

Manchester's venue for children and families

Annual Review

2018

Z
arts

“It is a place where being yourself is as important as breathing and as easy, no matter who you are.”



2017/2018 Financial Report

Income (%)

Earned income	47.14
Manchester City Council Grant	21.17
ACE & Trusts and Foundations	25.77
Donations	5.91

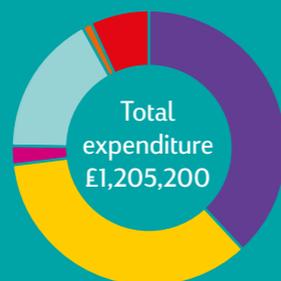
Total 100.00



Expenditure (%)

Staff costs inc training & travel	38.11
Charitable activities	35.08
Marketing	2.28
Premises costs	16.53
Legal, professional & banking	1.29
Café trading costs	6.71

Total 100.00



37.5%

increase in earned income
and donations since 2013

89%

increase in spending on
charitable activities since 2013

These figures are an extract from the audited statutory accounts for 2017/2018 which can be viewed in full on the companies house website

*In April 2018
Z-arts became an
ACE NPO (Band 2) and
also received funding for
the first time from
GMCA; in addition to
regular core funding
from MCC*

Welcome



Everything we do at Z-arts falls into one or other of two core strands of work: creative learning and participation, and theatre for children and families.

In 2018 we were able to build on two major projects from the previous year, My Planet for Creative Learning and the Big Imaginations Festival (see case studies inside).

- We've extended our work across all of Greater Manchester as well as 15 other venues across the North West.
- We've new business supporters with Levi's funding our music studio and programme, and regular partner One Manchester enabling even more children to take part in our regular Bright Sparks activities.
- 2018 saw an increase in international collaborations, working with MIF and Studio ORKA to bring the Belgian show INUK to North Manchester audiences.

Liz O'Neill
Chief Executive/Artistic Director



As a national leader in Family Arts provision, 2018 has been an extremely fruitful and busy year for Z-arts.

With new Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation status, and with GMCA funding for the first time alongside our regular Manchester City Council grant, Z-arts has been able to grow, and to take a confident strategic lead in the City's work for young people.

In such a rich year, there are many highlights. Most of the after school and holiday activities on offer were fully booked and our refurbished café has been hugely popular with Z-arts families.

Our increase in outreach provision has been even more important in the past year as our building is reaching capacity. This has led us to take the first steps towards a capital funding campaign to improve customer facilities, and to ensure our important landmark Hulme building is as creative, adaptable and future-proof as the organisation that sits within it.

Susan Roberts
Chair of the Board

Our vision and mission

Z-arts' vision is to provide an artistic programme that reflects and stimulates the diverse modern family.

Our mission is to inspire and enable generations of young people from Manchester and beyond to use creativity to maximise their potential.

64,550
visitors

“The venue is an absolute credit to the community and the staff were brilliant, friendly, informative and interested in what was happening.”

Tamara, Facebook review



Our core values:

Welcoming...



Right
The Welcoming Party – photo Lizzie Henshaw
Digital Masterclass – photo Ray Jefferson
Z-access family fun day – photo Emily Armstrong
Creative Picnics – photo Ray Jefferson
Black Beauty arts and crafts – photo Ray Jefferson

Forward-thinking...



Inclusive...



Vibrant...



Engaging and fun...



Main image:
Ministry of Lost and Found –
photo Joel Chester Fields

Big Imaginations



“Challenging what children’s theatre can be. I’d like to see more forward-thinking kids theatre that resonates now, rather than the same old adaptations.”

“The most fun and gentle chaos ever!”

Parent who saw *Sponge*

Committed to bringing brilliant children’s theatre to the region.

As a network of venues across the North West since 2013, Big Imaginations has expanded in 2018 from 15 members to 22 members

- Programming top quality, diverse children’s theatre with 35 shows and 191 performances
- Commissioning new work with 8 new commissions
- 12,922 audiences reached and 30 Development Days for artists
- Shared Learning and CPD events
- 2,644 people participating in associated arts activities

Right:
Mashi Theatre *Tales of Birbal*
Bhuchar Boulecard *Child of the Divide*
Arun Ghosh – Z-arts’ Associate Artist
Action Transport Theatre *Adrift* (BI commission)

Big Imaginations Festival 2017

A region-wide festival of children’s theatre in October 2017, curated with a focus on work made by culturally diverse artists.

Number of performances:

101

Audience members:

5,003

Number of locations:

29

Number attending participatory activities:

1,713

Wraparound activities:

73



8 commissions, co-productions and co-presentations

We continued our commitment to increasing the diversity of artists and audiences for theatre for children and families, by co-commissioning a diverse range of new shows.

Mashi Theatre

Commissioned by Big Imaginations in 2018 to make *Stripey Honey... is Very Yummy*. Touring across 22 Big Imaginations venues in March 2019 before an East Midlands library tour.



Grandad Anansi

Supporting new writer Elayne Ogbeta to lift her play from page to stage.

Stitch Bros Patchwork Wonders

Jason Singh, Arun Ghosh and Fabric Lenny blend music, live animation, beatboxing and the latest digital technology to create a storytelling experience for the twenty-first century child, to be launched at the Big Imaginations Festival in 2019.

Studio ORKA

Co-presented the Belgian company's hit show, INUK, with Manchester International Festival at Manchester Communications Academy in Harpurhey.

Theatre-Rites and 20 Stories High

Z-arts, in association with Unity, helped Associate Company Theatre-Rites realise 'Big Up!' with 20 Stories High.

China Plate & Contender Charlie

Romeo and Juliet - Mad Blood Stirring, a reimagining of Shakespeare's classic tragedy for 9 - 13 year olds.



Red Bridge Arts

The award-winning show *Black Beauty* came to Z-arts for Christmas, and was our most successful seasonal show ever.

Case study: *Sponge*

Big Imaginations commissioned Turned On It's Head to create *Sponge* a show for our youngest audiences 0-4 years. *Sponge* is a soft, bouncy adventure through playtime and dreamtime set to a funky 1970s soundtrack.

Between 2016-2018, *Sponge* was performed 205 times to an audience of 10,271, both nationally and internationally. This included Christmas residencies at The Barbican and Battersea Arts Centre, and having the honour of being invited to perform at Macau Arts Festival.



Creative Learning

In 2018 Z-arts delivered 29,000 participatory engagements in arts activities for children, young people and their families.

Over 700 children from the age of 2 to 16 years took part in our regular activities after school for 39 weeks a year during the school terms, activities on the weekend and also holiday activities during half terms, Easter and the summer.

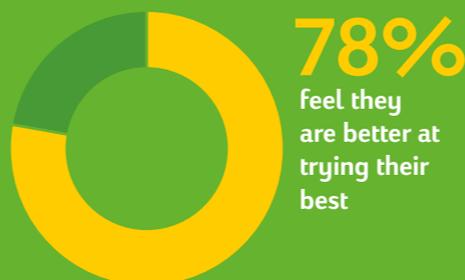
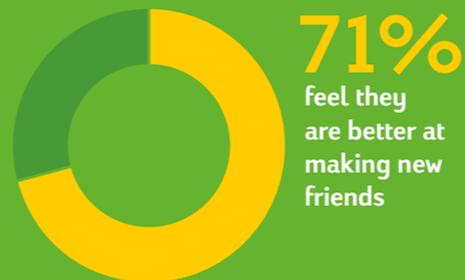
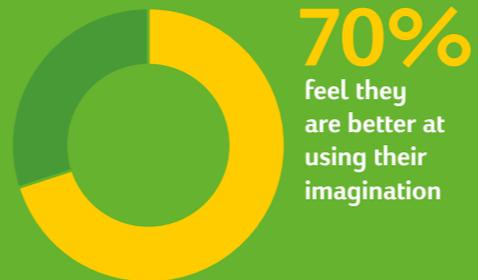
We asked the parents what they think:

“The yoga class is brilliant and my child loves it. Sets her up in a positive way for the rest of the day.”

Bright Sparks parent

Our creative learning programme helped to develop the creative and personal skills of all the participants. We asked the children how coming to Z-arts helps them:

68
school projects



Case Study: START

With funding from Children and The Arts, and working with Tameside Council Cultural Services, we created and delivered a 'Start Project' which provided a cultural offer to 300 Tameside pupils over the course of the year, delivering Arts Award to 210 pupils.

“I love coming to Z-arts because the activities and classes here allow me to express my personality and open my mind to world of creativity.”

Local school pupil



Case Study: My Planet

In 2017 we won the North West Business Leadership Team's Lever Prize, which helped us run 'My Planet' in partnership with Webster Primary School.

Mission:
to teach the curriculum using only arts activities.

Result:
an improvement of over 50% in all attitudes, behaviour and skills (only 20% in control group) and 60% of pupils said they felt happier.

Ambition:
to grow and further test the model in 2019/20.



“Lovely optimistic and creative atmosphere. Very relaxed and open.”

Joni, parent talking about our dance classes

“Why can't all children's theatre be this imaginative, inclusion and creative?”

Parent who visited *Big Imaginations* festival

“The rooms at Z-arts are always filled with fun. They are colourful and bright.”

Drama stars attendee, aged 9

“Amazing, so much talent, and made my son's day by putting him in a bucket!!! Thank you.”

Parent who came to see *Sponge*



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z-arts.org

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Registered charity 1093556



Skelton Bounty. Santander. STS Touring. John Thaw Foundation. Belle Vue Coaches. European Commission. Stagecoach buses. The North West Business Leadership Team. Siemens. Ernest Cook Trust. Bennetts Associates. Kier Group plc. Lancashire Brick and Tile Ltd. Dewhurst Torevell. Metronet UK. Places for People. Into Film. Children and the Arts.