

Transcript

MK Gallery - Inclusivity

Voiceover:

Tara Sheldon

We are really inclusive at MK Gallery through all of our programming, but we do have many children who have medical or access needs, such as POTS.

We have one child who uses wheelchair, and we have other children who have EHCP's for other needs, especially neurodiversity.

The group is LGBTQ plus friendly, we work with artists who are also members of the LGBTQ plus community, and that helps those young people to feel like there's a community out there for them.

They are able to reflect upon things that they may not be able to do in schools. For example, gender identity or their own sexuality.

It's a safe space for them to talk about those things and for them to be themselves, to feel safe, to make friends about things that they're seeing in social media, to think about having representation for themselves.

Sam Matthews

At MK Gallery, we like to make sure that art is accessible for everyone nationwide, as well as worldwide.

We also run various family fun, friendly days throughout the year to make sure that everybody can come in again from for free, to pay what you can scheme.

We also offer things like explore guides which help again, families and schools come round to the gallery and understand a little bit more about the exhibition. There's toddler tours which reassure and helps parents to actually introduce the arts to children, and those have been selling out recently, which is great.

Annette Parmar

After volunteers made an application, they come to meet me at the gallery and we talk about what's important to them, why they're interested in the gallery and what they hope to get out of their time with us.

That's a really important conversation because, for example, with our younger volunteers, they really are interested in using their time at the gallery to help them with their personal interests and getting experience that will help them in their career.

Our older volunteers want to make friends or have a routine. Some people really, really enjoy, learning about art and sharing their knowledge with others so gallery invigilation and leading tours is a really ideal way for them to spend their time.

Frankie Nielsen

MK Gallery does a wide range of diverse exhibitions, making sure that we represent new and emerging artists, as well as some of those that are more established.

It's a really good way of making connections and getting a sense of ownership for people who live in Milton Keynes. We have everything from cinema to fine art exhibitions, either contemporary visual art or historical pieces of work, so there really is something here for everyone.

Roisin Callaghan

So a lot of what I do is about bringing audiences that might have never have been to MK gallery before, into our exhibition spaces.

I will invite them in for guided tours, run projects with them and to get them kind of more comfortable within an art space.

Looking at how we can break down some of the barriers, I'm trying to work with a lot of female artists or artists from diverse backgrounds to make sure that we're being more representative and it's actually kind of benefiting a lot, because we're getting a lot more exciting bits of practice coming through.

Our adult creative learning courses accompanies our exhibition programmes, so they all closely linked to what we have going on in the gallery. And so usually I'll have a look at the exhibition, pull out themes and within that, we work quite collaboratively with artists to develop what the workshops are going to be.

It's a nice way for people who might feel a bit more intimidated in gallery spaces to kind of have a different way in and to understand the art that's in there.