

The background is a dark, textured black. In the upper left, there are three elongated, glowing white structures that look like microscopic organisms or spores, each with internal patterns. In the lower left, a white line drawing depicts a person sitting and holding a glowing lightbulb. The lightbulb has several short lines radiating from it, indicating it is lit. The overall aesthetic is scientific and creative.

**Creative
Natives**

ANNUAL REPORT

2023

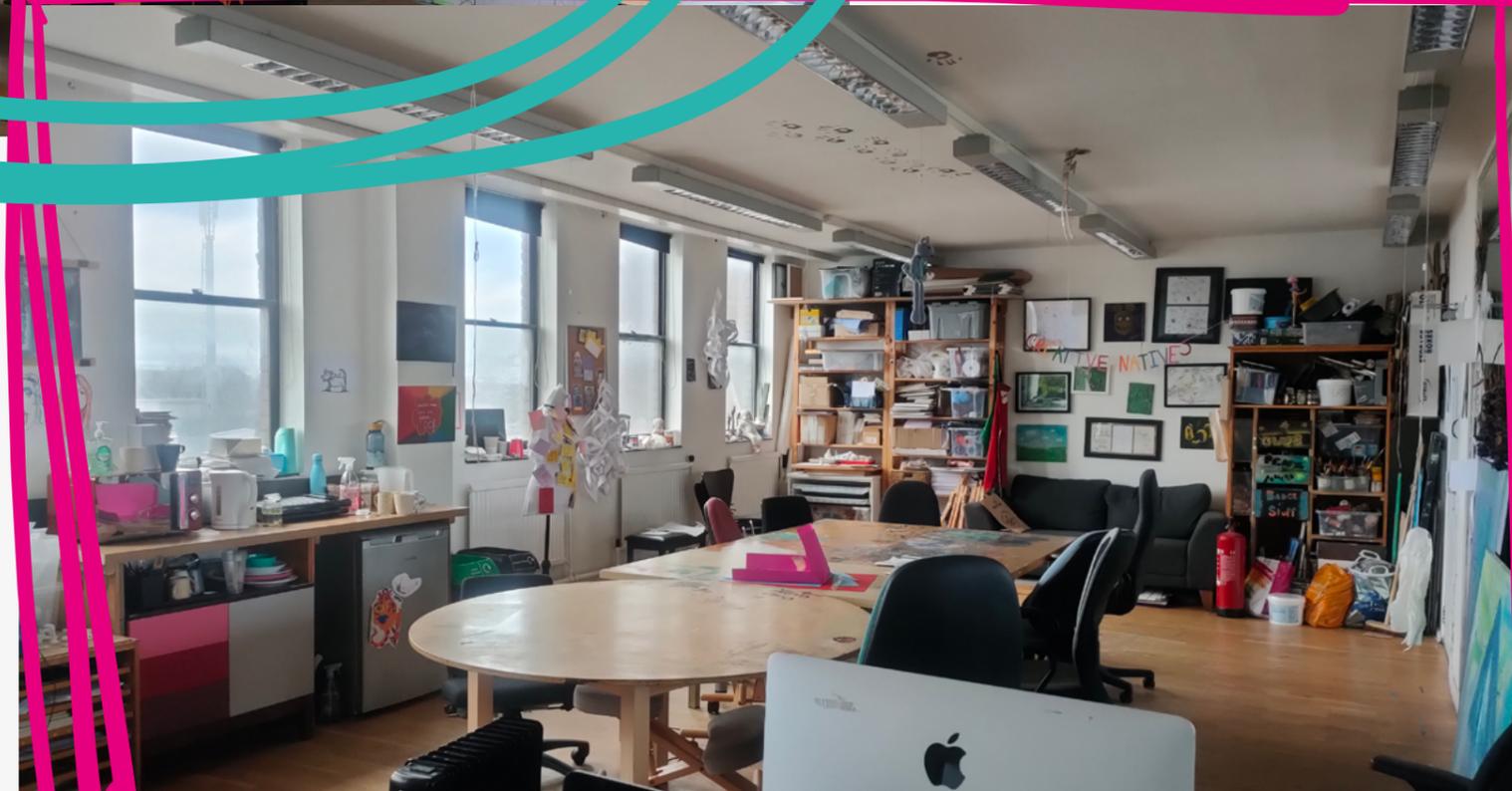


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What is Creative Natives?



At Creative Natives, we support young people aged 14-24 through creative activities in our safe and welcoming studio space in Edinburgh. Typically, our young people may need some support attending the studio for the first time but they quickly feel part of the group and are inspired to build on their existing skills or try something completely new!

Supported by our team of artists, we utilise the arts holistically to build confidence, develop new skills, and nurture friendships. We can then identify appropriate routes for progression for our participants.



What we offer?



At Creative Natives, we offer a variety of different activities based on art and design. However, we believe that young people are at an age when they are interested in exploring creativity in all its splendour and aren't closed to exploring new fields such as:

Drawing & Painting

Illustration

Photography

Arts & Craft

Animation

Music

Costume Making

Spray Printing

Graphic Design

Portfolio Preparation

Special Workshops & other activities

In addition to in Studio activities we also offer:

- 👤 **Inspirational talks** from visiting artists and creatives and,
- 👤 we have **days out** to visit galleries, museums and other related events that interest our participants.

In recognition that most of the young people come from deprived areas and food poverty continues to be a problem in Scotland, **we provide lunch and material expenses** to facilitate attendance.

How did Creative Natives come to be?



Creative Natives, formerly known as Digital Natives, started operating in April 2014. Since then, the service has been evolved according to the needs of the groups of young people who have participated.

The original aim of the project was to provide participants, between 14-24 years-old who were at risk of social exclusion and isolation, a space to develop their creativity. Over the period of a 12-week pilot we aimed to grow the confidence and resilience of the young people attending. It quickly became clear that the client group may struggle to maintain this formal structure, so we adapted the project to a more person-centred approach with more flexibility to accommodate sporadic attendance. It was decided not to have a set time limit so as not to create anxiety and be accommodating to larger groups, creating social connections and promoting a sense of community while learning in an art and design studio.

Over the years, having learned more about the barriers that these young people face, we are now more informed about the general needs of our client group, and more able to offer appropriate support and guidance whilst building skills and confidence in a wide range of creative pursuits. We now welcome new clients to the project in a very gentle, reassuring way and then, generally, they will be able to join our busier sessions which helps them build on their social skills and develop new friendships in a supportive, creative environment.





What is the mission and objectives of CN?

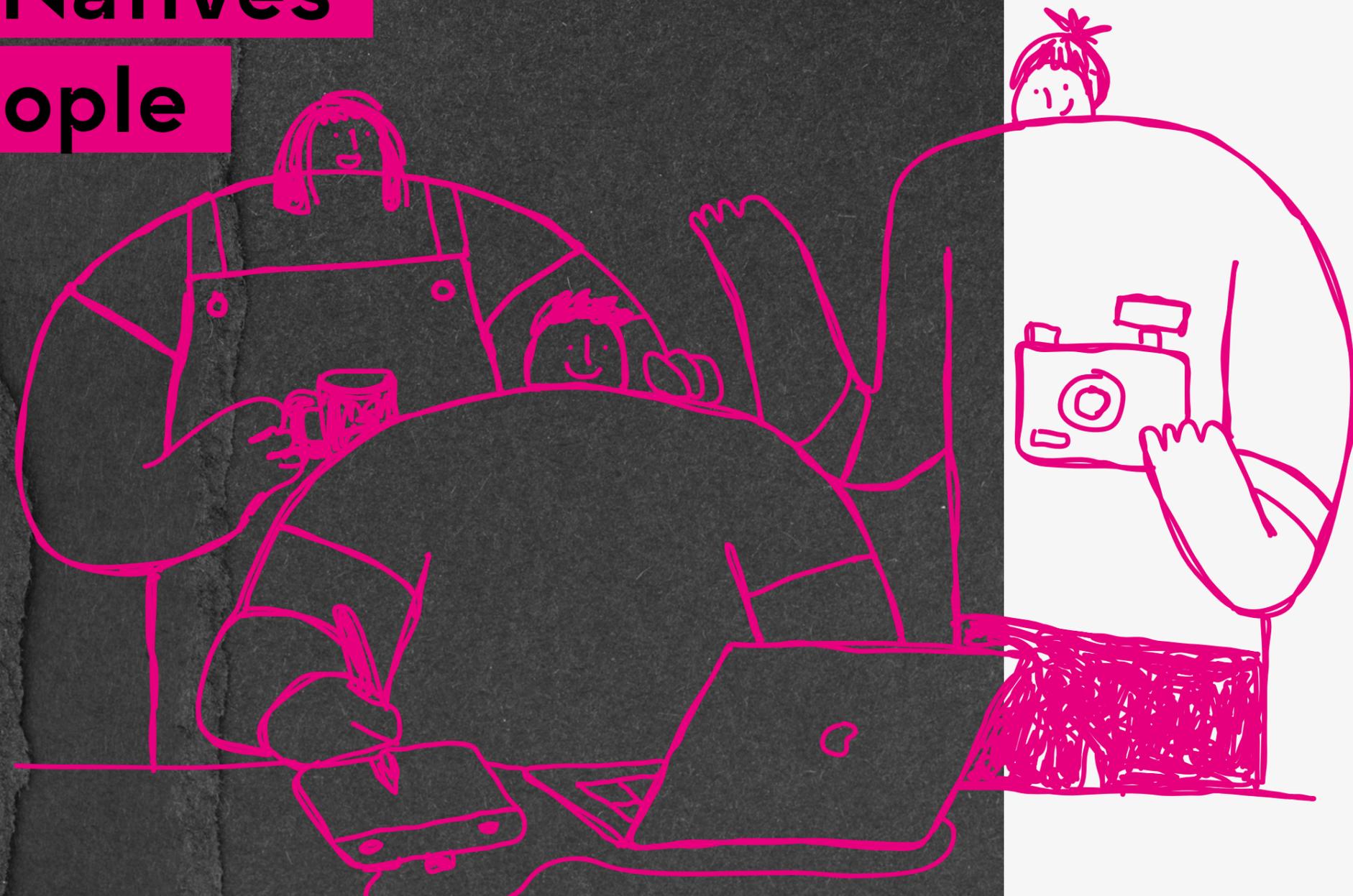
It provides a non-judgemental space where **disengaged young people, aged 14 to 24 years old, can grow their creative potential, confidence, resilience and connections** in an Art and Design studio. We encourage and nurture their creative ideas as well as offer guidance and support to ensure young people have a valuable experience and are more confident and better equipped to move on to a positive destination.

One of our main objectives is improving the terms on which individuals and groups take part in society — improving the ability, opportunity, and dignity of those disadvantaged on the basis of their identity.

We have experienced that some groups of young people confront barriers that prevent them from fully participating in political, economic, and social life. **Creative Natives is a supportive and non-judgemental environment, where young people can express themselves and build their skills.**

In recognition of food poverty, exacerbated by the current cost of living crisis, food and materials are provided for all attendees. Further specific support can be accessed through our partnership with Cyrenians and their range of relationship based support services around accommodation, food, mediation, employability and learning - Cyrenians have the skills to make it happen.

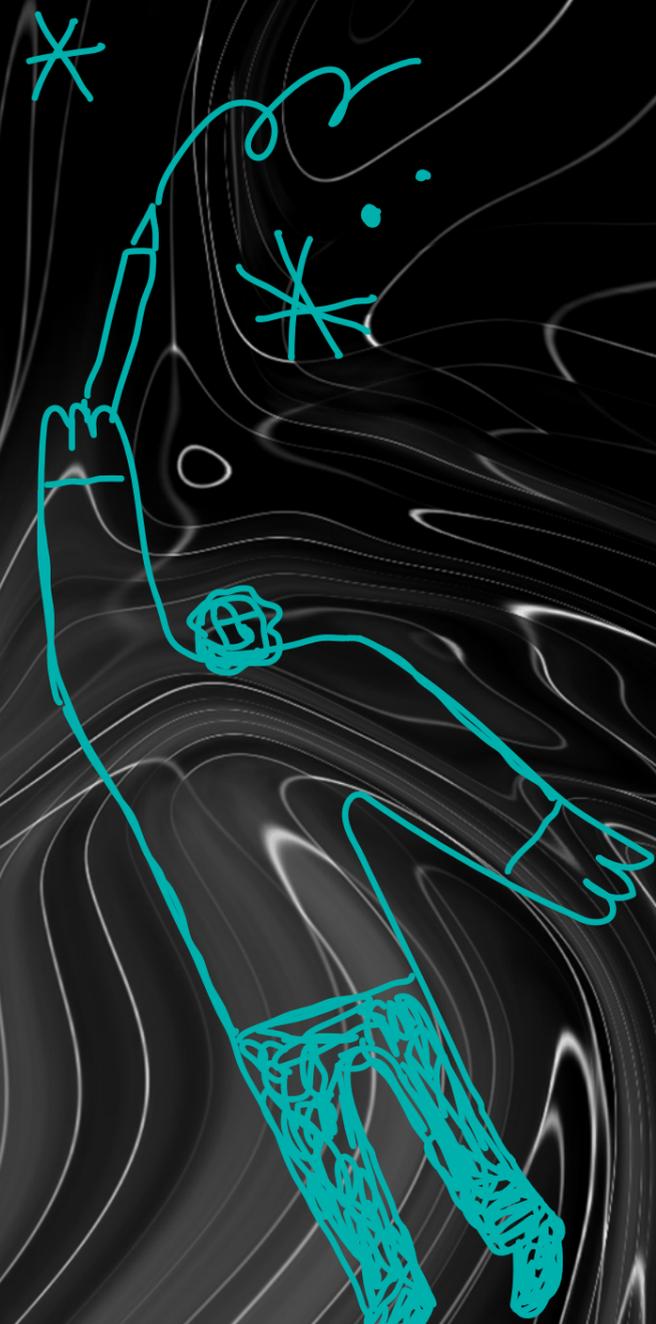
Creative Natives' Young People



Young people who come to Creative Natives hail from a variety of socio-economic backgrounds. All of them have a different story to tell, varied life experiences and clearly, they have their reason why they decided to be part of this project. For some young people there are educational links, for example, we have had young people attending with a very specific goal in mind, such as creating a portfolio for college, and other young people who come along feeling lost after having a very negative experience at school which has generally led to non-attendance.

They are looking for space where they can explore their options without feeling the pressure to perform in a traditional academic sense. All of the young people in attendance are experiencing some kind of a barrier to moving forward positively in their lives - poor mental and physical health, neurodiversity, discrimination by gender identity, economic issues, poor social skills, social anxiety, confidence issues, etc.

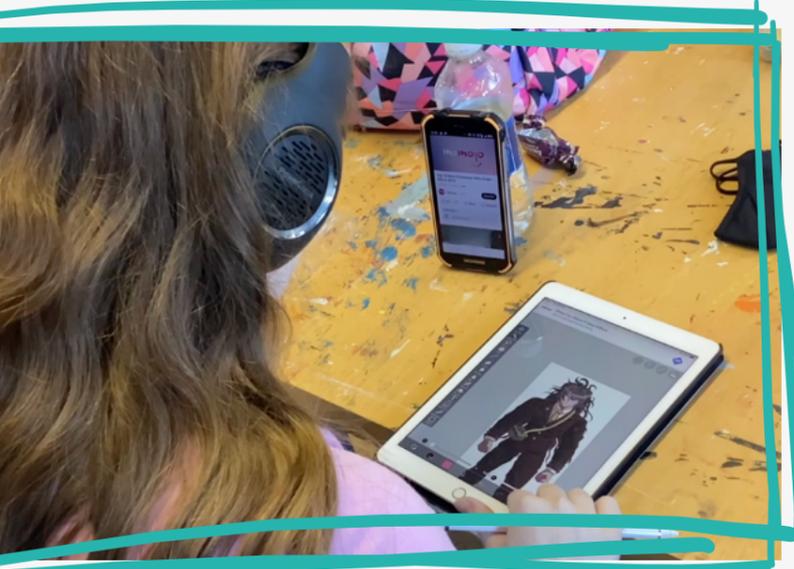
Workshops & activities delivered



In addition to general attendance to the studio, we also promote and offer one-off workshops to young people. These workshops focus on specific skills and techniques and include – portfolio building, screen printing, installation art and sculpture, ceramics and other activities with the Creative Natives team, external artists and professionals.



Due to the different nature of the participants skills and interests it can be beneficial to bring them together and work on the same theme, this creates further opportunity to build relationships. Workshops can be delivered in the Creative Natives studio, professional workshops, museums or other appropriate venues.



Private workshops sessions

In conjunction with Cyrenians' Key to Work project, Creative Natives has been running weekly small group workshops in 6-8 week cycles.

Local schools and organisations who support young people are invited to bring young people along to participate in more structured work-related activities including, crafts, ceramics, graphic design, blockprinting, music recording and editing, set building, animation, filmmaking and video editing.



Portfolio Preparation Program



Portfolio Preparation is our most popular programme, offering daily one to one guidance for the participant. No other organisations offer this service for free. In addition, participants can come at any time to the studio in order to work on their portfolio and receive assistance. Furthermore, young people who have attained a place at college but require additional support to sustain attendance can come along and receive support. This program develops skills, knowledge and understanding across a broad range of art and design areas, including the critical skills necessary for advanced level study in this field.



Alongside portfolio building, students have the opportunity to develop appropriate levels of communication, creativity, and interpersonal skills. The Creative Natives Portfolio Preparation is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop a high-quality portfolio for applications to College or University. In addition to the assistance during development, work is reviewed and supported by artists and graphic designers.

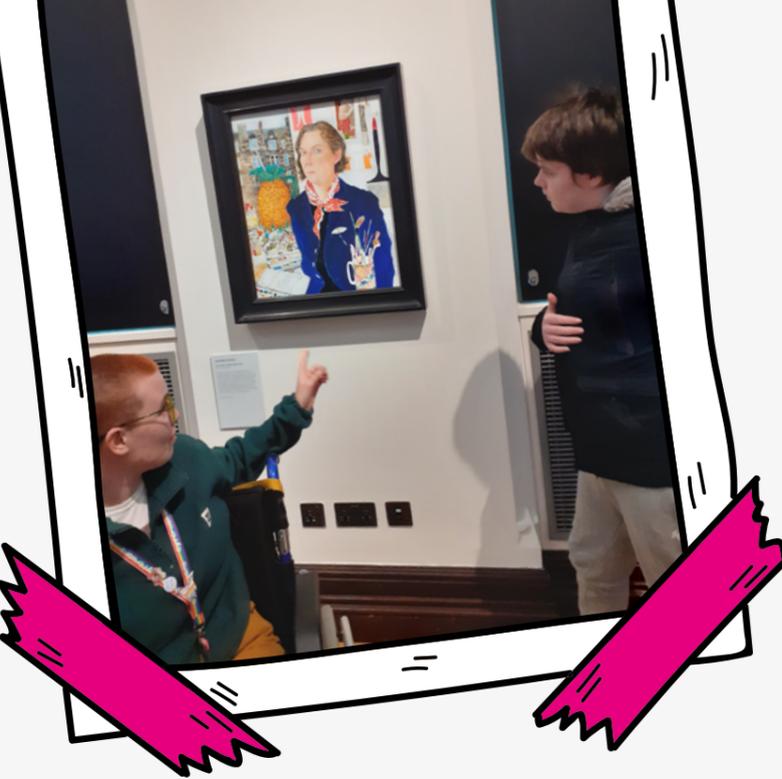
Days out, museums & exhibitions



The social aspect of Creative Natives is one of its main strengths and helps build the confidence and resilience of participants. Before attending the project, visiting new places or meeting new people can be anxiety inducing and frightening prospects for our young people. If young people find social events and days out stressful or difficult in their everyday lives, this will tend to come up in day-to-day conversations in the studio. We address this in a gentle, supportive way, inviting them to join us on trips to local galleries or museums, or picnics in local parks to create art together outdoors.

Discussing their barriers or perceived difficulties in attending these types of activities and involving the young people in their search and planning, allows us to highlight areas of concern for our clients, find creative solutions and offer support and reassurance. Attending such events often creates a significant boost in confidence and self-esteem: a fun, lively, shared experience with new friends in new, exciting and inspiring environments. As well as a few days out in the city visiting greenspaces for picnics when the weather was good, recent days out include:

- 👤 Jan 10th - **Fruitmarket Gallery**
- 👤 Jan 26th - **Youth Voice Workshop** (Tinderbox orchestra)
- 👤 Feb 7th - **Dr Who Exhibition**
- 👤 Feb 13th - **Jupiter Artland**
- 👤 Feb 28th - **Cupcake Decoration (Cyrenians Kitchen)**
- 👤 March 14th - **Surgeons' Hall**
- 👤 March 28th - **Eat, Sleep, Ride**
- 👤 April 4th - **Fruitmarket Gallery**
- 👤 April 25th - **Dynamic Earth**
- 👤 May 23rd - **@Birkhill House**
- 👤 June 24th - **Pride March**
- 👤 July 18th - **Edinburgh Zoo**
- 👤 July 25th - **Tile Making with Edinburgh Arts Festival**
- 👤 August 1st - **Lavendar Menace**
- 👤 September 19th - **Portrait Gallery**
- 👤 October 11th - **Summerhall**
- 👤 October 25th - **Cyrenians Farm**
- 👤 November 7th - **Grayson Perry (NGS)**
- 👤 December 18th - **Christmas Cookie Decorating** (Cyrenians Kitchen)



All these trips went well, and the young people enjoyed getting out of the studio and out and about in Edinburgh.

As a group we will be continuing our days out because we can see how important this is for participants and leads to positive change, such as forming friendships amongst their peers and starting to go out and about, doing things themselves.



The perspective and reactions that young people have in reference to Museums and exhibitions are very interesting. Many of the young people who have participated in these cultural outings have told us that they had never entered a museum or gallery due to various reasons such as: they did not know that many facilities are free to visit; they are intimidated by the people at the entrance of the enclosure; they have heard that they are boring places and are not for young people; and some had not considered the existence of these spaces.



During visits we set a task i.e. to choose a piece of art that resonates with them and afterwards to explain why and give a critique of the piece. This encourages critical thinking and invokes discussion and debate which is empowering. We strongly believe that it is a necessary activity both for the educational, social and personal development of the young person.





What was new this last year for CN?

CN Exhibition

We held our first annual exhibition at Saint Margaret's House, and it was a roaring success. The launch drew over sixty attendees from the local community who gathered to see our young artists' work and support our vital work. We showcased seventeen of our attendee's artwork, which ranged from drawings, paintings, sketches and sculptures to photography and animation – if our participants have a creative vision, we will do all we can to make it happen! For many of our participants, this was their first chance to exhibit their work and share what they have to offer in a public setting. Such a wonderful opportunity for our young people to tell their own stories, show their creative skills and to make their voices heard.

At the grand launch of the exhibition, our young artists were overwhelmed by the response and the positive feedback received from the invited guests. It has definitely been a very enriching experience for them, which will surely give them

more confidence and worth when developing their future creative projects. Several of our artists are now looking at entering work for future community exhibitions, and some pieces even found new homes. We hope to hold them in different locations around Edinburgh and/or Scotland- so watch this space.

“When I first came to Creative Natives, I was really lonely and down and didn't know anyone really, I didn't have any friends. When I started coming here, I met like-minded creative people, and I was opened up to new possibilities and have gained confidence. Creative Natives helped me get into college to study art and gave me the opportunity to participate in my first ever exhibition. I got to bring my Grandad who was really moved and proud of my achievement, it was the best feeling. It has given me the magical feeling of having my art shown to and appreciated by others. I wouldn't have been able to do any of this without Creative Natives.”

— Joey, aged 16.



Eating Disorder Program

Creative Natives works with CAMHS, Penumbra, and CAPS Advocacy to support young people experiencing eating disorders. We provide an important space for these young people, referred to us by CAMHS, where they can be creative and enjoy a comfortable social atmosphere.

These young people in recovery, and their parents, appreciate the relaxed approach of the studio where they can find respite from medical appointments, and they also value the integration of creative time to their routines as they adjust into phased returns to school and reengaging with peers.



Environmental



Creative Natives is cognisant of the climate emergency. Alongside reuse, recycling awareness of carbon footprint, there are growing opportunities to explore environmental issues with the participants.

As an **art & design studio we are improving day to day and aim to have less print impact**, we are trying to buy materials that come with less packaging, paints based on water or non-toxic chemicals and reuse as much as we can. We also try to buy locally, supporting local business and reducing carbon footprint.

One of our suppliers is Out of the Blueprint (outoftheblueprint.org), a social enterprise in Leith that provides print services. They use sustainable RISO and GOCCO printing which is an affordable, and eco-friendly way to print. This organisation also supports young artists in Scotland through the power of print.

In addition, we are strongly focused on recycling as much as we can. We have recycling bins at the studio and we encourage young people to be aware of how important it is to learn how to care about our planet.

Referrals

Skills Development Scotland (SDS)

Despite no formal relationship, most of our referrals come from SDS. We have a very close relationship with the Edinburgh SDS team and are recognised as a successful and supportive route for young people to access higher education through the development of the portfolio.

Schools

We also have been receiving referrals from the local high schools for young people who have additional support needs and an interest in something creative. We currently have two young people attending weekly during their school-free periods. These referrals come directly from the schools via the SDS workers assigned there.

CAMHS

Post-Covid Creative Natives has strengthened partnership working with CAMHS, Referrals via some of these organisations have increased as a consequence of post-covid "symptom".

Waiting lists for services such as CAMHS are lengthy, and they refer to us some of the young people who could benefit from our service based on art.

Self-referrals & referrals from past participants

Since Creative Natives has started the project, we have mainly received participant referrals through different associations and schools. However, we have started receiving new participants referred by past participants that were happy with the service provided and think that it will help others.

Creative Natives social media channels

After being open for 6 years, Creative Natives is a well-known project in Edinburgh. Through our website and our social media, we are often contacted by families and young people asking for more information and how to access the service.

Case of Study



In this section, we will delve into two compelling case studies featuring young individuals actively engaged in our program. **These case studies offer a detailed exploration of the experiences and outcomes of these participants, providing valuable insights into the impact and effectiveness of our initiatives.** We aim to shed light on the transformative journey undertaken by these young people within the framework of our project, showcasing both challenges and successes. Through these narratives, we hope to convey the significance of our work and the positive influence it has on the lives of the youth we assist day to day.



Shona

CREATIVE NATIVES

Participant

Starting Point

When Shona initially began attending Creative Natives, she had experienced a series of tumultuous relationships and friendship breakdowns and was feeling very isolated. She found day to day activities challenging; her dyslexia can cause executive dysfunction or makes it difficult to structure a series of activities. She wasn't engaged with any activity groups or programmes and felt let down by organisations that were meant to be supporting her.

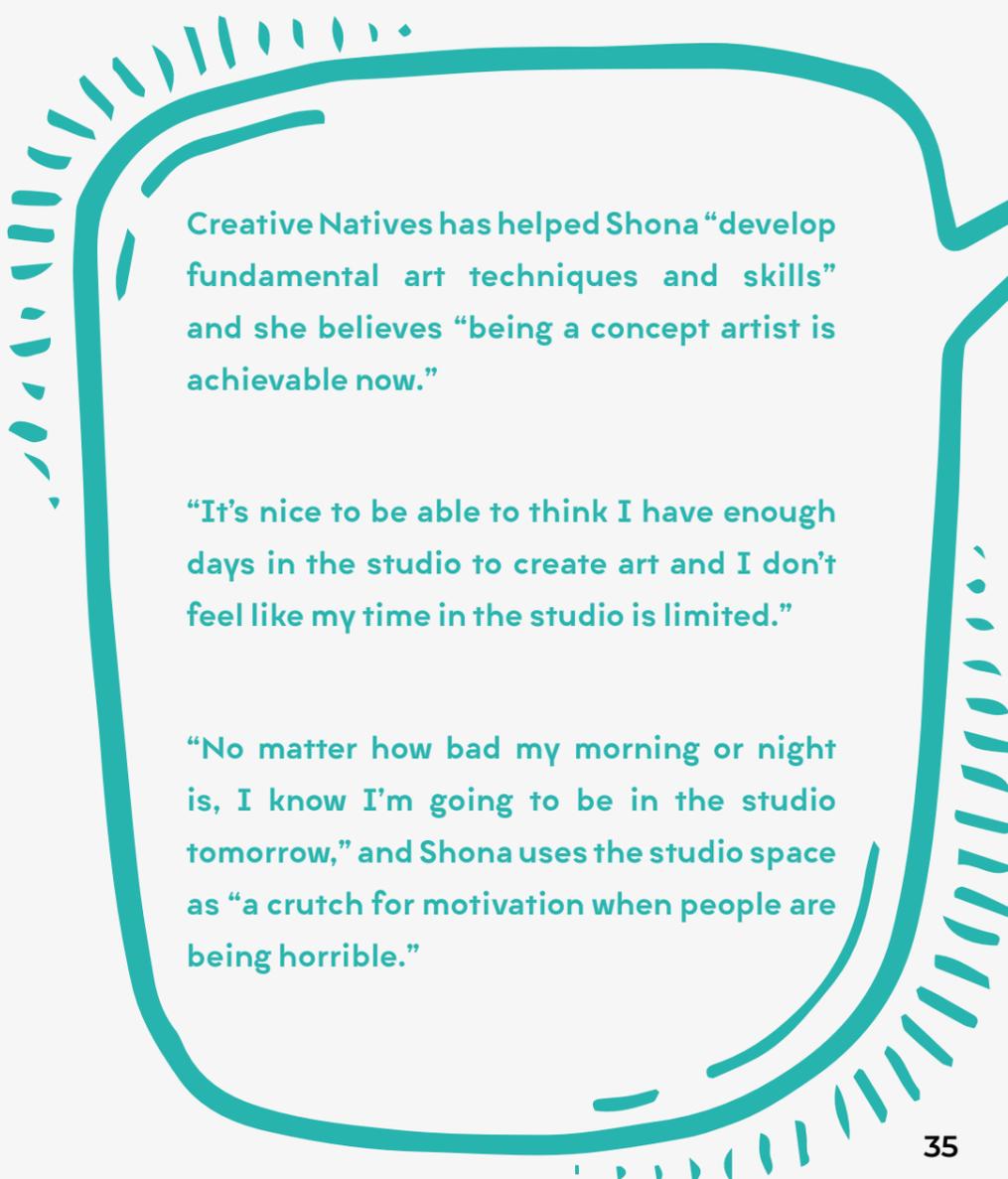
Case Overview

Shona referred herself to our service in May 2023, with ambitions to develop an application portfolio for an Arts course at college (beginning summer '24). Since her initial visit, Shona has made regular, lengthy appearances in the studio in which she demonstrates a real dedication to her art. She has expressed a keen interest in expanding her artistic skillset, and we've seen her eagerly try out new mediums such as acrylics and clay.

She has also come on socially, making and connecting with friends she's made within the studio outside of studio time. Shona has referred to the studio space as a "bubble" in which she feels safe and stable, which she has stated contrasts the chaos of her home environment. Having the routine of attending Creative Natives has positively impacted the routine of her everyday life; she has seen improvements in her sleep routine, eating habits and expresses she feels like she can care

better for her siblings as her mood has improved immensely. Daily tasks have become easier for Shona since attending Creative Natives: she previously expressed debilitating feelings of anxiety when faced with having to "function in society," (e.g. go to the shops, take the bus into town) but now feels more confident doing so, and has even made solo trips to the nearby Morrisons with her £5 lunch money. Shona says she trusts the keyworkers at Creative Natives to keep her focussed on creative tasks she intends to complete that day, which have helped her develop clearer ideas of what arts field she'd like to go into and identify routes to get there.

Her confidence in her creative abilities has improved and she's much keener to share drawings/paintings she's been working on both inside and outside the studio.



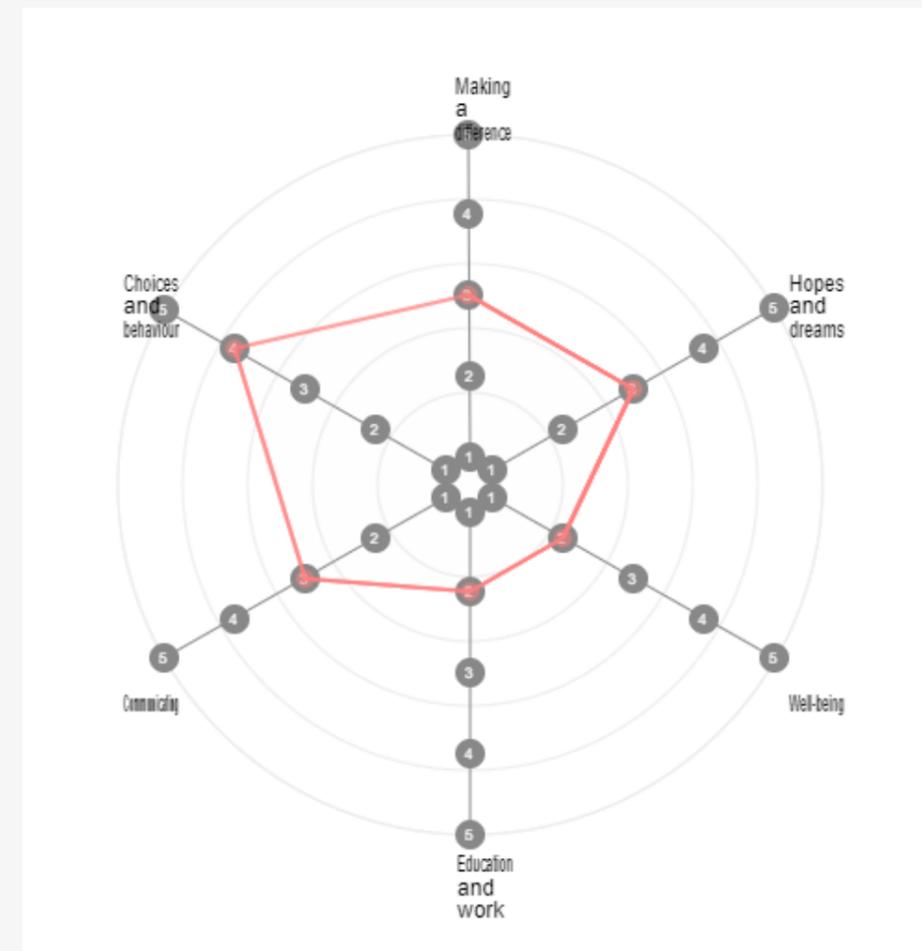
Creative Natives has helped Shona "develop fundamental art techniques and skills" and she believes "being a concept artist is achievable now."

"It's nice to be able to think I have enough days in the studio to create art and I don't feel like my time in the studio is limited."

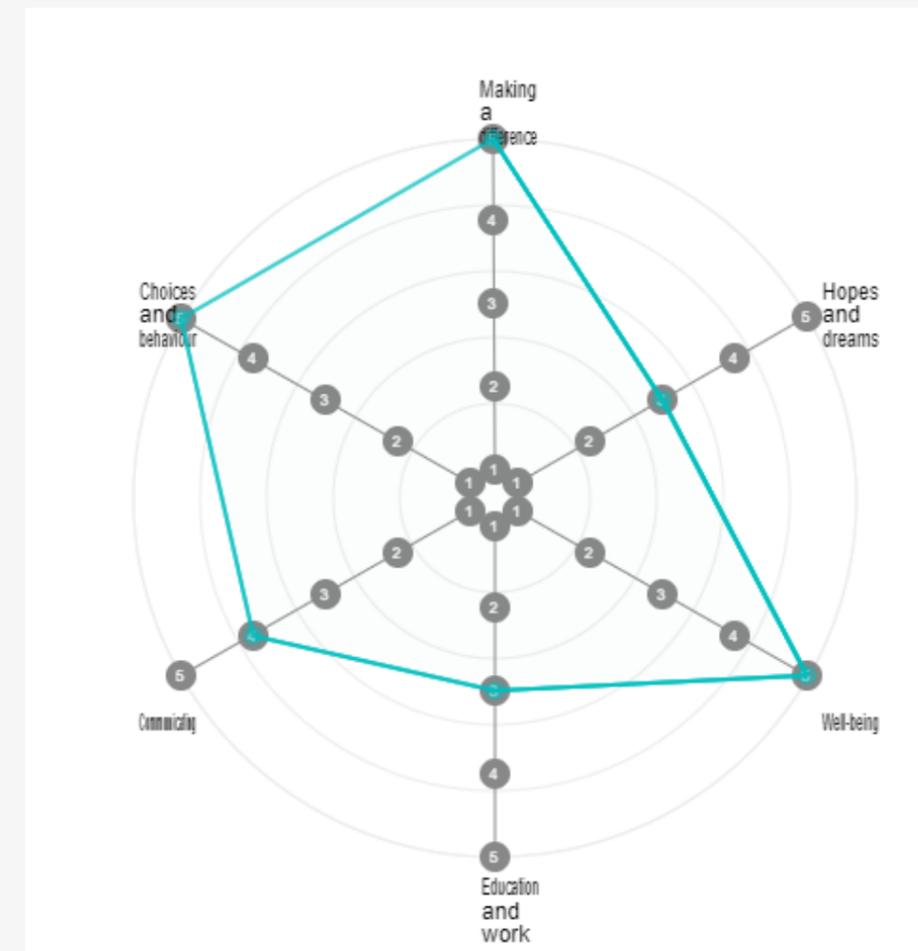
"No matter how bad my morning or night is, I know I'm going to be in the studio tomorrow," and Shona uses the studio space as "a crutch for motivation when people are being horrible."

Outcome Star

Outcome Star as of 31/05/2023



Outcome Star as of 13/07/2023 (and further notes)



Making A Difference: 5

Shona has made friends through Creative Natives, and the studio schedule has provided her with a routine which has helped her find structure in her life. She has expressed she feels more confident when out and about in society.

Hopes and Dreams: 3

Shona's confidence about her job prospects in the creative industries has increased. She's developed clearer ideas about her future, such as wanting to enter the gaming industry, and feels more valued as an artist, which has helped her focus her portfolio and encouraged her to develop the necessary skills to enter the 'indie horror gaming industry.'

Well-being: 5

Shona has seen her anxiety levels reduce as she sees the studio space as something of a safe bubble away from her turbulent home life. This has encouraged her to feel less anxious about other aspects of her life. Accessing the Creative Natives studio has allowed Shona to make time for herself, and she feels more capable of looking after her own wellbeing.

Education and Work: 3

Connecting with both Keyworkers and other attendees has encouraged Shona to feel less concerned over her school performance and how this might impact her job prospects. She hopes to pursue Art in further education, and CN has given her a clearer idea of her potential pathways. She is now keen to access services such as technology grants and portfolio preparation courses.

Communication: 4

Shona feels like she can be her authentic self in the studio and can speak her mind; she doesn't feel compelled to 'fit in' like she did previously. If she doesn't want to raise anything verbally with others in the studio, she is confident communicating through text. She's also noticed her day-to-day conversations with friends and family are much more optimistic.

Choices and Behaviour: 5

CN has encouraged Shona to develop a daily focus, where she previously struggled to do so. She is confident and focussed and is excited by the variety of arts materials available to her in the studio, as well as the amount of time she can spend in the studio.

Zara

CREATIVE NATIVES

Participant

(August 2023)



Zara was referred to Creative Natives by 6VT Cafe in December 2022. Zara, a 15-year-old trans girl, has a history of poor mental health and had latterly struggled to see the point in attending school. She was also leading a chaotic social life involving extensive drug and alcohol use. At the time of the referral, she was trying to move on from her “druggy pisshead” (her words) group of acquaintances. She felt her life was rudderless, had become very anxious and isolated, and had also recently had an autism diagnosis which she was having difficulty coming to terms with. She was feeling demotivated and demoralised and found it impossible to feel positive about her future or to see any meaningful way forward.

Zara visited Creative Natives with her support worker and presented as very nervous and anxious about entering

the busy studio or speaking about herself. There was a candlemaking session being delivered in the studio, the Keyworkers ushered her towards a seat at the quiet end of the studio and did all they could to make her feel welcome and relaxed. Having determined that she had a keen interest in graffiti, street art, film and photography, Keyworkers engaged her by complimenting her portfolio on her phone and discussing artists and film makers she admired. She gradually relaxed and, by the end of the first meeting, she agreed to get involved in the main session and made a candle for her mum’s Christmas present. She also committed to possibly attending Creative Natives on a regular basis.

Zara quickly realised that Creative Natives was a cool, quirky, safe place and started attending twice a week, receiving support and assistance with travel to and from the studio when required. Zara has a real gift for photography, and we invited her to exhibit some of her work in the Creative Natives exhibition held in the gallery space in the Edinburgh Palette building in January 2023. As her confidence was now blossoming, she was also happy to assist the staff team by taking video footage

and photographs at the grand opening of the exhibition, even managing to engage with visitors who showed an interest in her photographs. Her work was much admired, and she sold 4 prints to a photographer in attendance.

With confidence running high, Zara arranged a solo exhibition at Whale Arts Centre in February 2023 where she, again, sold several prints. With Creative Natives support Zara applied, and was accepted for, the Contact photography course at Stills, Edinburgh. Her course ran for eight weeks and covered digital and analogue process providing an extensive foundation in photography theory. Following this, Creative Natives assisted Zara to apply for a photography course at Edinburgh College starting August 2023. She was accepted and, to help fund herself through her course, she also found part-time employment with an Edinburgh Estate Agent, taking photographs to promote their listings. This has been a very important affirmation of her skills and abilities and has massively increased Zara’s confidence and independence. In addition, she has also applied to Stills Academy to complete the advanced level,

fourteen-week course that she plans to attend alongside her college course. She is motivated, hardworking and incredibly productive.

Zara has stated on many occasions that attending Creative Natives has been a life changing experience for her. In just a few months she has progressed from an anxious teen, overwhelmed by self-doubt and seemingly unable to break out of a self-destructive cycle to a confident, happy, motivated and productive independent young woman. She asserts that this is down to the relaxed and productive vibe of the Creative

Natives’ studio, the motivational and non-judgmental approach of the staff team who have offered guidance and support to help her to develop her skills and rebuild her confidence. She has been able to talk openly about her barriers and has received practical guidance, encouragement and support to help her leave her troubled past behind and, instead, develop resilience and confidence to enable her to make significant steps towards following her chosen career as a photographer.

Stats 2023

From September 2022 to September 2023, a total of **28 participants** were enrolled in Creative Natives. However, we have a **total of 57 young people** who **are still active** and benefiting from the service that Creative Natives provides. The demographic distribution is as follows:

Gender

- 👤 Male: 11
- 👤 Female: 16
- 👤 Gender Fluid: 1

Age

- 👤 14 years: 2 participants
- 👤 15 years: 6 participants
- 👤 16 years: 7 participants
- 👤 17 years: 4 participants
- 👤 18 years: 4 participants
- 👤 19 years: 3 participants
- 👤 20 years: 2 participants

Referrer

- 👤 High School: 3
- 👤 SDS: 1
- 👤 CAMHS: 11
- 👤 Other Cyrenians: 8
- 👤 Youth Organisations (Edinburgh): 2
- 👤 Self-Referral & Parents: 2
- 👤 By a CN Participant: 1

Ethnicity

- 👤 Scottish: 16
- 👤 British/Scottish: 1
- 👤 German: 1
- 👤 British: 5
- 👤 Polish: 1
- 👤 Scottish/Maori: 1
- 👤 Nigerian: 1
- 👤 Bengali/Italian: 1
- 👤 British/Asian: 1



CN Team



Creatives Natives is made up a team from **Cyrenians** and **Community Enterprise**, all of whom have strong backgrounds in creativity, arts and crafts, as well as being committed to the third sector and communities.

Sara Bayo (Community Enterprise)

Creative Lead

Sara is a professional creative and graphic designer specialised in the cultural and social sector for more than 18 years. In addition, she has always been linked to the children's and youth sector, working in schools, coordinating summer camps, participating in after school clubs delivering sports and creative activities. Always being aware of what difficulties that exist in the sector, she has developed educational and creative based projects and workshops in order to improve young people self esteem and mental-health.





Grant Pringle (Cyrenians)

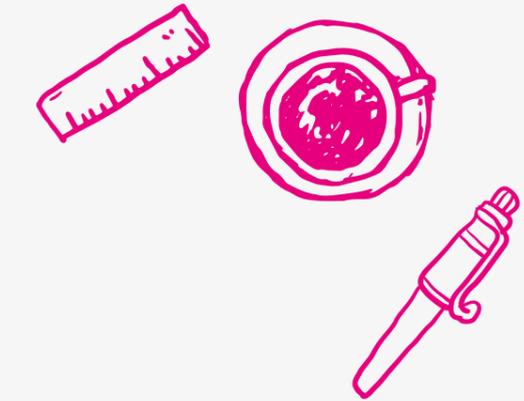
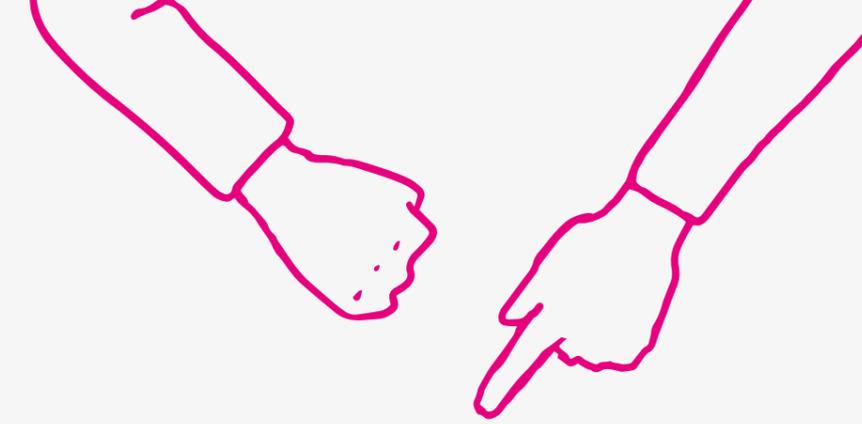
Senior Arts and Wellbeing Key Worker

With a background in illustration and music, Grant has used art, music, film and carpentry to deliver creative youth projects in Edinburgh and the south of Scotland since 2008. He likes the buzz of live music and is daft about cats and curry.

Sarah Cronin (Cyrenians)

Arts and Wellbeing Key Worker

Sarah is a musician and artist with a passion for holistic arts education. Her lived experience of improved mental health through participation in art and music fires her passion for building self-esteem and resilience in our young people. She enjoys stomping around in nature, bashing out tunes and making a mess in the name of creativity.



Alia Davies (Cyrenians)

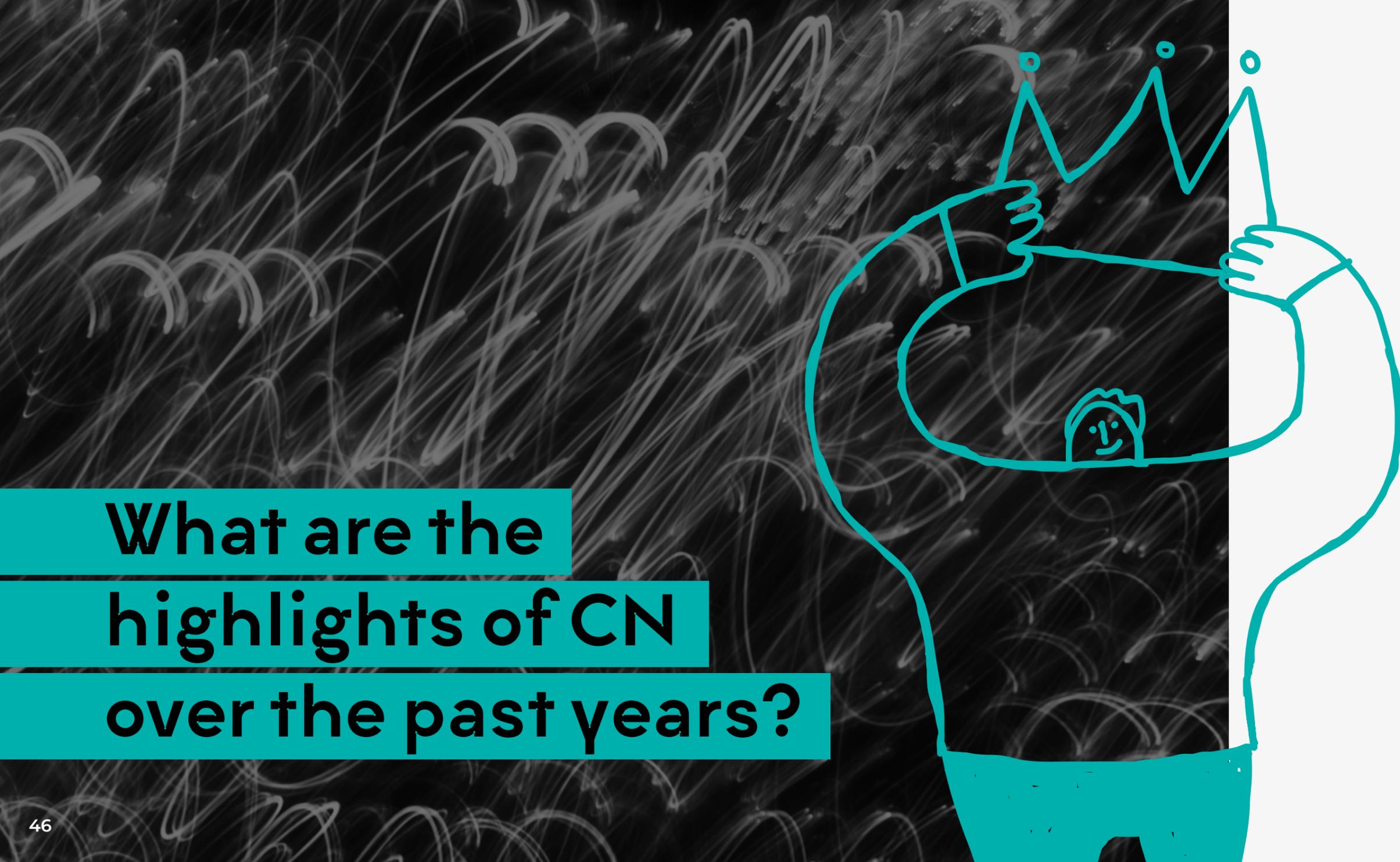
Arts and Wellbeing Key Worker

Alia is passionate about painting and drawing, specialising in portraiture and the medium of oils. During her school days, you could always find Alia chucking paint around in the art classroom (even if she wasn't strictly supposed to be there). She will show you photos of her dogs whether or not you've asked to see them and loves spending time staring at the moon.

Maili Fraser (Cyrenians)

Arts and Wellbeing Key Worker

Maili is a filmmaker and participatory artist from the Highlands who loves working collaboratively across art forms. They are passionate about building accessible, open, and nurturing spaces where young people can utilise the arts for self-expression and building community. Maili loves live music, watching weird films, and spending time with their many houseplants.



What are the highlights of CN over the past years?

Over the past years we have been capable of creating a space with an inspiring, fun and inclusive atmosphere **where young people experiencing poor mental health can feel valued, listened to and safe.**

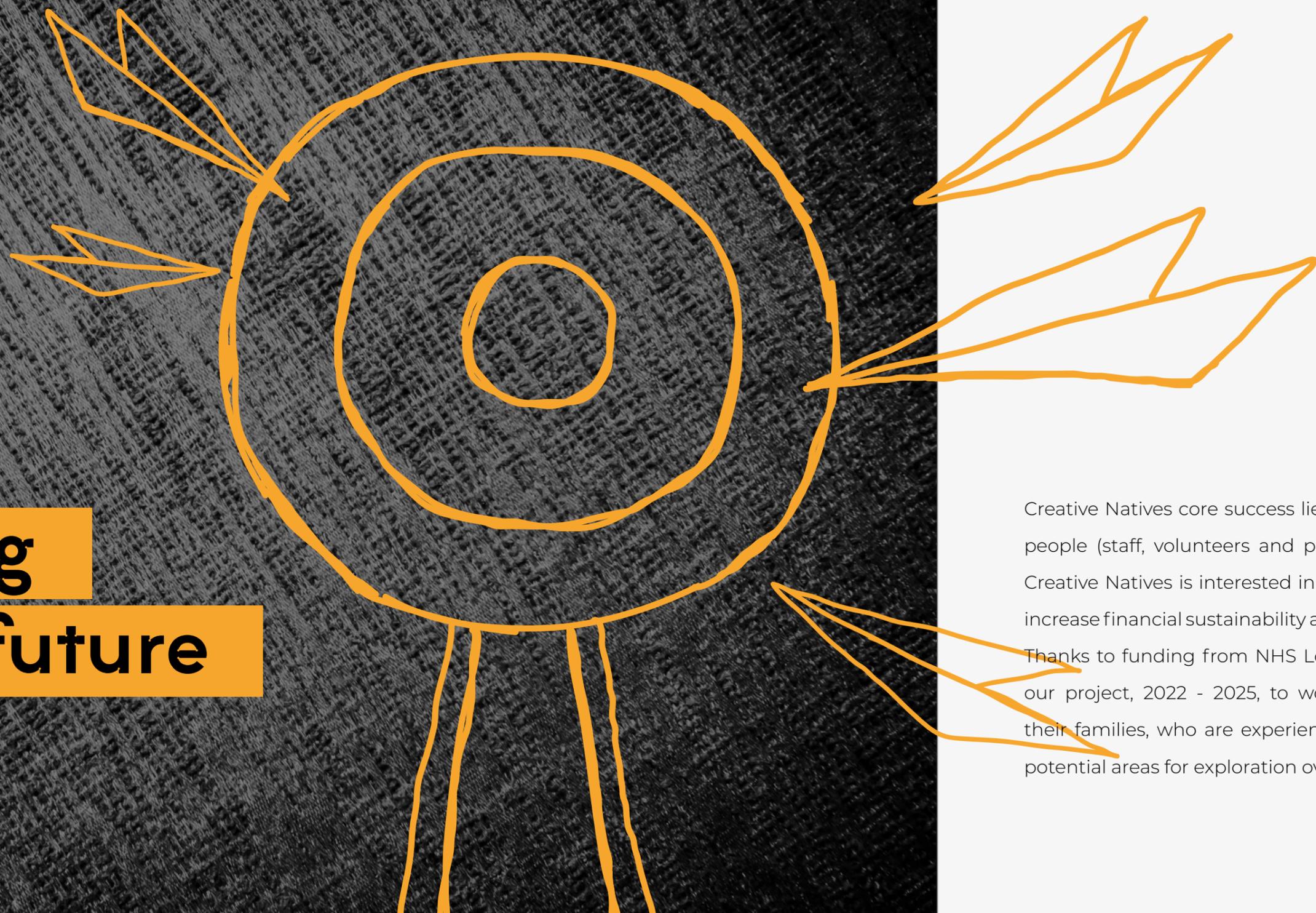
The number of participants has increased considerably and we are now a well renowned service in Edinburgh, especially for organisations working with young people, schools and other services focussed on improving mental health, among others.

We have now **extended our opening hours to accommodate specialist sessions** - art, music, film making, leatherwork, arts and crafts, etc - and regularly invite creative practitioners to deliver sessions in our studio.

We have also **developed the social aspect of the project to further promote good mental health in service users.** Trips to places of interest in and around Edinburgh, which would be very challenging for many participants to access themselves, can now be undertaken within the safe confines of our supportive group.

In addition, our **free Portfolio preparation program** has been incredibly successful in alleviating stress and misconceptions that provides guidance and tools for all the young people that need support to access college.

Looking to the future



Creative Natives core success lies in our approaches and our people (staff, volunteers and participants). Moving forward, Creative Natives is interested in exploring several avenues to increase financial sustainability and reach more young people. Thanks to funding from NHS Lothian, we will be expanding our project, 2022 - 2025, to work with young people, and their families, who are experiencing eating disorders. Other potential areas for exploration over the next 5 years include:

Incubator Lab for young artists

This is an opportunity to support young people in developing a career as an artist. The young people will be guided in the different stages and workflows, developing systems and routines to interact with future clients. Also provide them with tools to create and work on their visual identity, as well as creating their webpage or online store and social media, in order to promote themselves and thus be able to grow as professional artists.

Internships

Previous relationships with interns have been very positive for both the intern and the participants and there is interest in hosting more. We are keen to engage those with skills in particular creative industries as well as those interested in participatory art.

A connections map

This would enable clearer signposting and provide opportunity to target gaps areas- either geographical or thematic.

Partnership development

Our partners are key to our continued success, and we are keen to strengthen the partnerships we do have and create more. In some case there is an opportunity to formalise the relationship, in some cases this may enable us to tap into funding for referrals.

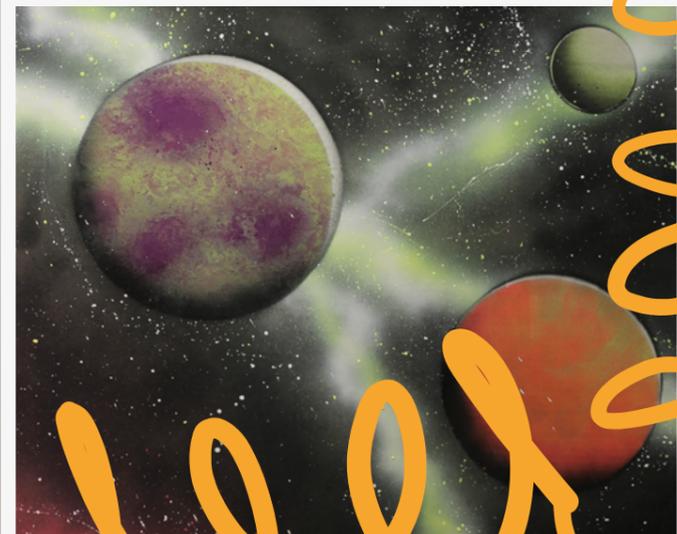
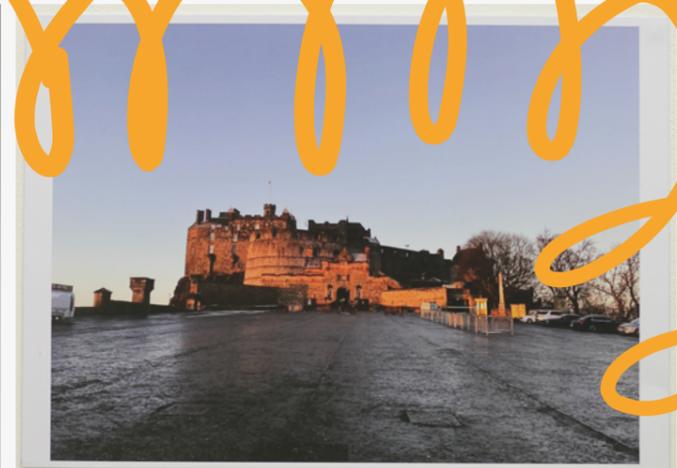
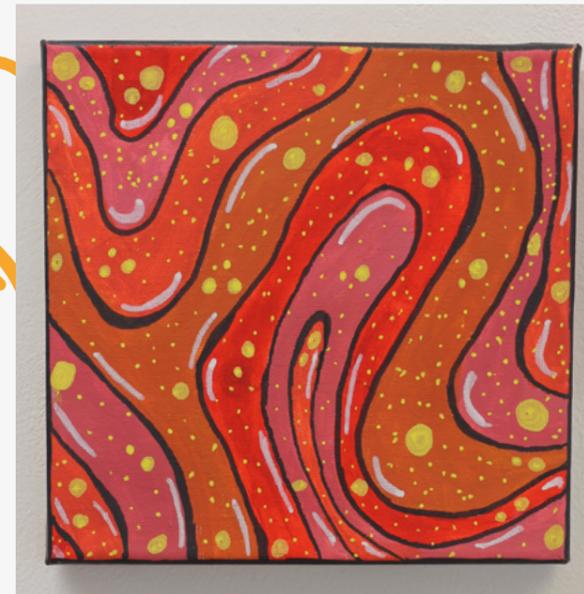
Employability

Employability has been a core aim of Creative Natives since inception. Traditional employability routes do not always work for the young people we are engaged with and Creative Natives is keen to explore less conventional routes to support young people.

Expansion of Creative Natives

By working with community anchor organisations and youth organisations in other local authority areas, there is an opportunity to share the Creative Natives model. This would create more opportunity for young people to engage across Scotland.

It is important to recognise that the key success factors are not lost when further developing Creative Natives. The relaxed and enjoyable approach and atmosphere created by the skilled team ensure that young people feel welcomed, supported and part of Creative Natives.



What are the hopes for the future of CN?

We hope that Creative Natives will continue to respond to the specific needs of our clients and expand their options and improve their life choices. We're particularly interested in connecting with new partners to improve access to services and to create new and interesting pieces of work with our young people. We are currently looking into how we can display art produced with the project to a wider audience in the Edinburgh community.

These are some of our hopes for the following years:

- ☁️ **Offer support and guidance** to ensure we fulfil the aspirations of our service users.
- ☁️ **Expand the project to other areas of Scotland**
- ☁️ **Build the support network** of agencies who promote good mental health. **Strengthen partnerships** and input from the creative sector.
- ☁️ **Continue to offer inspiring, aspirational experiences** for our young people build on the creative skills and experiences of our service users.



Quotes of CN participants



“Creative Natives is a small studio with big hearts — very friendly, welcoming and accepting”.

“Creative Natives was the cosmic domino that stopped me from becoming a ruin”.

“Creativity is freedom. It’s opened up loads of new opportunities for me”.

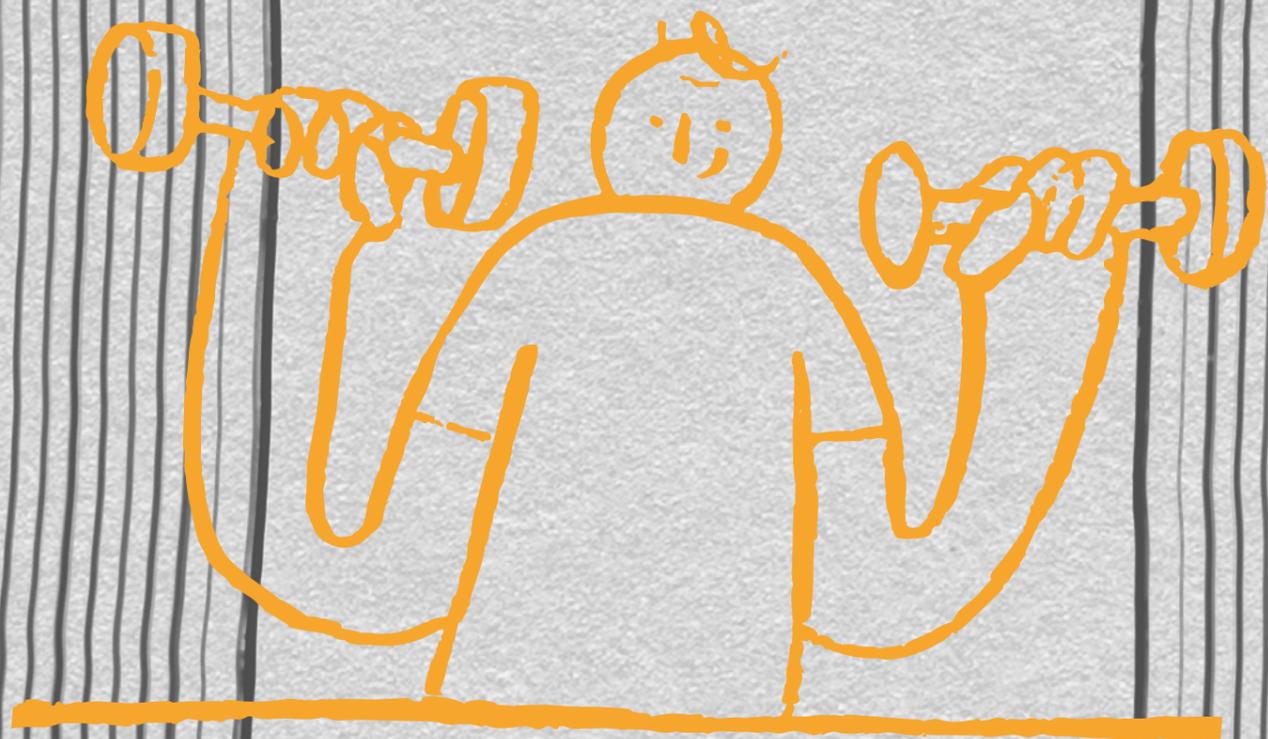
“Creative Natives lets me be able to be with people of similar interests to mine while I can continue to explore different kinds of art which is free to me”.

“It’s really nice to all be together having fun and to meet new people”.

“Before I found this place, I didn’t leave the house at all. I only had one friend. On my first day I didn’t talk to anyone. This place is great, I highly recommend it. 10/10”.

“I like the trips; they’re new experiences for me, and they’re good!”.

Our Supporters



We gratefully acknowledge and appreciate the support of all our funding partners and supporters, including:

- 🏡 National Lottery Community Fund
- 🏡 The Robertson Trust
- 🏡 Thrive Edinburgh
- 🏡 EVOC (Community Mental Health and Wellbeing Phase One)
- 🏡 NHS Lothian (CAMHS)
- 🏡 COMMUNITY ENTERPRISE (contribution from reinvested profit)
- 🏡 Individual donations from our Exhibition.



Creative Natives

Creative Natives is a project created by:



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www.creativenatives.org.uk