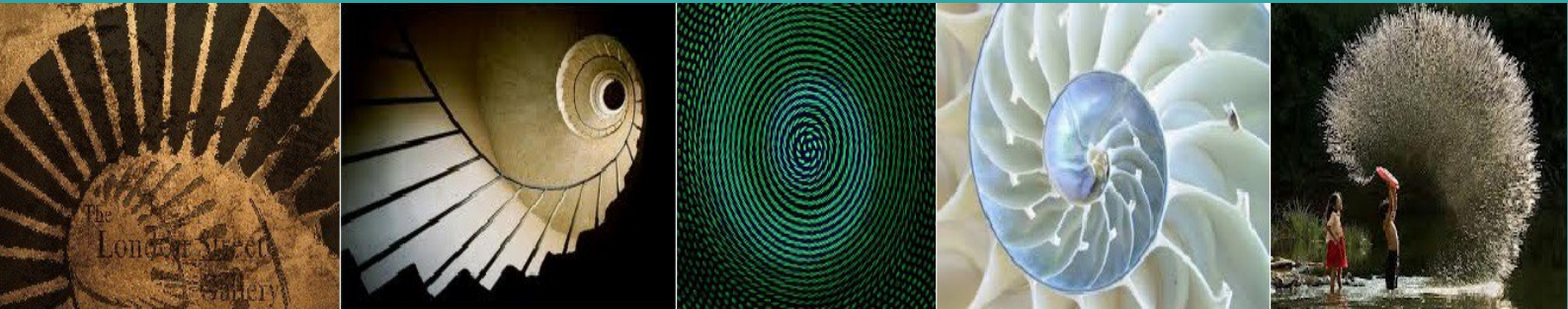


Creative
Village
Arts

Annual Review 2015



Jan 2016
v1.0

Charity Details

Creative Village Arts is a company limited by guarantee, registered with HMRC as a charity, and registered with the NI Charity Commission.

Trustees (Directors) at the date of this report and their areas of expertise are as follows;

- **Dr Caroline Murphy**, Chair: Psychiatrist and Complementary therapist, experienced in health, well being and mental health issues. Caroline is CVA's Safeguarding Officer.
- **Janet Hoy**, Secretary. Formerly a founding Director of a 'Top 10' London Marketing Agency, with over 20 years of experience in company management, below the line marketing, advertising, and digital media.
- **Stephen Lewis**, Treasurer. Degrees in Art History and Fine Art, Stephen has over 20 years of experience in business finance and administration.

Registered Office: 32 Victoria Road Londonderry, BT47 2PT

Website: www.creativevillagearts.com

Company name: Creative Village Arts Ltd

Banking: HSBC, The Diamond, Londonderry.

Accountants: Patrick Durkan & Co., 8 Springrowth House, Springtown Ind.
Est., Derry, BT48 0NA

Studio Address 1 : 9 Pump Street, Derry, BT48 6JG

Studio Address 2 : 11A Bishop Street, Derry, BT48 6PL

Company Reg.: NI613283

HMRC Charity Reg.: XT36256

NICC Reg.: NIC103267

Executive Summary



In 2015 Creative Village Arts cemented its position as the leading provider of low cost artists' studios for the Visual Arts community of Derry-Londonderry, with the opening of a second artists' studio building in the Cathedral Quarter of the city.

Our charity now voluntarily maintains two "arts centres" in the city centre of Derry/Londonderry and an online presence; the Pump Street Courtyard Visual Arts Centre at 9-11 Pump Street/The Garden of Reflection, and the Bishop Street Artists' Studios, at 11 Bishop Street, plus the website www.creativevillagearts.com and a Facebook site.

The buildings house a community of 13 artists and craftspeople, plus the Derry Print Workshop which supports 18 fine art printers, who all benefit by being able to rent low cost work spaces in the city centre which are in close proximity to one another, allowing for information sharing and mutual support.

The education space in the Pump Street Courtyard centre continues to be very popular, with regular artist-run creative classes proving to be socially beneficial for some groups (e.g. regular painting classes appealing to senior citizens), therapeutic for others (e.g. offering art therapy classes led by trained art therapists) and career-enhancing too (e.g. providing education space for apprenticeship classes in ceramics, iconography, jewellery making, culminating in an exhibition of apprentice works).

In the past year, CVA has also established itself as an active member of leading organisations within the sector; these being Visual Arts Ireland, Arts & Business, the National Federation of Artists' Studio Providers and the Northern Ireland Council for Voluntary Action.

In the coming year we anticipate widening our area of operation to include supporting artists across the new Council region of Derry City and Strabane.

We will continue to concentrate our voluntary efforts on serving both the general public who have an interest in creativity, and the arts and our core membership base of Visual Artists. We will also ensure that the operation of our charity is kept on a sound financial footing during these difficult times.

Caroline Murphy

Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Caroline Murphy".

Introduction

Our aim is to continue to deliver a Visual Arts legacy for the City in a sustainable way, while meeting the Charity's Objects, as approved by the Charity Commission NI.

These are :

- (1) Promote arts and creativity to the general public in Derry City and Strabane District Council Area (the "area of benefit") by:
 - (a) establishing and maintaining an Arts centre that will provide affordable studio, office and work space for artists and craftspeople on terms appropriate to their means, enabling direct engagement with other artists and craftspeople in a studio or workspace setting;
 - (b) promoting, organising and publicising events which improve public access to, and participation in, arts and crafts;
 - (c) providing facilities for exhibitions, workshops and seminars;
 - (d) providing non-formal, creative education in a range of creative disciplines;
 - (e) encouraging interest in, raising awareness of and fostering the development of creative projects.

- (2) Promote artistic activity within communities of the area, including those that suffer from economic and social disadvantage, so as to encourage a view of the arts as a medium of information, expression, and advancement.

To fulfil this aim during the past year, our voluntary efforts focused upon three key projects:

- 1 **The on-going successful management of the Pump Street Courtyard Studios, in the absence of any public funding support for either CVA or the Derry Print Workshop**
- 2 **Securing additional studio space for the former 'Studio 6ix' artists in the city centre**
- 3 **Contributing to the completion of the Derry-Londonderry Visual Arts Strategy Review and also the new Council's "Community Plan".**

This document summarises CVA's third year of operation, 2015, and outlines our plans for 2016.

Summary of Activity in 2015

Assessment of Activities and Objects

Object	Activity
<p>1 (a) Establishing and maintaining an Arts centre that will provide affordable studio, office and work space for artists and craftspeople on terms appropriate to their means, enabling direct engagement with other artists and craftspeople in a studio or workspace setting;</p>	<p>Continued successful management of the Pump St. Studios.</p> <p>Attending training in Governance, and drafting successful application to new Charity Commission for NI charity registration.</p> <p>New premises for 10 artists at 11 Bishop Street secured and opened in February 2015.</p>
<p>1 (b) Promoting, organising and publicising events which improve public access to, and participation in, arts and crafts;</p>	<p>Supporting Artlink in the staging and promotion of “No Jury, No Prize”, an “Open” exhibition in Fort Dunree, Donegal.</p> <p>Support for the “Pots on the Walls” project and opening address at St Columba Heritage Centre.</p> <p>On-going maintenance of website and Facebook site, providing virtual information hub for local artists.</p> <p>Support of Foyle Hospice's Caring Communities art exhibition funding application (successful)</p>
<p>1 (c) Providing facilities for exhibitions, workshops and seminars;</p>	<p>Pump St Studio education space in continual use for art classes and artist support activities.</p>
<p>1 (d) Providing non-formal, creative education in a range of creative disciplines;</p>	<p>Workshops and classes conducted in group studio on a regular basis.</p> <p>Volunteer guest lectures e.g. Coleraine Arts Society</p>
<p>1 (e) Encouraging interest in, raising awareness of and fostering the development of creative projects.</p>	<p>Supporting local organisations with the drafting and submission of public funding applications for creative projects e.g. Holywell Trust (successful application) and Derry Print Workshop (unsuccessful application).</p> <p>Regular studio artists meetings in the Bishop Street Studios, for development of “collective” initiatives.</p> <p>Contributing to the Derry City Council/Arts Council Visual Arts Strategy Review as Stakeholders.</p> <p>Contributing to DCSDC “Community Plan” for Tourism, Arts and Culture.</p>

2 Promote artistic activity within communities of the area, including those that suffer from economic and social disadvantage, so as to encourage a view of the arts as a medium of information, expression, and advancement.

Group studio used by several groups for interaction and education.



Presentation to Mayor Elisha McCallion on her visit to CVA and Derry Printworkshop

Charity Commission Registration

During 2015, CVA submitted an application to the Charity Commission NI for the revamped registration process – which was successfully completed in September, we are one of the early adopters of the new scheme.

CVA consulted with the Charity Commission during the process and amended our Objects to reflect the wider Derry City and Strabane District.

Northern Ireland **Charity** number: NIC103267

The **Charity Commission** for Northern Ireland is pleased to inform you that your organisation has been registered as a **charity**. You can find your entry on the Northern Ireland register of charities available on our website <http://www.charitycommissionni.org.uk/>. Please note that updates to the register on a given day will not show on the website until the next day. This applies to changes made either by your organisation or the **Commission**.

To assist with completing this registration process in February 2015 CVA Directors Caroline Murphy, Stephen Lewis and Janet Hoy attended DCSDC training programmes run by Community Change.

Community Change is a regional community organisation providing facilitation, training, consultancy and support to community groups and organisations throughout Northern Ireland.

Both Stephen Lewis and Janet Hoy completed the training Course in “General Governance and Management Committee Training”.

Janet Hoy completed the training course “Committee Skills and Minuting Meetings”

Stephen Lewis completed the training course in “Financial Policies and Procedures”

Dr Caroline Murphy completed the training course in “Child Protection”



The Face of CVA in 2015 Carl Taylor in his studio.....

Establishing and Maintaining 9/11 Pump Street

Opening New Studios at 11 Bishop Street

Since 2013 CVA has continued to voluntarily manage the Arts Centre at 9/11 Pump Street, www.creativevillagearts.com and a Creative Village Arts Facebook account, in the absence of any public funding support. All overheads are currently covered using the rent generated from the artists' studios, hire of the education space and fund raising activities.

Over the past year this income has been used to cover the utility overheads of not only CVA, but also the Derry Print Workshop, to ensure the survival of both organisations. This has been possible because CVA negotiated an appropriate rent free period with the Inner City Trust to reflect the public funds invested and CVA's voluntary project management of the conversion of the derelict building at 9/11 Pump Street into an Arts Centre in time for the City of Culture 2013.

Since the closure of Studio 6ix in 2014 and The Void's six subsidised studios in 2015, CVA is now the only charitable provider of low cost artists' studios in the Derry City and Strabane Council area.

Although the Visual Arts Strategy Review recommended that, using Belfast's Visual Arts funding strategy for comparison, the DCSDC area should be publicly supporting c.20 artists' studios, the process concluded with no direct funding support being offered for artists' studios, nor the Derry Print Workshop which provides specialist facilities for 18 fine art printers from across the NW region.

Nevertheless, in collaboration with the artists who were formerly renting space from Studio 6ix in Pump Street, CVA managed to open new studios at No. 11 Bishop Street in 2015, thus retaining the fledgling artists' community in the Cathedral Quarter.

During the month of January, CVA worked with the landlord and his building contractors to refurbish the building, to ensure the rooms were lockable, the building was watertight, and it met H&S fire safety standards. CVA provided paint for the artists to white wash the rooms, and kitchen equipment for general use.

The Bishop Street Studios were opened in February 2015, housing an additional 10 local artists. The launch of the new studios was promoted in the local media, as a happy conclusion to the Pump Street Artists' "Just Hanging On" campaign.

Unfortunately, in autumn a fire gutted the adjacent building (Poundstretcher's), which forced CVA to review the use of one attic studio severely affected by smoke damage. It was decided that, even if the studio could be cleaned, the single escape route down the stairs, while legally approved, was felt to be marginal in terms of safety in the event of fire and erring on the side of caution the studio was closed.

The Bishop Street Studios now support 9 artists, working in a range of mediums and disciplines.

The loss of the monthly income from that one studio space obviously impacts on our financial projections, which are at break-even for the building.

In the continued absence of public funding support, CVA is considering additional activities to raise money to cover any potential shortfall.

9/11 Pump Street – Lease agreement.

When CVA voluntarily took on the project management of the conversion of the derelict building in the Pump Street Courtyard, an initial 5 year lease was agreed with Inner City Trust, on the understanding that CVA would sub-let the ground floor to the Derry Print Workshop. CVA agreed to manage the upstairs 4 artists' studios and also the education space.

Since that time CVA has been negotiating with the Inner City Trust to agree terms for a 20 year lease, and this process concluded in 2015 with new rental terms acceptable to both parties.

However, over the past year it became apparent that in order to offer a complete Fine Art Printing facility and meet their members' requirements, Derry Print Workshop would need to include a Screen Printing facility in the building, which would require additional space.

At the end of 2015 Derry Print Workshop secured a Small Grant from the Arts Council NI in order to purchase Screen Printing equipment and run workshops in association with a CCA exhibition.

In order to accommodate this, it was agreed that Derry Print Workshop could rent from CVA one of the upstairs artists' studios to use for digital imaging and digital printing – moving the new screen printing and washing unit in downstairs.

In the light of this development, and the continued growth of Derry Print Workshop's membership, CVA and Derry Print Workshop have decided that the long-term future for the building is as a fully equipped Print Workshop, with the anticipation of more equipment and workspace being required in future.

Therefore, both CVA and Derry Print Workshop concluded that the future long term lease ought to be in Derry Print Workshop's name, with DPW managing the artists' studios and education space, because :-

- they will be using more of the building,
- their management team are onsite every week,
- they increasingly require the education space for community workshops,
- it will be economically expedient in terms of one insurance policy, one set of accounts, etc. for the whole building.

Hopefully this will strengthen any future core funding applications for Arts Council NI support.

It has been agreed with both Derry Print Workshop and the landlords The Inner City Trust that after CVA's current lease expires in March 2017, Derry Print Workshop will take over the new lease of the building from CVA.

CVA will continue to manage the building and artists' studio spaces during 2016 through to 2017, after which time the management and income will devolve to Derry Print Workshop.

There are no plans to lose the existing studios and this will be reviewed to ensure none of our long term artists using the studios are left without working spaces.

Support for Local Artists

During the year the CVA Directors voluntarily supported a number of artists and Visual Arts initiatives, with the objective of enhancing the accessibility of the Visual Arts to the local community and supporting the career aspirations of Derry and Strabane's artists.

- “Abstracts In Rust” : CVA assisted Bishop Street artist Carl Taylor with the implementation of his first solo exhibition, “Abstracts In Rust” at The Playhouse on Artillery Street, helping to install the exhibition, draft a press release and schedule radio coverage. The exhibition ran from Friday 10th April until Friday 24th April.
- “Pots on the Walls”: As part of the Craft Programme a number of local ceramic artists produced large scale pots for distribution around the town, to create a Craft Trail visitors to the city centre could enjoy. Stephen Lewis provided assistance from its inception in the City of Culture year and was honoured to be asked to open the exhibition at the launch in the ColmCille Heritage centre.
- Legacy Application : CVA helped Derry Print Workshop produce a project application for the second round of the Legacy Fund. CVA drafted the application and produced the costing for submission. Unfortunately the application was unsuccessful.
- Mayor's Visit : The Mayor's office contacted CVA to arrange a visit to both the Bishop Street Studios and the Derry Print Workshop. Subsequently CVA has been working with the Council and the Mayor's office to develop an activity – The Art Bank - which she could lend her support to, in order to raise the profile of local artists, generate some income for them, and help sustain the studios in the city centre.
- Culture Night : The Bishop Street Studios were opened to the public on Culture Night from 6 pm to 9 pm. The general public were welcomed into the studios to view the artists' staircase gallery, tour the building and meet artists at work in their individual studios. Derry Print Workshop opened the Pump Street Studios at the same time, and CVA tied in with Cowley Cooper and The Yellow Yard – who exhibit artwork in their outlets – to PR a Visual Arts “walking tour” of the Cathedral Quarter.
- No Jury, No Prize : For the second year running the Open Exhibition was staged by Artlink at Fort Dunree in Bunrana. CVA assisted with the promotion and administration.
- Foyle Hospice : CVA assisted the Foyle Hospice with an application for a small grant from 'Clear', a division of the Public Health Agency. This will culminate in a new exhibition “One Day” in the Garden of Reflection Gallery on Bishop Street.
- Stephen Lewis was Guest lecturer on “Figurative Sculpture”, on behalf of CVA, at Coleraine Arts Society event at Flowerfields Arts Centre, Portstewart.
- CVA, along with other organisations, met with the DCAL minister Carál Ní Chuilín to lobby for greater support for local arts organisations in the light of the recent public funding cuts.
- Liaising with DCSDC, Arts & Business and the Mayor's office in order to develop projects to support local artists.

Visual Arts Strategy Review and Community Partnership

CVA were active participants of the Visual Arts Strategy Review, with the objectives of

- championing the need to support local practising artists in the city, in particular with the provision of low cost studio space
- highlighting the gap in provision of a mainstream gallery, featuring modern and traditional Irish Art, which proved so popular during the City of Culture 2013
- underlining the need to support Derry Print Workshop in a manner similar to the support given to the Belfast Print Workshop and Seacourt in Bangor.

As part of the process we also provided valuable Survey insights into visitor patterns for public gallery events during the City of Culture year.

This process was started in 2013 and the results have only recently been published – though the document is still in review within the Arts Council NI.

As one of the outcomes, in a Powerpoint presentation, Derry's Visual Arts Officer recommended forming a "Trust" with the Arts Council to develop proposals for low cost artists' studios in Derry. CVA was not acknowledged as Derry's only charitable provider of low cost artists' studios in the city centre, which was disappointing. However, CVA has since developed a working relationship with Arts and Business – a wing of the Arts Council NI –to develop proposals to support artists' studios within the DCSDC area.

The Visual Arts Strategy Review document was summarised by the board of NI Arts Council (in their meeting minutes 5th November) with the comment "the overall strategy seemed unclear". The document has not been advanced further by either DCSDC or ACNI to the best of our knowledge.

In light of the major cuts to arts funding in the last year, CVA met with other local arts groups and Arts Matter NI, to submit questions to the Minister for Culture Arts and Leisure, Carál Ní Chuilín. There was a constructive meeting held at The Playhouse with the Minister, where some issues were clarified, though public funding for the arts will remain under threat for the foreseeable future.

During the past year CVA participated in the new Council's Community Partnership programme; volunteering to attend the Tourism, Arts and Culture Workshops, contributing written submissions, and being an active member of the online consultation forum. The outcomes of this process have been seen in the general community plan and we welcome the new emphasis the Council has placed upon the role of artists as vital contributors to the local cultural identity and creative industries.

Plans for 2016

- To voluntarily maintain provision of 2 Visual Arts complexes in the Cathedral Quarter of Derry-Londonderry.
- To continue to run CVA with high standards of financial probity and good governance.
- To continue to support the regional artistic community, with strategic initiatives and targeted campaigns.
- To promote the availability of a city centre fine art and crafts educational facility, hosting artist-led classes and fine art printing; enhancing employment opportunities for local artists and craftspeople.
- To maintain a web presence for disseminating relevant information on the Visual Arts, and promoting awareness of exhibition opportunities both regionally and nationally.
- To continue to engage with statutory bodies to help raise the profile of local artists and give voice to their needs.
- To help develop the creative identity of the Cathedral Quarter as a visitor attraction in the city centre, while engaging with the local community to help foster direct involvement with the arts in the Diamond and Fountain ward.
- To help develop the regional profile for the Visual Arts, working in collaboration with Artlink in Donegal.

All of our activities are undertaken on a voluntary basis.

