

Final Report to Macclesfield Town Council regarding the funding of £4000 for the 2023 Barnaby Parade

Thank you for giving Macclesfield Community Artspace the opportunity of working with Barnaby Festival organisers to help produce the first Barnaby parade in five years.

1. Working with Barnaby parade co-ordinator to provide workshops and resources to deliver a parade in Macclesfield town centre as part of the Barnaby Festival 2023

The parade co-ordinator was appointed shortly after the signing of our agreement and I was pleased to be asked to be on the interview panel and be part of the decision making. Once the co-ordinator was appointed I offered them “office” space at Artspace to work once a week which was especially useful in the early planning stages.

Rachel Rhodes then designed a registration form so that participants could tick if they wanted a workshop from Artspace to create their floats and costumes and I monitored the form and contacted all those that had asked for support. We also contacted community venues to see if they were interested in holding a workshop. I was mindful that I have a limited number of volunteers and manpower and so selected those venues which I thought would be well attended and reach more people.

We also walked the route together with Alec Johnson who organised the road closures to get a sense of timings, road safety and practicalities for the float designs.

Artspace also opened their doors for the Barnaby board to hold meetings and volunteer recruitment and briefing days which gave their volunteers an opportunity to see the parade floats developing.

2. To ensure on all promotion related to the parade clearly states that Macclesfield Town Council is a sponsor.

One of our young Artspace volunteers, Katie, designed a poster which we put up in venues such as the library, and other venues where workshops took place. We also posted this on Facebook and often tagged in Macclesfield Town Council when posting parade updates.



3. Ensure workshops and events are accessible to all.

I am extremely grateful to our growing volunteer army who went above and beyond to deliver workshops both onsite and at venues across town. We were able to support every group that requested our help. We also funded a couple of artists to assist with a couple of more specialist pieces for the parade through the grant money, thus employing talented local people.

We know that schools are pressed for time and have a busy curriculum so I allocated volunteers to go out in small teams, supported by myself, to deliver workshops on site, contacting them and arranging workshops to suit them.

After a discussion on their chosen theme, we went to Parkroyal Community School for 2 sessions , taking the resources with us for the children to hand print a rainbow on a large banner. We then returned for the children to make individual raindrops for the banner and volunteer and artist Sara made them a 3D sun to attach. We also provided a rainbow costume for one of the teachers the day.[permission given from Parkroyal re photo].



We went to Ashgrove primary school on the Moss Estate and worked with 2 classes totalling 60 children to make fabric painted flags for the parade around the United Nations Rights of a child. The children chose 5 rights to represent on their flags. Artspace volunteers also made a large painted banner for the day with the school name and logo. I feel that when the children went home with their makes this instilled some enthusiasm amongst the families as Ashgrove was really well represented in the parade.

We also spent 2 full morning sessions [6 hours] at Tytherington High School with their very organised art teacher making 3D carnival masks and cutting out and painting fabric wings! We commissioned art therapist, Glyn Scott to help lead these workshops with his spray painting and design skills.



We were also invited to SUSO at the Heritage centre to deliver 2 workshops helping to make signs and adornments for their costumes around the theme of flowers growing in the light. As a surprise for them we also worked on their float at Artspace making a model of Bill and Ben to push along in a wheelbarrow.



I also arranged drop in workshops at Macclesfield library and at the Green on the corner on the Hurdsfield estate, contacting new Hurdsfield councillor Sarah who came along to give her support. These were less well attended but none the less well received by those that came along. We also set up in the Grosvenor centre the Saturday before the parade for people to make drums

and flags. This again was quieter but gave us an opportunity to give out promotional leaflets for the parade.[with the council logo on ofcourse!]

On site our volunteers and myself kept our doors open for extended hours to work with many groups. I have attached a spreadsheet detailing the hours that community groups accessed Artspace to work on their floats with our support which we have compiled from our signing in sheets. This does not take into account many people who forgot to sign in or might have popped in to borrow resources!

Examples of our work at Artspace includes commissioning Patty Callaghan to work with Danes Moss to make a giant papier mache willow tit. Artspace also built the float base for them to decorate and helped with damselfly, butterfly and bee costumes. The Ukranian choir made use of our sewing room and fabric resources to make their wonderful parade costumes and many of them continue to visit us to use our machines.



In addition some of our regular Artspace users got involved with parade preparations. I am proud to say that one of our ladies who is registered blind made a huge braille sign for our float which said “Seeing through Light and Touch” and Rosie, who has learning difficulties made a lighthouse with her carer which guided our float.

Also around the issue of accessibility we discovered that Shopmobility is closed on a Saturday and had been unaware of the parade. We talked to them and made a donation to them to find volunteers to open their doors for the parade. They are keen to do this in future years.

4. We ensured that all our work met with Barnaby Festivals rigorous risk assessment for the parade. I also arranged a Volunteer Essentials training day delivered by CVS and attended by 14 of our volunteers prior to the event. This helped volunteers refresh their knowledge around Health and Safety, safeguarding and confidentiality ready to take part in such a large public event.

In summary, this has been a busy few months for myself and the volunteers. It has been great seeing so many people through our doors and introduced us to new friends and supporters making it a really positive experience for our organisation. For example, the Ukranian choir invited us all to their summer solstice celebrations to say thank you for our help.

We have been made really welcome when doing outreach workshops and this is something we would like to do more of in the future should we have sufficient financial resources and manpower. Once again, thank you to Macclesfield Town Council for giving us this opportunity to raise our profile in the community. We would hope that this experience has prepared us well to help develop the parade and similar events in the future.

Kind Regards

Jane Griffiths

Macclesfield Community Artspace Co-ordinator



Barnaby Festival Parade 2023



<https://fb.watch/lrNr1cQCKT/>

Video taken by our volunteer Lucie Fitzpatrick