

IMPACT REPORT 2018/19

Compiled by Asiya Sutton, Jess Bunyan and Kamina Walton



INTRO

Rising Arts Agency is a social enterprise run by young creative thinkers in Bristol. We advocate for sector and cultural change through research projects, industry consultation and our creative agency services. We support young artists through a successful mentoring programme, professional development and leadership opportunities to achieve their ambitions. Our aim is to nurture more diverse participation, staffing and leadership by improving access to the creative industries for those who have been traditionally underrepresented in the arts sector.



“NOBODY ELSE IS THINKING OF YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES THE WAY RISING DOES. THERE IS A PASSION FROM EVERYBODY ON THE TEAM, EVERYONE IS AWARE OF EVERY ISSUE THEY COULD BE TACKLING AND WHERE EVERY INEQUALITY IS. THAT IS SO IMPORTANT.”

**ISSIE TOVEY
YOUNG ARTIST**



“RISING IS BUILDING A VERY SPECIFIC CULTURE - A FEARLESS, UNAPOLOGETIC CULTURE AROUND UNDERREPRESENTED VOICES IN THE CREATIVE INDUSTRY. THEIR SUPPORT HAS BEEN UNLIKE ANYTHING I’VE SEEN BEFORE, ALLOWING ME TO VALUE MY WORK. THEY HAVE BEEN SUCH AN EFFECTIVE SPRINGBOARD FOR HELPING CREATIVES SEE THAT THEY CAN BE SUCCESSFUL INSTEAD OF BENDING TO FIT SOME SORT OF MOULD. RISING HAS NOT ONLY BEEN AN ANCHOR BUT A PROPELLANT FOR A LOT OF THESE CREATIVES.”

**WILL TAYLOR
CREATIVE PRODUCER**

VISION

A WORLD WHERE ALL YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE AGENCY OVER THEIR FUTURE.

MISSION

LED BY YOUNG CREATIVE THINKERS, WE EMPOWER PEOPLE TO COLLECTIVELY ASPIRE, PROVOKE AND MOBILISE TOWARDS RADICAL CULTURAL CHANGE.

18/19 STATS

256

YOUNG PEOPLE
WORKED WITH

41

INTO PAID ARTS ROLES

76

PAID OPPORTUNITIES

£4.8k

PRO-BONO TIME FROM
INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS

14

PARTNER
COMMISSIONS

£13.6k

EARNED FROM
COMMISSIONS

87%

WENT DIRECTLY TO
YOUNG ARTISTS

£67k

FUNDRAISED TO SUPPORT
YOUNG PEOPLE

DEVELOPMENT

**41
INTO PAID
ROLES**

Rising is a key bridge for young people looking to access creative careers in Bristol. We address the lack of accessible pathways into the sector, underrepresentation, discomfort in 'traditional' arts spaces and lack of confidence through a comprehensive programme of professional development. We provide mentoring, commissioning opportunities and platforms to showcase work—alongside advocacy for more diverse participation, staffing and leadership within the cultural sector as a whole. A large portion of our network move on to paid employment where they're able to advocate for their own needs. In this way we are creating an aspirational, resilient community which, in turn, affects positive social change.

“RISING HAS HELPED ME TO BUILD AN ONLINE PORTFOLIO, TO HAVE ALL MY WORK IN ONE SPACE. TO BE UNDER RISING AS A PERSON OF COLOUR FEELS LIKE DOUBLE THE SUPPORT. IF A CITY DOESN'T HAVE SOMETHING LIKE RISING THEN THE CITY IS MISSING OUT.”

**STACEY OLIKA
RISING ARTIST**



GOVERNANCE

"RISING'S THE REASON I'VE GONE FROM QUITTING A RETAIL JOB TO FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT IN THE ARTS. I'VE BEEN ABLE TO HAVE MY SAY RIGHT FROM THE START, JOIN THE YOUTH BOARD, GET INVOLVED IN GOVERNANCE, AND INFLUENCE DECISIONS AS PART OF THE AGENCY."

**JESS BUNYAN
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER**

**8 BOARDS
JOINED BY
10 YOUNG
PEOPLE**



ONBOARD

Through OnBoard we utilise our network of skilled and engaged young leaders. We train them in Board culture so that they can make a real difference to the governance of sector organisations. The training programme and cycle of ongoing engagement empowers young people and future-proofs organisations.

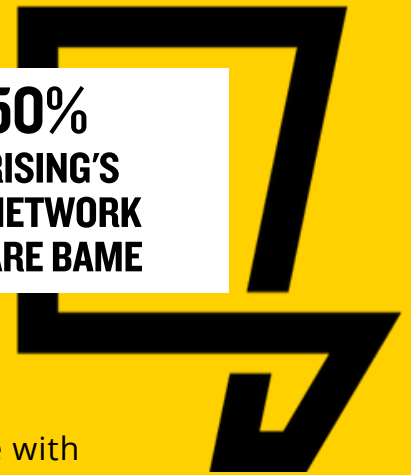
"ONBOARD HAS BEEN TRANSFORMATIVE FOR THEATRE BRISTOL. ITS THOUGHTFULLY DESIGNED PROCESS ENABLED US TO WELCOME OUR FIRST YOUNG BOARD MEMBER WITH CARE, RIGOUR AND DEDICATED SUPPORT AND TRAINING."

**MEL SCAFFOLD
CEO THEATRE BRISTOL**

ACTIVISM

Rising's community of young people are socially aware and politically active. Activism is at the heart of everything we do from consulting with organisations on how to be more accessible with our OpenUp offer, to our bespoke mentoring programme 'Elevate' for young people of colour and those with learning disabilities. We have explored the data gap in the cultural sector through our Whose Culture project to co-design a creative way of mapping data that will measure and record what "culture" means to young people of colour in Bristol.

**50%
RISING'S
NETWORK
ARE BAME**



**"A TRUE GRASSROOTS
APPROACH TO
ORGANISATIONAL
WORK. A VOICE AND
PLATFORM FOR THE
PEOPLE, AND THE
ONLY ORGANISATION I
KNOW OF THAT IS
WORKING IN THIS
MANNER."**

**NATIONAL DIVERSITY
AWARDS NOMINATOR**



FUTURE

RESEARCH

Building on the success of Whose Culture we have been commissioned by Bristol City Council to consult on the future of the library service and its relevance to young people through the project 'RE/IMAGINE'. We will also be working with academics and the Martin Parr Foundation to explore creative responses to research questions around secrecy, surveillance, race, gender. This will take the form of a new photography commission exposing these ideas and responses to a wider audience.

TRANSFORMING LEADERSHIP

Young people should be represented at every level of the arts, including the strategic. Supporting 20 young people over 2 years, Rising Arts Agency's holistic personal leadership development model BE IT will build a community of young leaders aged 18-30 that is 50+% BAME, with young women strongly represented. Funded through the Arts Council this programme will start in January 2020.

**£150K+
FUNDING
SECURED
FOR 2019/20**

**“RISING ARE A VERY
SUPPORTIVE FIRST STEP
INTO THE WORLD OF
NETWORKING AND
PROFESSIONALISING
YOUR PRACTICE”**

**BROOK TATE
RISING ARTIST**



**WE ARE
YOUNG
CREATIVE
INCLUSIVE
RADICAL
ADAPTABLE
PROVOCATIVE
RISING**

**ALL OF RISING'S
BOARD ARE
UNDER 30**

SO ARE

75%

**OF THE RISING STAFF
TEAM AND**

2/3RDS

**OF OUR NON-EXEC
DIRECTORS**

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 **@RISINGARTAGENCY**