

annual report

Pyramid of Arts
2012/13



2012/13

welcome

Message from Julia (Creative Director)



Welcome to our Annual Report. This has been a most exciting year for everyone at Pyramid. "Time Runs Out" was our most ambitious series of themed public events to date. The three presentations, funded as part of Leeds "Canvas" and "Light Night 2012", attracted an audience of over 9000 people. (See centre pages for the full story in pictures).

All our groups have enjoyed full programmes this year, and other outstanding projects include the Youth Group's "Bingle Jells" and the Elders' "Light Boxes". The High Support programme has also gone from strength to strength.

New this year is the "Beam Team" whose first project was built around Soundbeam technology with visuals developed by the Young Adults creative group. The "Game of Africa" has been much enjoyed by school children and adults and the first tour is now complete.

For much of the year we benefitted from having a freelance Development Manager, Rachel Koivunen. This enabled me to spend

more time on the Canvas events, and, after that, to clarify our plans for future developments. During the Spring we welcomed James Hill (formerly of Arts and Regeneration at Leeds City Council) to our team as Assistant to the Creative Director.

During the year we have developed links with three European Arts Organisations who have a similar ethos to our own. Rachel coordinated a partnership bid for an international exchange for our members during the coming two years. (See Who's Who list for organisations' details.)

I cannot close this summary without expressing my deep gratitude to John Lehany, who passed away in March after a lengthy period of ill health. John has been an inspiration to me. He was a strong and active supporter of Pyramid of Arts since it became an independent charity in 2002, and served first as Treasurer and as Chair of the Trustees Board since 2011. He is sadly missed by everyone here.

Beam Team

The Beam Team is made up of six Pyramid members who create games and activities using Soundbeams. The members initially spent some time learning and building up confidence in using the Soundbeams. They then worked with the Young Adults Group to create an interactive floor map of Africa. The finished game was successfully piloted in schools and training centres across Leeds. The Beam Team received a special commendation for their film submission to the Soundbeam 25th Anniversary competition. The judges described it as 'an ambitious and beautiful project' and 'a very strong submission from a unique organisation'. The group were also proud to receive a Tenfold Awards nomination in the 'Team of the Year' category.



adult programme

Elders group



The Elders Just Wanna Have Fun! So they took their inspiration from Hollywood, to create a set of 'Muppet' style characters, including Elvis and Judy Garland!



Their next project explored light and colour, using projectors and acetate to create **stained-glass effects**. The final result was four light boxes with vibrant, pop-art style Perspex lids. The group particularly enjoyed the practical aspects of building the boxes, rediscovering lost skills such as using a drill.



Ribblehead group

The Ribblehead Group's main work can be seen on page 4-7 in the Canvas project. The group finished the year with a project called **The Bigger Picture**, in which individual designs were transferred to thick wooden blocks and sealed using resin.



Eden group



The Eden Group started the year on a high with the grand opening of their sculpture, Farm Hill, at Meanwood Valley Urban Farm. Over 150 people attended the celebration.

After summoning Curly Crocomouth the Time Hunter for Canvas (see page 4-7), the group started developing their first solo public art exhibition, Home Space. After visiting Leeds galleries to learn about the curation and presentation of work, the process of creating pieces for show began. The paintings will be exhibited at Arts@Trinity in July 2013.

high support programme

The High Support groups had a very productive year with real opportunities to contribute to other projects taking place within Pyramid, such as Canvas and Leeds Light Night. From January onwards, all three groups worked collaboratively towards their final performance and exhibition, 'The Sun Rises' (May 2013).



sound / movement / visual art



Sound Group

The Sound Group worked on composition and recording for much of the year, creating music and sound effects for the Canvas and Leeds Light Night projects (see page 4-7) before recording their own CD of Christmas tunes.



Movement Group

The Movement Group continued to provide a safe and secure environment for gentle stretching and dancing as members responded to works of art and created movement landscapes. The group made their first public appearance on Millennium Square, confidently leading the performance on Light Night, and attracting an audience of 250.



Visual Art Group

Following on from the great success of the shadow puppet project in 2011, the Visual Art Group created a wonderful multi-sensory experience in the form of a sensory parachute. Each segment of the parachute features different sounds, smells and textures and is used regularly in the group. A second project explored how to make art using tools from around the home and what sounds and marks could be achieved.

'Time Runs Out'

An outreach project of Leeds Canvas, one of the national projects of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad

"Time management is the major barrier that society needs to address if people who need additional time to process their experiences are to be fully included in the wider community. There is a need to raise awareness of this during a period of rapid and structural social change".

This project will explore how, as time moves on, different elements interact to influence and change a product or situation. It will enable participants to create real sensory representations of time passing, increasing their understanding of the concepts of time and change.

"Extract from Project proposal – JP 2011



Melting Ice blocks



Exploration of things that change



Starting the delicate job of giving Curly an overcoat



Working on the clock base



The giant hand takes shape

Sowing the Seeds of Time – visitors and artists mingle to plant seeds in the base of the clock during the Waterways Festival



A little water from the millpond will help the seed to grow



The hand of time stands proud at Thwaite Mills



A visit to the elf's hut to get seed



Ring out those bells to mark the hours



Curly Crocomouth looks on from a distance



He takes a moment to rest with his friends from Coppice Head bungalow



The Master of Ceremonies struts his stuff!

"Time Runs Out" – the end of the Paralympic Games was marked with a return to Thwaite Mills to see how the seeds have fared and to celebrate the end of a great festival.



Curly returns from his holidays



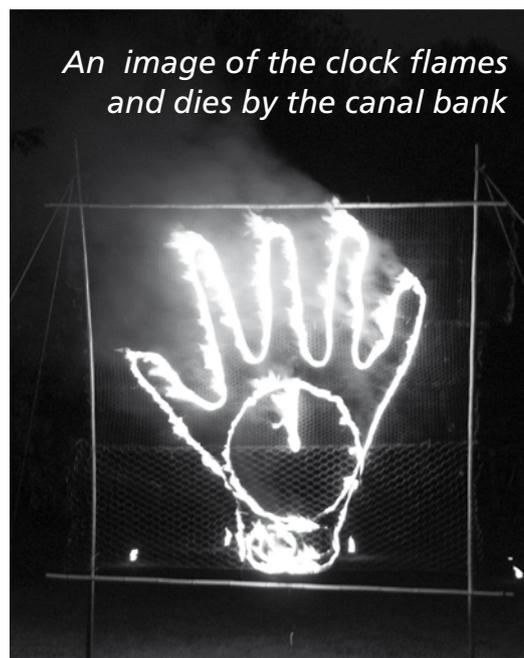
As dusk falls, lanterns shed light on the columns of "Not the Whole Story" Pyramid of Arts Sculpture 2006

But the Hand of Time lives on as people make their way home

1



An image of the clock flames and dies by the canal bank



Our grateful thanks to Adrian Marshall and all the staff at Thwaite Mills for their brilliant support for Pyramiders throughout the nine week installation.

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Light Night 5 October

"Curly Crocomouth's Dream – "The Keepers of the Slow Time"
Millennium Square, Leeds
An installation and performance featuring Pyramiders from the High Support Programme, the Youth group, the Young Adults group, and the Eden Group



Standing Guard



Lantern Bearers share the moment



Final moments – the lanterns are laid as the Time Hunter's dream fades



The stage is set , the lanterns lit, all is prepared



youth programme

youth group

Billy the Mood Frog, is a colourful character created by the Youth Group. It had been raining cats and dogs when they took him on his first outing to the Wyke Beck Valley Arts Trail, set up by our partner organisation Space 2. Expect to see a lot more of Billy next year, thanks to a new grant from BBC Children in Need.

The Youth Group developed their music and song-writing skills with the 'Bingle Jells' project.

Traditional Christmas songs were given the Pyramid treatment, with much long hard rehearsal. Group members then visited a professional recording studio at Leeds Metropolitan University, where they received fantastic support to record them. The CD/DVD, including an animated cartoon, will be released in time for Christmas 2013.



young adults group

The Young Adults produced a beautiful floor map of Africa, along with some animal figures, which the Beam Team used to create an interactive game.

The map has enormous potential as a piece of art in its own right, but needs a large space or wall to exhibit it—any offers, please contact the Pyramid office.

The group also revisited and completed their film, 'Dance the Jitterbug to Bramley'. We're looking forward to screening the premiere in Leeds in the Autumn. Watch out for details on our website / facebook pages.



short projects

Museums & Galleries



From Battlefield to Sports Field

The Royal Armouries hosted a three-day workshop where Pyramid members worked alongside artist Kevin Hickson. Working with willow, the group designed five life-sized sculptures, demonstrating the movement of the human body in battle and in sport. 60 people attended the exhibition launch and the work remained on display from July-September 2012



Den Building in Colour

Taking inspiration from the work of Nike Savvas and working with artist Chris Harman, participants, including Pyramid members and people from Fulfilling Lives Centres, created a series of brightly coloured dens, connected together to form a mini village. This temporary installation was photographed and will feature in a book, produced by Leeds Arts Gallery.

Howard Assembly Rooms

The High Support groups took part in the week long residency at the Howard Assembly Rooms in August along with the Youth Group. Together they rehearsed ideas for Curly Crocomouth's Dream, ending in a superb performance for the public and friends and family.

Disability Awareness Day

Unfortunately this year the picnic we usually have at Temple Newsam was rained off. So we quickly revised our plans and did some workshops at Ramshead Wood Fulfilling Lives Centre making paintings and music with the people there. It was enjoyed by everybody who came—so the rain can't stop us!

Finance

Income

Leeds City Council—Joint Commissioning	£20,798
Leeds City Council—Arts @Leeds	£19,558
Leeds City Council—Adult Social Care	£39,939
Arts Council England—Grants for the Arts	£5,665
Big Lottery Fund	£73,897
Lloyds TSB Foundation	£14,279
Leeds NHS Partnership Trust	£4,650
Vodafone	£625
Yorkshire Bank	£487
Donations	£8,294
Bank Interest	£1,398
Other Income	£611
	£190,201
Allocation from Designated Fund	£51,112

Expenditure

Project delivery and management	£70,882
Additional project activities	£166,983
Governance costs:	£3,250
	£241,115

This information is extracted from the full audited accounts for the period April 2012-March 2013.

For full accounts and Trustees' report, please contact Pyramid of Arts office.

Bankers: Co-operative Bank plc. PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street, Manchester M60 4EP

Barclays Po Box 424, Coventry, CV2 2BR

Brokers: AON, Insurance House, 125/129 Vaughan Way, Leicester LE1 4SB

Auditors: Thomas Coombs, 29, Clarendon Road, Leeds LS2 9PG

Our trustees:

John Lehany (*Chair*) / Felix Odeh (*Treasurer*) / Thomas Chalk / Alex Croft / Clare Enston / Sonia Kitchen / Gloria Lindh

Our thanks to Sam Clark, Pyramid Trustee from 2007-10 for returning to facilitate our Visioning Meeting in January and provide informal support for the Board and senior workers throughout Spring 2013

Our staff team

Julia Piggott – Creative Director
James Hill – Assistant to the Creative Director (from February 2013)
Alison Herbert – Finance Administrator
Sukhvinder K Sond – Project Coordinator (Adult Social Care)
Jane Kenington – Project Coordinator (High Support)
John Kennedy – Project Coordinator (Youth)
Sarah Kennedy – Administrator
David Maccoby – Admin Assistant

Our associates & networks

Arts@Trinity	Through the Maze	Voluntary Action Leeds
Arts and Minds Network	Thwaite Mills Museum	WYP Community Network
Breeze Culture Network	Meanwood Valley Urban Farm	YAMSEN
Castaway Music Theatre	Farm	Yorkshire Youth Music
Goole	Media Trust	
Electroville	NHS Equality Team	Our international partners:
Hargreaves Foundry	Noggin Box	Cooperations, Wiltz, Luxembourg
Howard Assembly Rooms	Playful Leeds	KCAT, Kilkenny, Eire
Include Network	Royal Armouries	SKID GmbH, Uberlingen, Germany
Inclusion North	Scrap	
Leeds Lieder +	Space 2	
Leeds Metropolitan University	Sowerby Bridge Winter Festival	
Leeds City Art Gallery	Tenfold	

Sponsors of Farm Hill

Ben Hardy and Claire Taylor
Casu Consultants Ltd
Datalex
Dean Clough Gallery, Halifax
Hargreaves Foundry, Halifax

Judy Tosh
Martin Cross (Howdens Joinery)
Purdie Dished Ends, Halifax ("in kind" donation)
Steve Ward

Funders

Adult Social Care (*Leeds City Council*)
Arts @Leeds (*Leeds City Council*)–Light Night, Leeds Canvas, Leeds Inspired
Arts Council England *Grants for the Arts–Farm Hill, Homespace*
Big Lottery Fund

Grundtvig Ecorys UK Ltd

Joint Commissioning
(*Leeds City Council*)

Leeds and York Partnership Foundation Trust–Arts and Minds

Lloyds TSB Foundation

Vodafone

Donors

Bodington Hall
Donors to The Big Give Christmas Challenge
Jack Lunn Properties
Leeds Church Institute

LMU Film Festival
M Cooke and fellow members of her dance school
Mosaic Sessions team
Sainsbury's Community Fund
Yorkshire & Clydesdale Bank

Core team:

Arts workers and lead artists, Trainers (TR) and Guest Artists (G)

Kasia Baczkowski
Tom Bailey (TR)
Matthew Bellwood
Christian Braime
Alison Clissold
Ogi Damjanovic
Thomas Dransfield
Chris Harman (G)
Jenny Harris (TR)
Alison Herbert
Kevin Hickson (G)
Sandy Holden
Peter Hudspith
Judith Kennedy
Natalie Kyrkos
Penny Lewis
Brian Marchant-Sidwell
Emma Marriott
May McQuade
Anna-Marie Milton
Seb Munday
Cath Murphy (TR)
Cassy Oliphant
Richard Petch (G)
Rachel Pickering
Andy Pope (TR)
Wendy Robinson
Fran Rodgers
Vikki Scott
Tim Swingler (TR, G)
Bryan Tweddle
Sam Wainwright
Sven Whiteley-McLean
Fran Woodcock
Pippa Woodhams

Additional contracts

Rachel Koivunen–Operational Development Manager
Sukhvinder Sond–Graphic Design
Paul Herbert–IT support
Fran Rodgers–Vodafone World of Difference UK programme (from March 2013)

training

Training is a very important part of what we do. All our training courses have experiential learning at their heart, to make them accessible.

But there's nothing quite like learning "on the job". "Time Runs Out" on September 9th gave us the opportunity for training in the practical rigging skills necessary for events and large arts projects. 17 workers and volunteers came for this event and rigged lanterns in trees, prepared screens and fire pictures and learned how to put up the marquee. All with full safety briefings and an active risk assessment!

Basic training was covered by two Foundation courses introducing disability equality, history and context, practical facilitation and essential procedures, plus First Aid and epilepsy awareness. 5 trainees from last year's Making it Happen progressed to paid work as group facilitators. The training for artists was reviewed and an intermediate stage, "Explorations" for experienced volunteers and recent graduates, was added.

New for this year, "Arts at Home" helped care workers from Supported Living houses to identify, celebrate and use their own creative starting points to give their tenants more activities in their own houses. Feedback from trainees was good and further courses are planned.



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ENGLAND**

