

ANNUAL REPORT 2009





2009 was truly a year of transition for Trinity.

Anyone familiar with team training might have heard of Bruce Tuckman's four stage *"forming, storming, norming, performing"* development model. With this in mind, it is fair to say that the organisation experienced its share of storming throughout the year.

Though it was difficult and sometimes painful, the team maintained their focus. In spite of the trials faced, we were able to deliver a range of events and activities and continue to sustain and develop the Trinity Centre as a community hub.

We welcomed a new board bringing with them a range of business skills, community knowledge and expertise, which will be particularly important as we grow and expand.

In addition, we welcomed Centre Administrators Rhiannon Jones and Karina Castro, Outreach Worker Edson Burton, Research Assistant Annie Berrie and five young people who will be taking on part-time roles as part of the Future Jobs Fund.

We were also inundated with many dedicated, hard working and highly skilled volunteers, who have helped us increase our capacity to deliver our services.

With minimal resources, we have continued to make improvements and renovations to the facilities. We would like to give a special thanks to all our volunteers from Leyhill HMP who have worked with us throughout the year, helping us with a range of facilities jobs, including redecorating the main hall space and building an additional training room upstairs.

We were also supported by volunteer teams from KPMG and Deloitte, who visited us in the summer and helped us overhaul our garden as well as several other large jobs that could not have tackled without their help.

We would like to thank TLT Solicitors and Graham Partridge at Avon & Bristol Law Centre, who have given us their support and advice throughout the year. Our successes could not have been possible without the ongoing support given to us by the Simon

Hewes and the team at Bond Pearce, so a big thank you to them for all their efforts in the face of some huge challenges. Thanks also to the ongoing support from Transparency Life Coaching, who have helped us with management and communication coaching.

There is, now more than ever, such strong commitment and unity amongst the team and clarity of vision that we are set to hit the ground running in 2010. Thanks to all who persevered through all that was thrown at us to keep Trinity thriving.

Emma Harvey - Centre Manager





Community

In 2009 we continued to be a popular, affordable venue for community activities including weddings, parties, forums, local groups, prayer meetings and more.

We have forged links with other community groups and provided support for other grassroot groups throughout the year including:

Bristol Refugee Rights

A weekly IT drop-in engaging local refugees in IT – the group have commented that this is one of their favorite learning sessions, teaching intermediate IT skills to an average of ten students per week.

Eastside Roots

With their ongoing use of the garden and organic food growing course every Thursday, Eastside Roots continue to be one of our most valuable partnerships, delivering a range of permaculture skills to the local community.

The Misfits

We have worked with the Misfits for over five years to provide parties for adults with learning difficulties. Tony Holdem, Misfits Project Manager said of Trinity that, "people with learning difficulties have felt valued and respected, which really helps people feel good about themselves. It is this kind of partnership that really starts to breakdown the walls of prejudice and ignorance so often faced by people with learning difficulties."

Project Bicyclette

We worked with this group in the summer to provide a series of activities for young people to teach them about sustainability including the building of a bicycle powered stage.

Old Market Residents and Traders Association

Support for the newly formed committee including provision of facilities for their public forums and committee meetings.

We participated in local activities including Stapleton Road Street Party and Celebrating Age Festival, strengthening our links within the community.

We also began work with Bristol City Council as part of the Future Jobs Fund, creating 5 part time temporary roles for young people to help get them into work and build their experience and skills. This programme is set to be a vital one not only to the young people involved, but to the City as a whole, increasing young people's confidence and skills and helping to reduce levels of unemployment.

There has been much work undertaken to improve our e-communications, following a second phase of our website development funded by the Quartet Community Foundation BCC Development Fund. We have added more features, improved the design and will be launching forums and user logins to help with interactivity in 2010.

We saw the growth and development of our Trinity Membership Scheme, empowering Centre users and local people to have their say in shaping our activities and services.

Volunteering has increased dramatically over the last year, with over thirty volunteers participating regularly in a range of roles. Volunteers have worked to support our events, helping us to deliver several music activities during 2009. We have also engaged volunteers in administration and office support, helping us increase capacity and better respond to the needs of our clients. Leyhill HMP have continued to work with us as we provide placements to life prisoners, helping them to develop their skills and improve their chances of resettling into society on their release.

We continue to provide a tiered system of hire rates, offering discounts to community groups and local residents, as well as free hall space for free community activities through the Trinity Community Initiative. We are committed to continue our services and support the community to utilise the Centre as a resource for those who need it most.





Education & Training

Our training contract with Bristol City College has expanded over the last year and we now provide even more support to young people who have become disengaged from mainstream education.

In 2008/2009 we worked with 24 young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). The programme was led by Kate Pearce who worked to implement a clearer structure to help us support the an increasing number of students.

The organisation has continued to learn from and respond to the needs of the NEET group, whose ability to commit to learning is often hindered by a range of challenges and needs, both academic and personal.

We offered a range of incentives to encourage participation, including covering costs of travel and a food allowance in order to help them attend and remain focused throughout the sessions. The course groups are often small or one-to-one, so that we can meet the needs of the young people and help them identify options for moving forward to either work or other courses. Some of our most successful 2009 courses included:

Photo Journalism – We worked with Wayahead housing on this project, led by esteemed photographer David White to produce some excellent works. Students had their work included in the Easton Arts Trail and in an exhibition at Wayahead.

Music for Film – students made a CD and completed Key Skills level 1 in Improving Own Learning and Performance on this course and commented, "*I really liked the course. I did the whole thing and it's the only thing I have ever completed in my life*".

Graffiti Art – we had two students on this course, led by graffiti artist Silent Hobo, whose work featured in the 2009 Crimes of Passion street art exhibition at the Royal West of England Academy. The students really enjoyed the sessions and the opportunity to work

with a professional artist and worked well together in a team. The course culminated in a workshop as part of Easton Arts Trail in June.

Anger Management – This course, lead by Transparency Life Coaching, dealt with a number of referrals and worked with young people on a range of issues from anger management and communication skills, to confidence building and goal setting.

Additional training for young people was provided during the year in partnership with Meriton and Youth Offenders Team (YOT), to create two successful summer training programmes. A senior practitioner from YOT commented, *"the young people we work with can be extremely difficult to engage but they generally all seemed to enjoy the sessions, and it was good to give the opportunity to learn new skills and get involved in a variety of different activities."*

We have built strong partnerships with other youth agencies including YMCA, Rathbone and Connexions, who all work hard to refer young people to our courses. We are continuing to develop these links, led by Training Manager Dave Lovatt in the delivery of our 2009/2010 training contract, in which we aim to work with 65 students across the academic year. Students will complete both ASDAN Employability and City and Guilds Basic Numeracy certificates throughout the courses, and will also be supported with progressing onto either work or further education.

We have recently been cited by Connexions for our great work with current students, who seemed not to be able to connect with any other organisation until they worked with us. We have also been recognised as part of our work with Education Unlimited (EUL) Partnership, by being awarded the prestigious Beacon Award for Widening Participation. As the second largest provider of NEET training courses in the City after the City of Bristol College, we continue to strive to make a difference in the lives of young people though our creative arts programme.







Music

Trinity's music programme in 2009 was as diverse as ever - from folk to doom metal. Some of the most notable gigs from national promoters included Animal Collective's album launch in March and a compelling performance from Daniel Johnston supported by Laura Marling in December.

We have continued to work with local promoters, with a regular programme of dub reggae nights led by Teachings in Dub. Patchwork has also grown substantially this year - with their Dubstep nights - providing an opportunity for up-and-coming Dub DJs and MCs and run in accordance with their motto *"for the music, not the money"* - becoming more and more popular.

As a platform for emerging talent within the City, Trinity held its FREE Garden Party and Fireworks Party in May and November, with performances from The Bombardiers, Chandelier Falls, Jhassi Elliot, Miss Cecily, Phil King and the Glitzy Bag Hags. We also ran several events in the Spring thanks to our Music Timebank project supported by Awards for All and also developed a piece of software to allow Bristol's music community to connect.

With the support of PRS Foundation, we were able to programme some additional events ourselves this year. *Oi! It's Punk* in July was run in support of Unite Against Fascism and its sister organisation Love Music Hate Racism, and featured acts Denial Factor, Severe:Zero, Las Kellies, Slagerij and headliners The Bolsheviks. *New Roots* in August featured Ten Ton Tongue, Vamos and The Dirty Roger.

Finally, we programmed our *New Year's Eve Masked Ball* with gypsy-faves The Carny Villains and The Mandibles followed by ukulele super-group The Rinky Dinks and the legends that are Smith and Mighty with MC Kelz, as well as support acts from new band Krypt Orchid and DJ Subplate.

We hope to continue to work with national promoters in addition to supporting new and local talent, to help keep the city's music scene a colourful and exciting one.



Visual Arts

Project Respect

This was the second year for our Project Respect - a series of workshops bringing older and young people together to explore a variety of themes around perceptions of age and different cultures. The group made artworks using mediums including collage and photography, to each create a final "memories box". The workshops were led by local artist, Victoria Appleton and provided an effective platform for safely exploring and asking questions about each other's lives, traditions and experiences.

As with 2008, we involved local Elders from the African-Caribbean community and young people from the City Academy's DICE Project (Diversity and Inclusion Challenges Education) – a group of students made up mainly of asylum seekers and refugees from war-torn parts of the world. Paulette North, Black Achievement Team Leader for the City Academy said the project was, *"very thoughtful about the needs of those with early English and very clearly designed to help them move on with their English acquisition in a happy, confident, and very effective way."*

Art Market

Trinity hosted its first Christmas Art Market this December and the event was a great success with positive feedback from everyone involved. Over thirty artists that took part, selling a variety of exceptional arts and crafts. The event was also supported by acoustic performances from Zen Elephant, Nick Capaldi, Liz Smith, Rufus T Firefly, Duke Chameleon, Rebecca Sanders and Harry Sankey with DJ Read skillfully filling the gaps. The market was particularly important in giving artists the opportunity to promote and sell their works and a second Art market is already being planned for May 2010.

Easton Arts Trail

We also participated in this year's Arts Trail, providing a platform for our students and volunteers to exhibit their work. The experience gave us the chance to build links between other artists and the Easton Community Centre.



Media & Performing Arts

First Light Projects

With grants from First Light Movies, Trinity completed our scriptwriting project in February, allowing young people to develop a script with the help of British film star Stephen Graham. With our second grant and support from Avon & Somerset Constabulary Police Community Trust, Trinity worked on producing a short film with ten young people. Entitled *3*, the film was produced over six days in locations including the police station, a prison cell and Greenbank Cemetery. The group learned all the aspects of shooting a film including camera work, storyboard editing and acting techniques. We are keen to continue to develop this project area in the coming year.

Max Theatre Company

Trinity provided support to Max Theatre Company, a new theatre group formed to support amateur artists break out into the professional world of theatre. Their goal is to create opportunities for the community to participate in performance and explore different cultures in a safe environment, in order to bring people together and create community cohesion through a shared sense of achievement. As producer Nichola Ryan says, *"theatre itself is one of the most beautiful and enjoyable ways of doing this."*

In 2009 the group produced and delivered two shows. First up were *Happy Happy Happy & Sleep With Me*. Venue magazine gave them four star reviews describing them as *"a confident start...which bodes well for future theatre at Trinity."* This was followed by a well received performance of *Pebble Beach* in September.

Compass Film Festival

A series of film screenings and other performance activities in the upstairs space of Trinity throughout October, which helped us keep our programme of activities diverse and engage a new audience with the Centre.



Heritage & Conservation

What's Your Trinity Story?

We saw the appointment of Dr Edson Burton, Outreach Worker for Trinity's oral and archive history project *What's Your Trinity Story*? funded by Heritage Lottery Fund Your Heritage Grant.

The project will document Trinity's recent history, collecting stories and images from those who have worshipped, danced, loved, cried, managed, or rebuilt the Trinity Centre since 1960. This period covers Trinity's life as a church, a community centre, and a major music venue, managed by and serving a myriad of communities in Bristol.

We are well under way in its delivery, supported by archival researcher Annie Berry planning the collection of archive and oral information, making contacts across the range of people involved in Trinity. The project also draws on the skills of a dynamic group of volunteers researching, transcribing, and interviewing people with a Trinity story.

Support has also been provided by UWE's History Department who recently delivered an Oral History training day to our volunteer team as part of the project's key outcomes. We look forward to working with them throughout the project, due for completion in Autumn 2010. Edson and the team will be working with local people to collect stories and images of the Trinity Centre to help us develop an archive, book and exhibition about this pivotal space.

Building

We completed a Conditions Survey of the building funded by English Heritage as part of our ongoing commitment to the conservation and heritage of the Centre. This will be used to inform our maintenance plan as well as to assist with any future development of the space. We continued a programme of maintenance and repairs with support from our volunteers from Leyhill HMP, who have helped with much of the physical development of the space. This included creating a new meeting room, improving our office, and completing a new training room upstairs from a previous storage space.

We were also supported by corporate volunteers teams from KPMG and Deloitte, who helped to build a bench, dig a new flower bed and paint the new training room.

We have received grant support from YANSEC and SITA Trust, which will help with the completion of our Access to Training Project.

The aim for 2010 will be to embark on a feasibility study that will help to identify ways we can make improvements to the space, to better meet the needs of our local community. Key areas for development include the upstairs main hall and identifying ways we can better insulate and heat the building.

We will strive to ensure that the Trinity Centre continues to be protected and maintained as a community resource, in line with its covenant and in fitțing legacy to all the other community groups and

> individuals who have passed through here, for the benefit of local people and the City as a whole.



Finance

2009 was a challenging year for Trinity with the looming recession and the reorganization of our structure

We had to manage the transition from being a predominantly volunteer-led organization, to slowly becoming a professionally managed social enterprise.

Trinity was fortunate to not be greatly affected by the recession. One area that was effected was our commercial music activity - with less usage from national promoters than in 2008, due to promoters choosing to reduce their own expenditure, focusing on using their own venues.

We have maintained a relatively stable cash flow and though we are still not at the point at which we have a healthy reserve, we have received praise from several Council Departments about our ability to be one of the few community groups who have managed to maintain being "in the black" since our incorporation in 2002. We continue to develop diverse income streams under the financial restraints we experience, whilst at the same time providing the best comprehensive service we can to our community.

It was difficult for us not to be affected by the wider social impact of the recession on our community. According to a Recession Update Report, published by Bristol City Council in September 2009, *"The recession has been deeper and more protracted than some forecasts at the start of the year"* and *"unemployment in Bristol continues to hit hardest in Lawrence Hill, Ashley"*.

In response to this clear need of the local area, we have engaged with Bristol City Council as part of the Future Jobs Fund to create jobs to counteract this effect of the recession. We created multiple opportunities for people to engage in voluntary activity, in order to help people increase their skills base and improve their employment prospects. We also created two part-time administrator roles, which we were able to recruit for internally from amongst our volunteers. Our training programme is also expanding, providing a vital service to the young people we work with. We are in discussion with the City of Bristol College to take on a new contract, due to commence in 2010 which will allow us to offer training to 19-25 year olds.

Over 2009 Trinity has developed a competent team of individuals poised to take us to the next phase of our development and we are looking forward to a bright future. It feels that all the hard work done by so many people over the last nine years, is finally baring fruit and we are now becoming the organisation that was originally imagined.

Trinity has the potential to become one of the most prominent jewels amongst Bristol's community assets. With significant capital investment, we could increase our self-generated income and greatly improve our ability to be a sustainable community venture.







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TRINITY COMMUNITY ARTS LTD Trinity Centre Trinity Road Bristol BS2 0NW

0117 935 1200 info@3ca.org.uk www.3ca.org.uk



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