

## Theatre Royal Plymouth's Our Space Project Awarded Funding from Co-Creating Change Growth & Replication Commissions

Theatre Royal Plymouth are delighted to announce their flagship project *Our Space* have been announced as one of the five successful applicants of the Co-Creating Change Growth & Replication Commissions. The cohort has been awarded nearly £150,000 to scale up and/or spread out to new locations pre-existing, co-created work and methodologies.

*Our Space* is a creative programme working with adults with multiple and complex needs. Members come from all walks of life and may have faced challenges involving homelessness, isolation, mental health issues, substance misuse or re-offending. It began in 2008 in response to rough sleepers sleeping in the doorways of the theatre.

11 years on, *Our Space* is a large-scale creative programme working in the community, in the theatre and making public work with artists with lived experience. *Our Space* has worked with 724 people, 44 referral partners and is available on social prescription.

Through this commission *Our Space* will deepen their collaborations in Plymouth by working closely with the Plymouth Alliance and key services providing vital provisions for those with complex needs in the city.

Over the coming months the members of the cohort will be mentored by *The Young Foundation* (YF), a charity committed to developing better connected and stronger communities across the UK, which will support them to implement their growth and replication processes and maximise social impact. The cohort will also work with *Co-Creating Change* evaluator, Susanne Burns, to surface learning from the growth and replication process and share it with the wider network.

Victoria Whelan, Engagement and Learning Manager at Theatre Royal Plymouth said: *"Being successful in this bid is testament to our commitment to co-creation and our work in partnership with services across Plymouth. This approach provides a platform for everyone who wants to, to access drama sessions, and tell their story."*

*We're excited about this next phase of our work which will see us replicate the Our Space programme in 4 hubs in the community. We're particularly excited that all*



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*sessions will be supported and developed by people with lived experience of the services where we'll be working."*

Other successful commissions include, *A Place for Co-Creation* with Restoke, *Cultural Spaces Responses to Homelessness* with Arts & Homeless International, *Making Together* with We Can Make, and *Our Culture* with Rising Arts Agency.

Co-Creating Change is a network and programme which explores the role which artists, cultural organisations and communities can play to co-create change together around the UK and beyond. Co-creation encourages every individual to activate their creative potential and realise their own ability to make change.

You can find out more about Theatre Royal Plymouth's *Our Space* project by visiting their website [here](#).

## ENDS

For further information please contact the Media and Communications team on [mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com](mailto:mediaandcommunications@theatreroyal.com) / 01752 230439

**Theatre Royal Plymouth (TRP)** is a registered charity providing art, education and community engagement in Plymouth and across the region. It engages and inspires with the aim of touching lives as the South West's principal centre for performing arts. Theatre Royal Plymouth presents a year-round programme of world class productions on all scales.

Theatre Royal Plymouth works with partners to understand the challenges people face accessing the arts, especially vulnerable and disadvantaged people. It creates pathways that are genuinely accessible to those who might otherwise never get to engage with the arts. They collaborate to co-create and co-author work that represents the community, creating the space needed for people to tell their story in their own way.



Theatre Royal Plymouth is the UK's largest regional producing theatre. With a focus on embracing the vitality of new talent and supporting emerging and established artists. It collaborates with a range of partners to provide dynamic cultural leadership for the city of Plymouth.



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