

"This is so cool! Everyone come to Z-arts NOW!"

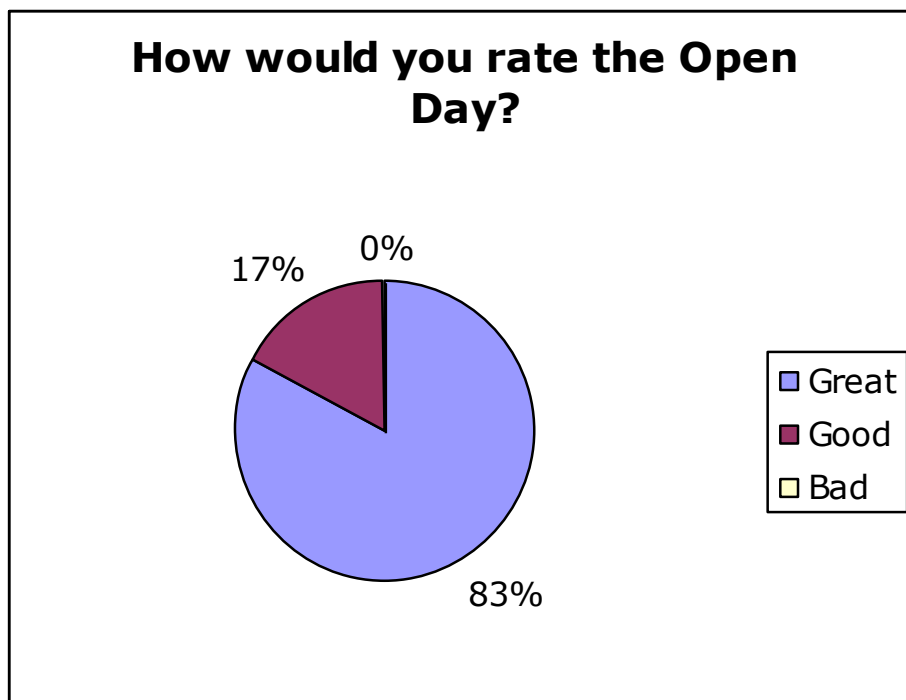
OPEN DAY 24th April 2012

"This feels like an open, welcoming, interactive space that encourages innovative project ideas across a wide and diverse community. This is EXACTLY what we need and I look forward to watching it grow."

On Saturday the 24th April the renamed and re-vamped Zion Arts Centre launched as Z-arts and to celebrate it through opening its doors to the public for a fun-filled afternoon of activities, performances and workshops. There were just under thirty activities on offer for all ages and with no prior experience necessary; from clay modelling to story-telling, zumba classes to jewellery making. One of the many highlights of the day were performances from Z-art's young people including the street dance team, music from Sat'dy Allsort and performances from ZYP (Z-arts Young Performers). Almost all the rooms in the building were open to look around, including the new recording studio and Lip Service's costume store, with dozens of clothes to dress up in. While many watch the children's musical 'The Green Lady', others got involved with Polka dots music workshops, treasure hunts and screen printing.

The attendance at the open day was high, conservative estimates putting the figure at four-hundred people, with a diverse range of ethnic backgrounds and ages. We had young families, teenagers supporting friends in their performances, older people investigating the newly named Z-arts, as well as many who had out of curiosity, wandered in off Stretford Road. Due to the fluid nature of the event and the numbers of people attending, getting overall numbers and totally

comprehensive feedback was spasmodic, however, we had a comments wall and feedback questionnaire which both proved popular. We felt that the feedback collected proved a fair representation of those who attended, in terms of both age and ethnicity. As you can see from the table on the left all respondents were positive about the day and the vast majority



rated their experience as 'Great'. People had heard about the event through a range of sources including the local newspapers, facebook pages and word of mouth, many having never been to the venue before. Attendees had also got involved with all the activities on offer throughout the open day and all the feedback was very positive. 100% of respondents would come back to Z-arts again and get involved with one off and regular events on offer.

The atmosphere in the venue was bustling, positive and brimming with potential for the future of Z-arts. Much of the feedback spoke of how respondents would like open days, like this one, to happen more often and how the taster sessions in so many activities had motivated them and their children to join the regular classes. "Great to be part of the next exciting phase – well done."

"Thank you Zion, you guys are fab. This is what we need in the midst of recession- somewhere to exhale."

"Vibrant and exciting...welcoming and dynamic- well done!"