

Community Vibe with Birmingham Craftivists and Arts All Over The Place

Little bits of Lovely

In a world of immediacy and the recording of everything on social media, our 'Little Bits of Lovely' is a reaction to the fast and frantic pace the world moves at. This is a slow and precious experience that involves just the individual settee sitters and trained community participants telling and sharing stories with the audience on a one to one basis.

Community Vibe is an award winning social enterprise that provides meaningful and accessible opportunities for members of the local community. Rachel Green (Artistic Director of Community Vibe) has been working with members from Arts All Over The Place (a local arts and mental health project that supports artists to create and profile their visual arts and performance work). The actors in the project have lived experience of mental health issues. Throughout the workshops, participants have been developing self esteem and confidence building in performance techniques. The sharing of experiences as methods of communication have resulted in powerful yet intimate performances for this arts installation.

The sculptures were created by Jane Thakoordin (Founder of Birmingham Craftivists). Jane founded Birmingham Craftivists in 2014 and as part of the wider Craftivist Collective she works with groups to produce creative responses to political and social issues. For this project, members of Arts All Over the Place met weekly at Kinmos Community Recovery Service in Kings Heath to provide arts work with messages of resilience and encouragement. These are gifted to those who sit upon our settee and enjoy a personal story, as a little, lovely reminder of their experience.

Over sized 1950's inspired sculptures have been created for our set, the front room, a warm and welcoming room that encourages people to sit, relax and settle down for a 'Little bits of Lovely'. We ran our interactive installation with two performances dates at Kings Heath Baptist Church. The interest and response from audience and project participants has been positive and very encouraging.

The partnership with **mac** and Art Works has provided a meaningful creative process, which has enabled the project and the participants in developing further creative ideas to be explored. By working with other specialists, we have created common ground for sharing good practice and experimenting with a range of eclectic ideas. We hope we can continue to develop this legacy by creating and enabling more Arts in Health and Well Being incentives. By doing this we can reduce stigma about mental health and create new opportunities for learning. In this case, the main success of this particular project has enabled participants to be equal creators in a fun and engaging collaborative experience.

