

44AD

Supporting Statement & Impact Assessment



44AD

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Summary

44AD Supporting Statement & Impact Assessment has been submitted as further information relating to the Single Member Decision Report. The request is to consider the extension of a rent abatement for 4 Abbey Street Bath for 44AD Charity (1176519) by a further three-year term at less than best consideration based on supporting a thriving creative arts charity, allowing them to remain in Bath city centre.

Rent subsidy is sought to be extended on the basis of social and cultural value. In addition, location security would make the organisation more resilient over time. Location stability and security for a long period would enable the organisation to access further grants (many national cultural funders won't fund projects if the property lease period is a year less than the project length), it would also enable the organisation to strengthen by having space to plan and focus on more long-term goals.

In the [Art Council's creative future for high streets \(Feb 2022 article\)](#) it is made clear through reports and case studies how now is the opportunity to join the dots between current high street issues, future cultural opportunities and potential solutions, including the way that cultural investment can act as a "glue! in the mix; building a stronger, more sustainable and brighter future for the high streets and its creative sector. With a simple mapping exercise we are confident that there is nothing like this that another organisation provides within a 15mins radius. The mix of creative workspace and accessible gallery space, teaching, support and collaborative projects is unique. No other organisation in the city centre of Bath offers the whole range of services that 44AD currently provides, with future bookings and high-volume usage reflecting the demand for affordable creative and hireable exhibition space within the city centre of Bath.

Based at 4 Abbey Street for the last 8.5 years, 44AD is an established community focused charity. The main objective is to advance public education and appreciation of the arts - work is mostly but not limited to visual arts and based in the City of Bath and wider society.

The charity has over 21,000 visitors per year to the gallery and over 8,000 social media followers. The organisation works with a diverse range of local

community groups and attracts local, national and international visitors and artists wanting to be involved in the organisations work. Each year on average we engage 400+ professional artists and 25+ schools and colleges, resulting in weekly visits. In 2015 the Bath and North East Development Team estimated that the economic impact from 44AD's activities per year was £950,222.

In a city landscape, where people are expected to pay to use space (ticket sales or items purchased), 44AD provides free activities drawing in a diverse group of people from a range of social economic backgrounds, ensuring there is something on offer for everyone within the City Centre.

The team at 44AD are committed to, and have illustrated their investment to the local area:

- **Invest in local connections**
We are excellent collaborators making visible connection between the universities, local businesses and community groups within the area.
- **Compliment the local retail offer and bring a diverse range of audiences into the city centre**
We provide a strong cultural offer to diversify and support the retail focus of the area.
- **Make improvements to the property**
We are excellent custodians of the building. In 2014, As new tenants, we invested heavily in the building: approximately 4,500 hours of work by volunteers, crowd funding, and donated materials - equating to £51,250. Since then we have improved and invested in the building in both time (across the last 8.5 years) and money.
- **Social and cultural value**
We provide free activities, professional training and education opportunities, whilst supporting the network and development of local artists.

44AD has won competitive independent awards for its work and support from a range of local organisations and experts in the industry. Below are a summary of a couple of these statements and further examples are provided within the rest of the report:

- *“44AD is one of the only – vital and critical venues for contemporary art in Bath. I say this as a **professional and internationally exhibiting artist, senior lecturer and researcher at Bath Spa University.** 44AD is incomparable in fostering culture through art in Bath, bringing people from all backgrounds together. Channelling the first wave of emerging artists – not only from the Bath Spa University, but internationally – 44AD makes art happen culturally. And happen with long-term effect.”*
- *“They’re full of passion, drive, energy, creativity and are clearly committed to Bath. Diverse and interesting. Simply excellent. If they weren’t here, there would be a big hole in Bath” 44AD - **Winner Creative Bath Awards 2017 - Creative Arts Organisation***
- *“A stellar organisation which has achieved a huge amount from a modest base due to personal dynamism. Their offering is far reaching and diverse.” 44AD - **Winner Bath Life Awards 2017 – Arts Category***

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About 44AD:

44AD is an established community focused registered charity (1176519) based in central Bath. Our organisations main objects is to advance public education and appreciation of the arts (mostly but not limited to visual arts) based in the City of Bath and wider society.

Founded in 2012, 44AD has operated for the last 8.5 years from 4 Abbey Street, where there is gallery and studio space used by the charity, third parties and associate artists. There are two floors of accessible gallery space which is open (without charge) to the general public for 48 weeks per year, and three floors of studio workspace.

In 2014, 44AD moved to and refurbished the property at 4, Abbey Street, financially assisted by a community supported crowd-funder. The premises had been empty and neglected for 3 years prior to this with the building earmarked as a Community Asset Transfer (CAT). The creative energy of the team at 44AD, has enhanced the aesthetic of property. Creating and maintaining what has become a much-loved arts venue. While its city centre location has been vital towards the ongoing success of our unique organisation.

44AD collaborates with charities, art groups and educational institutions to present high quality exhibitions and associated events which run throughout the year, including participatory workshops, tutorials, school visits and artist talks. Both regional and international artists have exhibited at the venue. 44AD works hard to bring new, exciting and socially engaged work to the city centre. Our location enables a prominent platform for the vibrant arts community of Bath whilst offering a high standard of inclusive and accessible visitor experiences for all.

Our schedule of community driven exhibitions and events run on a weekly basis, attracting many returning local visitors. 44AD's welcoming ethos and free admission policy makes us an accessible venue for lower income families. We have become a familiar destination to many older local people who do not access the internet and like to just 'drop by' to see what's going on each week.

In 2022, our comprehensive programme of events attracted approximately 21,000 onsite visitors who engaged with work from over 400 artists and 450 young people. Additionally, we devise offsite community arts projects and collaborative events which further increase our impact. A conservative estimate would be that this footfall is made up of at least +75% Bath and North East Somerset residents.

44AD provides affordable studio workspace for 16 - 18 self-employed creatives on the upper floors. There is a flux throughout the year and workspace allocations tend to expand to 18+ creatives.

We provide training and support through work experience placements, artist residencies and mentoring. We work on a regional, and at times international basis, with a wide range of educational organisations including Bath College, Bath Academy, Bath Spa University, University of Bath and Advanced Studies in England (ASE). On an annual basis, we support a recent graduate with a one-year artist studio residency as part of our graduate training programme with Bath Spa University. Currently we are employing a 2021 graduate with a full time paid internship for 18 weeks, as well as facilitating an ongoing work experience module with a Bath College student. We host several American university students in the studios for a semester (as part of ASE study abroad tutorials) and facilitate an annual FLASH studio residency programme. This is aimed at artists who may not necessarily have the opportunity and financial resource to make work in a studio environment and afford exhibiting costs.

Last summer I was lucky enough to be awarded a Flash Residency at 44AD. As a disabled woman living on benefits, it would have been impossible for me to rent a studio space for eight weeks, and alone mount an exhibition. This may sound like an exaggeration, but the whole experience was life-changing for me. Knowing I had the residency to look forward to helped me through all the lockdowns - especially as I was grieving the loss of my husband, in isolation. Then the actual experience of having support, to produce work that addressed that issue was exceptional. Not just in terms of Art practice, but also my healing heart. It has given me back my belief that life can be good. Beverley Dalton (FLASH residency recipient 2022)

What are the Governance arrangements of the organisation?

The charity is registered with the Charities Commission registration number 1176519. There are currently three Trustees, who oversee the running of the charity and who meet monthly. The charity has established financial and procedural controls including monthly management accounts, Safeguarding policy, GDPR and health and safety. The financial trustee is a fully qualified chartered accountant with extensive financial and governance experience gained over the last 30 years in commercial companies, larger charities including Bath Mind and the Arts.

Why is the asset needed?

Over the last 10 years, 44AD has firmly established a vibrant creative community in the very centre of the city. Our mix of creative workspace and accessible gallery space, teaching, support and collaborative projects is unique. No other organisation in the city centre of Bath offers the whole

range of services that 44AD currently provides, with future bookings and high volume usage reflecting the demand for affordable creative and hireable exhibition space within the city centre of Bath.

We have sound established links with local creative businesses and our visible, and to many, familiar location has proved to be very popular with local residents, artists, charities, educational groups and visitors alike. The building and location has enabled us to build a financially viable business model, as our central accessibility and related footfall is key in generating potential partnerships, collaborative projects, gallery bookings and interest. In turn, this allows 44AD to design, facilitate and channel beneficial projects and opportunities back to the community. The arts, culture and creative industries are widely recognised for their positive impact on the economy and society. Our success in providing such services and support to our community allows us to contribute to the cultural identity of the City and the local economy in a way that simply would not be possible in other secondary locations.

We have averaged and used a median figure, which produces an estimated £950,222 economic impact from 44AD's activities per year. Ann Cullis, Peter Salt (Bath and North East Somerset Council Arts Development team 2 December 2015)

44AD contributes positively and proactively to the tapestry of “independent” offerings in central Bath. We have participated in Bath BID ‘Bath at Twilight’ events, Bath Festivals Party in the City (often as a platform to Bath College Music students) and have collaborated with Bath Abbey on ‘Up Late’ events. We demonstratively add to the community, social and economic value of the city, enhancing the visitor experience for tourists and others. We are very much part of a growing cultural and historic “cluster” in Abbey Quarter, further enhanced by the development of the new Roman Baths visitor centre which is virtually next door. Our central location can only help to promote Bath as not only an historic city but one which has a foot also firmly embedded in both the present and the future too. 44AD’s ongoing mentoring and studio space provision contributes to graduate retention in the area and opportunities for local people, which in turn generates new creative businesses and organisations contributing to social and economic wellbeing in the Bath area.

I think that 44AD has been an inspirational and unmissable part of my experience of joining the art community of Bath and beyond, while studying for my MFA at Bath Spa University. There is absolutely nothing else in Bath which offers such fresh vibrant contemporary art in the city centre, all year around, benefitting the whole of the Bath community. It is also a fantastic platform for emerging artists to show their work in a supportive and professional environment. The 44AD team put in a huge amount of work into the clean-up and redecoration of the building to make it the lovely exhibiting space that it is. There is always an amazing selection of talks, classes and exhibitions, open to all, and the studio areas upstairs are perfect for artists. This exciting and innovative contemporary art space is right where it is needed, right in the heart of Bath. Melissa Wraxall (Bath Spa University Master Fine Art Graduate)

Being able to negotiate a longer-term lease with an affordable and stable rent - an extension of the rent abatement Single Member Decision Report - would enable a more secure and resilient future for 44AD. The Single Member Decision Report stated that rent subsidy could be extended on the basis of our social and cultural value. 44AD have a continued track record of providing excellent value of the arts use to the community and creative economy of Bath.

Location stability would enable the organisation to strengthen by having space to focus on longer term goals. It would allow us to access funding streams which depend on the determination of longer-term projects and security of tenure (many national cultural funders won't fund projects if the property lease period is a year less than the project length). Access to such funding would enable us to design and facilitate a more ambitious programme, whilst an increased budget would afford us to employ more staff to efficiently deliver an even greater quality and quantity of the type of community led projects that we currently offer.

44AD artspace is a vital community asset in a city where there are very few spaces available for creative endeavour. Not only does 44AD provide much needed studios and exhibitions spaces for artists, it also offers a dynamic programme of courses, exhibitions, events and workshops benefitting countless charities, schools, visitors and the local community. Their collaborative work is highly valued and this central city location essential to attract visitors to the free exhibitions and events held there. Its economic, cultural and social value and benefit to the City and beyond is immeasurable. Jenny Pollitt (Director Lane House Arts)

Aims and objectives:

Our main aim currently is to be able to continue and expand our work. Providing space and support to local artists and creatives, and a unique resource to the local community, charities, education and visitors through our gallery, workshops and joint projects. To achieve this we need to be secure in our current location. 44AD has an established, successful and verifiable track record in relation to:

- encouraging the public's engagement with the visual arts
- improving the Arts by increasing the quality and visibility of our creative activity for local residents and organisations in Bath and North East Somerset, irrespective of age, sex, ethnicity, ability, religion or political view
- supporting emerging contemporary artists and their work
- providing much needed availability of affordable central studio workspaces and exhibiting space to local creatives
- encouraging the goodwill and involvement of the wider community, fostering community spirit and civic pride

Who are the beneficiaries?

44AD is focused on benefitting and engaging with all artists, creatives and members of the public; often sourcing and designing community interactive

events with educational value, which give ongoing new and exciting opportunities to inspire the individual.

Local residents and the local community

To demonstrate our reach and a sense of the activities we do with local residents and the local community, the following describes some snapshots of activity at 44AD.

23 Feb 2020:

Today was the Private View of the second solo exhibition arranged onsite by 44AD for a young adult who has autism, anxiety and low self-esteem. Since receiving one-to-one tuition and mentoring at 44AD on a weekly basis, he has greatly grown in confidence, exhibiting frequently in 44AD's open art shows, and has started an active social media account for his artwork and has made some art sales.

The route into art education nowadays is quite academic and so Ben would struggle to access a contemporary art school environment. Ben has been having tutorials with Katie at 44AD for over a year. This unique experience has helped Ben in many ways. Not only has his artwork developed considerably, but it has also had an equally important effect on his personal confidence and self-esteem. So overall, a major boost to his art practice and mental well-being. Ben has had the wonderful opportunity to show his work within the gallery and to have his own show. Katie has also encouraged him to enter and then be successful at being selected for the Spectrum Art Award 2020 and having a painting accepted for the Black Swan Open exhibition. These are experiences that Ben would never have imagined a few years ago, and I don't believe would have been possible without 44AD. Melanie Walsh (Parent)

UPDATE Feb 2023 - The young adult is now in his 2nd year BA Fine Art at Bath Spa university and continues to receive mentoring with 44AD.

March 2020:

Royal Commonwealth Society (RCS) Bath artists' prize 2020, from concept, branding through to display, was designed and organised by 44AD for the RCS (Bath). The first RCS Bath artists' prize 2020 and exhibition was open to all Bath and North East Somerset residents to enter (adults and children) and involved 24 local artists and 11 local schools, including Chew Valley School and Trinity Church School in Radstock. Trinity Church School responded to our project brief and participated in the exhibition as a whole school project. This school's catchment covers some of Bath and North East Somerset most deprived areas and some of the children have never been to an art gallery before. The school organised minibus visits for the children.



Thank you so much, it was quite incredible and the response from everyone was so positive, you have worked so hard. We couldn't have done it without you. You have certainly put us on the map!
Godfrey Hall - Chair (RCS Bath)

After the success of RCS Bath artists' prize 2020, 44AD organised the 2nd RCS Bath artists' prize and exhibition in March 2022, which expanded to 35 local artists and 15 local schools getting involved. The exhibition toured to Bath and West Showground and the Royal United Hospital (RUH). We are about to launch RCS Bath artists' prize 2024, 'Moon Gazers and Star Finders' which is free to Bath and North East Somerset residents of all ages to enter (info on our website).

20 Feb 2023:

Invent it! An info exhibition for Bath young Inventors Award 2023 is currently on display at 44AD artspace. Bath Young Inventor (BYI) Award 2023 is a collaboration between 44AD and Museum of Bath at Work (MoBaW). The award is aimed at children 8-17 years, to learn about and explore inventions and local inventors - ultimately designing their own invention entry for the award. The project will comprise two weekly exhibitions (launch and final) at 44AD, and a series of 5 monthly talks aimed at young people at MoBaW. All activities are free admission.



44AD have designed and produced an 'Inventors of Bath' trail booklet suitable for children and families. The booklet is free to pick up from 44AD artspace, MoBaW and other venues. It guides the visitor on a walk

around Bath, highlighting over 30 inventors and innovators alongside places of interest.

44AD has been continuously supportive in the presentation of Science, Engineering, Technology, Art and Maths for local disadvantaged children. During the 2022 summer holidays 44AD hosted and spearheaded a successful and very well received 'Ways of Seeing' project which involved local part graduate students and academics providing a variety of STE(A)M ideas, images, activities in an exhibition and in virtual 'workshop' presentations to support families wishing to undertake practical STE(A)M.

This year 44AD is reviving the Bath Young Inventor of the Year Competition by creating a family trail around Bath featuring local inventors and innovators hosting and jointly presenting with the Museum of Bath at Work a STE(A)M exhibition in conjunction with local artists and STEM practitioners. The exhibition includes hands-on activities which enable young people to understand the creative process and encourage their inventiveness in all media. Paul Thomas (Associate Artist 44AD, Trustee Bath Medical Museum, Life Member of BRLSI)

What a great exhibition. Wishing you great success with it. Hazel Boyd
Fascinating and really great exhibition. You can see how much hard work you have put into it. Great interactions. Anna Manford
Very well done. We should have more of it, both to get the young involved and to present Bath as a Centre for Innovation Chris Isaac
Excellent show. Very informative and inspiring Paul Bakula
It was very helpful and fascinating BB
I agree with BB and inspiring too! Thank you.
Good to set the cogs going for ideas.
Loved it. So helpful for everyone. Very well done, super inspiring, Love Alexandra Andres.
Really inspiring display and presentation. Thank you.
Very interesting. Friendly. Thank you C.
Extremely pleasurable and educational.
Excellent trail. We got to explore the town in a very exciting manner.
Really cool and fun
I really liked this exhibition.
What a great exhibition. Thanks for all the inspiration. I'll bring my 7 yr old next week. Zoe
Fantastic idea. Love it. Hope the children will do. NHC
Amazing to see so many inventions we know were created right here in Bath. Sara
Very interesting!! Love it.
Very interesting. Very friendly. Kids were captivated by the item on stars. Thank you.
What a fascinating place. We are not from Bath so it was really interesting to hear about all the inventions from Bath Very informative. Thank you
This is a lovely exhibition Very informative and interesting.
Great exhibition. Everybody should know about this exhibition in Bath!
Great exhibition. Something different and interesting.
I love it. It is great fun.
Really interesting tour round the exhibition, every informative and enjoyable.
Very knowledgeable and interesting for Bath history. Great to have this unique experience.
So interesting . I didn't know so many amazing things were invented here. Thanks for the chocolate Oliver! L
Very good thank you so much. It was very interesting!!!
Amazingly interesting - lots of new facts about Bath. Nice to know I'm number 10 on the inventors' list. Julie.
I'm glad you're doing things for kids and they use their fresh eyes and imaginations to investigate. Screens should only be used as an adjunct to their creativity.

Outreach work

CAFE 44 - Outreach art group for young people with additional needs

February 2022 saw the opening of SPODGE exhibition, an exhibition by young people from CAFE 44 collective, an outreach project funded by 44AD and led by Francie Brown (44AD's Grad studio residency recipient 2020/21). CAFE 44 was set up providing a regular arts group for young people with additional needs.



A group of young artists and their carers began meeting on a Friday afternoon at Odd Down community centre where the guided sessions took place. As well as play and experimentation, techniques including ceramics, painting and sculpture were explored. CAFE 44's exhibition SPLODGE at 44AD artspace, encouraged visitors to interact; laugh and get creative too. It was wonderful seeing the children's faces as they visited their own artworks on display in a 'real gallery', with the mayor in attendance - it was a very proud moment for all involved!



I was sat on a bench looking across at 44AD in the sunshine and I wrote in my sketchbook that being given a graduate residency at this gallery was probably one of the most significant things that had happened to me during my 20 years on the planet.

On paper, 44AD gave me a studio space. In actuality, 44AD artspace was kind of the big sister I never had in regards to discipline, space, support and a sense of belonging. Through the gallery I was able to get involved in events I never thought I'd have access to. I was fortunate enough to take part in group and solo shows, art fairs, chat about art on radio, run an arts community group and meet people from many walks of life. I also certainly wouldn't of got my job as an Artworker within a publishing company in Bath. Thank you 44AD for helping me start my career in the arts and for allowing me to experience something really special - this community and all the madness and loveliness which comes alongside it. Francie Brown (44AD graduate studio residency 2021)

Young people, local schools and education at all levels

In 2022, we held four exhibitions which involved young people: SPLODGE (10 SEND participants), RCS Young Artists' Prize (15 local schools), Ways of Seeing (100+ young visitors), and Heroes of the Commonwealth (12 local primary schools / 250+ participants).

44AD collaborated with RCS Bath and The Bath Abbey, to design and produce an exhibition with 12 local primary schools, honouring World War II "Heroes of the Commonwealth". Local schools were invited to 'adopt' a hero to research. 44AD organised drop-in artwork sessions with schools and for research, contact with heroes' relatives. The resulting artwork was displayed in an art exhibition at 44AD last November 2022, as part of Remembrance Sunday commemorations, alongside a wonderful commemorative service at Bath Abbey, especially for those involved with the project and the heroes' families. The 12 local schools arranged class visits to 44AD, to tour the gallery and view their artworks.

The children in Year 6 at St Andrew's Church School have been working hard to create a piece of celebratory art, based on our chosen Hero of the Commonwealth, John Jellicoe Blair from Jamaica.

Initially, the children carried out their own research, and formed questions based on what they learned. They then had the opportunity to interview John Jellicoe Blair's great nephew, Mark Johnson. The children asked thoughtful questions, and Mark gave illuminating answers. Following this, Year 6 decided that a graphic novel format was the way to go, and they worked hard to create panels of the graphic novel, before bringing all of the pieces together. Thank you, again for the support with the project! It's looking amazing! Kate Sandey (St Andrew's Year 6 teacher)



44AD works with Bath and North East Somerset schools in a variety of ways. These range from providing the opportunities for local schools to participate in art exhibitions, work experience, gallery visits and workshops onsite at 44AD, - alongside delivering outreach work, facilitating participatory workshops and talks in primary and secondary schools. Bath College art students frequently visit as groups with their tutors, using the ever-changing exhibitions at 44AD as a valuable resource.

Over the last few years, we have engaged with the majority of secondary schools in Bath and North East Somerset, and many of the primary schools.

Through provision of space, exhibition design, promotional support and hands-on assistance with event organisation and practicalities, we have sponsored arts educational organisations such as; The Photo Club to provide onsite workshops and exhibitions for young people who are home schooled / out of school students and STEAM workshops at 44AD with BRLSI, aimed at children from low income families.

Since moving to Abbey St, we have collaborated with House of Imagination / Forest of Imagination and School without Walls.

Thank you 44AD, it was an amazing experience for us to have visible space in the city to celebrate and share children and young people's ideas and artwork. 44AD demonstrated the value of having a dedicated space that had no demands on it other than the activities and explorations of the groups using it. Many people, children and adults, commented on the feel of the space, it feeling calm, open, special, full of possibility and in particular how it was different from a classroom environment. Dr Penny Hay (House of Imagination)

Training and Support for graduates, young people and local creatives

44AD directly aids graduate retention. We advocate training and support to improve the life skills, employability and inspire entrepreneurial activity within our local community.

Regularly, MA Curatorial Practice and Arts Management students from Bath Spa University volunteer at 44AD to gain experience in curation and public arts management. To date, three Bath Masters students have made it their final dissertation thesis. We regularly take Bath and North East Somerset secondary school and Bath College work experience placements and are involved with the internship placement scheme with Bath Spa University.

When I finished university I applied via the Network for creative enterprise to have a studio and further support towards my Art Practice. I was successful in my application and obtained my studio in August 2018. The support I have received over the past year has been outstanding; 44AD has given me multiple opportunities to exhibit my work alongside other exciting artists and 1 to 1 mentoring. The time I spent at 44AD has been imperative to the growth of my Art practice. After my residency ended in 2019, I was also awarded a Flash residency at 44AD, which gave me the opportunity to workspace and a solo exhibition. It helped me place myself within the wider Arts community in Bath and being a part of 44AD was the beginning of my independence as a working Artist. Faye Hadfield (Bath Spa University Graduate - 44AD Studio Residency award 18/19)



Annual events

We have run open exhibitions and curated projects for local artists to get involved in, which have become part of our yearly calendar. These annual events give us the opportunity to develop and fine-tune these projects - and they have become much anticipated by the local community. Each year we organise an Open Print exhibition which typically features over 40 selected artists from Bath, Bristol and beyond. We annually host the Bath Open Art Prize in collaboration with Fringe Arts Bath (44AD also sponsors and awards a gallery and studio residency for a BOA selected exhibitor). We also host our Winter Art Market "Bath Humbug!" which supports 20 local artist stalls in the gallery (alongside the Bath Christmas market). In 2022, the Bath Humbug artists collectively made over £20,000.

For me, 44AD has been an invaluable bridge from amateur sculpting to the start of a professional career. I was directed there by the Arts Development department and found an immediate welcome. I was able to put on my first solo exhibition which was attended by a few hundred people, including regulars and tourists. Since then, 44AD has become indispensable to me both as a venue for exhibitions and in helping me to make contact with other artists at all levels. There is nothing else like it - not only in Bath but I do not know of anywhere comparable elsewhere. Martin Elphick (Associate Artist and Exhibitor)

Studio artists, Associate artists and Exhibiting artists

44AD provides a supportive network to our studio artists, exhibiting artists. In 2022, we presented 400+ exhibiting artists, and 40+ Associate artists who exhibit regularly and take part in peer led events which are organised on a monthly basis. 44AD Associate Artists recently worked on a project brief for an exhibition at 44AD in partnership with University of Bath Centre of Pain Research titled 'Ouch!' which also ran a series of onsite talks. Each year we organise an extremely anticipated Open Studios event, whereby members of the public are invited to explore the artists' studios and chat about their work. 44AD regularly devise public engagement exhibitions and events which involve the local artist community.



44AD was like a breath of fresh air (it still is) when it first opened, something new, contemporary spanning the creative spectrum. An amazing space of gallery and artist studios which has become a beacon for all sorts of creative endeavours. I will be forever grateful for the wealth of support it has provided over the years not only for myself but also for the community at large. Brian Gibson (Action on Hearing Loss / founder Deviation Zine)

Local charities, firms and organisations

Some of the local charities and non-profits we have worked with include Action on Hearing Loss, House of Imagination, Bath Mind, Bath Welcomes Refugees, Creativity Works, Creative Bath, Dorothy House, Suited and Booted, Royal Commonwealth Society, Bath, Museum of Bath at Work and BRLSI, facilitating accessible workshops and exhibitions to deliver beneficial outcomes for residents who need these charities and organisations.

44AD recently designed and directed the award-winning project River is the Venue (RiV). Since 2018, RiV has been an exciting partnership project between 44AD, Art at the Heart of the RUH and research academics at the University of Bath. Through art and creativity, the focus of the research and project is on historical flooding events in Bath and North East Somerset. This project engaged local communities and schools with fascinating elements of the River's history in the City.

Alongside community workshops and activities, the project commissioned a series of public artworks by 5 local artists, all presented and designed with a view of their accessibility for all. Beautiful artworks were created in workshops and then exhibited, made with Widcombe Junior School Bath, The Children's Ward and Older Patient Wards at the RUH Bath, the residents of Bridgemead House Residential Home Bath and the young people of Mentoring Plus Bath. The University of Bath Research Support Department are currently using RiV as an impact report case study, to example different ways research has been used to bring about positive changes within communities beyond the academic world. A presentation of this project headlined the European Researchers night event which took place at the University of Bath and led to highly publicised exhibitions and events. In 2021, 44AD organised a televised discussion event (when art and science collides) for the National Astronomy Meeting 2021.

We have worked with 44AD on several projects over the years most recently, a major community arts project linked to research at the University. I've been impressed by Katie's can-do, creative attitude that has helped keep the project on-track and deal with any challenges. 44AD's central location and range of spaces is a major

advantage, allowing easy and accessible display of artworks. Ed Stevens (Public Engagement University of Bath)

Over the last 5 years we have worked closely with Co-creation on various projects, workshops and exhibitions. The latest project is called 'Botanical encounters'. In collaboration with artists, cultural institutions and civil society groups, this project seeks to advocate for biodiversity, and the recognition of ethnic minority groups. We hosted workshops in Nov/Dec 2022 which explored themes such as Colonialism through Plants. We look forward to work produced from these and forthcoming artist-led sessions resulting in a collective exhibition at 44AD in October 2023.



Some further examples are:

Curating 'Corsham 52', an exhibition featuring Bath Academy (Bath Spa) alumna which reunited students who had attended Corsham Court campus over 50 years ago. The accompanying auction with the students' part-donated artworks raised over £4,500 for Bath Spa University.

Raising over £2,500 for Dorothy House with TULIP which was devised and curated by 44AD's project director as a fundraising exhibition and auction of 'tulip' artworks donated by artists and celebrities.

Other beneficiaries are:

Visitors to Bath and exhibiting artists / visiting professionals from outside of the Bath area The Bath economy through visitor attraction and job creation 21,000 visitors per annum to the Abbey Street gallery space and 8000+ social media followers

44AD is one of the only – vital and critical venues for contemporary art in Bath. I say this as a professional and internationally exhibiting artist, senior lecturer and researcher at Bath Spa University. 44AD is incomparable in fostering culture through art in Bath, bringing people from all backgrounds together. Channelling the first wave of emerging artists – not only from the Bath Spa University, but internationally – 44AD makes art happen culturally. And happen with long-term effect. Dr. Robert Luzar (Senior Lecturer at Bath Spa University - School of Art and Design)

44AD has had a tremendous connective impact on the local community of Bath, attracting many participants to a new environment and developing a sense of wellbeing for all involved. It is the vast opportunities that 44AD has provided for all different kinds of community members and regional organisations amidst a friendly and welcoming atmosphere which make our organisation stand out.

44AD has won competitive independent awards for its work:

- *“They’re full of passion, drive, energy, creativity and are clearly committed to Bath. Diverse and interesting. Simply excellent. If they weren’t here, there would be a big hole in Bath”*
44AD - Winner Creative Bath Awards 2017 - Creative Arts Organisation
- *“A stellar organisation which has achieved a huge amount from a modest base due to personal dynamism. Their offering is far reaching and diverse”*
44AD - Winner Bath Life Awards 2017 – Arts Category
- *“An intrinsically Bath-centric arts project using clever methods to engage local places. RiV connects people across all generations and makes art relevant for everyone.”*
44AD / RiV - Winner Creative Bath Awards 2019 - Art Category
- *“44AD has garnered immense popularity... Great work looking out for the whole creative community.”*
44AD - Winner Bath Life Awards 2021 – Arts Category