

Press Release: September, 2022

HAVE A HAND IN BUILDING A SCULPTURE GARDEN! ARNOLFINI AND UWE BRISTOL LAUNCH PUBLIC ART PROJECT WITH JUNEAU PROJECTS



Image: UWE Bristol visualisation, Juneau Projects, 2021

A series of community art workshops and events will begin next month to give local people the opportunity to have a hand in creating a new public art and nature project at UWE Bristol's Frenchay Campus.

Artists Juneau Projects have been selected to create the space and will be working with the local community over the next 12 months.

The Juneau Projects duo, Philip Duckworth and Ben Sadler, invite UWE Bristol students and staff, local residents and schools to join them for *Bryophyte* Club* – a programme of free, creative workshops and explorations of overlooked but vital nature - and get hands-on with the design and construction of a sculpture garden in a new student accommodation village on the campus.

On completion, the sculpture garden will also be used as a community space, with the aim to be a welcoming place for students, staff and local people alike to sit, rest, meet and enjoy for years to come.

Arnolfini and UWE Bristol are commissioning this public art project with the collective goal of bringing artists and communities together to co-create ambitious and exciting artworks and experiences in local neighbourhoods, with people, place and conversations at its heart.

They are keen to hear from individuals and groups who would like to have a hand in the creation of the sculpture garden, meet new people and gain skills in making with clay, wood, printmaking, plants and more. Anyone who is interested to take part, find out more or simply say hello can email publicart@arnolfini.org.uk.

The project kicks off with an exhibition on Arnolfini's second floor - *Meet Juneau Projects* - running from 8 October to 30 October 2022, showcasing Juneau Projects' previous work and providing an opportunity to learn more about the project.

* bryophytes (brai-uh-fites) are a group of plants that include mosses, lichens, liverworts and hornworts. In the UK there are around 1100 species of bryophyte.

Who are Juneau Projects?

Juneau Projects specialise in collaborative public artworks, developed with and for the communities that will interact with them on a day-to-day basis.

Working across a broad range of media including sculpture, animation, print making, performance and music, as well as public art, their practice looks at the relationship between society, culture and the natural world, bringing people together to work with them in a hands-on way.

In response to being selected for this commission, Juneau Projects said: “We are looking forward to meeting the staff and students of UWE Bristol and the local community around Frenchay Campus. We are keen to work with them to create something that is a celebration of the way nature can integrate itself and hope that making space for nature, even in the smallest places can be part of the message of the piece.”

“We encourage participants in the project to help develop these ideas and create, in a hands-on way, the final sculptures. We will be working with the university and contractor, VINCI Building, to site the pieces in a location where they will be both visually striking and create a unique area for contemplation for the whole community.”

How were the artists selected?

Juneau Projects were among four artists commissioned to develop a proposal for the project. The decision was made by a panel made up of representatives from Arnolfini, UWE Bristol, the student community and local schools. On the panel were: Rania Regaieg, UWE Bristol Students’ Union Vice President Community and Welfare; Sarah Laws, Deputy Headteacher, Glenfrome Primary School, Eastville (close to the Frenchay Campus); William Liew, Chief Financial Officer, UWE Bristol; Marianne Reed, Head of Business Change (Place), UWE Bristol; Vivienne Jowett, Head of Accommodation Services, UWE Bristol; Gary Topp, Executive Director, Arnolfini; and, Alix Rothnie, Projects Producer, Arnolfini.

Sarah Laws, Deputy Head at Glenfrome Primary School said: “I was honoured to be invited to join the panel. Juneau Projects’ sculptures are inclusive and inspiring and will be perfect to enrich the campus environment and local area. Juneau Projects value community involvement, therefore it’s an exciting time for us at Glenfrome Primary School as we await the collaboration opportunities for our children.

“I know that our children will not only relish the chance to be creative, they will be excited and proud of what they personally achieve but also feel as though they have contributed to the awe and wonder that the sculptures will bring! This is a fantastic opportunity for us and we cannot wait for the project to begin.”

The sculpture garden at the Frenchay Campus is part of UWE Bristol’s new student accommodation, which is a low carbon development being built to the highest Passivhaus sustainability standard. Passivhaus buildings provide a high level of occupant comfort while using very little energy for heating and cooling. These standards will help UWE Bristol achieve their sustainability goals outlined in the University’s 2030 strategy.

William Liew, UWE Bristol’s Chief Financial Officer, added: “This is an exciting public art project which we hope will provide a long-term benefit to the local community, by creatively connecting Frenchay Campus to those who live and work nearby, as well as providing a positive impact for future students who will make the new student accommodation their home in years to come.”

- ends -

For further information please contact Sara Blair | sara.blair@arnolfini.org.uk

Additional images are available [by clicking here](#)

[@ArnolfiniArts](#) Twitter / Facebook / Instagram / www.arnolfini.org.uk

For additional information about UWE Bristol, please contact the UWE Bristol Press Office on 0117 328 2208 or pressoffice@uwe.ac.uk. The UWE Bristol press release archive is available [by clicking here](#).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

About Juneau Projects

Juneau Projects was formed in 2001 by Philip Duckworth and Ben Sadler. They work across a broad range of media including public art, publication, animation, performance and music. Their work is made in collaboration with other people and focuses on the relationship between society, culture and the natural world. They are interested in how nature is perceived through the lens of technology, folk art and other cultural mediation. Their projects aim to bring people together to collaborate in a hands-on way. Often each participant will make an element of a piece which will be combined together to make the final artwork. These projects include animations where each participant paints an individual frame, a community shop stall with items for sale made by the local craft group and public artworks made in collaboration with the local community.

Recent public artwork includes a sculpture for Trumpington Meadows School, Cambridge, where they ran workshops with the pupils to make wax models based on birds found at the local bird reserve. The models were cast in bronze and attached to sculptural forms that the pupils helped design, which are located in the school playground. In Whitby in 2022 they worked with the community to co-design a series of sculptural benches, using data from Yorkshire Wildlife trust to explore water quality issues in the Esk estuary. The Whitby Naturalists Society advised on the kind of wildlife that could be spotted on different sections of the Esk and local people made illustrations of the wildlife that were carved into the bricks that made up the benches and coloured with ceramic underglaze. The benches make a trail along the Esk, leading visitors from freshwater and tidal habitats to the coast.

Juneau Projects have exhibited at locations including Tate Britain (UK), PS1 (USA), British Art Show 6 (Hayward Touring, UK), Frankfurter Kunstverein (Germany), Grizedale Arts (UK), IKON (UK), Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennale (Japan), Tatton Park Biennial (UK), Lismore Castle (Ireland), Stream Vermont (USA) and Hauser & Wirth Somerset (UK). Their public artworks are sited in Rhoose, Wales; Trumpington, Cambridge and Whitby, North Yorkshire. Their work is in collections including KPN and New Art Gallery Walsall. www.juneauprojects.co.uk

About Arnolfini

Woven into the fabric of Bristol since 1961, Arnolfini is an international centre of interdisciplinary contemporary arts, presenting an ambitious and wide-ranging programme of visual art, performance, dance, film, and music.

Housed in a prominent Grade II listed accessible building (Bush House) on the city's harbourside, Arnolfini is a pioneering, inspiring public space for arts and learning, offering an innovative, inclusive and engaging experience for all. Bush House is also part of the University of the West of England, Bristol's City Campus with over 300 students and tutors onsite.

Arnolfini has welcomed artists from around world throughout its history – sharing works by Paula Rego, Jannis Kounellis, Grayson Perry, Rachel Whiteread, Peter Doig, Richard Long, Chantal Joffe, Sonia Boyce and Frank Bowling, to name just a few - as well as supporting talent from in and around Bristol.

Alongside its exhibition programme, Arnolfini is a centre of everyday creativity and learning, working with a wide range of community and artistic partners, while continuing to explore and develop new opportunities across the city and beyond. Spaces are used regularly by families, schools and colleges, health and wellbeing groups.

Through sharing a 60-year archive of exhibition slides, publications and an extensive artist book collection, Arnolfini celebrates its heritage and the wide-reaching impact the organisation has had since its foundation.

Since 2019, Director Gary Topp and team have sought to honour Arnolfini's founder Jeremy Rees' principle to 'Enjoy Yourself', welcoming everyone into the space, and inviting engagement, in any number of ways.

Arnolfini is an independent charity (CIO) and part of the University of the West of England, Bristol, supported by Arts Council England and the Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust. www.arnolfini.org.uk

About The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol)

The University of the West of England (UWE Bristol) has a global and inclusive outlook, with approximately 36,000 students and strong industry networks and connections with over 1,000 employers. Research at UWE Bristol focuses on real world problems and the University plays a pivotal role in the regional economy. With over £300 million invested in infrastructure, buildings and facilities across all Campuses, UWE Bristol is creating a place for learning that is innovative, ambitious, connected, enabling and inclusive. UWE Bristol is ranked 24th in the Guardian university league table, as well as 4th in the South West of England for student satisfaction. www.uwe.ac.uk

The new UWE Bristol student accommodation project will provide 900 student bed spaces and is part of the university's commitment to offer accommodation on campus for all first year students.

These will be built to the highest 'Passivhaus' standards of environmental sustainability and energy saving, a major contribution towards UWE Bristol's commitment to achieve net carbon-zero by 2030, and which also delivers a particularly high quality living environment in terms of comfort and air quality.

About Arts Council England

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. By 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National Lottery to help deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

About Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust (ACBMT)

Arnolfini has been supported by a linked charity, the Ashley Clinton Barker Mills Trust (ACBMT) for almost 60 years.

Arnolfini founders Jeremy and Annabel Rees were first introduced to the artists and benefactors Peter and Caroline Barker-Mill in 1963, by the London gallerist Lesley Waddington. It was a fortuitous meeting that was the catalyst in allowing Arnolfini to develop from a small volunteer-run private gallery into a major international arts centre.

The Ashley Clinton Barker-Mills Trust (ACBMT) principle is to work with Arnolfini, primarily by making annual grants from the income earned on its investments, as well as funding modest, one-off capital grants to help the Arnolfini transition to its current financial model. In more recent years members of the ACBMT have become more involved working with Arnolfini to help plan its future.

www.arnolfini.org.uk/about/ashley-clinton-barker-mills-trust