





**Welcome to The Culture House CIO's
Annual Report for the year 2023 - 2024.**

Who we are

The Culture House is a pioneering arts organisation based in Grimsby dedicated to widening access to creative and cultural opportunities through transformational projects.

We're a charity and an Arts Council England 'National Portfolio Organisation (NPO) committed to championing our place while driving up arts engagement and participation and providing new experiences for residents and visitors.

We build community connection, raise pride levels, improve creative careers pathways and are contributing to proving that arts make you happy.

We do all of this through delivering multiple strands of imaginative work - projects, events and festivals in local, regional and national partnership, creating quality programmes that delight, connect and educate.

Our vibrant and diverse work activates public space and local venues for the better, bringing smiles, inspiration and much-needed shifts in perception.

Our Mission is to transform futures through the power of creativity and culture.



What we did

Throughout 2023/24 we co-designed and co-produced an extensive programme of **much-needed cultural activity in North East Lincolnshire** - an Arts Council England 'Priority Place' (a nationally identified area of cultural need).

Following on from our work started in 2010, we continued to engage new and existing audiences for culture, providing many **impactful cultural opportunities for all ages and backgrounds**.

Projects included flagship place-making programme ***Our Future Starts Here***, the free to access summer programme ***Picnic in the Park*** and key local festival based on a 'grow, cook, share' theme, ***Edible Grimsby***. We also launched ***The Living Room***, a micro venue bringing audiences closer to culture.





15668
live audience

4039
digital audience

21
days of events

184
paid artists
(100 local artists)

3
local artists
commissions



560
participants learning
new creative skills

16
workshops



7
sponsorships

7
partnerships

Audience Feedback

"We really enjoyed experiencing new things in our area."

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

"Really excellent, inspiring event for both adults and children."

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
EDIBLE GRIMSBY

"The band was outstanding, it was joyous!"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
PICNIC IN THE PARK

"Lovely event, more like this please"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
PICNIC IN THE PARK

"The whole event was amazing - the performers were fantastic!"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

"Excellent range of musical tastes"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
EVERYBODY LOVES THE SUNSHINE

"Never quite seen anything like it before!"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

"I've enjoyed all the events Culture House has brought to Grimsby."

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
EDIBLE GRIMSBY

"We love these events"

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
PICNIC IN THE PARK

94% very good or good quality rating from audiences!



Our Future Starts Here

Our Future Starts Here is an innovative and accessible culture programme exploring issues of our time, including sustainable futures.

This 'placemaking' programme, taking place across outdoor and indoor spaces, aims to be **bold, future-facing** and **transformational**.

The twice-yearly programme hosts leading national outdoor touring shows, installations, creative workshops, panel talks and more while championing Grimsby and the global leading green industries based here.

This helps to **further local understanding of our place**, contributing to **raising pride levels** and **increasing creative participation and championing local talent**.





Widening public access to culture

Over the year we successfully lead and partnered on a number of free key local outdoor programmes that activated public space and brought **joy, fun, creativity, connection, appreciation**. We love working in partnership to widen reach.

In 2023 - 2024, our **FREE** outdoor events / partner events included:

- **Picnic in the Park** - a 5 date summer programme in People's Park, using the underused bandstand while championing local music talent.
- **Everybody Loves The Sunshine** - piloting a new music festival for Cleethorpes hosting diverse national musical talent across jazz, funk, soul and everything in between.
- **Grubfest** - joining forces with the wonderful **OE Makers' Market** and **Grimsby and Cleve Eats** to provide fun and engaging content at this local food and creative event.
- **Edible Grimsby** - connecting community groups on the theme of 'grow, cook, share' to enjoy this delightful day of eating, taking part and enjoying national touring work combined with staging and championing local talent on the 'home-grown' stage.
- **Christmas in Grimsby** - curating content featuring local and national artists that helps to create magical and memorable cultural experiences for people.
- **Love Your Town** - curating a music stage to champion local talent and engaging residents and visitors with a breathtaking, previously commissioned installation, LOVE IRL.

100% said our indoor programmes were very good or good!

The Living Room (& other indoor events)

We've introduced a new year-round programme of **high quality happenings in local venues**, in some cases in partnership with other existing events.

We curated content for Grimsby Minster's Christmas Market and 'Love Your Town' and launched The Living Room, **a brand new micro venue designed to bring audiences closer to diverse culture** (music, theatre, comedy).





Alongside place-making projects and events, we're supporting the development of the cultural and creative sector in Grimsby as well as providing more opportunities for people of all ages to take part.

Grown in Grimsby

We're help to grow the sector by providing vital work and up-skilling staff.

- 9 event stewards trained
- 100 paid local artists / performers

• Made in Grimsby

We're supporting the creation of artistic work and in 2023 - 2024 commissioned 3 local artists to create new work, all of whom benefited from further opportunities as a result.

• Taking part in Grimsby

We've delivered creative workshops across all of our projects, included sewing, street chalk art, music storytelling and nature.

- 16 workshops
- 560 participants



What else we're doing as an organisation

Working in partnership with others - locally, regionally and nationally - to create a positive shift.

Undertaking ongoing training and development to ensure we're fit for purpose and that our work is **relevant** and of **high quality**.

Considering the impact of our work on the environment through our Environmental Action Plan.

Working to ensure our work is accessible to everyone.





Our impact

We carry out extensive evaluation*, asking people about their experiences and for their feedback in several areas.

In 2023 - 2024, this research has told us:

- Our projects give people a **sense of connection** and **community**.
- Our programmes offer an **inclusive atmosphere** and result in **appreciation** of free access to culture.
- Our events and associated activities **raise pride levels** and **aspirations!**
- Culture House projects and programmes significantly **impact on people and their perceptions** of the local area.
- Through our work, people benefit from **new experiences** and we help them **build a relationship with culture**.
- We're helping people to explore what **sustainable futures** might look like for people.
- What we do is **accessible** and often results in smiles and good times all round!
- **People want more!**

** full 2023 - 2024 evaluation report with key findings available.*



“The Culture House do such great stuff for Grimsby, the quality of what they put on is incredible. I know we’re not going to be disappointed.”

AUDIENCE MEMBER,
OUR FUTURE STARTS HERE

Final words

This was our first year operating as an ‘NPO’ and a charity – which required a strong focus on organisational development as we transitioned to a new way of working – while developing and producing multiple projects.

We’re proud of all we do, in and for North East Lincolnshire and would like to thank **Arts Council England**, **Create North East Lincolnshire**, all of our **funders** and **sponsors**, as well as **our board** for their continued support.

