

Education:

BA (Hons) Architecture - University of Plymouth - 1993 to 1996

Masters Degree 'Art in Architecture' - University of East London - 1998 to 2000

Public Art Consultant (Freelance)

BOUNCE BACK ARTS CIC, based in the south west.

January 2009 to present day

Developed through 15 years of working exclusively in aesthetic enhancement of public spaces, my in-depth knowledge and expertise informs and drives all of Bounce Back Arts' work. I am considered one of the leading public art experts in the south west of England.

Specialist in the commissioning of high-calibre artists and creative studios, experienced in creating work for the public realm. The focus of my work is on engagement with local communities and facilitation of multi-disciplinary design teams towards enhancement of 'place'. In this role, I have delivered 18 major public art and design commissions throughout the south west via a process of partnership-building, fund-raising, community consultation, brief creation, artists' recruitment, project management and evaluation. I am regularly contracted to provide guidance and advocacy towards the implementation of high quality, contemporary design and artwork in public spaces and have delivered lectures, seminars and training on this field. Alongside delivery work, I have led on spatial strategy development for a number of clients.

For the first six years of this freelance work, I worked part-time as a consultant to allow for other work commitments (see below). Since March 2015, I have operated full-time as a freelancer - having framed my expertise within the company set-up of Bounce Back Arts CIC - and have been engaged in delivering the services described above. I have delivered 5 commissions as Bounce Back Arts. Across my freelance work, my clients have included Weymouth and Portland Borough Council; Dorset Councils Partnership; Dorset County Council; Dorset Coast Forum; Poole Housing Partnership; Borough of Poole; Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council; Cheltenham Borough Council; Bournemouth Borough Council; Weymouth Civic Society (Nothe Fort); Wave Arts Education Agency; Arts University Bournemouth; Weymouth College; New Look Retailers; Jones Laing LaSalle and; THAT Group Developers.

Public Art Officer

BOROUGH OF POOLE, Dorset.

June 2006 to June 2015

- Negotiated with developers to secure \$106 contributions through planning system and raised external funding to enable public art commissions.
- Facilitated cross-departmental partnerships toward creation of Public Realm Strategy SPD (OSAS), within Local Development Framework, incorporating processes and best practice on artists' commissioning.
- Project Managed artists' recruitment, commissioning and implementation in partnership with wide range of cross-sector partners. 14 commissions delivered during time in post.
- Responsible for all public art commissioning, contracts, strategies, reports and brief-writing
- Advised authority on governance and set-up cross-party Elected Members' Public Art Working Group (and associated terms of reference),
- Planned and delivered exhibitions, seminars, presentations, talks, expositions, creative engagement projects and advocacy. Designed and delivered artists' and planning officers' CPD training in public art.
- Created and maintained photographic records of all public art in Poole for use in Poole's 'Public Art List';
- Responsible for all communications, marketing and publicity in relation to public art, including Google Map of Poole's public art and web site information
- Worked closely with Arts & Health, Arts in the Community, Museums and Community Development colleagues to deliver collaborative projects
- Undertook research and training to keep abreast of developments in public art & the planning system.
- Provided a service to all departments within BoP - and groups and agencies externally - in my role as the Borough's public art expert.

Freelance Consultant

POOLE HOUSING PARTNERSHIP LTD., Dorset.

November 2005 to June 2006

Contracted to engage and collaborate with tenants of Frobisher and Benbow flats in Alderney, Poole on a project to transform a large, communal courtyard - through landscaping intervention - into an aesthetically-pleasing, public realm space for residents. Produced a toolkit for Housing Officers in 'Community Engagement in Public Realm Improvement Projects', to aid future initiatives. Stand alone contract.

Community Development Specialist (three roles)

DEVON & CORNWALL HOUSING ASSOCIATION, Exeter, Devon.

November 2001 to November 2005

1. *Community Development Co-ordinator* (Nov. 2003 - Nov. 2005): Designed and delivered this pilot, multi-strand community development project with a mixed-tenure community involved in a 99 home, new build, housing regeneration scheme within Devonport's wider 'New Deal for Communities' area. Seconded from Community Development Manager's role to co-ordinate and deliver the project, resulting in a CABE award for resident-led innovation and high quality design of the new scheme.
2. *Community Development Manager* - Plymouth and Cornwall (Mar. 2002 - Nov. 2003): Worked with individual communities and at strategic level to develop and deliver a wide range of projects which enhanced quality of life and increased tenants' engagement in the operation of DCHA. Managed a small team of local community development workers. Secured £156K from Housing Corporation for specific, community-led project in Devonport (see above).
3. *Community Development Officer* (Nov. 2001 - Mar. 2002): Worked with disadvantaged tenants on two Plymouth housing estates, to develop and deliver public realm and art projects funded through Single Regeneration Budget funding.

Community Development Worker

DORSET COMMUNITY ACTION, Dorchester, Dorset.

October 2000 to October 2001

Worked in the Dorset market towns of Verwood, Dorchester and Beaminster to engage local volunteer community members in the development and creation of action plans, to aid government funding applications for regeneration projects.

Community Development / Communications Officer

STEPNEY HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY, Tower Hamlets, London.

October 1997 to October 2000

Worked closely with local communities and tenants' associations in the regeneration of social housing on the Limehouse Fields Estate (under the New Deal for Communities funding stream), and managed projects including tenants' association governance, fun days, arts workshops, gardening groups and production of a monthly, Bengali / English local newsletter.

Freelance Consultant / Research Assistant

CAPITAL ACTION - URBAN REGENERATION AGENCY, Camden, London

October 1996 to October 1997

Contracted to engage with tenant volunteers in Islington and Hackney and facilitate community's design input into extensive social housing regeneration projects through variety of means, including a one stop shop, which I ran with volunteer members of the community. Also carried out national policy research into community self-build programmes.

References

1. Nigel Jacobs - Director of Operations
Intelligent Land (Planning & Development Consultancy)
The Studio
Ferndown Forest Golf Club
Forest Links Road
Ferndown
Dorset
BH22 9PH

Tel. 01202 570471
Email: nj@intel-land.com

2. Michael Spender - Arts and Museums Manager
Borough of Poole
Poole Museum
4 High Street
Poole
Dorset
BH15 1BW

Tel. 01202 262609
Email: michael.spender@bcpcouncil.gov.uk