



Here for good.

# Youth Arts Open Fund Case Studies



Spartans Community Foundation



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# Spartans Community Foundation

## About us:

We are re-defining what is possible for a football club in terms of community engagement and participation by delivering positive social impact through the power of people and sport. As a social enterprise and charity, we reinvest our profits into delivering much needed youth work, education and health and well-being programmes within our local community of North Edinburgh.

We aim to change lives and to help North Edinburgh thrive. Our Alternative School is for young people who are marginalised from education - who have been, or are at risk of exclusion from mainstream education and who are at risk of underachieving. The Alternative School is youth work based, nurturing personal growth and supporting students to achieving qualifications, skills and realise their potential.



## Our Project:

### Alternative School Art Project

Our Alternative School offers youth work based support to young people from various mainstream schools in Edinburgh. The young people who attend have experienced trauma and adversity, have additional support needs, are neurodivergent and have emotional and behavioural challenges that mean they. They receive frequent suspensions from school and have a reduced timetable because their schools struggle to meet their needs.

The funding we received allowed us to employ an art teacher between Aug '23-Jun '24 for 11hrs per week and take young people on a journey of art exploration and learning where no prior art experience or abilities were required.

All activities were led and influenced by the young people, ensuring that they are empowered through participation and we explored ways to help them express themselves through art.

The Art teacher worked 1:1 and in small groups with the young people every week during the academic year, supporting them to create and explore art in their own way, choosing from a range of creative activities including: sewing, weaving, drawing, cartoon making, painting, spray painting, digital art and poster/card making.



## Impact:

We worked with 23 young people and delivered 399 hours of arts based developmental work.

Many of the young people we work with have experienced trauma and have missed out on early play experiences.

The project allowed them to safely express themselves, engage in age appropriate play and where appropriate use the art to work with our mental health therapist, from U-Evolve, as a strategy to talk about their feelings.

Some of the young people that attend are highly creative in an unconventional and unique way yet mainstream approaches to art are unrelatable to them and so they don't perceive themselves as artists. Our art teacher worked with them to re-invent their perception of their talents and to see that anyone can be an artist. This aligns with our ethos of helping young people reinvent themselves, boost their self-esteem and explore hidden talents.

In September, we held an exhibition at Out of the Blue Drill Hall showing a collection of work by the young people. The work explored the interaction between art, mental health, social identity and personal perception through spray painting, film, sculpture, design, music and photography. You can see some of the young people's work [here](#).

