



THERE'S SOMETHING IN THE AIR

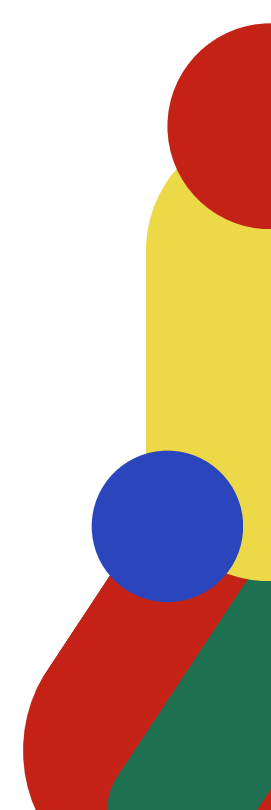
Lumini Project by Architects of Air

22nd to 28th April 2024
St. Ann's, Nottingham

www.architects-of-air.com/lumini/tsita



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



INTRODUCTION

'There's Something in the Air' (TSITA) was a programme of accessible, cultural activity in St. Ann's, Nottingham - free enriching arts & culture engagement & opportunities for local community; delivering immersive events, workshops & performance experiences in an Architects of Air (AoA) 'Lumini' in April 2024.

Please view the project video on Youtube: <https://youtu.be/bwK61r-SAlw>

About Architects of Air

Architects of Air (AoA), led by Alan Parkinson, are best known for designing, building and touring 'Luminaria' - a monumental inflatable sculpture people enter to be moved to a sense of wonder at the beauty of light and colour. Since 1992 more than three million visitors in over 40 countries across five continents have been welcomed into AoA's monumental Luminaria. Each new creation is a maze of winding paths and inspiring domes where the visitors may lose themselves in sensory bliss, immersed in radiant colour that comes simply from daylight shining through the Luminarium fabric. The Luminaria are made from PVC and handmade by creatives in Nottingham at our workshop at Oldknows Factory in St. Ann's which has been our home since the 1990s.

About Lumini

A Lumini is an extraordinary space of light and colour for extraordinary projects, places and people. Lumini are a smaller ('mini' / lu-mini!) version of luminaria conceived as spaces for activities that will be enhanced by Lumini's special visual and spatial qualities. A Lumini has a different role to the Luminaria; Lumini is designed for use as a functional hosting space where the light and colour experience is not an end in itself but is a complement to whatever activity takes place inside. Where the Luminaria each have their individual unifying theme, each Lumini has a distinct character; the Lumini can be deployed singly or in multiple combinations to adapt to different locations. Lumini are accessible to socially driven host organisations that wish to create a special offering to a particular community of people. Like our Luminaria, Lumini are accessible to all, including those with physical disabilities and mobility issues; they embrace all ages, abilities, languages and cultures. Accessibility to the widest audience has always been central to our work.

About The Lumini Project

The Lumini will also be the resource of AoA's 'The Lumini Project' - serving community groups, schools, adults and children with special needs, and more, in our UK region and further afield. AoA originally grew out of a theatre project for people with learning disabilities; our inflatable sculptures first originated back in the late 80s and early 90s as part of a community project, designed by Alan Parkinson, and built by those on probation, touring to local special schools in Nottinghamshire to serve those with special needs. It's important to us to keep a focus on serving communities with additional and complex needs.

About "There's Something in the Air"

TSITA was a Lumini Project focused locally to our workshop in St. Ann's, Nottingham with & for its communities. Key targetted groups: children & young people, those with SEN/D & PMLD, elderly & local residents.

The Lumini Project is ambitious, innovative & develops diversity of audience & participants by removing barriers.

Over 7 days a Lumini was located in a central St. Ann's green space delivering free cultural activities in partnership with local schools, artists, charities & organisations.

AoA are a global success; TSITA delivered world class excellence for our local community.

TSITA KEY HIGHLIGHTS



6 days



512 participants



12 creative practitioners



7 visiting organisations



25 workshops



7 volunteers



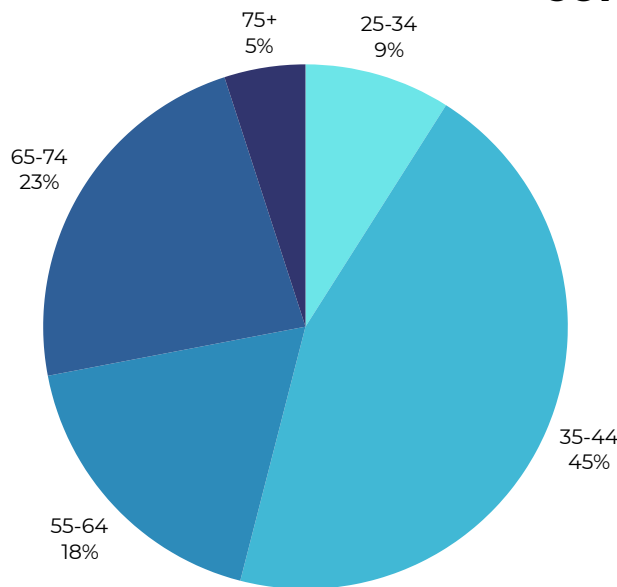
14 staff & crew



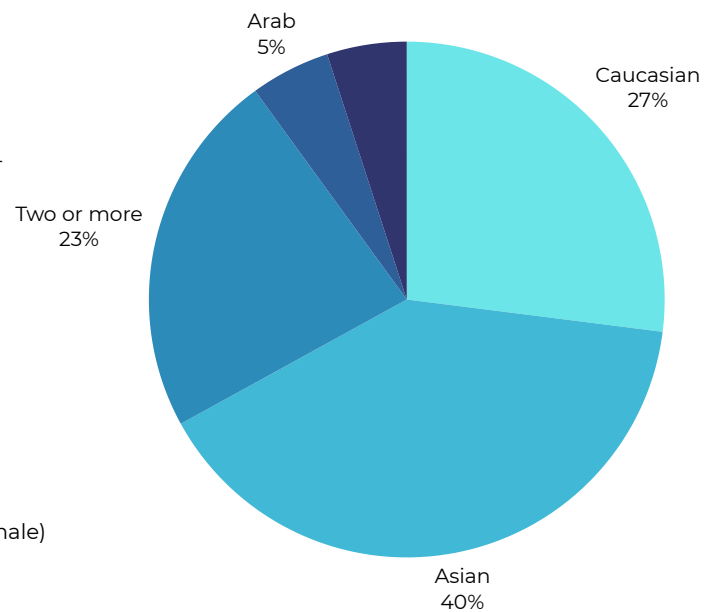
1 space

PARTICIPANTS

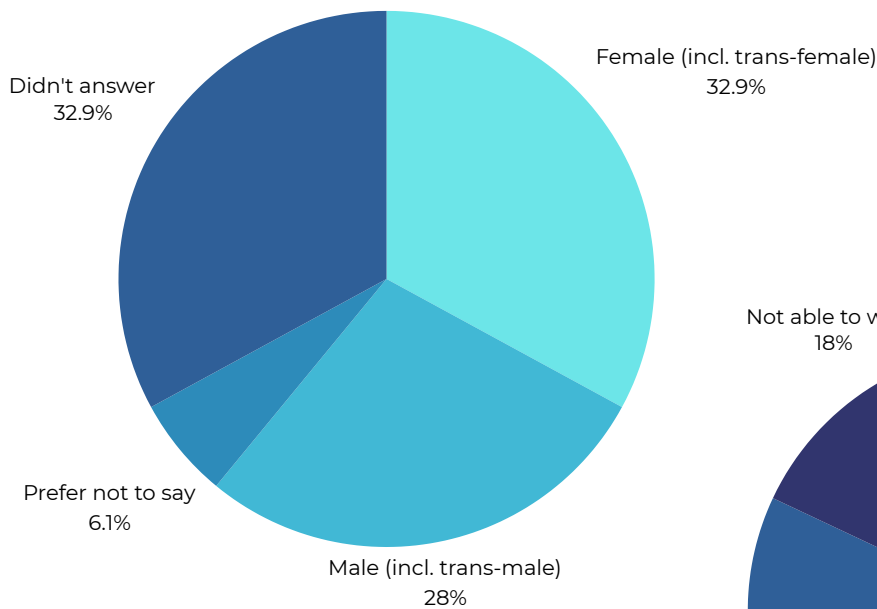
Please find the demographics of participants who completed our feedback survey



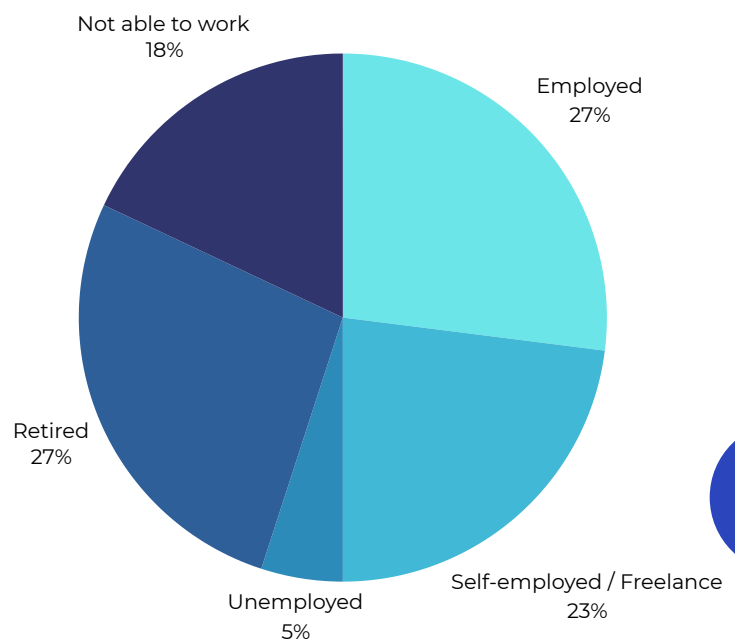
Age



Ethnicity



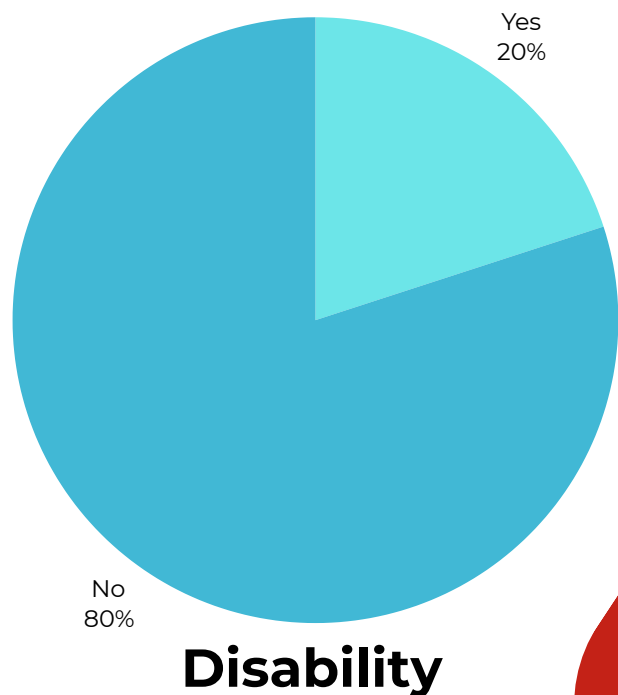
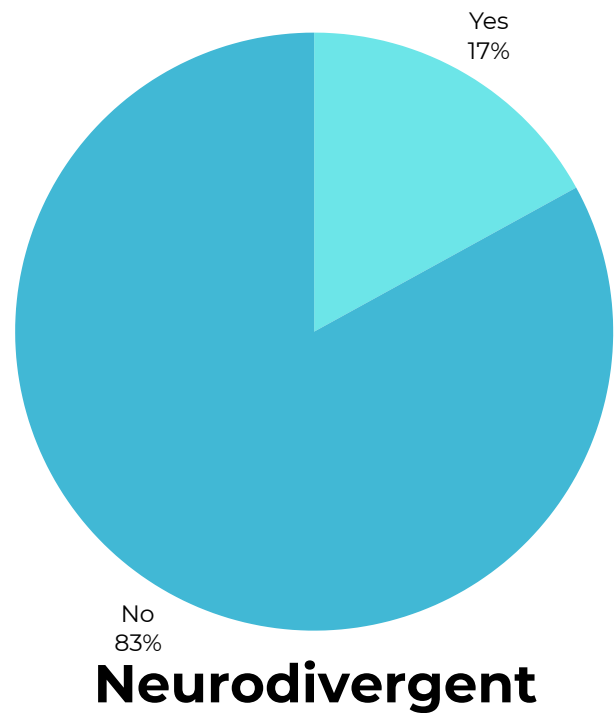
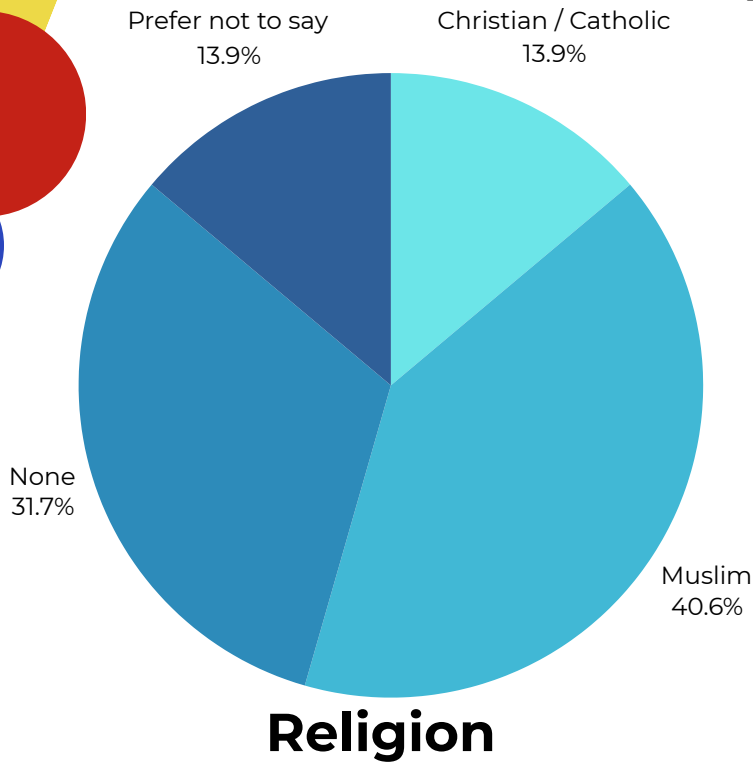
Gender



Employment status

PARTICIPANTS

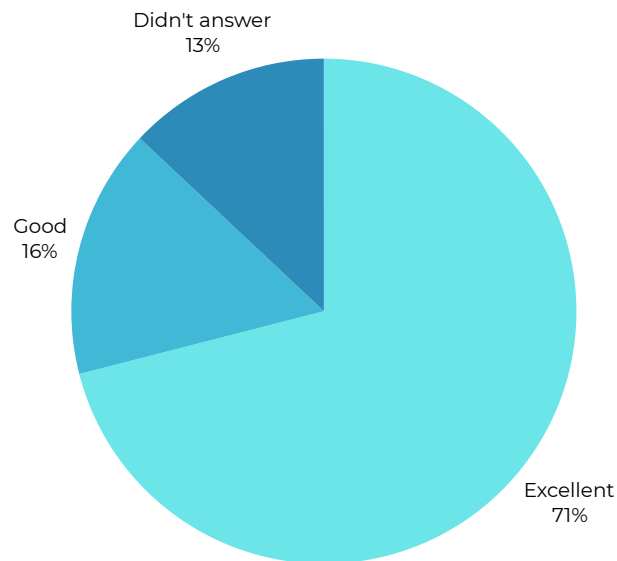
Please find the demographics of participants who completed our feedback survey



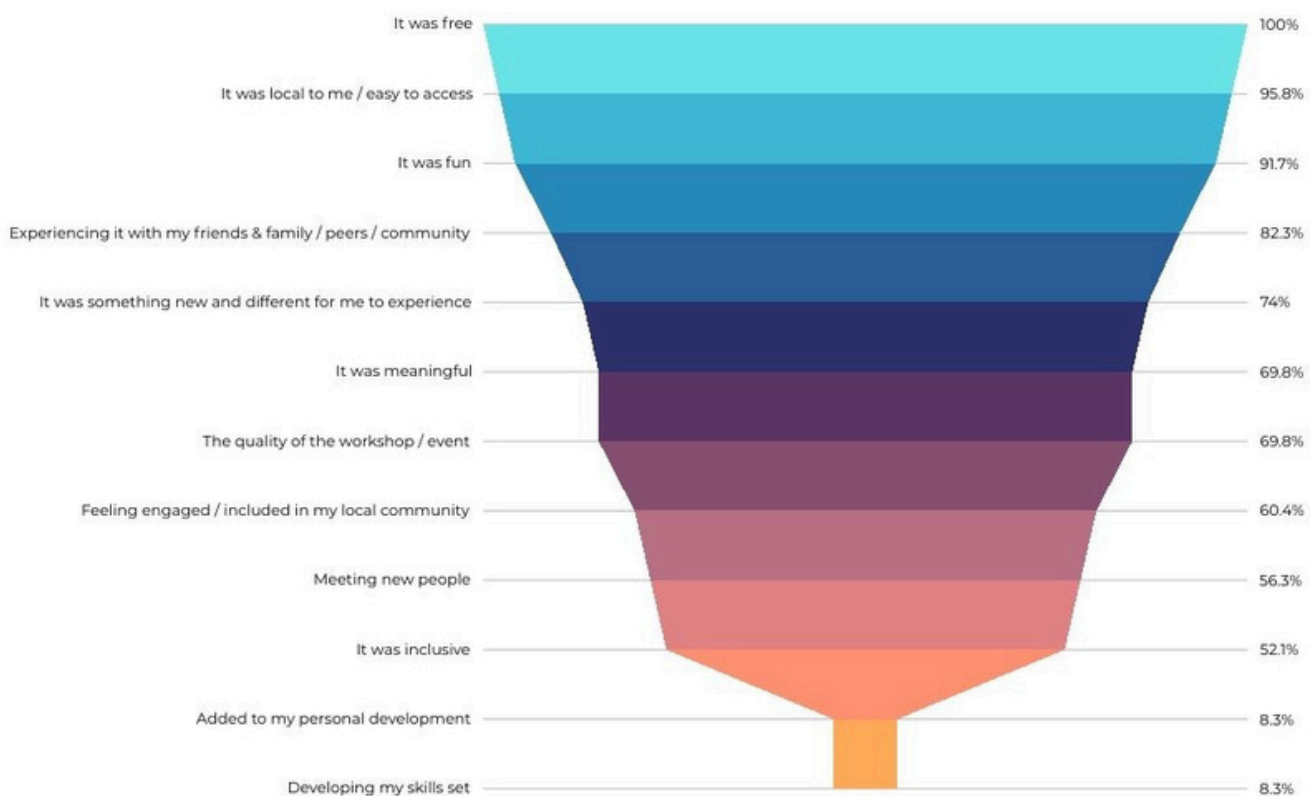
FEEDBACK

Please find some feedback from participants who completed our feedback survey

'Please rate the quality of your Lumini workshop / event experience':



'What was the best part of your Lumini experience'



COMMENTS

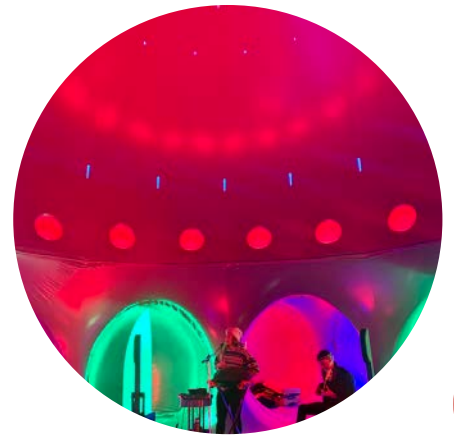
Please find some feedback from participants who completed our feedback survey

"I took my autistic son to the space with some trepidation as I wasn't sure how he would be received, but I needn't have worried. He felt free to explore the space in his way. After ten minutes it was clear that everyone was very accepting and so I was able to relax and share his joy in the surroundings."



"Having this pop up in local communities is a fantastic idea which I hope returns again and again".

"The experience was like no other I've had. I love wellness and the arts and this event brought them both together so beautifully; it was my first sound bath session and I came out feeling rejuvenated and wanting to attend more sessions!"



"It's really allowed me to stop and take a breath. Thank you".



"Out of this world!"



CHILDREN'S FEEDBACK

Please find some feedback from children & young participants who completed our feedback survey

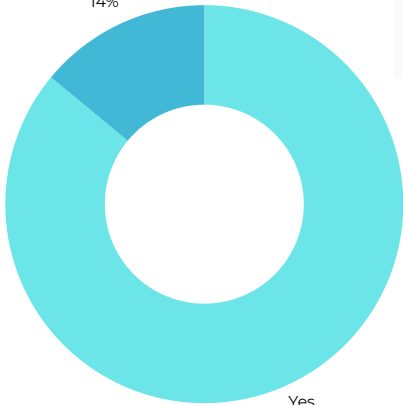
'Please describe your time in Lumini in three words':

happy
exciting
fun
fantastic
amazing
colourful
incredible



'Did you enjoy Lumini?'

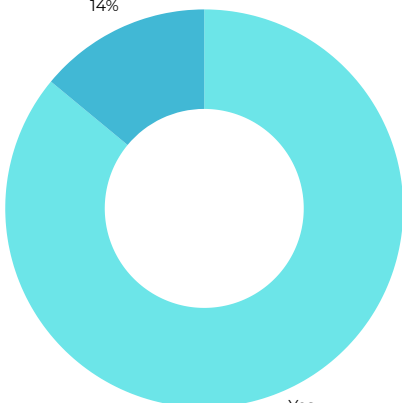
Not sure
14%



Yes
86%

'Would you like to
come back to Lumini?'

Not sure
14%



Yes
86%



CASE STUDY

Natalie & Daughter

Natalie & her daughter are residents of St. Ann's and can see the Lumini site from their home; they attended several events throughout the week and daughter attended with her local school Huntingdon Academy as part of The Hive SEN cohort.

“Thank you so much, it was a truly immersive and amazing experience for me and my daughter with autism traits - we both had the best time.

I didn't really know what to expect and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. It's a great way to bring the community together with a focal point for all to enjoy on their doorstep.

It was amazing to have an event that catered for SEN needs. My daughter's neuro-divergence sometimes means that experiences like this can be overstimulating for her but this event truly brought her out of her shell and her confidence built throughout the whole session. The team at the event really engaged with us. This event truly made a difference and my daughter has been talking about it ever since.

Thank you!”



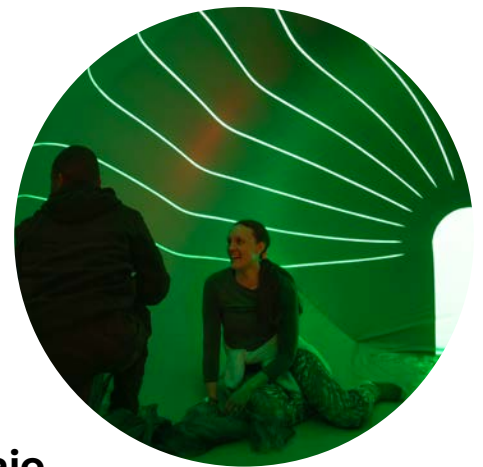
CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS FOR VISITING GROUPS

Nottingham-based practitioners Karla Jones and Ines Sampaio delivered bespoke workshops for key targeted community groups and created tailored experiences for participants based on their needs. A little bit of information about these artists:

Karla Jones

Freelance Dance Artist, Performer, Facilitator, Producer and Project Manager.

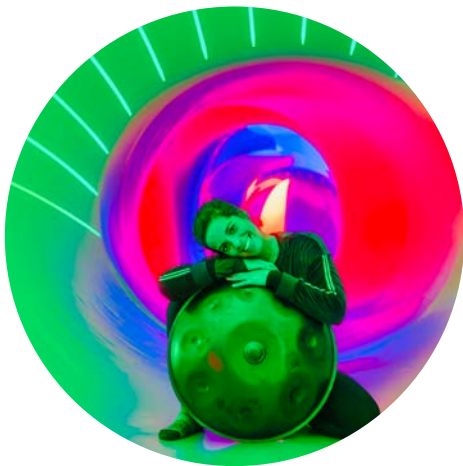
Creatively interested in how art connects us to our humanity and movement as medicine. Specialises in working with older adults, young people and adults with SEN/D as well as Early Years and Families. Striving for universal accessibility in everything she does.



Inês Sampaio

Actor, musician, composer, MD, theatre maker and community theatre practitioner.

Studied for 10 years at the Classical Music Conservatoire in Palmela completing grade 8 in piano, music theory and analysis and techniques of music composition. Born and raised in Portugal by a Luso-Angolan family; Ines moved to England in 2012 to attend East15 Acting School to graduate with a 1:1 in BA World Performance. Ines has been awarded multiple grants from ACE and other prestigious institutions to create her own work as a theatre maker and performer; most recently been awarded the DYCP.



CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS

It was key that “There’s Something in the Air” was delivered by and for local residents. Workshops and events were held by these local artists based in St. Ann’s & Sneinton:

Jay Sandhu / Nott Another: Creative Treasure Trail

Jay Sandhu is an international writer, BBC radio presenter, Creative Director of Nottingham Poetry Festival, Comedian, Poet, Performer & Producer living in St. Ann’s. This workshop presented a series of creative challenges (writing, poetry, drawing and more!) around the Lumini.



Deep Yoga: Community Yoga Class

Deep Yoga is based alongside AoA at Oldknows Factory in St. Anns - as a yoga studio and community, the common thread is transformation, illumination, awakening the mind, and accessing the unlimited power within us all, both on and off the mat. For TSITA, Deep Yoga presented a one hour gentle Yoga class suitable for all abilities and families, lead by Claudia, which connected with the Mind, Body and Soul for a full body workout.



Dizzy Ink: Colour Bending Zine Making Workshop

Dizzy Ink is a design, print & creative workshop studio based in the heart of Nottingham. Playfully designed optically challenging artwork that reacted and flickered under opposing coloured light within the Lumini. We published quick, collaborative & experimental artist books / zines drenched in colour using their portable Risograph printer.



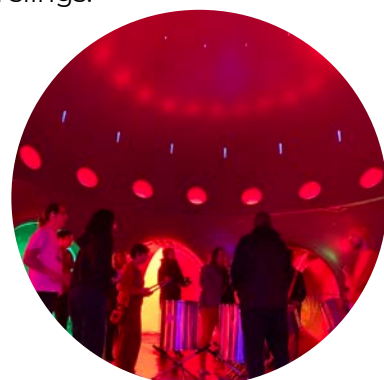
Circus Hub: Aerial Circus SEN Family Session

Circus Hub believe that circus can change lives and has the power to build confidence, self belief and healthy lifestyles; it is a space for aerial circus, Yoga and arts in the heart of Sneinton Market, Nottingham, helping create a diverse circus community in the city. Circus Hub hosted an aerial circus session for SEN children & families, exploring low level aerial slings.



Bloco Transcultural: Sounds of Samba Drums

A Sneinton-based Samba Drumming School and Band. This event offered participants the opportunity to listen to styles from Brazil, Africa, and beyond played on authentic Brazilian instruments - and to have a go themselves!



All workshops were FREE and fully booked.

CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS

Hubbub Theatre: Inclusive Dance Party

Hubbub are an integrated ensemble of learning disabled and non-disabled performers who create original and innovative engaging, accessible physical theatre using movement and original music to tell Human stories. Although based in Derby, Hubbub were welcomed to St. Ann's due to their best-practice working with SEN/D communities. Hubbub's DJ's spun some tunes to create a dance party for children & young people with SEND, their families & friends.



GrowNotts: Bee Free Seeds & Wildflower Seed Spreaders Workshop

Sharing and exploring all things wildflowers with seeds & spreaders including the impact they can make and how they can be used to engage, grow and learn. From this workshop attendees took away some seeds to spread, plus gained knowledge and the tools to bio-diversify our local communities.



Inês Sampaio: Sound Healing & Gentle Stretch with Handpan Workshop

Ines Sampaio is a musician, performer & creative practitioner.

Ines welcomed participants for a gentle stretch and sound bath with a handpan. Sound Healing is a powerful therapy that combines different healing sounds, music, and sound healing instruments to improve our multidimensional well-being by creating a beautiful experience where all layers of our luminous energy field (body, mind, soul, spirit) were awakened gently and lovingly.



Fortune & Glory Film Club: Marcel the Shell with Shoes On (PG)

Fortune & Flory Film Club are an immersive film club, based in St. Ann's, screening cult cinema. This pop-up immersive film screening event for local families featured goody bags of interactive items, games, and fun. The film is about an animated shell who creates a colourful existence in a hilarious and heart-warming story about community and finding connection in the smallest corners.



Hosted by Architects of Air: There's Something in the Air in St. Ann's - Community Celebration Event

An opportunity for residents of St. Ann's to visit the Lumini; and also to participate in creating a collective community artwork made from AoA's waste PVC which is to be displayed in the heart of St. Ann's at St. Ann's Advice Centre in 2024.



All workshops were FREE and fully booked.

CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS FEEDBACK



"Holding our creative workshop in the lumini was an amazing experience. Not only were we able to do the workshop in such an inspiring space, it has given us so many ideas for future events and projects."

Jay Sandhu, Nott Another

"An incredible opportunity to host a film screening inside a Lumini for families and community in St Ann's. We feel so proud and honoured to have been included in such a wonderful project - what a magical day!"

Emma Duncan, **Fortune & Glory Film Club**

"Thoroughly loved the challenge and experience of putting on a different kind of workshop inside the Lumini. The AoA team are wonderful, incredibly hospitable and passionate - pleasure working with them!"

Craig Proud, Dizzy Ink



"We were really pleased to be able to work on the TSITA project. It was a great way to bring community providers together to think creatively and an amazing space. We hope to be able to work together in the future to provide more opportunities for the community to access this amazing space."

**Mr Nic Williams BCAC
Community Lead
The Renewal Trust**



"Thanks so much for having us being a part of this amazing programme! It all looked absolutely incredible. We'd love to explore more stuff for the future"

Jack Harris, GrowNotts

"A wonderful creative endeavour & one of the richest & joyful participatory arts projects I've ever been a part of. Great team work & collaborations made this a dream job. The group sessions in the Lumini were gorgeous; seeing young & old alike enjoying the space, interacting with the offerings we made & generally being uplifted by the whole experience was such a joy to witness."

Karla Jones



"Super job getting this vision out there; it's just the beginning!"

Claudia, Deep Yoga

CREATIVE PRACTITIONER CASE STUDY INÊS SAMPAIO

"This has been a life changing project and I feel very privileged to have been a part of it. We spent a week in the heart of St Ann's community connecting with various pockets of the community who aren't often reached with the high quality engagement that this project delivered. The impact on the participants was evident almost instantly.

Summary

Most sessions with the hard to reach SEND schools had a focus on child-led exploration of space and story development through stimulus that were given to the children and picked up by us, creative enablers, who dived into this creative adventurous world without imposing. Music and movement was at the heart of this project with constant multi-sensory elements that best supported our participants to engage in the activities.

We had also sessions with elderly folk with dementia and other neurological divergences and led slightly more structured sessions with a focus on self-expression thought song and movement, a social aspect and, as often in my practice, playful and responsive. We created new signs and routines from small things that the participants would say or do. The laughter was constant and it was a truly emotional experience; non-verbal participant, John, spoke. Non engaging, Barbara, danced. non- English speaker, Maria, sang in Spanish with me.

The small roaming sessions with the main stream school students were a joy and a surprise. Thought they were planned to just be free exploring sessions, we ended up doing a focused 5 minute self-love workshop. We gathered in the bug dome and sang positive affirmations " I am kind, I am loved, I am enough". We also did a body scan meditation and some breath work. The focus and complete surrender to the sessions was truly mind blowing.

Key Learnings

That projects like these are transformational and we need more of them. That longer sessions with smaller groups are more productive and impactful (Ideally 1h long sessions). Engagement with the elder community should be further explored.



VISITING GROUPS

“There’s Something in the Air” workshops and events were attended by these local targetted groups based in St. Ann’s:

The Pakistan Centre Elderly & Vulnerable Day Care Centre: Movement & Music Workshop

Led by Karla Jones & Inês Sampaio. Karla is a specialist in older person's dance and Ines is a multi-instrumentalist who has composed sound scores alongside Karla's regular weekly sessions. This workshop involved gentle seated movement accompanied by a beautiful soundtrack as well as the chance for participants to be creative too and join in to sing and dance!



Albany House Day Centre: “There’s Something in the Mind” Wellbeing Workshop

Led by Karla Jones & Inês Sampaio. Individuals from Albany House Day Centre joined us for a free-flowing session of mindful movement for wellbeing including breath work, self-massage, stretching, music and invitations for self-love - creating a body and mind connection. A truly special workshop with some magical moments including beneficiaries verbally communicating for the first time in several years.



There’s Something In The Sea: Sensory School Workshops For Huntingdon Academy’s The Hive SEND cohort, Rosehill Special School & Sutherland House Special School

Led by Karla Jones & Inês Sampaio, who both specialise working with young people with SEND, hosted musical, multi-sensory & wellbeing sea-themed arts-based sessions for SEN/D pupils. This was a rare opportunity for SEN/D students to experience a Lumini exclusively with their peers, with a bespoke facilitated sensory session in small suitable groups based on the needs of the pupils.



Salamanda Tandem Iyengar Yoga: Movement 4 Health Workshop

Salamanda Tandem create artworks primarily derived from sensory experience. This session was a visually impaired person (VIP) friendly environment for VI teenagers, friends and parents to access yoga together. Learning a wide range of yoga poses, developing flexibility, body awareness, and relaxation, and explored the roots of yoga in India.



The Renewal Trust – More In Common Network

The Renewal Trust is a Nottingham based charity which nurtures happier, healthier and more connected local communities. We work together sharing knowledge, expertise, and building relationships with communities including St Ann’s. This event was an opportunity for members of the Area Networks to share in what we have in common in our local community.



FEEDBACK FROM SCHOOLS

"I'd like to thank you for inviting us to be a part of the TSITA Lumini project, the pupils and staff loved it. Some of our pupils haven't accessed any off-site visits for some time so we are very proud that we managed to take 72 pupils in 8 groups to the Lumini. All of the staff were brilliant, so patient and understanding. Inês' beautiful voice had our pupils captivated, the focused session was perfectly pitched and it was great to see how each group engaged differently. We had so many special moments throughout the day with some pupils spontaneously using verbal communication to express how much they enjoyed it. One pupil said 'that was the best trip ever' and many discussed which parts of the visit they liked best. The last group of the day was our most high profile pupils and they did exceptionally well; there was some beautiful intensive interaction between a boy and one of your staff. It was a truly lovely experience and we're very excited at the prospect of working with Architects of Air again".

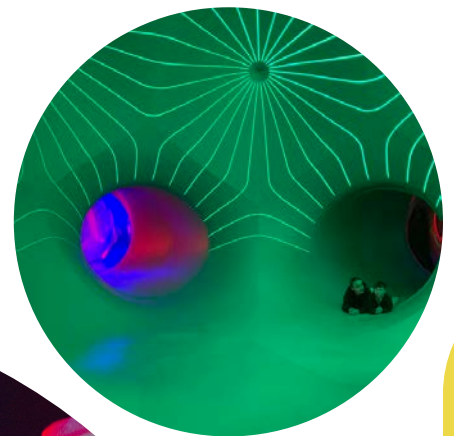
Adele Harvey

Deputy Headteacher, Rosehill School

"What an amazing experience and we look forward to working with Architects of Air in the future".

Laura Conway

Senior Teacher - Sutherland House School



FEEDBACK FROM VOLUNTEERS

"It was an amazing experience to work with the "There's Something in the Air" project. I got a big experience in the British work culture and the people's discipline. I hope we will have another chance to work together in the future.

Thank you for everything you did."

Tamrat Asnake (Asylum Seeker)

Volunteer through Nottingham Refugee Forum



"It was nice working with Architects of Air and other team members"

Victor Osinigben (Asylum Seeker)

Volunteer through Nottingham Refugee Forum



"I had a great time working with you all!"

Hannah Clarke

Local Resident Community Volunteer



MAGIC MOMENTS

Architects of Air structures are known to have created special life-affirming moments across the world for over 32 years and the “There’s Something in the Air” Lumini experience was no different. We are proud to highlight just some of the magical moments created in our local community:

As a participant of the Wellbeing Music & Movement workshop - John, who suffers severely with dementia, verbally communicated for the first time in several years much to the amazement of the staff.

John, Albany Day Care Centre

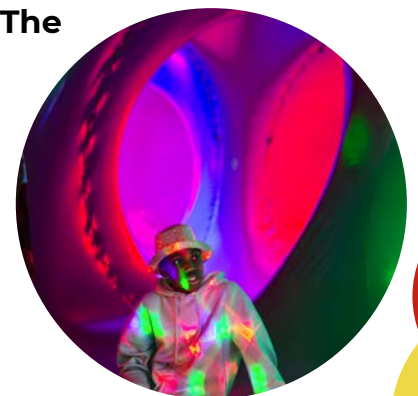


As a participant of the sensory school workshops a young pupil with Down Syndrome walked unaided, without their wheelchair aid, in the Lumini for the very first time.

Anonymous, Huntingdon Academy (The Hive)

As a participant of the sensory school workshops a young boy with autism removed his ear protectors to embrace the Lumini environment for around 15 minutes; the teachers described this as “unheard of” and could not believe what they had witnessed.

Anonymous, Sutherland House (Special School)



As a participant of the Wellbeing Music & Movement workshop - Maria, a non-English speaking dementia patient, engaged in the Spanish language with our facilitator Ines Sampaio.

Maria, Albany Day Care Centre

A mother overcame a fear of claustrophobia so she could experience a workshop with her daughter, “I wanted to be brave for her”.

Mother, Aerial Circus Workshop

SUMMARY

This pilot Lumini project was a success and we'd like to continue future place-based projects and partnerships with local communities.

Key Achievements & Outcomes

"There's Something in the Air" successfully benefited the local residents and communities of St. Ann's:

- Through high quality engagement within a world-class arts environment
- Removing financial, geographical, language, social & cultural barriers for participation in the arts
- Producing magic moments - stimulated by Lumini's unique, sensory environment
- Positive creative and wellbeing impact on the diverse community of St. Ann's

Longer Term Impact

Local Residents & Communities feedback:

Has your Lumini experience had a positive impact on you? 92% - Yes

Would you like to have another Lumini experience again in the future? 100% - Yes

Do you think this project has had a positive impact in the St. Ann's community? 96% - Yes

Would you like to see Lumini & this Lumini Project again in your local community? 100% - Yes

Visiting Groups.

All visiting groups have expressed that they would like to work with us again in the future.

Several schools & community groups that weren't this time round have reached out expressing their desire to engage with Lumini in the future.

Volunteers

We've given character references for several volunteers for further work & studying

Key Overview & Next Steps

TSITA was a pilot project to research & develop a new way of working with Lumini with an aim to understand how it best serves communities & how communities best engage and respond to the Lumini environment.

TSITA has allowed us to directly experience & realise the strength in working with targeted communities of those who would benefit the most from this special sensory & spatial environment.

AoA will continue to seek future grant funding to strengthen our Lumini offering & to continue removing barriers for communities in areas that are historically underserved by public investment in culture, to engage in the world-class arts experiences of Lumini - this includes continuing work in our local community of St. Ann's, Nottingham.

Focus Lumini work to more social-care settings &/or their beneficiaries; many orgs see the huge benefits of the Lumini environment for their students but too often there are financial, technical & geographical barriers.

Continue deeper & longer-term engagement with participants & through evaluation (i.e. WEMWBS) achieve/prove that Lumini has the capacity to make a meaningful contribution to an individual's wellbeing.



THANK YOU

This project was supported using public funding by
Arts Council England



LOTTERY FUNDED

Supported using public funding by

**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Special thanks to



Huntingdon Academy

A L.E.A.D. Academy



Nottingham University
Business School

UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA



Nottingham & Nottinghamshire
REFUGEE FORUM



St Ann's
Advice Centre

Nottingham
City of
Literature



Architects of Air



And thank you to the Lumini Managers



Emily
Flora
James
Izzy