



Middlesbrough Cultural Capital Investment Prospectus

2022

Contents

5

Introduction

7

List of Partners

9

Our Vision

11

Why Now is the Time

15

Description of Projects Against Key Outcomes and Principles

19

Outcomes

21

The Way Forward

23

Appendix: Project Descriptions

Development of this prospectus was supported by Mark Robinson,
Thinking Practice. www.thinkingpractice.co.uk

MASHAM HOTEL

Navigator North

An artist led organisation
making space for the
creative community.

- Everyone welcome -

navigator-north.co.uk



Introduction

“The creative industries is the fastest growing sector of the UK economy. We have the legacy, the talent and the opportunity to do more, and to use culture to unite communities, encourage investment and accelerate economic growth.”

Dame Jayne-Anne Gadhia, chair of Cultural Cities Enquiry, 2019

The creative sector creates jobs, adds to the vibrancy of a place, brings people together, supports better health and wellbeing and helps express the ever-evolving identities of where we live and who we are as a community. To make Middlesbrough a great town, we need to make it a creative town: our ambition is for Middlesbrough to be the most creative town in the UK. To do that, we need great, attractive, environmentally sustainable, accessible spaces that artists, makers, audiences, participants, creative businesses, local people and visitors can use to lead creative lives.

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership was founded to bring together arts and culture organisations and professionals in Middlesbrough to be a unified voice and an influential authority acting regionally and nationally. We have supported Middlesbrough's Cultural Strategy and become a significant force for community benefit and economic renewal. In doing so, we are changing negative perceptions about Middlesbrough, helping to attract visitors and investors, retaining creative talent, and adding to the things that bring pride to local people. Since we came together, many organisations have begun to use buildings and venues in Middlesbrough, especially in the town centre, to benefit artists, creative businesses, audiences and local communities. As we rebuild from the shocks of the pandemic, the creatives of Middlesbrough stand ready to play their part in the regeneration of our town: reconnecting people with the town centre and each other, improving the public realm, contributing to the local economy, creating career opportunities, improving people's health and wellbeing, and re-imagining the images and stories for which Middlesbrough is known.

This prospectus brings several capital investment opportunities together in one place, within the wider context of Middlesbrough's Cultural Strategy. It describes how we aim to develop those opportunities and the potential outcomes for Middlesbrough and those who invest here. It is informed by our collective insight, knowledge and ambitions. We hope you will join us in creating the spaces and places in which creativity can thrive in Middlesbrough.



...comes to here
...problem is

...been h
...ru
...school
...ere. Out of
Every

List of Partners

We are a group of organisations and individuals working together to make Middlesbrough the most Creative Town in the UK.

Base Camp
Blue Cabin
Borderlands – Creative People and Places
Marsha Garratt
Investing in People and Culture
Middlesbrough Art Weekender
Middlesbrough Council
Middlesbrough Events
Middlesbrough Mela
Middlesbrough Museums
Middlesbrough Theatre
Middlesbrough Town Hall
MIMA
National Trust Ormesby Hall
Navigator North
Platform Arts
Pineapple Black
Sabaat Gallery
The Auxiliary
The Other Perspective
The Northern School of Art
Taste of Africa
Teesside University
Tees Valley Arts
Twisterella Festival



Our Vision

Our vision for capital development is to create the facilities the cultural and creative sector needs to play a full role in the transformation and regeneration of Middlesbrough. In doing this, Middlesbrough can also benefit from the fastest growing area of the UK economy pre-pandemic: the creative industries. The Creative Industries Federation found that pre-pandemic creative industries contributed £115.9 billion GVA to the UK economy, growing four times faster than the UK economy as a whole. Creative industries' jobs grew at three times the UK average. Over the last decade, this has been mirrored locally as artists and arts organisations have been attracted to work in Middlesbrough. There is now an appetite for growth and an urgent need to shift from temporary to permanent situations to boost the cultural economy, the artistic ecology and benefit local communities. There are people, projects and organisations with clear potential to develop 'anchor' spaces across visual arts, music and performance and opportunities to grow the size and number of cultural hubs in the town.

The investments detailed in this prospectus would support or create 12 new or substantially improved facilities, more than 60 studio spaces for artists and creative businesses, 23 new jobs and protect more than 50. They would support over 200,000 engagement opportunities per year.

They will:

- Encourage cultural entrepreneurs to root themselves in Middlesbrough longer-term with a greater degree of control and security over their destinies
- Build the facilities and resilient organisations needed for creatives to work safely, productively, and brilliantly for the benefit of the local economy and communities
- Build the creative resilience of individual businesses and a sector that is vital to the overall resilience of the town
- Create a thriving ecology of people, spaces and facilities that encourage creative innovation and community activity
- Enable talented graduates, artists and makers to live and work in Middlesbrough
- Animate the transformed town centre with creative possibilities, attracting local communities and audiences from outside the town
- Demonstrate to others how local creative organisations can become an integral part of the reimagining of a town



Why Now is the Time

As we emerge from the worst of the pandemic and focus on recovery, we have a resilient sector ready for growth and a positive strategic and fundraising context. There is a strong strategic fit with a range of potential funders and stakeholders, centred on a collaborative approach to building creative opportunities, civic participation, individual and community resilience and well-being in ways that also reinvigorate Middlesbrough town centre, helping to join up key sites across the town so that people spend more time, more creatively than ever before. Our plans align closely with local strategies for regeneration and economic growth and aim to embed creativity as a driver for both.

An established Cultural Partnership

The Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership was created in 2018 to bring together arts and culture organisations and professionals in Middlesbrough to be a unified voice and an influential authority acting both regionally and nationally. In the last financial year, we worked with over 450 artists and brought in more than £1 million in fundraised income to the town. The Partnership has 20 members reflecting key parts of the cultural and community ecology in Middlesbrough: independent promoters, arts organisations, museums, visitor attractions, venues, higher and further education, venues and the local authority and community groups.

The aims of the Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership are to:

- Provide a voice for the whole cultural sector in Middlesbrough
- Develop a wide ambition for the role of arts in the town
- Present a collective offer and voice to Middlesbrough's people, visitors and to the broader region
- Develop a way of working that builds, enables and champions creativity and participation for artists and audiences
- Build on the impact of artistic programmes
- Engage everyone creatively
- Work collaboratively with local and international artists
- Support the Arts Council England 'Let's Create' Strategy 2020-2030

The vision of the Cultural Partnership is to make Middlesbrough the most creative town in the UK, which is very much in keeping with that of Middlesbrough Council's refreshed cultural strategy that places community centred culture at the heart of economic and social recovery from Covid19.

Why Now is the Time

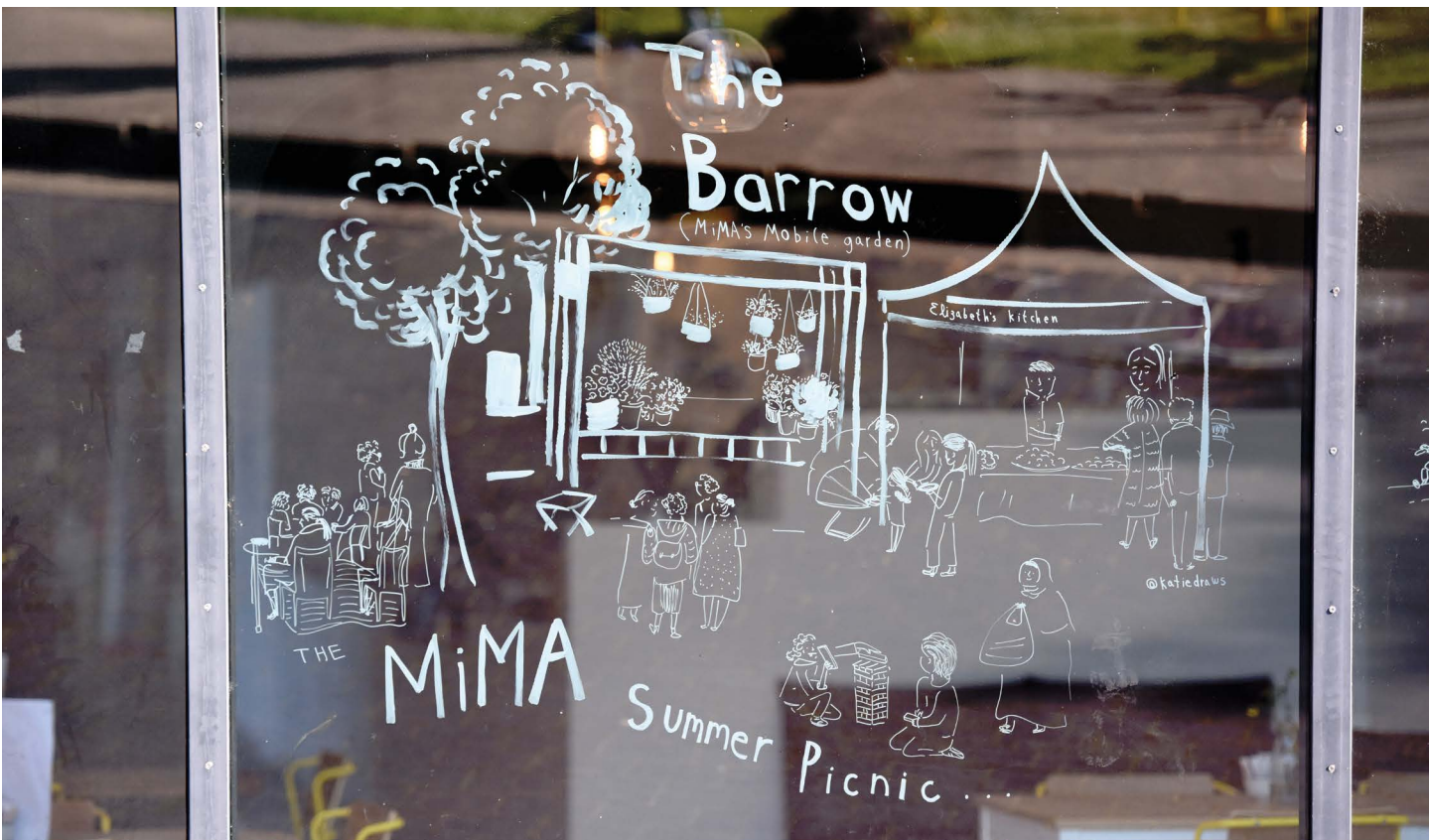
A positive strategic and investment context

Although competitive, the strategic landscape is favourable for fundraising. Middlesbrough and the Tees Valley are seen as potential priority areas for investment in a number of contexts:

- The current Government's 'levelling up' agenda (e.g. MBC was awarded £14,170,352 for improvements to the town centre.)
- The targeting of places with potential for much higher statistical engagement with creativity, culture and heritage
- Middlesbrough is now one of Arts Council England's Priority Places as part of the Tees Valley
- Economic regeneration agendas with the Tees Valley and nationally, including the strategies of the Tees Valley Combined Authority, which include culture and creative industries as priority areas
- Graduate retention and progression into work and business from Northern School of Arts and MIMA School of Art and Design within Teesside University
- Northern School of Art £14.5 million capital development has created a 5,200 sq. metre college level campus building
- MIMA is no longer a new capital development but remains the largest gallery in Middlesbrough and now forms part of Teesside University's MIMA School of Art and Design, which also includes several other buildings in its assets
- Boho and Digital City have developed Middlesbrough into a fast-growing centre of employment in digital technology, employing 100s of creatives
- The North East Cultural Partnership 'Case for Culture' has five aspirations: participation and reach, children and young people, talent and progression, economic value, and distinctiveness and innovation
- Culture-led or -influenced regeneration: Baker Street/Bedford Street area for independent creative shops, pubs and cafes, Orange Pip market events; festivals such as the Mela and Middlesbrough Art Weekender, Platform A gallery and studios on the railway station, Base Camp venue and studios nearby on Exchange Square

Alongside these sit a critical mass of potentially sustainable organisations, with diverse but complementary focuses, who have proven their value to the cultural ecology over recent years. There are strengths in visuals and media arts, building on the quality of graduates. The Auxiliary and Navigator North have

Why Now is the Time



Images: Above, The Barrow, MIMA garden. Below: MIMA window, illustrations by Katie draws. Photos courtesy of MIMA

Why Now is the Time



developed spaces with potential. Pineapple Black have provided opportunities for emerging artists. The Other Perspective/Investing in People and Cultures have built on their work with MIMA to use the old International Centre on Abingdon Road to provide creative spaces for asylum seeker and refugee communities in Middlesbrough. The people involved in these organisations have a common desire for growth and the kind of agency that flows from thinking longer-term and having greater security.

These projects connect to the talent pipeline running through Middlesbrough schools, colleges and university provision. Employability in the creative industries is a potential focus for the new Tees Valley Cultural Education Partnership and would be enhanced by the projects in this prospectus. The role of many different types of 'literacy' – reading, writing, digital, visual, imaginative – would be enhanced by the projects described, giving new places and space for people to build habits of civic participation that will improve their life chances.

The Cultural Cities Enquiry commissioned by the Core Cities group argued for collaboration, in the form of Cultural Compacts, across cities and large towns so that places could benefit from the results of cultural and creative activity. The independent enquiry showed how culture and creativity animate places, driving footfall and retail and hospitality spending. They also create positive perceptions of places, promoting investment, supporting land values, and keeping talent in cities by creating effective pipelines for recruitment and progression. They argue that 'Under-utilised cultural assets can be deployed more effectively to stimulate local investment and enterprise', which this prospectus seeks to do. The Enquiry specifically identifies that capital investment 'can catalyse sustainable economic development', through better use of property assets.

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership wants to take a collective portfolio approach as recommended by Core Cities Enquiry (albeit without a Compact). We will draw on the learning from successful models elsewhere: shared purpose, investing in studio organisations, shared workspaces and collaborative efforts drawing on public and private sector experience of development. We see this as the best approach now to strengthen the cultural ecosystem and reanimate Middlesbrough.

Potential match funding sources for investments include Arts Council England streams, including capital grants, National Lottery grants for Heritage Historic England Shared Prosperity Fund/ Community Renewal Fund and Future High Streets Fund. The projects here will also look to the future, as yet unknown funding opportunities, and private investors.



Description of Projects Against Key Outcomes and Principles

This prospectus is put forward collectively by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership. It acknowledges that funding may come available at short notice, that projects may develop unexpectedly, and that opportunities may arise that have not been captured through this process. Every project described here has merit for investment from some source and is in keeping with the Partnership's aims. This prospectus is a live document and will continue to be updated as new projects emerge. Any projects coming forward for inclusion will be considered against the outcomes and principles described here.

A number of key principles have been identified and considered in including projects in this prospectus. Comparing the projects against the key outcomes and principles suggests a rationale for seeking opportunities to support proposals from independent arts organisations and those within the emerging visual arts cluster. These also suit other town centre strategies and developments.

Middlesbrough Council and Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership will work with projects to increase those areas of potential, investing in feasibility and development. This will allow the Partnership to align projects or groups of projects with particular funds as and when they become available. The artist-led projects have generally been considered to have some economic impact but are restricted by current limits of most artists' models: as with other artist-led projects this could be strengthened through specific work by the Cultural Partnership to focus on earning and sustainable livelihoods for creatives.

This section will also assist with any future prioritisation that may be needed to shape applications or decisions around particular funds, given their priorities, and shared with potential investors or grant-funders or priorities with regard to the projects.

Our six key principles for inclusion are:

- **RESILIENCE:** Contribution to organisational/business model resilience and position in Middlesbrough/Tees Valley ecology
- **CULTURAL ECOLOGY:** Strengthening the overall cultural ecology in Middlesbrough by developing facilities, offers and connections
- **CULTURAL COMMUNITIES:** Benefit to Middlesbrough citizens via cultural and creative engagement, including health and wellbeing benefits
- **ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT:** Employment and progression for creative people making their livings based in Middlesbrough

Description of Projects Against Key Outcomes and Principles

- **STRATEGIC FIT:** Contribution to partner strategies that demonstrate shared focus with Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership's aims
- **DELIVERABILITY:** The extent to which a project is ready to be delivered within the necessary timescale or could be with a modest investment in feasibility work

The first four are also critical drivers for many projects, to different extents depending on circumstances. The following section gives brief outlines of each of the currently identified projects. We have grouped them into projects ready for investment, where some feasibility and design work has been carried out to allow estimates of costs and outputs and projects in development.

Ready for investment

Our 'ready for investment' projects include several sites in the town centre, to create a new cultural quarter from railway station to Centre Square.

The Auxiliary

- New/refurbished studio and gallery in a 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse consisting of two galleries, 14 studios for 25 artists and workshop/performance space

MIMA/Middlesbrough Council: Centre Square

- A new cultural quarter for the town, bringing the Library and MIMA together through a collaborative urban garden structure attracting families and events. There will also be new creative and enterprise events spaces that can be jointly and individually programmed and can connect to event spaces in the Town Hall. A new ceramics gallery will house MIMA's nationally significant collection. This will connect to a new maker space within the Library

Platform A

- Develop space at rail station for an art bookshop gallery and printmaking facility to create new income streams and facilities for artists and communities

Description of Projects Against Key Outcomes and Principles



These projects will create eight direct jobs and 13 indirect jobs. The scheme will also retain and secure a further three existing jobs. Based on the 2019 report 'Contribution of the arts and culture to the UK economy', the £5 million investment will support an additional £5.24 million in the wider economy through indirect and induced multipliers. The scheme will also create an additional £284,301 in employee compensation supported in the broader economy through indirect and induced multipliers.

Also in development are projects from a range of other partners:

Base Camp
Middlesbrough Council
Middlesbrough Museums
Middlesbrough Theatre
National Trust Ormesby Hall

Navigator North
Teesside University
The Other Perspective
Pineapple Black

Details on projects in development can be found in the Appendix.



Outcomes

The main outcomes of these projects would fall into our priority areas. The table below summarises the logic model and potential measures of success. More detailed predictions or targets will be developed for specific bids.

Our measures of success will be:

- More sustainable business employing more people
- More engagement with culture by local people
- Graduate retention rates
- The health and wellbeing benefits for local people
- A healthier, more resilient cultural ecology: People spending more time and money in Middlesbrough town centre

Outcome area	Logic	Measures of success
RESILIENCE: Organisation/ business model resilience	Greater stability and better assets for use in their businesses will enable arts and culture organisations to build resilient business models in Middlesbrough.	Sustainable businesses – surpluses and reserves. Employment numbers. Diversity in workforces and audiences. Depth of engagement with artists and communities.
ECOLOGY: Reinforce overall ecology and organisation position in Middlesbrough/ Tees Valley ecology	Stronger organisations in a well-networked ecosystem will create pathways for progression, and draw in more people as participants and audiences.	Employment numbers. Diversity in workforces and audiences. Number of apprentices/start ups. Graduate retention rates.
COMMUNITIES: Creative communities: benefit to Middlesbrough citizens via cultural engagement	People will benefit from more and better facilities for creative community engagement, run by resilient businesses.	% of people engaging in creativity. Health and wellbeing benefits for those that engage.
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: Employment and progression	New public offers leads to increased footfall, leisure and associated expenditure as well as funding, leading to better employment and progression prospects.	GVA in museums, galleries and libraries, music, performing and visual arts. Visitor spend to venues in Middlesbrough. % High Street occupancy.



MIMA

MIDDLESBROUGH
INSTITUTE OF MODERN ART
A USEFUL MUSEUM

OPENING TIMES
TUE-WED 10:00-17:00
THU 10:00-17:00
FRI-SAT 10:00-18:00
SUN 10:00-17:00
MON CLOS

FREE ENTRY
WWW.MIMA.ME

PART OF THE GEE UNIVERSITY
FUNDED BY ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND
AND MIDDLEBROUGH COUNCIL

The Way Forward

There is a rationale for looking for opportunities to support the proposals from the independent arts organisations and those within the emerging visual arts cluster, and those projects which bring in other artforms and encourage footfall. These also suit other town centre development strategies and developments and could complement others.

Middlesbrough Council and Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership will work with projects to increase those areas of potential, using investment into feasibility and development. This will allow the Partnership to align projects or groups of projects with particular funds as and when they become available. The artist-led projects have generally been considered to have some economic impact but are restricted by current limits of most artists' models: as with other artist-led projects this could be strengthened through specific work by the Cultural Partnership to focus on earning and sustainable livelihoods for creatives.

Key actions for 2022:

- Start work on the £5 million Cultural Development Fund (CDF) project (awarded March 2022)
- Feasibility Studies to be commissioned for projects needing them
- Develop bids for new TVCA funds
- Meet with potential funders
- Identify investment from Middlesbrough Council and 'levelling up' funds
- Development work



Appendix: Project Descriptions

THE AUXILIARY

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

The Auxiliary Project Space is an artist-led contemporary and sonic arts organisation. It is a site for the production of experimental and sound art practices. It encourages and promotes the sonic arts through investigating the rich local industrial heritage and reimagines the Tees Valley as a site for invigorated, creative industries, enabling local, national and international artists to devise independent art platforms and structures for disseminating contemporary art practices throughout the Tees Valley.

PROJECT

- Purchase and create/refurbish studio and gallery space of current building on Station Street (a 10,000 sq. ft. warehouse space consisting of two galleries, 14 studios and workshop/performance space)
 - Develop studio space for approximately 25 artists – including larger ones to support artists working at large-scale
 - Develop gallery space – able to show large scale immersive installations to attract crossover audiences – and to feed into Middlesbrough Art Weekender
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Security and sustainability for organisation and artists
 - Contribution to arts ecology – artist retention and raising the bar
-

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

The Auxiliary currently employ four (two full-time and two part-time) people and have 11 freelancers. Investment would protect these jobs and create three more part time roles. It would also retain new graduates through internship programmes for art graduates. 25 studios will be developed (currently 14). Potential exists to also invite a commercial element to the space, including breweries, artisan makers and pop-up bar/food offers.

Appendix: Project Descriptions



PLATFORM A/Arts

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Founded as an extension to Platform Art Studios in 2011, Platform A is a gallery dedicated to innovative developments in contemporary art through its diverse programme of exhibitions. Located in the railway station of central Middlesbrough, Platform A represents emerging and established artists. Platform Arts is a related charity that provides affordable studio spaces in the adjacent building.

PROJECT

- Plans to develop space at rail station for art bookshop and printmaking facility to create new income streams and facilities for artists and communities
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - New income streams, new facilities for makers
 - creating a new gateway to Middlesbrough, enhancing first impression of the town along with improvements to Railway Station, a window to the cultural landscape of the town to encourage visits and increase dwell time
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Currently at feasibility with support from Architectural Heritage Fund (£15k study)
 - An architectural survey is part of the study which is being offered from MBC
 - A study with business plan has been carried out
-

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

The completed project would create an estimated minimum of three jobs and protect one. There will also be the possibility of an art residency programme.

Appendix: Project Descriptions

MIDDLESBROUGH EVENTS

DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT

Middlesbrough Council Events team would develop a suite of equipment to support events infrastructure for its own events – e.g. Orange Pip – or those of partners such as the annual Mela. The equipment, which will include staging, lighting and sound equipment as well as kit to support live streaming of events would be owned and managed by Middlesbrough Council events team but be available for use by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership.

CURRENT POSITION

Funding secured from Future High Streets Fund will ensure accessible power points for large scale events in the town and invest in a portable stage that can also be used for large scale events and hired to other local authorities and partnerships.



MIDDLESBROUGH MUSEUMS AND ARCHIVES

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Middlesbrough Museums includes the Captain Cook Museum, located in Stewart Park and the Dorman Museum in Linthorpe.

PROJECT

- Extension into Albert Park and widening offer
 - Scheme includes walled café garden and a larger, more practical Archive Space
 - Alternative: major development of Captain Cook Museum in Stewart Park, including observatory, Dresser and Dorman as co-produced local history
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Stewart Park more conducive to commercial business model and increased visitors (parking, conferencing etc)
 - Diversified museum model
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Feasibility funded by TV Museums NPO funding
 - Current Dorman designs are RIBA stage 1, bordering RIBA stage 2
-

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

Jobs created: 13 protected, potential increase of visitor footfall to 180,000 per annum.

Appendix: Project Descriptions



MIDDLESBROUGH THEATRE

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Middlesbrough Theatre is a 484 seat theatre promoting touring shows, local societies and its own productions. It is a Charitable Trust, with Middlesbrough Council as sole trustees.

PROJECT

- Ideas to improve foyer, toilets, rehearsal space and conference suite, either move forwards or build on scene dock at the back
 - Also: Toft Scheme for community hub – £1.5 million. Residency society would like studio theatre
 - Could create rehearsal space/studio theatre and a daytime offer
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Refurbishment and improvement to facilities and audience experience, including bar for income stream
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Some costings done by Design services but needs revisiting
 - Toft House, an adjacent building also has potential for development
-

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

Potential development and training opportunities could be added requiring full time daytime duty manager and then someone to support the daytime program offer plus all the casual positions needed – up to five FTE equivalent.

Appendix: Project Descriptions



BASE CAMP

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Local promoters Ten Feet Tall are based in central Middlesbrough, and have staged a broad range of music and arts events at venues across the North East for the past 20 years. Base Camp is their latest venture – a large Grade II listed building situated by the Railway Station. It is a contemporary venue with a ‘city’ feel that hosts music events, art shows, talks, independent cinema, networking sessions, maker-markets and more – with several different multi-purpose spaces under one roof. Base Camp also features rehearsal studios and a range of participatory classes, plus a café and outdoor terrace space. Annual footfall is in excess of 50,000 a year.

PROJECT

- To secure a permanent home for Base Camp in Exchange House
 - To develop premises for multi-functional use for a range of different audiences, including accessibility improvements, additional performance and rehearsal spaces, business incubator units and exhibition areas
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Strong contributor to Middlesbrough’s cultural ecology
 - Opportunity to take the Base Camp brand to other spaces and events in the town to expand reach
 - Creation of flagship outdoor spaces
-

POTENTIAL OUTPUTS

Approximately 30 jobs created and protected. Increased town centre cultural activity within the Heritage Action Zone. Flagship outdoor space. Business mentoring and support increasing local skills – commercial impact. Increased footfall. Increased regional and national profile. Support graduates. Diversified offer.

Appendix: Project Descriptions



NATIONAL TRUST, ORMESBY HALL

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Ormesby Hall is a National Trust property in east Middlesbrough. Home to the Pennyman family, and once home to Joan Littlewood's theatre group, this Georgian mansion is surrounded by 240 acres of parkland and farmland, with a colourful Victorian formal garden accompanying the mansion. Visitor number have trebled in recent years.

PROJECT

- Wants to develop a community enabling venue from the Stable Block
 - Building would also include an office space for hire, and a series of event spaces for hire
 - Development would support learning and creative activity with partners
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Learning and community enabling opportunities – partnership e.g. Borderlands
 - Support business model of Ormesby Hall through commercial revenue streams
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Feasibility on usages, partnerships and design if approved by Project Board

Appendix: Project Descriptions



NAVIGATOR NORTH

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Navigator North are an artist-led organisation who initiate activities to raise the profile of artists and creative practice in the North East – inspiring visual artists and creative communities to thrive. Regular programmes offer professional development opportunities and support to artists to make and show work through artist bursaries, commissions, exhibitions, events and residencies in alternative spaces. Navigator North is the lead partner on the High Street Heritage Action Zone (HSHAZ) Cultural Programme 2021-2023.

PROJECT

- To develop from temporary to permanent space, connected to ongoing work within the Heritage Action Zone and the use of heritage spaces such as The Masham – former pub, converted to retail space and now currently being used by Navigator North as a Creative Space and HSHAZ Project Space
 - Long-term would like to purchase a building to offer sustainable creative space to artists and audiences in Middlesbrough town centre
 - Security for organisation and approx. 30 studio holders
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Organisational development and offer to artists via greater security
 - High Street presence for artists, audiences, visible part of the infrastructure, reinvigorating High Street
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Cultural venue now operating in The Masham
 - Evidencing impact of activity at The Masham to make a case for more permanent position on Middlesbrough high street
 - Looking at feasibility study via Architectural Heritage Fund for alternative historical building
 - Organisational development in progress to enable increased capacity, growth and creation of jobs
-

Appendix: Project Descriptions



THE OTHER PERSPECTIVE

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

The Other Perspective (TOP) is a registered Community Interest Company promoting the social and economic inclusion of asylum seekers, refugees and minority communities. It works with local organisations who can offer practical support, particularly in terms of employment opportunities and training, and supports creative and cultural activity.

PROJECT

- £700k project to repair and redevelop the International Centre on Abingdon Road as a vibrant community hub supporting creative, social, wellbeing and educational activities for Middlesbrough's international community
 - Business Plan includes the development of several income generating streams to support long term resilience including venue hire, catering service and incubator/office spaces
 - TOP will be applying to the Community Ownership fund for £250k towards the project
-

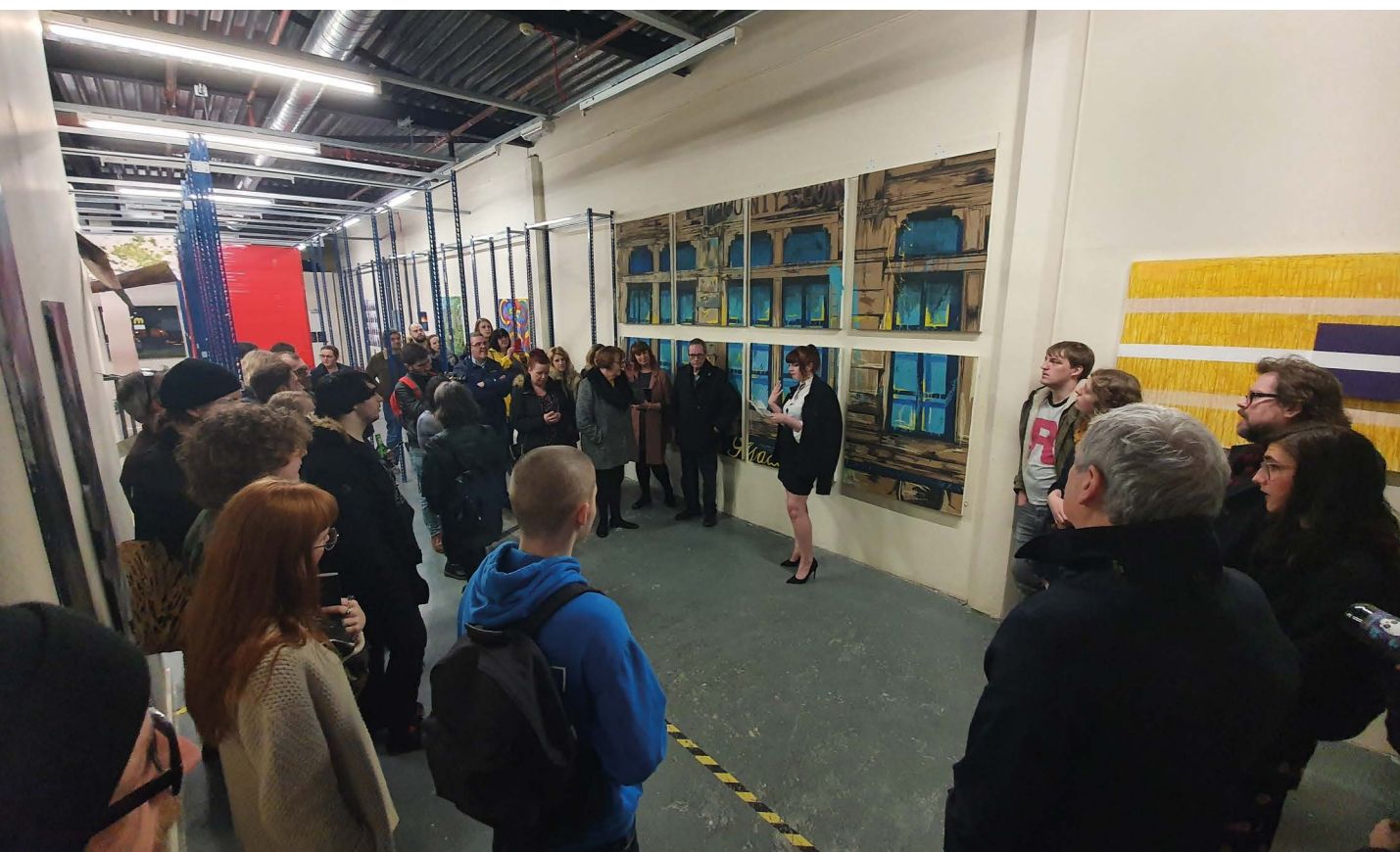
AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Security and stability for the organisation and communities served
 - A permanent home for the celebration of international culture at the heart of Middlesbrough
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Freehold of the International Centre on Abingdon Road secured in December 2021
- Architect's drawings for redevelopment complete
- Developing full business plan

Appendix: Project Descriptions



PINEAPPLE BLACK

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Pineapple Black is a gallery in the Hill Street Shopping Centre, created by artists Bobby Benjamin and Stephen Irving. It has shown group and solo exhibitions with strong connections to local graduates and staff of Teesside University and Northern School of Art. It aims to act as a stepping/buffer zone for artists coming out of University/College, building on models such as The NewBridge Project in Newcastle, providing studio space at an affordable price.

PROJECT

- Development of facilities in current space to improve accessibility and support exhibitions/events programme
 - Feasibility for new gallery/events space incorporating approximately 40 artist studios
-

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - ECOLOGY
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Could plan for bigger events, create more 'entry' opportunities for graduates
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Working with East Street Arts on current venue
- Looking at options for a second town centre venue with the capacity to house artist studios and flexible event space

Appendix: Project Descriptions



MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL REGENERATION

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Middlesbrough Council's Regeneration and Culture Teams are working together on a series of projects, which have potential to grow the town's cultural landscape as well as deliver a range of economic and social benefits. A number of Council-owned regeneration sites have been identified as having potential for a creative/cultural use and discussions are underway with the Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership and other stakeholders to develop proposals for each.

PROJECT 1: OLD TOWN HALL

- Restoration and redevelopment of the Grade 2 Listed building
 - Potential for a mixture of artist and maker studios creating a unique shopping/leisure experience for Middlehaven, plus co-working and incubator spaces for the digital and creative sector
 - Being artist-led would create opportunities for further animation, events, workshops, etc
 - See www.craftanddesign.com
-

PROJECT 2: CAPTAIN COOK PUB

- Redevelopment of Middlesbrough's oldest surviving public house (built in 1893), as part of the wider regeneration of Middlehaven
 - Could be a commercial opportunity for the right operator, or a community-run venture, or a hybrid
 - See www.lakedistrictfarmersarms.com
-

PROJECT 3: HOUSE OF FRASER BUILDING

- Potential redevelopment of this iconic town centre building for culture/leisure use
- Opportunity to create a centre for arts and culture at the heart of the town, focusing on art forms not represented in the wider cultural ecology and/or those requiring more space e.g. contemporary theatre, dance, film, animation, music and more
- See www.homemcr.org

Appendix: Project Descriptions

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
 - COMMUNITIES
 - ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
 - Supporting the development of Middlesbrough's home-grown creatives
 - Growing a critical mass of cultural organisations in Middlesbrough to increase the opportunities for employment and career progression
 - Potential to attract inward investment from national arts organisations looking to relocate and/or grow their programming/residencies outside of London through partnerships
 - Physical transformation of the town centre and people's perceptions of the area leading to increased visitor footfall, dwell time and spend
 - Stronger town centre communities through greater engagement with arts and culture
-

CURRENT POSITION

- Developing a joint strategy for Regeneration and Culture
- Draft building plans for Old Town Hall and potential Expression of Interest to National Lottery Heritage Fund for Enterprise Grant
- Structural works on Captain Cook pub due for completion May 2022
- Exploring potential of support from Levelling Up Round 2

TEESSIDE UNIVERSITY: SCHOOL OF ART & CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

DESCRIPTION OF ORGANISATION

Teesside University is founded on a rich heritage, which has influenced its development into the dynamic, energetic and innovative institution it is today. The School of Art and Creative Industries is currently spread across ten large scale buildings within the Teesside University estate. Four of these are historic facilities ripe for development: Parkside, Mercuria, The Cook and Waterhouse.

PROJECT

- Investment in this estate, beginning initially with the Grade 2 Listed Waterhouse Building, which was built by Alfred Waterhouse in 1877, just prior to his most famous work, the National History Museum in Kensington
 - Redevelopment of the Waterhouse to create a Creative Industries hub, a Creative Industries enterprise unit and new studios
 - Alongside this, Teesside University will build a large scale Digital Life Centre which will gather together enhanced technical resources for all its world leading digital courses
-



Appendix: Project Descriptions

AIMS/OUTCOMES

- RESILIENCE
- COMMUNITIES
- ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
- Supporting the cultural ecology of Middlesbrough and the wider Tees Valley through the creation of a graduate talent pool

CURRENT POSITION

- Exploring funding for a feasibility study
- £250k committed by University this year for remedial works to the Waterhouse
- £150k committed by the University this year for remedial works to the Cook



Image: Waterhouse Building. Photo courtesy of Teesside University

