



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

A
MOMENTS
PEACE

AMOMENT'S PEACE THEATRE COMPANY



Chair's Statement

SUMMARY

- Despite the challenges of the pandemic and the isolating environment of lockdown AMP was able to thrive and increase our capacity due to successful bids to Women's Fund For Scotland, Glasgow City Council's Communities Fund, Foundation Scotland and Adapt and Thrive in 2021. This was, in large part, thanks to the fundraising efforts of our dedicated and committed staff.
- The first part of the year was focused on remaining connected to our two core groups The Women's Creative Company and Shared Space, offering digital and at home spaces of creativity, support and solidarity during such isolating times through the development of our programme At A Distance Together (AADT). During this period we offered gentle reflective Creative Sessions and Creative Tasks developed by AMP Associate Artists, for group members to connect with us in the comfort and safety of their own homes. A full exploration of digital access needs of the groups was carried out by Project Coordinator Deborah May and Company Producer Sara Marshall, which saw AMP develop a robust plan for expanding our delivery, centring digital inclusion and at home Engagement at the heart of our practice.
- AADT was initially created and produced by Catrin Evans and Producer Sara Marshall from April to October 2021. We then extended our team to welcome two project coordinators Elena Harris and Mina Heydari-Waite, as well as Associate Artist Najma Abukar. We remained in partnership with partner venue and funder Tramway and our team of AMP Associate Artists and look forward to developing our valuable relationships with our key community collaborators and partners as we transition through lockdown.
- Despite these unprecedented times we were challenged to remain hopeful, connected and to continue to provide platforms for the voices in our community to be celebrated through shared solidarity and the strength of our collective experiences and creative explorations.

WITH THANKS

We remain hopeful and inspired as we adjust to these shifting times. Thanks to our staff and board members who work incredibly hard behind the scenes and whose contribution is hugely valuable. I would also like to thank each and every freelance practitioner and AMP Associate who have joined us during this project. As always, A Moment's Peace could not continue to thrive without those in our community who bring such creativity, support and strength to our work, particularly our group members who make A Moment's Peace the company it is.

EMMA MCKEE, CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Programme of Work

In April 2020, following the COVID 19 Pandemic, Scotland was in lockdown and we found ourselves in the position of having to revise and reimagine our ambitious project plans for the year ahead.

Our main priority during this time was to remain connected with our two core groups The Women's Creative Company and Shared Space. Unable to meet any of them in person, we recognised that many of our community collaborators were simultaneously very isolated, very bored, very busy and very stressed.



AT A DISTANCE TOGETHER APRIL - OCTOBER 2020

From April to October 2020, we shared creative tasks from invited Guest Artists with our group members. These tasks were gentle, reflective and enjoyable, in video, image and text form. Through their tasks, the artists provided a sense of connection as well as multi-art-form explorations of spaces, places, feelings, emotions, objects, world views and social events. Under the artists' guidance, participants were encouraged to craft their own responses in text, images, videos, drawings, movement & sound.

There was a natural emphasis on the impact of the ongoing global COVID 19 pandemic and lockdown restrictions challenging the daily lives and experiences of our participants. The groups were encouraged to creatively express their worries, fears, anger and doubts, alongside reflections of hope, gratitude, solidarity and joy.

The tasks allowed participants to process unsettling events, focus on hopeful futures, celebrate personal objects, places of meaning and experiences of joy.

With no pressure to complete or engage in each task, the focus was very much on the personal creative process and interaction with other group members digitally was an option if they choose to do so. We complemented these with 11 online creative sessions, where the groups shared their responses and experiences, got creative and remained connected with one another.

For those that attended these sessions, they quickly became an important part of lockdown and even as restrictions relaxed many of the women who attended the sessions continued to remain isolated in their homes.

At A Distance Together initially connected digitally with 150 participants from our two ongoing core groups – The Women’s Creative Company and Shared Space - as well as reaching out to a local Social Bite’s women’s group. Having this regular contact allowed people to connect, and often at the end of a session participants would express that they 'hadn't fancied coming' but that they were 'very glad I did'.

The sessions provided a source of energy at a time where much of life was very static. Many of our group members communicated that while they may not be sending work, they were watching the videos in their own time, having a go at responding and importantly drawing strength from the regular contact. This archive of creative responses has been compiled into a digital gallery of works from the project:

<https://www.amomentspace.co.uk/at-a-distance-together-project>

CREATIVE ACTION FUNDING 2020-21

AT A DISTANCE TOGETHER OCT 2020 - MARCH 2021

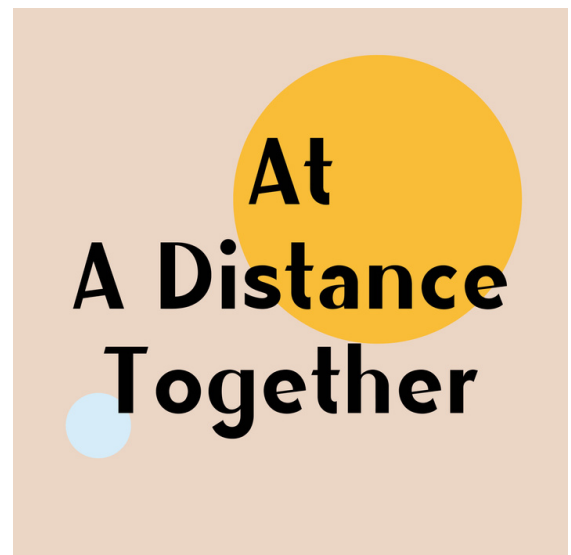
With partnership funding secured in 2020 for **Creative Action** through Glasgow City Council’s Communities Fund and additional support from SCVO’s Adapt and Thrive grant, we were able to continue to develop the programme, with some longer term stability in place.

In response to the ongoing challenge of COVID19 restrictions, the Creative Action project saw us explore ways of developing our processes and artistic practice by continuing to develop the first strand of Creative Action under the banner **At A Distance Together**.

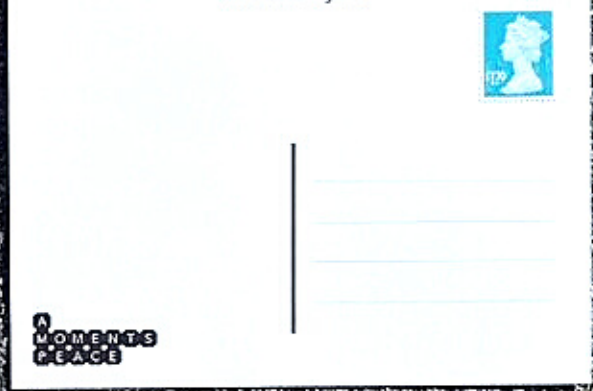
This new but necessary focus on digital accessibility and the provision of high quality and meaningful creative practice at home saw us continue to develop an at home and digital element of the project - a progression from the digital focused project we created in 2020.

We welcomed two new team members to the project in January 2021; Access Coordinator **Elena Harris**, Project Coordinator **Mina Heydari Waite**, as well as securing our existing AMP roles of Company Producer **Sara Marshall** Shared Space Associate Artist **Najma Abukar** and Artistic Director **Catrin Evans**.

The project unfolded in several strands:



“Beneath
the surface
we are all
connected”



CREATIVE PACKS

The At A Distance Together Creative Packs offered our groups quality creative explorations in the comfort and safety of their homes. In February 2021, Project Coordinator Mina, and Access Coordinator Elena delivered 48 Creative Packs direct to the doorsteps of our groups.

The Creative Tasks from the AMP team and associate artists, were collated visually in a design by Mina, and our first box packed with eight weeks worth of multi-artform tasks and arts materials for participants to respond in text, image, textile, print, video, drawing and sound form.

A private digital platform was created for participants to share their responses and connect with each other, written instructions had translations provided, and cheerful, user-friendly instruction videos from Elena were uploaded each week.

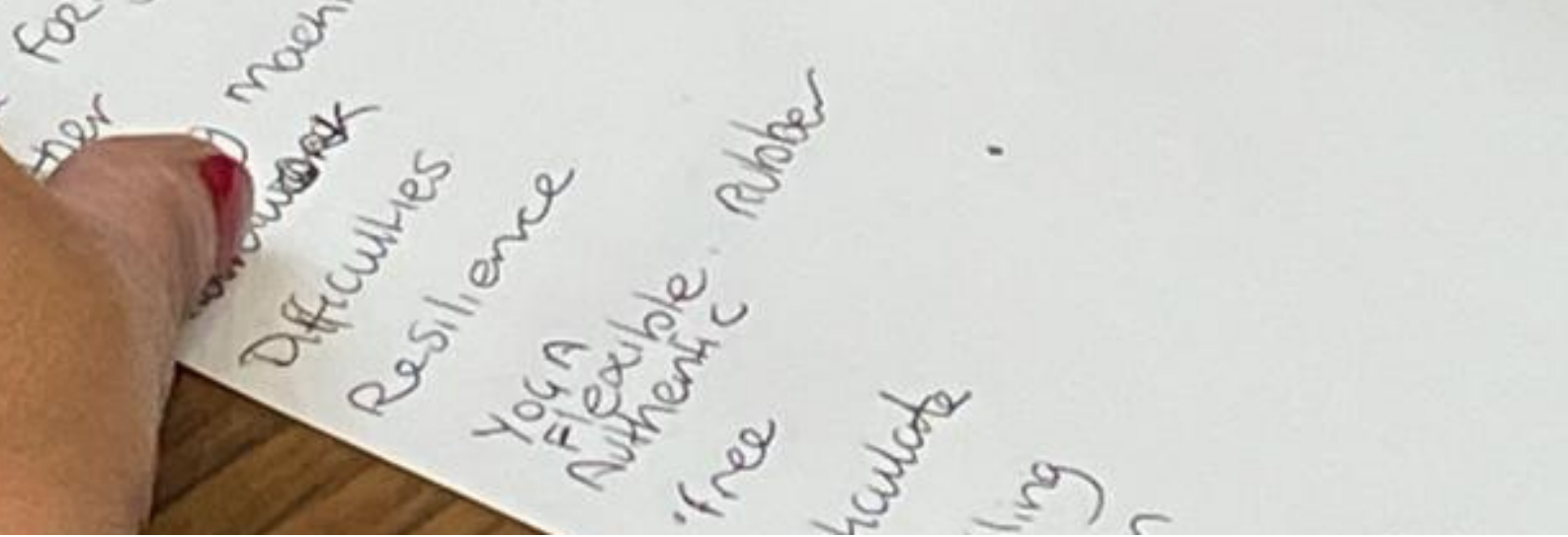
DIGITAL ENGAGEMENT

With funding support from **Connecting Scotland** in 2020, Creative Action in 20-21 saw us source twenty five Chromebooks and MiFi devices to group members experiencing practical challenges to online access. As a result of a successful bid to Foundation Scotland's **Response, Recover and Resilience Fund**, Access Coordinator Elena led this element, as well as the development of AMP's accessibility framework of delivery moving forward. We also continued to offer regular data top ups, IT support and translations for elements of digital and at home creative programme throughout the year.

In November 2020, with support from Associate Coordinator Deborah May, we carried out a full audit of participants' specific needs and challenges via initial phone conversations, which informed and underpinned our delivery and access framework into 2021-2022.

Accessibility has always been at the heart of our projects and we are glad to also be part of a wider, and necessary conversation within our communities and cultural/funding sector surrounding digital access.





ONLINE WORKSHOPS

The pilot project saw us offer 9 monthly cross-artform creative sessions for Women's Creative Company and Shared Space online via zoom. **Guest Artists Tawona Sithole** and **Rachael Morrison** and AMP's Artistic Director **Catrin Evans** facilitated the sessions, exploring a range of creative skills and practice.

Some of the group members reflected that they had felt this sense/feeling of lockdown isolation for many years previous, due to their own personal circumstances or health, others were finding the containment and loneliness incredibly restrictive and isolating.

These online sessions facilitated safe spaces of joy, laughter, solidarity and creative reflection at a time in the year that was very challenging for many of our members, who were feeling particularly cut off from their support networks after a winter of further restrictions that many had hoped would have lifted months before.

“ There was joy in the knowledge that others were participating in the same project. A real feeling of being connected. I also liked the many forms of media explored. This challenged me creatively. I had fun taking part in the challenges that stretched me more than a little, that I managed to some extent! I loved seeing the images that the others created, amazed actually! I loved it all! (Group member, Women's Creative Company) ”

“ The project had a positive impact, especially that I was not able to attend much of the workshop because of the psychological pressure and the health condition that I suffered at this time, but communication from the group members and supervisors of this project gave me a lot of encouragement and a positive feeling that there are people who care about me and ask about me... (Group Member, Shared Space)

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M:

Life is hard, but
that doesn't mean
you should give up.

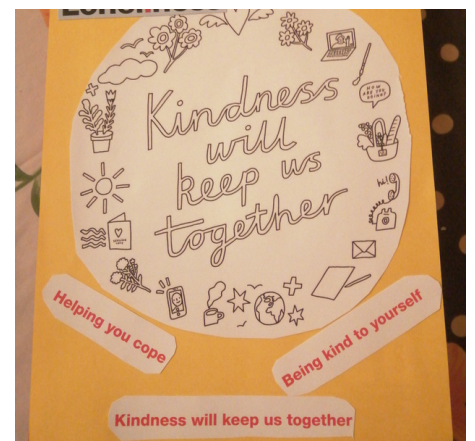
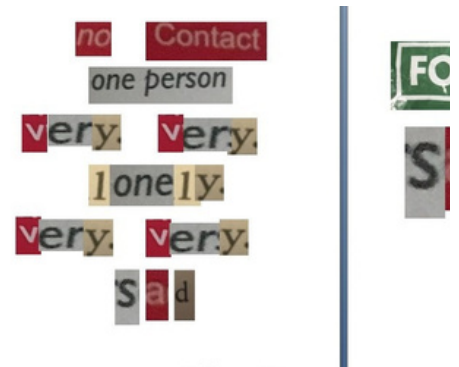
CASE STUDY

Participant A is an older adult who engages regularly with Women's Creative Company. While she responded regularly to communications regarding the group online meetings and creative tasks, she did not engage in workshops and much of the actual online activity, reflecting that she did not have the confidence with using online platforms such as zoom, and that the equipment she had for connecting with people (an old mobile phone) was not adequate to connect digitally with workshops.

She reflected during personal conversation and check-ins from AMP staff that she was finding lockdown challenging and missed the group, and that her engagement with the Women's Creative Company in the past had been a "lifesaver" for her. She lacked confidence and the proper devices to engage in online or at home engagement.

During the project, we were able to connect her with a new Chromebook and provide training to use zoom and our online sharing platform. She was able to connect for the first time successfully, after being supplied with her new device and has contributed to every online workshop since. She has reflected on how valuable she felt the delivery of at-home creative packs and materials has been for her.

“It was wonderful to get online and the girl made it so easy for me to understand...it was very uplifting to speak with my friends from the Womens Creative company...its been a wee ray of light for me.. It gives me something to look forward to...so looking forward to my next meeting online...”





Treasurer's Statement and Annual Accounts

In the first half of 2020-21, following the COVID-19 Pandemic, the majority of our income and expenditure focused on supporting our two core groups through *At A Distance Together*, for which we were able to repurpose existing funds from **Robertson's Trust** and **Glasgow City Council Culture & Sport** as well as securing funds from **Foundation Scotland's Women's Fund** to support the delivery of this programme across 2020-21.

We were delighted to be successful in a funding bid to **Glasgow City Council's Communities Fund** to provide our two core groups with regular opportunities to expand their artistic talents and skills, improve their wellbeing and strengthen their solidarity through *Creative Action*. This fund supports ongoing core and delivery costs, including staff salaries of Company Producer, Artistic Director, Project Coordinator and Guest and Associate Artists until 2023. We received the first instalment of this grant in October 2020, which offered us some longer term stability during this challenging period.

Successful bids to Foundation Scotland's **Response, Recovery and Resilience Fund** and the SCVO's **Adapt and Thrive Fund** allowed us to focus on responding to and supporting our participants through the pandemic, employing an Access Coordinator to address digital exclusion, develop solutions and put in place a range of resources, protocols and practices to enable and support a new and safe way of engagement. Adapt and Thrive allowed us to plan for a sustainable future by supporting ongoing Coordinator Support, Funding Consultancy, IT, PPE and Office Software and Equipment.

SPECIFIC NOTES ON ACCOUNTS

Reserves and Unrestricted Income:

Due to lockdown restrictions AMP ceased receiving unrestricted income from Office Associates for the majority of the year, but were successful in securing unrestricted funding from **Glasgow City Council's Discretionary Fund** in March 2022. SCVO's Adapt and Thrive funding is listed as unrestricted funds as per the reporting requirements of the funder, however despite a large carryover to unrestricted in 2021, much of these funds have been allocated to vital core expenditure throughout 2021 to support the project. Despite a challenging start to the year, and due to concentrated efforts from our Artistic Director Catrin Evans in fundraising throughout the year, we spent significantly less of our existing unrestricted reserves than projected for at the start of the year.

Closing Balance:

This year, AMP carries over £42,748, a large percent of which of which is committed to Creative Action 2021-22 in both core and project delivery costs. This is a significantly higher closing balance than the previous year. We can remain positive that this represents our adaptability and sustainability as an organisation, despite a challenging and precarious start to the year following the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Our Annual Accounts were certified by Benham Conway & Co Accountants.

A Moment's Peace Theatre Company SCIO
Registered Charity Number SC044000
Statement of Receipts and Payments for the Year 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021

	Unrestricted	Restricted	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Glasgow Culture and Sport		5,500	5,500	2,500
Glasgow City Council (discretionary Fund)	3,000	0	3,000	0
Office Contributions Associates	489	0	489	2,815
Glasgow City Council (Communities Fund)	0	24,243	24,243	0
The Robertson Trust	0	15,000	15,000	5,000
Creative Scotland – Open Project	0	4,805	4,805	7,206
Foundation Scotland (Women's Fund)	0	5,000	5,000	80
Foundation Scotland (Resilience Fund)	0	4,860	4,860	0
Foundation Scotland (Adapt & Thrive Fund)	15,230	0	15,230	0
National Theatre Scotland	0	0	0	1,500
Phosphorus Theatre	0	0	0	266
Total Income	18,719	59,408	78,127	19,367
Expenditure				
Core Costs	3,538	30,956	34,494	20,826
Research and Development	0	0	0	6,618
Project Costs including Access	0	11,999	11,999	20,537
Production Costs including Access	0	0	0	1,658
Marketing Digital Press including Access	0	1,200	1,200	4,344
Documentation and Evaluation	0	0	0	2,531
Total Expenditure	3,538	44,155	47,693	56,514
Net Receipts / (Payments)	15,181	15,253	30,434	(37,147)
Funds Carried Over from 2019/20	7,653	4,661	12,314	49,461
	<u>22,834</u>	<u>19,914</u>	<u>42,748</u>	<u>12,314</u>
Transfer between Funds	367	(367)	0	0
Closing balances	23,201	19,547	42,748	12,314
Statement of Balances as at 31 March 2021				
Bank			42,565	12,021
Cash			<u>183</u>	<u>293</u>
Balance as at 31 March 2021			<u>42,748</u>	<u>12,314</u>

SUMMARY

We end 2020/21 in a more stable financial position, with longer term core funding in place from **Glasgow City Council's Communities Fund** till 2023, the remaining funds from our last instalment from The Robertson Trust and Adapt and Thrive funding, as well as an increase in unrestricted reserves. All of this will enable us to support our core groups through Creative Action, whilst building an infrastructure to recover and thrive. The AMP team has expanded this year, and we have been able to secure longer term work for our our Company Producer, Artistic Director, Access Coordinator, Engagement Coordinator and Associate Artist.

However, as the COVID-19 crisis continues to impact our communities one year on, AMP is conscious that we are still working within an exceptionally precarious funding climate and will strive to continue to reflect on and adapt our artistic process, seek ways to remain sustainable as an organisation while exploring ways we can make work that is truly accessible and meaningful for the communities we engage with.



MAREE ALDAM, TREASURER



Moving Forward

2021-2022 is a period of positive transition and key development at AMP and we look forward in anticipation to exciting shifts and the ongoing development of our Artistic practice and programme of delivery.

With successful bids to **Postcode Lottery** and **Adapt and Thrive**, 2021-2022 will see us welcome a dedicated Communications Coordinator Julia Harriman and Artistic Director Kirstin McLean to the AMP family as well as Trustees Katherine Jones and Katy Marshall.

THANK YOU!

We would like to take a moment to thank outgoing Artistic Director and Founder **Catrin Evans**, whose dedication to meaningful artistic practice, social justice, collaboration and community solidarity has made AMP such an enriching space for all who connect with AMP's practice. We are delighted that she will remain by our side as Associate Artist for the journey ahead.

As a priority we must extend our gratitude to the freelance staff, artists, partners and associates that worked with AMP this year, as well as our Board of Trustees. Without their creativity, hard work and commitment to embedding the company's values into all of our work we wouldn't have survived, let alone thrived. In particular we'd like to thank:

Staff, Trustees and Artists: Catrin Evans, Sara Marshall, Mina Heydari-Waite, Elena Harris, Najma Abukar, Julia Harriman, Kirstin McLean, Kae Sakurai, Tawona Sithole Rachael Morrison, Lynda Radley, Carolina Perez, Deborah May, Paria Goodarzi, Layla Roxanne-Hill, Lucy Cathcart-Froden, Raisah Ahmed, Greer Pester, Bircan Birol, Alice Mary Cooper, Francisco Llinas Casas, Kae Sakurai, Anna Patience, Emma McKee, Maree Aldam, Julie Cathcart, Chris Hall, Katherine Jones, Katy Marshall.

Partners and Funders: Küche, Social Bite, Tramway, Glasgow Life, Glasgow City Council, The National Lottery through Creative Scotland, The Robertson Trust, Foundation Scotland, Peoples Postcode Lottery, Adapt and Thrive and Connecting Scotland.

To find out more about our work and previous projects you can visit us at:
www.amomentspace.co.uk

Contact us on:
info@amomentspace.co.uk
And join us via:

