



Youth Arts Open Fund Case Studies



Spider Arts



YouthLink
Scotland



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Spider Arts

About us:

Spider Arts is a dynamic community arts and wellbeing charity that aims to inspire individuals and empower communities through the arts. We believe in the healing & transformative power of creativity. Our vision is to deliver exciting and innovative creative projects in Scotland that will improve the wellbeing and quality of life for our participants and enhance their communities.

Our mission is to provide opportunities for people to engage creatively with others and realise their potential and that of their community, by working together. We do this by working with early years settings, local schools, community groups, charities and businesses to offer a range of different workshops, projects and events to get people involved in the arts. We aim to make a positive impact through the arts by:

- Increasing access to and engagement in the arts
- Improving the health and wellbeing of those we work with
- Enhancing the communities we work in, through citizenship and community development
- Supporting children and young people, their families and professionals working with them through our art therapy programme

Our Project:

Youth Cafe (Creative Arts Facilitation Enterprise) is a youth group for secondary aged young people. The project focused on developing the creative skills and social skills of young people in our local community. The aim was to build confidence, upskill and empower the young people to learn new skills and develop their existing creative skills to engage younger children and participate in volunteering opportunities in the community. The purpose of this was for enjoyment but also so that they may utilise these skills in the future for further training, volunteering or employment.



We helped the young people develop these skills this by initially introducing them to a variety of 'taster' workshops and then asking the young people to suggest creative skills that they would like to learn. We created an inspiration board of their ideas with a wide variety of creative skills to explore and then the young people voted on their top three ideas, which allowed the facilitators to plan a programme of sessions according to their preferences, bringing in different visiting artists and creative specialists to facilitate workshops each week. Throughout the programme, the young people participated in a diverse range of creative sessions including drama workshop skills, games facilitation, face painting, SFX make-up, glitter tattoos, balloon modelling, stencil art, graffiti art, mural painting, badge making, collage, dance/choreography, character mascots, clay modelling, jewellery making, printmaking, bubble-ology, slime making and more. The group also attended inspiration trips to a pantomime and Jupiter Artland.



There was a social aspect to the group, with the young people enjoying snacks and refreshments together each week and developing friendships in the group. We had a diverse range of young people in the group, however they all got along well. The group was cohesive and supportive despite coming from a variety of different schools, geographic areas and socio-economic backgrounds. The

weekly attendance grew from 8/9 to approximately 12-15 young people by the end of the project.

Impact:

The project supported 31 young people facing additional barriers to accessing artistic and creative activities. They all reported the following outcomes:

- Feeling better connected to their peers and communities
- Improved mental health and wellbeing through their participation in artistic and creative activities.
- Feeling empowered through their involvement in youth-led activities and that their voices are amplified.
- Develop wider transferable skills through involvement in youth arts provision.

