



## Case Study Make it Happen Gateshead Artists (Round 3)



**Make it Happen  
Gateshead Artists**

Are you a practising artist living  
or working in Gateshead?

Want to learn how to better co-produce  
and deliver community-led arts projects?

FIND OUT MORE AT OUR ONLINE INFORMATION SESSIONS  
WEDNESDAY 1 APRIL 2020 10 - 11AM  
THURSDAY 23 APRIL 2020 11AM - 12PM



**Helix Arts and Gateshead Council have joined forces  
to provide a FREE training and mentoring  
programme for artists.**

Make it Happen is a Helix Arts  
initiative offering a participant  
centred programme for  
artists interested in co-producing  
community arts projects in  
Gateshead.

Weekly sessions take place from  
6 June 2020 - subject to Covid-19  
updates and advice. This is followed  
by a paid commission opportunity to  
deliver a participatory arts project to  
benefit Gateshead residents.

The programme involves  
development of skills and  
knowledge in start to end project  
management/co-production.

Expression of Interest due:  
**9am Monday 4 May 2020.**  
Visit to book a space or apply:  
[www.helixarts.com/mih.php](http://www.helixarts.com/mih.php)



**Make it Happen is an action learning programme for community members and staff working in grassroots organisations and communities, where people gain the confidence, motivation and skills to produce events, exhibitions, festivals and projects in their own neighbourhood. This is a National Lottery Community Funded programme.**

In 2020 Gateshead Council commissioned Helix Arts to deliver a digital training programme for creatives living and working across Gateshead communities -100% online for the first time, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The programme has been adapted for artists who create social agency at a neighbourhood level. Artists have been fantastic catalysts for change during the pandemic.

Helix Arts worked alongside Gateshead Arts team to offer a training and mentoring programme for 14 artists living and/or working in Gateshead between April and December 2020.

This covered a range of project management topics when working with and in communities. These included planning, budgeting, coordinating, safeguarding and monitoring. Make it Happen also offers a toolkit of resources with a wide range templates to use when projects get going.

At the end of the programme the group pitched their ideas in 'Dragon's Den' style process where projects for Gateshead communities were commissioned. The field was so strong that a number of other projects also got seed funding to bring them to fruition:

### Who Cares?

Liv Hunt will work with unpaid carers (usually family members) to explore Forum Theatre techniques and encourage audiences and decision-makers to step into their shoes, influencing personal and political change for people with experience of caring for a loved one.

### Watch This Space

Sheryl who will make animation/s with young people on the theme of environment, aspirations and wellbeing. The project will increase young people's skills and confidence with film-making, and encourage them to re-connect with nature.

All participants benefited from a dedicated coaching and mentoring programme with Helix Arts and Gateshead Council.

### Impact summary

- 2 'meet the trainer' information sessions
- 14 artists access practical project management training
- 6 sessions half-day training sessions delivered over Zoom
- 3 experienced guest speakers from North East organisations
- 1 critical reflection conversation with an external evaluator
- 12 artists attended pitching sessions over 2 days
- 2 Make it Happen commissions awarded
- 5 additional community projects commissioned/supported through other secured funds
- 1 resource pack in development based on feedback
- 3 x micro-teaches delivered by artists (15 attendances)
- 39 mentoring hours offered to artists

## Digital reach

- 1201 reached (Facebook posts)
- 10,883 impressions (Twitter)
- 247 engagements (Facebook and Twitter)

## Participant insights:

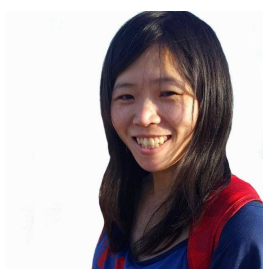
*"This is absolutely brilliant news! I'm so excited to finally get this project up and running - it's been a long time in the making! Thank you for [...] all your support through the Make it Happen programme."* **Liv Hunt, artist 'Who Cares?'**



*"My stamina isn't great for group Zoom chats, but despite that the information has actually gone in and impacted a lot on how I'm thinking about stuff. These [mentoring] conversations are really important to how my thinking is being shaped. The learning is definitely being put into words & actions. I'm really pleased with what's come from them, with the outcomes. It feels like a very satisfying shift, like something's been moved out of my way. It's helped to realign the different elements of my practice and feel more on top of the participatory side of my work. The process feels like a long term investment in me as an artist. It feels really good to have Helix's support, like I'm in good hands."* **Lizzie Klotz, artist**

*"Whatever topic we are talking about, I find really beneficial to hear how someone would apply something to their practice, or how something relates to a project they've done. It helps broaden my perspective beyond the dance world and my own experiences"*

**Giulia Coti Zelati, artist**



*"I really appreciate the opportunity to take part in the MIH programme and have learnt a lot from the process, so thank you very much for all the information, networking and pitching opportunities. Onwards and upwards now to exciting creative things in the future! I think the programme has been very thorough and will be very useful in developing further my arts engagement practice."*

**Pui Lee, artist**

*"Karolynne [Gateshead Arts Team] has been fantastic in supporting my ideas which has really given me a boost in confidence at a time when I'm unable to develop and work as a creative practitioner...I was also selected to take part in the Make it Happen programme delivered by Helix Arts which I found absolutely invaluable at a time when social interaction was very limited. Through further conversations and mentoring I decided to apply for further funding and expand the project. It was again, with Karolynne's support, I had the confidence to do this.*

*Thank you!"* **Ali Wilkes, artist**



*"The Make It Happen mentoring programme has given me a supportive space to identify areas of my practice that I'd like to develop and improve. The mentoring sessions [with Cheryl at Helix Arts] have been an opportunity for me to consider how I can adjust and improve both the creative and business sides of my practice.*

*As a freelance artist you're often on your own, or find yourself moving on to another project, and it can be difficult to find the time to fully review your practice[...] most importantly, Cheryl has been a sounding board where I've been able to talk about new ideas, identify new challenges to explore, and look at how I can build a more resilient artistic practice.* **Sheryl Jenkins, artist 'Watch This Space'**

