

## **Who are we?**

Radiate Arts CIC is a Community Arts organisation that specialises in delivering creative workshops and experiences to create positive change in people's lives.

Radiate Arts' primary impact is to create opportunities for local community groups to connect with each other in an inclusive and safe setting. This empowerment accentuates values of collaboration, embracing diversity, equality, and learning. Our goal is to provide settings for people to build and enjoy new experiences together - vital for the resilience of their personal and group infrastructures.

## **Where are we based?**

We are currently based in both Chester and Mid Wales, and also host online creative workshops semi regularly.

### **Chester**

We regularly host creative workshops in various locations around Chester and surrounding areas, including in the Blacon Wellbeing Hub. Activities are typically open to the local community; however, we also deliver workshops for social prescribing purposes, schools, community, and private groups.

### **Mid-Wales**

Our work in Mid-Wales is largely based in our Clywedog Creative Hub, adjacent to our community café, overlooking the Llyn Clywedog Reservoir and the Cambrian Mountains. We host a range of creative workshops and events including community and social prescribing workshops for local groups, half term events, and taster days.

## **Who are our customers?**

We work with a broad range of people. For our participants to get the best possible outcome from their creative experiences with us, our projects are often hosted by professionals, peers and volunteers with lived experience directly related to the groups we are working with.

Creative experiences and activities are often delivered to local community members. We have also previously worked with women who are victims of domestic abuse, women who are experiencing perinatal depression, Armed Forces veterans who are living with PTSD, addicts on their journey to recovery, LGBTQ+ groups, older people who are isolated, and young people who are managing their anxiety and depression.

Radiate Arts offers guidance and support to empower these groups in our community with quality creative experiences that have lasting positive results, without our help, our beneficiaries would be dependent upon a support structure that is based around primary care with no opportunity for personal input and expression.

## **What type of artists are we looking for?**

We are open to artists specialising in any and all mediums, as well as your ideas and processes. Artist must be able to co-produce, listening and responding to the community, and ideally be willing to lead groups in creative activities.

Creative workshops are co-designed by participants, guided by the artist, to foster collaboration and friendship, in aid of reducing isolation and loneliness, improve people's health and mental well-being, include residents and communities at its heart and strengthen learning skills. It is an inclusive solution to improve local relationships and enable people to participate in community events.

## Our experience

### Community Craft Workshops

Working in Blacon Wellbeing Hub, we delivered creative workshops to local community members and women accessing WHAG (Women's Housing Action Group) services. These workshops ran weekly for 8 weeks, with each session featuring a standalone creative project.

Activities included home décor crafts, decoupage, mixed media, landscape painting, printing, art therapy techniques and box decorating. These were beginner friendly projects, led by two professional artists who provided guidance and encouragement throughout. In celebration of the artwork created in these workshops, we held an exhibition in Blacon Library to showcase beneficiaries' creativity and further empower them.

<https://www.radiatearts.co.uk/community-craft-workshops>



### Digital Art for Everyone

From digital animation to creating moving images, to film making - Radiate Arts aim to make new ways of being creative accessible, engaging and awesome for everyone in our community. We wanted to make creating art with technology fun, and share new ways we can be creative using digital techniques.

After 10 weekly sessions of hard work, creating animations, telling stories, writing poetry, painting, drawing, interviews and lots of discussion...the children of Four Estates Youth Club, Halton, have made a fantastic short film! -

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r\\_apQImSCUl&feature=emb\\_logo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r_apQImSCUl&feature=emb_logo)



## Working With The Hard Stuff

Working with the hard stuff is our ongoing project supporting ex-service men and women's mental wellbeing through a series of stone carving workshops. Sessions are held once a week, and run in 6-week blocks, 6 times per year. This project offers a person-centred approach that allows participants to design and lead workshops, equipping them to realise their artistic visions and achieve their creative goals.

Participants are able to gain knowledge in tools and materials and grow their skills over time to create expertly made stone carvings, guided by artist, Glenn Morris. Through physical creative activities our stone carvers can find peace, tranquillity in nature, and connection among peers.

In February 2022, we celebrated their journey with an exhibition at Oriel Davies Gallery for three weeks, and through this project we have been able to continue to provide ex-service men and women with the mental wellbeing benefits of artistic expression, a reliable source of peace, and connect them with nature and the community.

<https://www.radiatearts.co.uk/working-with-the-hard-stuff>

