

Community Arts

April 2nd 2006

MARK WEBSTER

Senior Lecturer Creative Communities
Unit Faculty of Arts , Media and Design
Staffordshire University, UK
m.webster@staffs.ac.uk

What Is Community Arts?

Community Arts is a term describing activities that involve groups of people doing creative things together.

What makes Community Arts different from other forms of activity such as amateur arts or the professional or commercial arts, is that.....

- It promotes participation, regardless of the existing level of skill or 'talent'.
- Groups that take part normally have something in common and often want to achieve something more than just the activity itself.
- It is developed primarily to provide opportunities for people who through economic or social circumstance have little access to the means to participate in the Arts.

Why Community Arts?

- Art is traditionally elitist
- Art is done by talented individuals
- Art has always represented the interests of the rich and powerful
- Art is consumed by a small minority

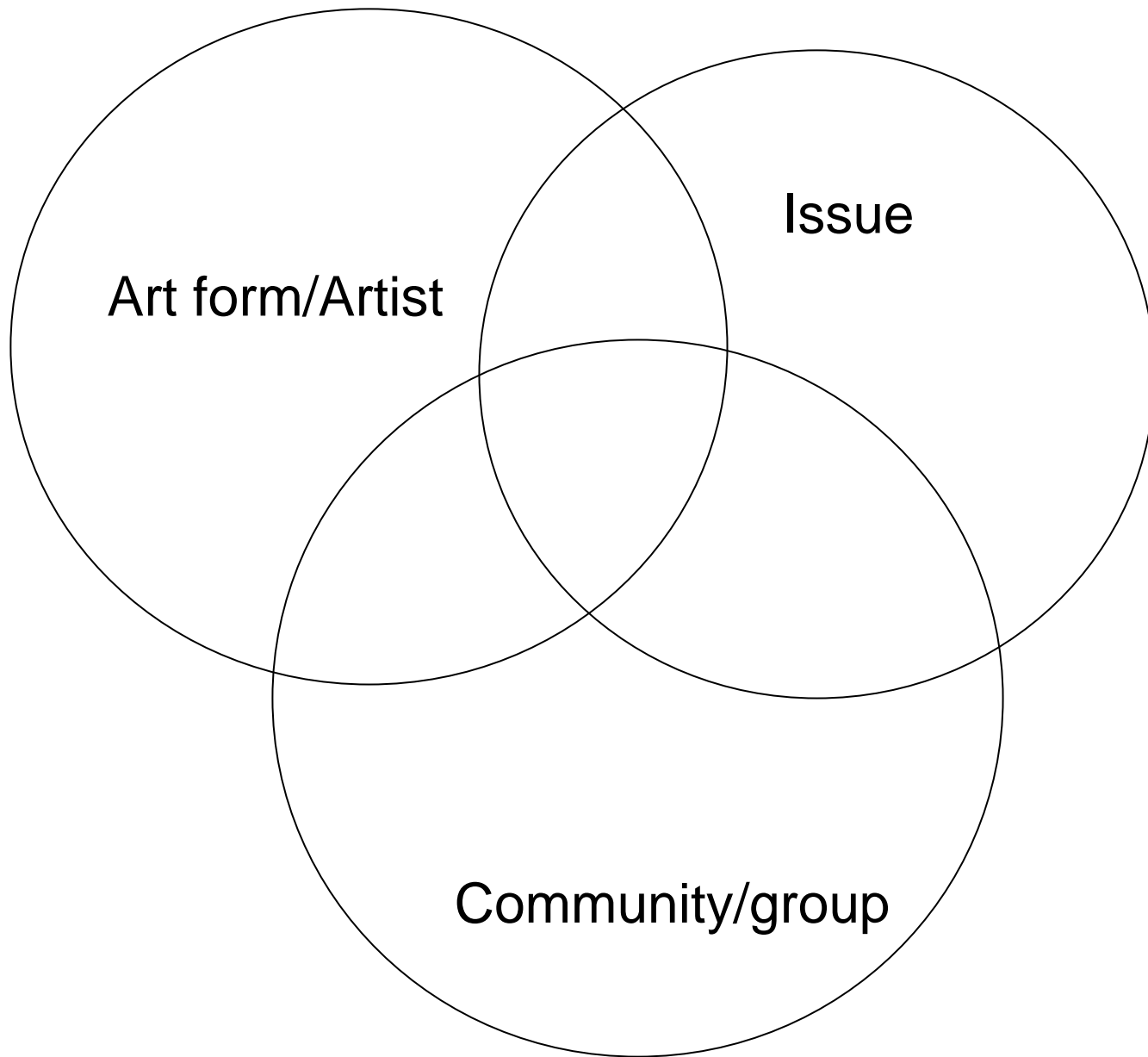
Why Community Arts?

- Art is enjoyed by every body
- Every body dances, sings, plays an instrument , writes poetry, takes photographs or creates web pages
- Creativity is an essential part of human existence

Why is this rich history,
practice and activity so
completely ignored?

The Heritage of Community Arts

- Pedagogy of the Oppressed and the 60s Community Development Projects
- Cultural Activism
- Youth and Community work - the informal curriculum
- The right to share the crumbs
- Question the Context
- Participate in the production of culture
- Cultural Democracy -The GLC and the Campaign for a Popular Culture



Arts as a tool for Community Participation

- Starts where people are
- Values People
- Gets People to think round corners
- People work together
- People jointly own the results
- Anybody can participate
- It's Fun

Community Arts

Core Tools

- Imagination
- Active Participation
- Shared decision Making
- Common Goals and shared vision
- Diverse voices

Core Values

- Participation
- Empowerment
- Partnership
- Access
- Quality
- Locality
- Change

Why has Community Arts been adopted as the official Doctrine ?

- Assimilation
- Indoctrination
- Re-assimilation
 - The need for consultation
 - The need for *effective* participation
 - Participation and Regeneration

Arts Into Health



Walsall Health Action Zones

Walsall Health Action Zone

- Community involvement in Service Development and Service Delivery
- Needs based Service
- Effective Health promotion
- Raised Awareness of services
- Change mainstream services

West HAZ : Talking Shop

Arts a vehicle for changing
services

Young People and Young HAZ

- Exclusion from Services
- Exclusion from Decision Making
- Excluded from consideration

West HAZ : Talking Shop

Arts a vehicle for changing
services





**We don't have to get
drunk to have a good time**

**Think about your drinking
don't make a habit of it**



Welsh young people
speaking out



Growing towards the light



Get High



On Life





VIDEOHOLIC

Don't be a couch potato

A dark, gritty hallway with graffiti on the walls and a bright window at the end. The walls are covered in graffiti, including large red letters on the left and blue letters on the right. A bright window at the end of the hallway illuminates the scene. A red vertical line runs down the center of the image.

**This is
not a
film..
this is
where
we live!**

A day to speak out on what's
Happenin'

mind

28.02.01

1.00pm - 9.00pm

body

Park
Community
Association,
School St
Willenall

soul

music : video : drama : d.j. skills : internet : dance

FREE tickets if you're
12 - 25 from your
club/school or ring
01922 653114
to book a place









BODY ART



IS FUN



RU CRAVING?



Dreaming of our future

RACISM



Beat It ...OR... Keep It







THUMBS UP

TO A HAPPY LIFE







***Have
unsafe
sex***

***accept the
consequences***



A three-panel meme featuring a woman with long blonde hair. In the first panel, she is calm and makes a 'shh' gesture. In the second and third panels, she is screaming with her hands covering her mouth. The background is red in the latter two panels.

Calm
on
the
outside

Screaming on the inside



SAFETY SOAP BOX

www.safetysoapbox.com

Project Background 2002-2006

- Context Walsall: Prostitution: community arts
- Roots of the project: HAZ: PAR Research Project: The Community Arts Team
- The development of the idea: Communities: Agencies:
- Potential Outcomes

The story of the project.....

- The idea of three communities of interest
- Involvement of the artist
- The agencies including the New Art Gallery
- Initial reactions
- The press and media
- Short term results
- Long term outcomes



Hidden Identity

Look beyond the mask



ALL EYES ON ME

Break Free



Boxed In


Childhood

Safety



Innocence

Happiness

A large, fluffy yellow teddy bear is the central focus, sitting upright. A young girl with blonde hair, wearing a white t-shirt, light blue leggings, and pink shoes, is lying on her back at the base of the bear's legs, looking up at it. The background is a solid purple color. Two faint, semi-transparent images of the same teddy bear are visible in the background, one on the left and one on the right.

*my teddy is
my friend,
he makes me
feel safe*

*Nobody makes
me do what
I dont
wanna do*



Respecting our bodies

**He went for my face...
but I stoppped him and he
stabbed me in the arm**



**He went for my face...
but I stoppped him and he
stabbed me in the arm**



I'M



NOT



SAFE



IN
THE



OUT
SIDE



WORLD

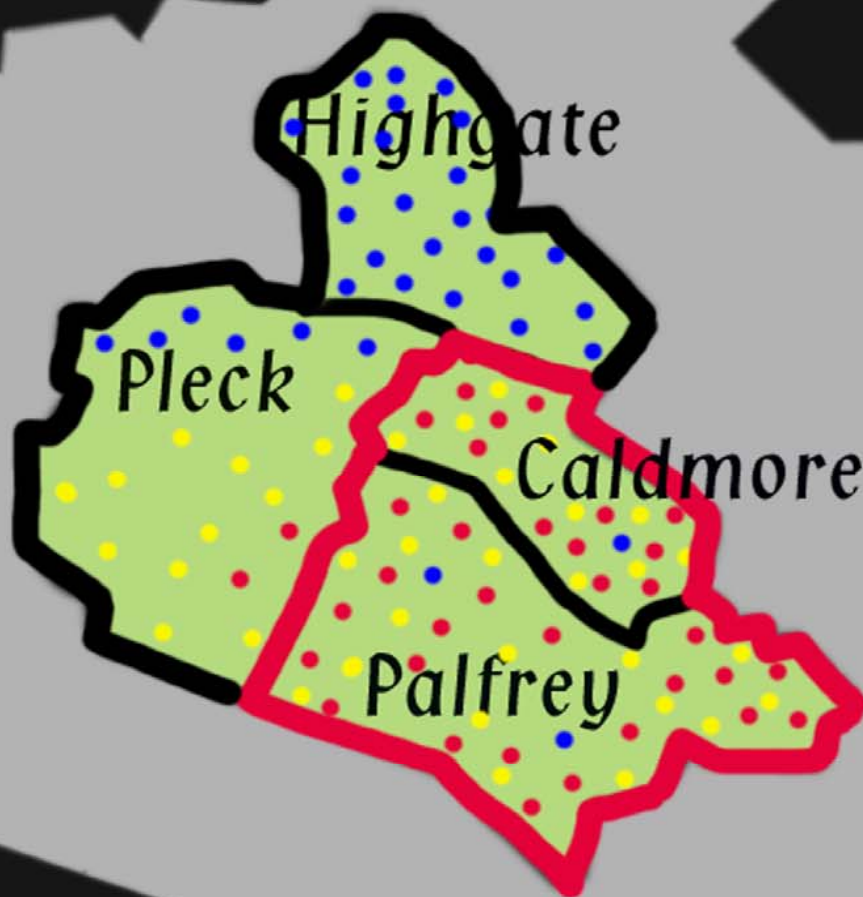
Council bosses say prostitutes are poisoning the town following revelations that residents in Palfrey are being approached for sex on their doorsteps.

Walsall council leader Councillor Mike Bird called on people power to eradicate vice after residents in Palfrey revealed they are being accosted by kerb crawlers who mistake them for prostitutes.

If this is what
our children see,
this **IS** what
they'll know



- Prostitution
- Drugs
- Police
- Tolerance Zone
- Privileged Zone



Unity Can Make a Change



Images to bring people closer together



BAD MONEY

Bad men

Bad Money
Bad men

Bad Weather

Bad men

Bad men

Tools of the Trade

I call them party hats



TIPS OF THE TRADE

ALWAYS GET YOUR
MONEY FIRST

NINE OUT OF
TEN TIMES YOU
CAN USUALLY SUSS
THEM OUT ...
DODGY PUNTERS

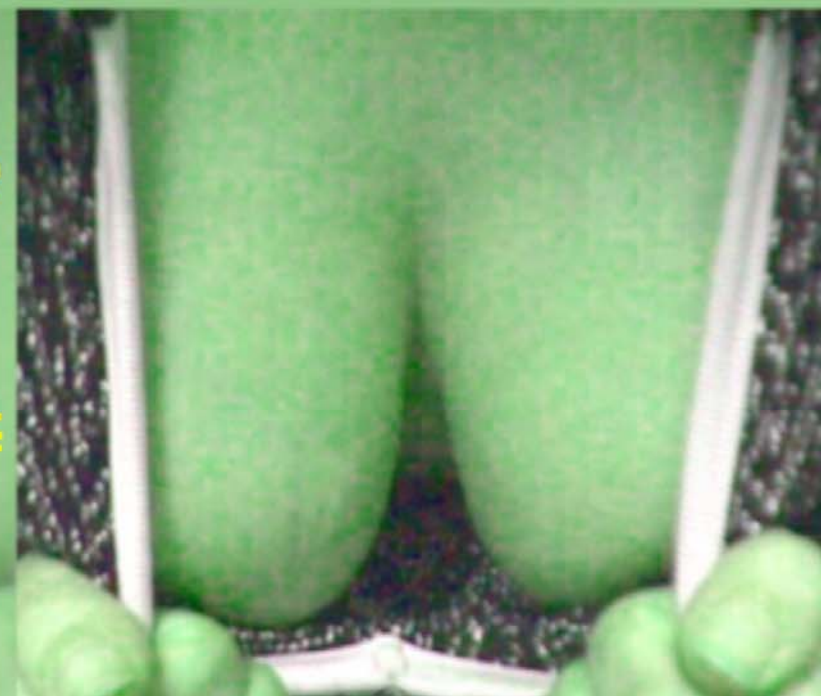


ALWAYS CHECK THE
BACK OF VANS FOR
HIDDEN EXTRAS

TAKE DOWN
HIS REGISTRATION
NUMBER

IF THEY HAVE
ALCOHOL ON THEIR
BREATH DON'T
GET IN

NEVER GET IN THE
BACK OF A CAR
EVEN REGULARS
CAN TURN



BE SUSPICIOUS IF HE
WANTS TO DRIVE
YOU A LONG WAY

ALWAYS INSIST
ON A CONDOM
IS THAT EXTRA
MONEY WORTH
YOUR LIFE

POUNDRING THE BEAT **- WORKING HARD**

WORKING GIRLS

giving pleasure
risking our lives
standing in the cold
supplying a demand
taking abuse
hiding the truth
stopping the frustration
touching our bodies
satisfaction guaranteed
using our bodies

BEING WATCHED,
BEING STALKED



WALKING ON
THESE STREETS

A photograph of a three-pane window at night. The window is white and has a light fixture above it. The view outside shows a street with buildings, cars, and streetlights. The text is overlaid on the left pane.

*looking
out
at the
reality...*

*safe,
protected
behind
glass...*

*glad its
not me.*

Safety Soap Box: Outcomes

- A Report: Exhibition: Leaflet: Website
- Gave participants a strong feeling of involvement and made participation visible
- Partnership with agencies and community
- Broke down barriers
- Attracted more resources for future work
- Put the wider issues on the agenda

What did it achieve?

- Helped participants explore difficult issues from a wide range of views
- Gave voice to real community concerns
- Enabled dialogue between diverse interest groups normally in conflict
- It educated participants about potential choices and about services to make those choices
- It challenged and changed the attitudes in communities and within services
- It enabled communities and service providers to instigate change

Key Issues

- The Role of the Arts and the Artist
- The balance between issue: group: art form
- The role of planning and the project management approach
- Balance between process and product
- Feedback
- Capacity to deal with outcomes

How do Community Arts projects support opportunities for personalised learning

- Everybody is valued
- Learning process
- Concrete owned results
- Sustained collective process that supports individual pathways for learning