



### CREATING A CULTURE OF COMMUNITY

Allie's Art Club is a grassroots community arts co-operative based in Islington. Born in 2021 at a food bank in Holloway and led by lived experience creatives, our club aims to create a Culture of Community through 3 key objectives:

#### CREATIVE EXPRESSION

Create opportunities for people to express their ideas, knowledge and experiences through a range of artistic mediums.

#### COLLECTIVE CARE

Provide safe and inclusive spaces for people to connect, build supportive relationships and improve their health and wellbeing.

#### CULTURAL EMPOWERMENT

Develop people's creative skills, knowledge and capacity to generate positive social change through art and culture.

#### ARTS FAIR & OPEN MIC LAUNCH PARTY

September 2021 | With AWTIF  
Funded by our Crowdfunder

We launched the club with an arts fair and show which brought local people together and showcased diverse artists.



+ Art Care project launch

#### ART CARE PACKS

October 2021 | With The Pillion Trust  
Funded by Crowdfunder & Launch Party donations

We donated 100 Art Care Packs to the Ringcross food bank, which included a range of art supplies and improved access to art for 100 low-income households.

#### MENTAL HEALTH ART & POETRY ZINE

Jan - April 2022 | Funded by Launch Party

We published a zine which included art and poetry by 10 local artists on their experiences of mental health.

#### MENTAL HEALTH ARTS SHOW

May 2022 | With You Press  
Supported by The Lucky Club

Our arts show included performances and a panel discussion, where people learnt about and expressed their views and experiences of mental health.



#### CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

May 2022 | With Deptford Does Art

We provided a creative writing workshop focusing on self-care, which supported participants' creativity and wellbeing.

#### CREATIVE HANGOUTS

April - September 2023  
Funded by Arts Show donations

We delivered 6 free monthly art socials for local people to connect in a supportive environment and engage in arts activities.

#### ARTISTS UNITE!

August 2023 | With SPACE4

We had a co-op consultation with local artists to understand their needs and how to develop our membership.

#### COMMUNITY ARTS FAIR

September 2023 | With SKAPED  
Funded by Foundation for Future London

We delivered an arts fair including an art market, arts & crafts activities, DJ sets and a potluck, which provided an inclusive community space for people to connect and support local artists.



May 2023

We registered as a Community Benefit Society after completing a co-op training programme with Cooperatives UK.

## OUR IMPACT

Over the past two years, we've engaged with over 400 people through our creative projects and events. Our activities have benefited people from diverse backgrounds in a number of ways:

### CONNECTING LOCAL PEOPLE

"I really enjoyed the community feeling and welcoming atmosphere!"  
Launch Party participant

Over 300 people in total have attended our fairs, shows and workshops, which have provided opportunities for local people to connect and be part of a creative community.

### INCREASING ACCESS TO ART

We donated 100 packs of art supplies to our local food bank and all events have been free or very low-price so they are accessible for people from all income backgrounds.

### SUPPORTING PEOPLE'S HEALTH & WELLBEING

"It was such a fun and relaxing session."  
Creative Hangouts participant

Our Art Care umbrella project has supported the mental health and wellbeing of over 250 people by providing resources, creative health activities and caring social spaces.

### DEVELOPING LOCAL SKILLS & KNOWLEDGE

Our projects, events and workshops have developed local people's artistic skills and their knowledge of mental health, creative entrepreneurship and co-operatives.

### PROMOTING DIVERSE ARTISTS

"I learned so much from other artists and gained confidence to give my small business a go."  
Art market participant

We've worked with 48 artists, poets, musicians, DJs and photographers from diverse backgrounds, who have showcased and sold their work through our projects and events.

### NURTURING LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS

We've worked with a range of organisations over the past two years, including SPACE4, The Alexandra Wylie Tower Foundation, The Pilion Trust, You Press and SKAPED.

## PLANS FOR 2024

### CREATIVE ECOLOGIES

We will launch an umbrella project exploring environmental sustainability and community connections through art.

### CREATIVE HANGOUTS: PHASE TWO

We hope to deliver a second phase of our free monthly art socials to support social inclusion, health and wellbeing.

### BI-ANNUAL ARTS FAIRS

Due to overwhelmingly positive feedback and requests for more, we will run our community arts fairs twice a year.

### CO-OP DEVELOPMENT

We will be working with the Plunkett Foundation to develop a membership offer for people to get more involved in our club, and improving our capacity to operate as a co-operative.