

We Are Ipswich

We Are Ipswich is an independent, self-organising group of premier league, nationally recognised arts and heritage organisations based in Ipswich. We're dedicated to showcasing, celebrating, and enhancing the town's vibrant and diverse range of world class art and culture.

This coalition fosters open dialogue creating a space for sharing experience, skills, and advice, which builds resilience. We also work together to strengthen Ipswich's cultural landscape, ensuring the arts thrive and positively impact local lives.

Membership

Our members are professional organisations that receive core or regular project funding from Arts Council England, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, or various trusts and foundations. Each member runs their own year-round programmes, including live performances, exhibitions, film screenings, and creative engagement initiatives for Ipswich. We also have key stakeholder observers who help push our coalition's goals forward.

What Do We Do?

We work together to promote and support the growth of arts and culture at the heart of the town, making Ipswich proud of its rich and excellent cultural scene:

Create and Present Great Art

- We create and present world-class works experienced first in Ipswich.
- We enhance the diversity of the arts made, shown, seen, and experienced in Ipswich.
- We boost Ipswich's regional, national and international profile as an innovative, creative, and dynamic place.

Connect and Empower Diverse Communities

- We prioritise diversity in creative, performance, and participatory arts experiences.
- We share innovative and effective ways to reach, connect, and empower the town's diverse communities.
- We provide forums and platforms for different communities to meet and foster understanding.

Raise Educational Aspiration and Achievement

- We work with teachers and school managers to promote the role of the arts in school improvement, celebrate success, and build peer networks.
- We collaborate to raise the aspirations of young people, inspire their curiosity, and give them the tools and confidence to succeed.
- We work hard to ensure social and economic disadvantages don't hold back young people's ambitions or talents.

Promote Health and Wellbeing

- We provide arts and cultural activities in health and wellbeing contexts.
- We lead pioneering initiatives locally, nationally, and internationally that enhance health and wellbeing through the arts.

- We work to increase understanding of the value of the arts and culture among health providers and the public, challenging inequalities along the way.

Drive Regeneration

- We collaborate with civic leaders to raise the town's profile nationally and internationally and drive its regeneration.
- We support campaigns designed to make Ipswich a better place to live, work, and visit.

Contribute to Economic Buoyancy

- We share data and intelligence to grow and retain new audiences and supporters, while increasing engagement with existing audiences, generating more income, and providing skills training and meaningful jobs.
- We celebrate Ipswich as an artistically innovative and vibrant town, encouraging locals to take pride in its artistic riches.
- We help build national and international awareness and curiosity about Ipswich.

Promote Environmental Responsibility

- We share data and best practice to ensure we are always informed about the most urgent environmental priorities, locally and globally
- We work together to maximise our environmental efficiencies and mitigations, and ensure environmental opportunities and initiatives have the greatest possible impact
- We use our collective voice to advocate for a proactive response to the climate crisis across our town and county

Current Membership

We Are Ipswich consists of: Brighten the Corners/Out Loud Music, Colchester and Ipswich Museums, DanceEast, Eastern Angles Theatre Company, Gecko, Suffolk Archives, Ipswich Theatres, King Street Cinema, New Wolsey Theatre, Red Rose Chain, SPILL Festival + Think Tank, and Suffolk Libraries.

Stakeholder observers include: Arts Council England, Ipswich Borough Council, and Ipswich Central and Wolsey550.

How Do We Function?

We meet every two months, taking turns to host at different venues within our group. Our team includes a Chair, a Vice Chair, and a Secretariat. The Chair and Vice Chair serve for two years. The Secretariat handles the administration, such as organising meetings and taking minutes. Current members can nominate new members, with nominations confirmed following majority approval. Members are required to attend a minimum of three meetings annually. Representatives should be from the executive leadership of each organisation or hold a senior leadership position.

We also have subgroups to tackle specific goals or tasks. We often invite individual expertise to meetings to further our ambitions.

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