

Transcript

MK Gallery - Community

Voiceover:

Frankie Nielsen

MK Gallery does a lot of community outreach work, delivering workshops or creative activity, and that's a really good way of us reaching people who wouldn't necessarily pick up a leaflet or read an article about ourselves.

We're really committed to making sure that we represent as many voices from our communities.

Roisin Callaghan

My role is about bringing in local communities from Milton Keynes into the gallery and making sure that what we're doing through our public programme is representative of that community.

We know Milton Keynes has a hugely diverse range of people that have kind of migrated. We're a new town.

And so there's all those elements which feed into a really kind of interesting space. I work in a way where I like to Co-produce programmes, so I will go and talk to community leaders to develop a programme that is reflected with them to see what they want, and also help kind of manage some of the historical views of gallery spaces as being quite white, quite elitist, and get people comfortable to cross that threshold and come into the spaces.

The projects, based at MK Gallery is our community art space, the idea is that they can come in showcase work that's reflective of the local community and general issues, which are important in today's society. It's a very public facing space and it's also just some really nice way to showcase some of the work we've been doing with communities within our program as well

Sam Matthews

We like to ensure that we work with a lot of our local communities, and also lots of local companies and partnerships as well, just to make sure that everybody is aware of the gallery and also feels like it's a space for them.

We do this in numerous ways, that they're invited to some of the previews, or sometimes they can have their own personal tour with the curator or the artists from the exhibition.

This is a really nice way of introducing new people to the gallery and the exhibitions, who sometimes might not think that art and the gallery is not for them.

We've also recently introduced Bloomberg connects app, which means that people can find out more about the exhibitions and the behind the scenes talks through the app, but also from the comfort of their homes.

Tara Sheldon

Art club happens here in the learning studio every week. It's one of the few programs that I deliver that I charge for. And the price we do try to keep as low as possible to make it affordable for families.

We give children a chance to explore new materials every week. They're working with a different artist and learning new things and just having fun. They make a lot of friends here.

Then we also deliver things such as 'Make and Munch', a 45-minute workshop in the gallery with an artist to make sure that we're feeding families during half terms and holidays.

The other group that we want year around is 'Street Arts' with 'Safer MK'. We work with children who are maybe at risk of becoming involved with gangs, or become involved with knife crime, so it's free for people to take part in.

They can have street activity such as Parkour it's a way to show young people that they can become involved in groups that don't have to be gangs, so there's a space for young people to come and feel safe away from people who may want to take advantage of them.