

# Z-ARTS CHILDREN'S LIBRARY



In an unloved corner of Z-arts we built a community library for all the children and families of Hulme (and beyond) that represents everyone.



The Ness Room, became an amazing and inspiring library, where children and families could develop a love of stories and read together.



We found inspiration from libraries all over the world and shared these with our 'Arts Stars' and 'Z-arts Fan Club'. We co-created the library with our Z-arts community.



Bright colours and shapes were important to our children and of course disco lights! Their focus was on ages 0-13 years.

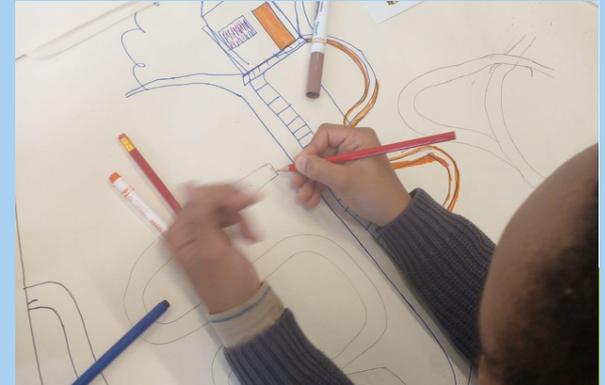


They wanted to see books everywhere. The library flows from the dedicated space into our public areas so books, stories, and illustrations are ever-present.



We worked with a set designer to turn the children's ideas into designs for a stunning space that would stimulate creativity and imagination.

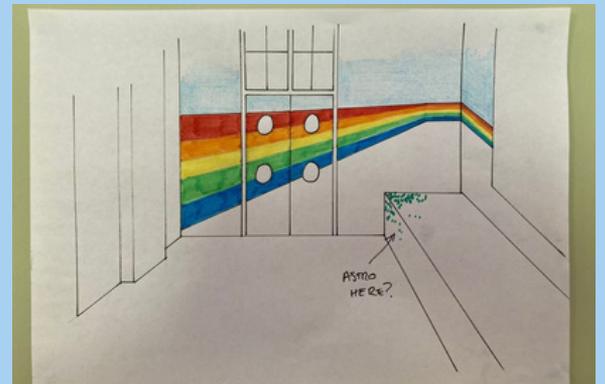
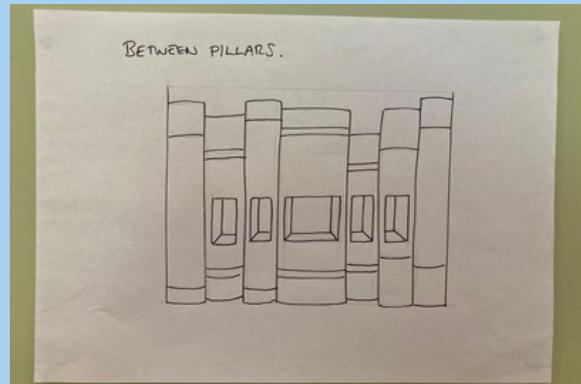
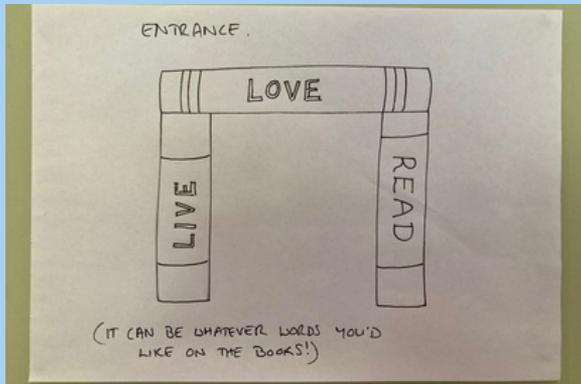
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Here are some examples of the children's ideas. They wanted a rainbow, comfy seating, spaces within spaces, disco lights, and lots more exciting things. We couldn't manage a slide this time!

The ideas they came up with stimulated Louise's design. This was then agreed by our children and families along with the Z-arts staff and Board of Trustees.

Whilst we had some funds in place we need extra help and support to bring all the children's ideas to life!



The steps from our downstairs cafe space leads up to the entrance of the Library. The 26 stair risers display books in order of the alphabet. (See images on the last page)

We have a book wall feature that spotlights original architectural features. The book wall houses a display area that showcases Z-arts other activities, including theatre and exhibitions.

The entrance foyer has been designed for a slightly older reader so that the Library appeals to children and families with different age ranges.

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These are the final designs, co-designed with Louise and the children. We opened the library in October Half Term 2022, which coincided with Manchester Literature Festival.

Did you know that Manchester is a UNESCO city of literature but didn't have a dedicated library for children - until now! Representing diversity is a key focus for the library.

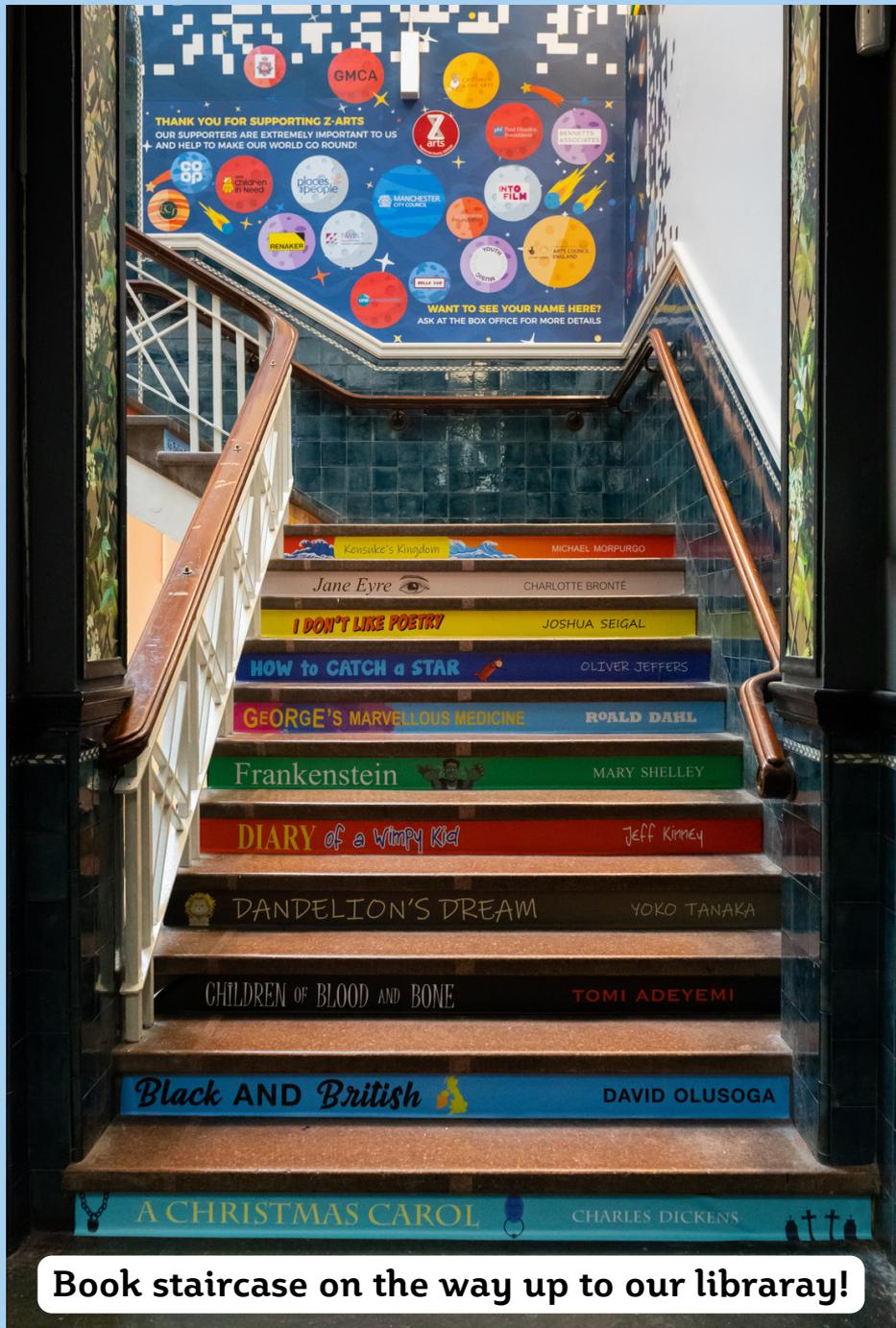
We run a whole host of events that promote literacy. We work with the Literacy Trust & Read Manchester. Focusing on talent from the GM and the North West. Our children help programme our Library Lab events.



Pictured above, we were very excited to have award-winning author and poet, Joseph Coelho (current Waterstones Children's Laureate 2022 - 2024) open our library in October 2022.

We still aim to provide every child in Hulme with a free library card. We also provide storytelling sessions to local schools, who are encouraged to visit the library for free. We have introduced Story Trails in Hulme Park.

Our library is loved by everyone who visits! Since opening, we have had over 500 new members and over 3000 books have been borrowed.



Book staircase on the way up to our library!



International Women's Day storytelling session.

