

Impact on Cultural Ecology development in Crawley

Oct '25 to April '26

Supported by an Arts Council England National Lottery Project Grant and the Chalk Cliff Trust



Creative Crawley produced a programme that built on the work achieved in our 24/25 Place Partnership funded project [The Creative Village](#) that **impacted local creative professionals, young people's pathways** into the **creative industries** and developed Creative Crawley's business model.

The programme included:

- 4 new **visual art commissions** in public window galleries
- An **artist makers fayre**
- A **mentoring** programme for young people
- Practical **workshops** run by and for creative professionals
- The running of two temporary **creative spaces** (Unit 79/80 County Mall Shopping Centre and West Green Studios)
- Community and local artist **hires** of the County Mall creative space
- Regular **artist networking meetings** for Crawley and West Sussex Creatives
- The creation of an **innovative evaluation tool**
- The development of Creative Crawley's **fundraising** function
- The creation of the **Meanwhile Spaces: A Green Guide**
- Launch of the **Cultural Framework for Crawley** hosted at Unit 79/80

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CRAWLEY



FORBIDDEN
FRUIT
OF THE TREE
OF KNOWLEDGE
2024

This is not
a shop!

This is not
a trick!

This is a place
for you

People of
Crawley

Come In

In partnership with
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE
AUDIOACTIVE

Unit 79/80 County Mall Shopping
Centre, image by Ian Greenland

The people that engaged with us

21 local creative professionals

6 local young people were mentored by creative professionals

Nearly **3500** audiences in the spaces

Over **32,000*** viewers of the window gallery installations

Over **800** participants in workshops and other events

*we tracked viewers who actually engaged with the installations, rather than those that just walked past at 3 different times of day across 3 different weeks over the period of installation and then recorded between 30 & 50% of this footfall as an average to get to this figure. It is a very conservative estimate. The footfall at the window gallery at Unit 79/80 County Mall was much higher than at West Green Studios which is further out of town in a less busy area.



Pearl Makayi's *For Us*, West Green Studios, Images by Ian Greenland

Impact on local creative professionals

Just having a space to **connect with fellow creatives** is invaluable to feel part of a community and **less alone**. It's become a vital part of my routine every month.
Simon on Woffee!
(regular artist meet up)

It has pushed me to **go beyond my comfort zone** in putting work out there for people to see and also help build some **confidence** in myself and my work. *Pearl Makayi on her window gallery commission*

Creative Crawley is helping to **facilitate more investment** and connection between creatives in the surrounding areas. *Beth, local artist*

It will **inform my future practice** and strengthen how I approach visibility, place, and storytelling in my work. *Pearl on her window gallery commission*

Every time I meet new people who are working as creatives it reminds me/helps me see **Crawley as a creative place** and a place with lots of creative potential. *Woffee! attendee*

It's been life changing, by having a professional place to work I have had the space to create so much more and at a larger scale. It has allowed me to get opportunities I would have never dreamed of having before and my career feels a lot more stable. *Karl, resident artist, West Green Studios*



Unit 79/80 County Mall, Resident Artists: (L-R) Beth Williams, Sarah Maple and Karl Singporewala
Image by Ian Greenland

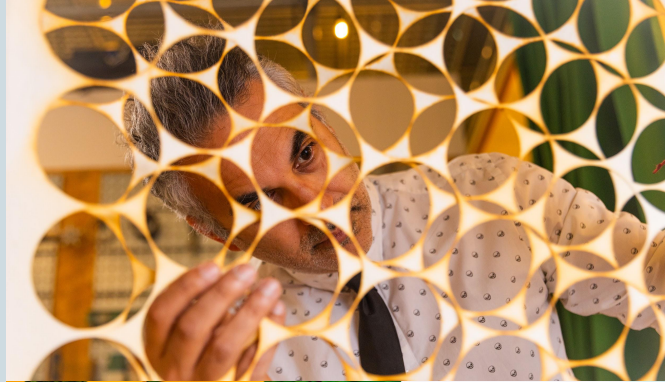
Impact on local creative professionals

I have also developed and **improved my practice to a higher quality** thanks to the inspiring environment and the relationships I have built with other professional artists, *Beth, Resident Artist*

It has been a valuable opportunity to share my dance film practice outside of traditional venues and **connect with people in the community**. The positive responses have been really encouraging and have **strengthened my confidence** in continuing to develop this work.

It strengthened my playful and creative instincts as an artist and gave me more confidence to trust this approach in both my work and wider practice. *Pearl Makayi, Commissioned Artist*

Images of Karl Singaporewala and Sarah Maple at work and Beth Williams' work in the Artist Studio at UNit 79/80 County Mall, Images by Ian Greenland





Simon Edwards' *Connection #1 2016 - 2025*, Window Gallery



Karl Singporewala's *Star Workshop*, Unit 79/80 County Mall

Impact on local residents

In the middle of Crawley's sprawling housing there's this **little jewel peeping out**. *Viewer, West Green Studios, Window Gallery*

Attending CC events always makes me feel **more connected** to the community and **less isolated**. *Audience member, Unit 79/80*

Makes you think twice about reducing plastic and waste around our planet.

It's great to have things like this to look at when you are out shopping. What a good idea. *Responses to Tracey Graham's installation at Unit 79/80 County Mall Window Gallery*

Having a space like this in the area is really valuable as it makes art accessible to the public in everyday environments. It creates opportunities for people to encounter creative work who may not normally visit galleries or theatres, and it helps support local artists by giving them a visible platform to share their work with the community.
Local artist & resident

Improved cultural aspects of life enhance the **quality of wellbeing** of people, and increase the sense of **BELONGING** for people.
Audience member, Unit 79/80 County Mall



Tracey Graham's *Invasive Species*, UNit 79/80 County Mall Window Gallery
Image by Ian Greenland

Impact on local young people

The mentoring helped me understand how **valuable practical, skill-focused training** is when preparing for an apprenticeship. It encouraged me to seek out opportunities that focus on craftsmanship, learning from experienced professionals, and developing strong core skills. *Zikora*

The mentoring was extremely helpful in **preparing me for an apprenticeship** and gave me more confidence in my sewing ability and professional approach. *Zikora*

I learned from mentoring sessions is how I should think about when pricing my products. *Ellie*

I am going to use the advice that I was given to restart my Etsy business and improve its SEO. *Ellie*

These sessions helped **strengthen my understanding of professional sewing standards** and the importance of precision, patience, and consistency. *Zikora*

It also showed me that there are skilled mentors in the local area who can support progression into creative and manufacturing-based careers. *Zikora*



Izzy, Grace and Zikora, three of the six young people mentored as part of this project. Images by Kaleidoshoots, Ian Greenland and Simran Kaur

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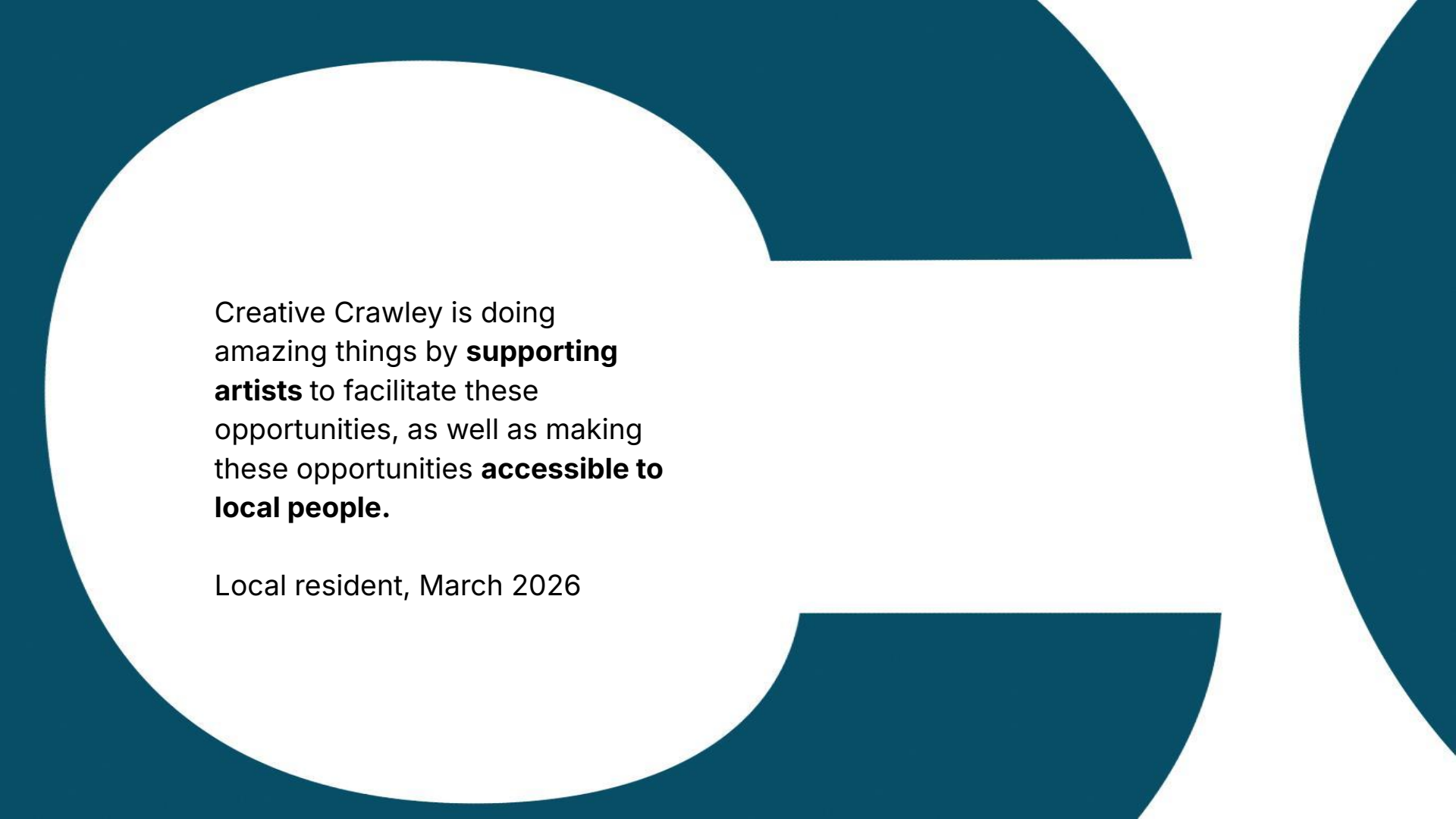
Having a hub organisation that advocates for and supports and connects arts and cultural events/places/people **makes individual things stronger.**

The number of representatives from community, voluntary and statutory organisations present, shows one of the values of Creative Crawley, **being inclusive is being achieved for Crawley.'**

Audiences and artists' feedback



Beth Williams' *Together we are a Garden*, West Green Studios Window Gallery, images courtesy of the artist.



Creative Crawley is doing amazing things by **supporting artists** to facilitate these opportunities, as well as making these opportunities **accessible to local people.**

Local resident, March 2026

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C R A W L E Y