:

FACILITATE co-creative programmes with schools and youth settings underpinned by research, forging pathways to further engagement that is easily accessible to young people.

RESEARCH and development which identifies and promotes best practice for arts and culture in special education needs and disabilities and social, emotional and mental health settings.

RAISE awareness of creative careers on behalf of the cultural sector amongst young people in the region.

DELIVER a Cultural Engagement Expo in Newcastle creating a space to explore and celebrate great arts education and engagement practice through seminars, workshops, performances and presentations.

EXPLORE how young people's voice is present throughout our work, helping us learn and progress.

CONVENE through our #GlowTogether network, training, research and information sharing and networking across sectors, supporting collaborations which aim to provide excellent cultural opportunities with and for children and young people.

KEEP GLOWing and shining a light on children and young people's creativity.

Although we have been Newcastle's Cultural Education Partnership since 2015, this has been our first period as a new charity. We are immensely thankful to everybody who has supported our vision so far, to all our education and cultural sector partners and commissioners, our freelance colleagues, staff and trustees. We are particularly grateful to our funders including the Community Foundation who have demonstrated their support of our work by approving our three-year Newcastle Cultural Investment Funding application. A big thank you also to the North East Combined Authority Excellence in Education, Newcastle City Council Arts Development, Arts Council England and our great colleagues at North East Museums.

We would like to thank Rob Irish, Maria Maza, Kieran Mlambo and Dan May for their creativity and skill in capturing our activity across several projects in this review.



#GlowTogether
glow-newcastle.co.uk



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