

# Our response to emergency funding package for culture, arts and heritage

Along with other arts leaders across the UK, we welcome the government's response in tackling the current crisis facing this sector. Financial support is key to rescue and recovery, but even more so, is the recognition of the important role the sector plays, both economically and by way of enriching people's lives within local communities.

Like many cultural venues throughout Britain, we have been faced with enormous challenges which will continue for months, even years, as we begin to shape our future recovery. Cultural venues impact hugely on the local economy, helping many other sectors such as hospitality, tourism and travel to thrive.

Waterside is a multi-purpose arts venue and we, along with many other arts centres, are uniquely placed to mobilise and support the recovery of the sector through our adaptability and position at the heart of the community. Our work locally is so much wider than live performance; we deliver over 700 participatory events and play a significant role in the wider cultural ecology of Trafford and Greater Manchester. We support children, young people, older people, adults with dementia and those with additional needs through our work, so we see our role as key in building confidence and reducing isolation within the community as lockdown is eased.

Whilst the logistics and details of funding allocation are being processed, we will continue to raise awareness that the sector goes beyond the buildings and venues to show that there is a huge community of creatives, artists, performers and professionals whose contribution to the UK's world-class arts offer is absolutely vital.

Overall this response to the crisis is positive and has given hope to a sector that has always shown resilience and reverence, but we must remember that this financial support is only the first step towards what we know will be a hugely challenging recovery process.

**Darren Adams**

**Venue Manager, Waterside, Trafford & Arts Lead for Trafford Council**

