



Image: WeCanMake

December 14, 2023

# ANNUAL REPORT 2022/23

Prepared for the KWMC AGM 2023.

# INTRODUCTION.

Image: Jade Ayino



We've had a busy year at Knowle West Media Centre, we worked alongside over 3600 people to explore how we can do things differently to make a fairer and more thriving neighbourhood for everyone.



Image: Scott Piggott

“  
The way the Knowle West community works, is that a lot of things are co-created.  
”

Local Resident

We fully re-opened the Factory with two exciting adult courses Future Makers and Connectors and we also relaunched the membership programme.

As the world started to open again after the impact of the pandemic, we were invited to share our practice with organisations across the UK and the world, from Birmingham to Sardinia, Turin to South Korea! We brought our expertise in co-designing with communities and shared our arts led engagement approaches using our Bristol Approach framework. Where possible, as part of our commitment to lower our emissions, we made these journeys via train.

WeCanMake successfully built two houses in Knowle West providing much needed homes for local people in Knowle West.

“  
I'm so proud I've helped make a home for me and my daughter.  
”

Toni



Image: WeCanMake

# Our Team

At the start of 2023 we came together to look at how we can work alongside the local community to create thriving neighbourhoods using our approach of arts tech and care.

We organised a team away day where we visited Foly Farm and dived deep into what our mission looks like in action.

Here we created clear plans for the year ahead, as a whole team, and imagined an ambitious future for our work - woven into and driven by community priorities.



Image: Cashell Smith



Image: Cashell Smith



# 2022–2023 PROJECTS



# Lights, Lights, Lights

In the dark winter months of January and February local artists Claudia Collins and Megan Clark Bagnall ran creative drop-in workshops at KWMC exploring ‘What lights you up?’, with adults and young people - as part of the KWMC welcome spaces offering. These workshops played an important part in kicking off a new regular drop-in space ‘Creative Cuppas’, providing a place for residents to connect and develop creative skills together.



Image: Paul Blakemore



“ I’ve really enjoyed these sessions. Nothing else is open this early in Jan and I really struggle this time of year. It’s nice to have some light in the dark times and focus on something creative and fun. ”

Local Resident

# Green Spaces

We worked with artist Emma Blake Morsi, the University of Bristol and local residents to explore how tech could increase access to nature and improve health and wellbeing. Emma Blake Morsi helped co-design an at-home creative pack for people who couldn’t make it to workshops, broadening access to co-design experiences. Through a series of creative workshops exploring people's needs, hopes and dreams a resident-led nature action group was formed.



The group wanted to ensure green action across the neighbourhood was more joined up and use tech as a storytelling tool to shift stereotypes and increase access.

The group brought green initiatives together, generated ideas for nature signage and directly informed KMWC 2023 nature programmes.



Image: Jade Ayino

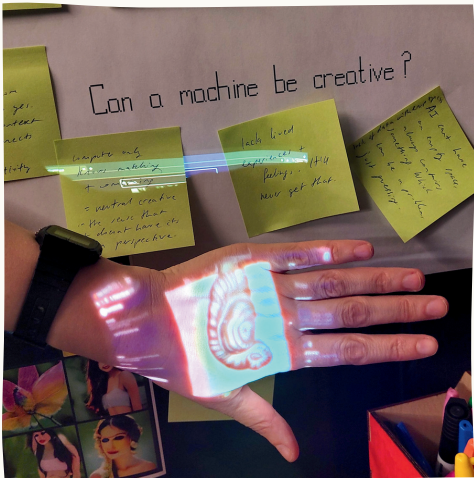
“ Here [in Knowle West] there is a lot of digital inequality. If you invite people to something about technology, you put people off... In the workshop, you raised awareness of technologies... I had never seen them before... It was fun. ”

Local resident

## Explainable AI

Through a collaboration with local tattoo artists, digital artist Alice Stewart and the Bristol Digital Futures Institute we explored big topics around artificial intelligence! By starting with local tattooing culture and diving into the archive KW tattoo database we discovered what Knowle Westers think and feel about AI.

This research has kicked off a wider exploration into data privacy and how we can harness the power of AI to benefit our community.



# Slow the Smoke

KWMC supported Bristol City Council and University of the West of England as engagement partners on Slow the Smoke, a research project about air pollution in inner city Bristol. Sharing our expertise in citizen science and through the Bristol Approach, our engagement framework, we supported creative ways for people to get involved to share their own lived experiences of air quality, learn more about air pollution and understand what the data means.

We held workshops with citizen scientists to build their own DIY low-cost air quality sensors to collect air quality data where they lived. The data collected from these sensors were explained to the scientists and used to inform workshops with families in St. Paul's and St. Werburgh's. The interpretation of the data also informed the creation of a sonic artwork and a game design in Minecraft.



Image: Scott Piggott



Image taken from the Minecraft Data game

The sonic artwork was made by KWMC commissioned artist, Miriam Quick of Loud Numbers, who created a music track, Bristol is Burning. The artist turned local air quality data into sound and combined this with lyrics by Bristol artist T. Relly. The outputs from Slow the Smoke have allowed the projects' data and the community's message for action to be shared widely in an accessible creative format. The sonic artwork featured on Channel 4 news and has also been nominated for a Data is Beautiful award.



Image: Cashell Smith



Image: Cashell Smith



Image: Scott Piggott



Image: Cashell Smith

# TwinERGY

Putting citizens at the heart of the energy market is the ambition of the TwinERGY project which we've been a part of for the last year. Being two years into this three-year EU funded research project we are working towards a technology solution which supports households to actively manage and adapt their energy use to market fluctuations through the help of data and automation; with the aim of saving energy, money and carbon emissions.

As part of the project, selected households in Knowle West were not only reducing their energy use and making savings on their energy bills but were able to make an extra income from selling energy back to the grid. This research project also supports wider learnings on how to create viable business models to do this on a larger scale.



Image: Scott Piggott

As part of TwinERGY we have been using our Bristol Approach framework to work with the community to design and develop digital information boards for some of the community spaces in Knowle West. These information boards will communicate messages which can support visitors to think differently about their energy use whilst navigating the space. Through a co-design process we've identified the energy vision for Knowle West and have showcased visual examples of the digital information dashboard at Knowle West Fest in 2022.

## The Factory: Our Makerspace

We celebrated the arrival and use of new kit. Some of the most popular machines in the factory are the vinyl cutter and heat press machines which have seen lots of use in the last year creating bespoke flags for community events. A new addition to the Factory this year has been a UV printer which prints onto almost any material by spraying ink through fine nozzles and then curing with an ultraviolet light. This has been well used in several different community workshops and is in high demand for producing event signage, promotional materials and for external commissions.



Image: Cashell Smith

We've always tried to shoot for the moon with our commissions, but back in Spring we literally made the moon! We were approached by Luke Jerram, a multidisciplinary artist whose practice involves the creation of sculptures, installations and live artworks, to create a scale replica of the moon to be installed outside an observatory on St Martin's in the Isles of Scilly.



# Future Makers

We are passionate about encouraging creativity and growth in our community. The Future Makers programme, supported by West of England Combined Authority, enabled us to do just that. We supported 42 adults from diverse backgrounds to develop digital design and making skills, as well as self-belief and confidence. Of these participants 72% of those who completed the course, went on to secure either a job or accessed further education and training.



Image: Scott Piggott

“ It was a lovely space with ‘my’ kind of people that made me comfortable learning and not embarrassed about asking daft questions. ”

Course participant

“ What a brilliant course! So well organised, covered so much material, learned so many new skills, physical, creative and digital. ”

Course participant

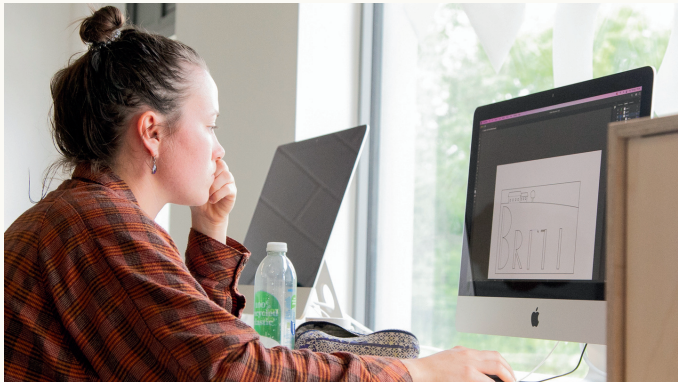


Image: Scott Piggott



Image: Cashell Smith

# Young People's Programme

Over the last year we ran over 199 sessions and supported 258 young people to engage with a range of creative activities, including Maker City and Soundwave.

The Maker City programme enabled the development of skills across digital fabrication, design and built environment. Our work focuses on encouraging young people to learn how to use their art and technology skills for social action; finding innovative solutions to challenges in the present and future for their community. Increase in funding in this strand of our work has meant that we have been able to extend its reach to more schools, independent home-schooled young people and teachers. By extending the digital fabrication focus of Maker City to more individuals we are proud to have supported young people to develop a unique set of design and making skills. This has led to more young people creating change in their neighbourhood, through the development of innovative solutions for their community.



Image: Megan Ballin



Image: Cashell Smith

Through Soundwave, we offer opportunities in our music and recording studios at the media centre. As part of The Women and Non-Binary People Music Day we were able to provide a unique opportunity for young people to explore different aspects of music-making and develop their skills and confidence in a safe and inclusive environment. The workshops and courses were led by experienced professionals, who provided valuable guidance and support.

Young people were able to try out new things, experiment with different technologies and hardware, and have fun while learning. The event was a great success, and we hope to continue providing more opportunities like this for women and non-binary people in the music industry.



Image: Jade Ayino



Image: Jade Ayino

This was also the first year Knowle West Media Centre collaborated with Bristol Strategic Partnership. This unique partnership of engineering and design companies has allowed our young people a unique insight into the working world. Bristol City Council's Strategic partnership opened their doors to the young people over two weeks, delivering live briefs on engineering, project management and live design challenges they are currently working on. Young people visited the offices of ARUP, Mott McDonald, Arcadis and learnt from mentors at these firms about a variety of jobs in STEM sectors.



Image: Cashell Smith



Image: Scott Piggott

In June, KWMC's Youth Council headed down to City Hall to attend a Youth Conference hosted by Bristol City Council. The conference was an opportunity for Youth Councils from all around Bristol to come together and use their voices to help direct current youth funding in the city and build the future of youth services in Bristol. KWMC Youth Council were lucky enough to meet the Youth Mayor of Bristol, Anika Mistry, and be given a tour of the Council Chamber.



# WeCanMake: The first two homes

Over the last few years, KWMC has been working alongside the Knowle West community to create a community driven response to the housing crisis through the WeCanMake project. In June 2022, two low-carbon, locally-made, living rent homes were completed in Knowle West, with the land and homes held in the community ownership in perpetuity.

One of the WeCanMake homes was co-designed, built and lived in by John – a local bricklayer who, after splitting with his wife found himself homeless. John’s home is located in Bill’s back garden, which Bill and his son Liam were struggling to maintain due to ill health.



Image: Reuben Armstrong



Image: WeCanMake

The second home was co-designed, built, and beautifully decorated by Toni, who was living with her young daughter Amancia in overcrowded conditions at Toni’s parents’ house. Toni got involved in the whole process, from making a wall in the Factory, to painting, laying the floor, grouting, varnishing, and adding the finishing touches to make it her own.

Toni and John moved into their homes in the summer of 2022, and the Knowle West community came out to celebrate with a summer ‘housewarming’ party at Toni’s.

WCM are now working with more Knowle West families in housing need to unlock land and build homes right where they’re needed in the community.

“  
We’re literally building our community from the bottom up. That’s the most important thing to come out of this - it’s given me ownership of my community. It’s giving people different choices, better choices about how things can be. And it feels like only the beginning.  
”

John



Image: Ibolya Fehrer & WeCanMake



Image: WeCanMake

# A-Z of Care Cards launched

Inspired by pleasure activism and radical rest, artists Josie Gyasi and Roseanna Dias launched the co-created beautiful A-Z of Care cards. After a year of deep co-creation and artist residencies this tool has been made to seed new thoughts and grow deep practices of care. Artwork designed by Designer Philly. Available to download and use for free on our website.



Image: Ibolya Fehrer



Image: Ibolya Fehrer

## Knowle West Alliance

Our collaboration with the Knowle West Alliance continues and we are thrilled to see it grow and our collaboration change in exciting ways.

“A lovely example is the Springfield Community Allotment – an emerging, resident led partnership, a food growing green space’ which is flourishing thanks to the united KWA effort

”  
**Lucy Holburn, Network Development  
Manager, Knowle West Alliance**



Image: Scott Piggott

# FINANCIAL REPORT



Image: Ibolya Fehrer & WeCanMake

# Financial Reports: 2022-2023

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities  
[including an Income and Expenditure Account]  
for the year ended 31 March 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds	
	2023	2023	2023	2022
	£	£	£	£
INCOME FROM:				
Donations & Legacies				
Donations	1,369	694	2,063	1,026
Other trading activities				
Sales	45,492	-	45,492	64,063
Rent income	59,229	-	59,229	41,915
Charitable activities				
Grants and contracts	127,767	1,413,953	1,541,720	1,598,764
Investment income				
Interest receivable	3,598	-	3,598	387
Total income	237,455	1,414,647	1,652,102	1,706,155

EXPENDITURE ON:				
Fundraising	25,496	-	25,496	22,175
Trading	62,902	-	62,902	76,244
Charitable activities	256,827	1,370,064	1,626,891	1,565,571
Governance costs	19,761	-	19,761	15,484
Depreciation of building	-	50,164	50,164	50,230
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>364,986</b>	<b>1,420,228</b>	<b>1,785,214</b>	<b>1,729,704</b>
<b>Net incoming (outgoing) resources before transfers</b>	<b>(127,531)</b>	<b>(5,581)</b>	<b>(133,112)</b>	<b>(23,549)</b>
<b>Reconciliation of funds</b>				
Transfers between funds	181,393	(181,393)	-	-
<b>Net movement in funds</b>	<b>53,862</b>	<b>(186,974)</b>	<b>(133,112)</b>	<b>(23,549)</b>
Total funds brought forward	410,326	2,581,297	2,991,623	3,015,172
<b>Total funds carried forward</b>	<b>464,188</b>	<b>2,394,323</b>	<b>2,858,511</b>	<b>2,991,623</b>

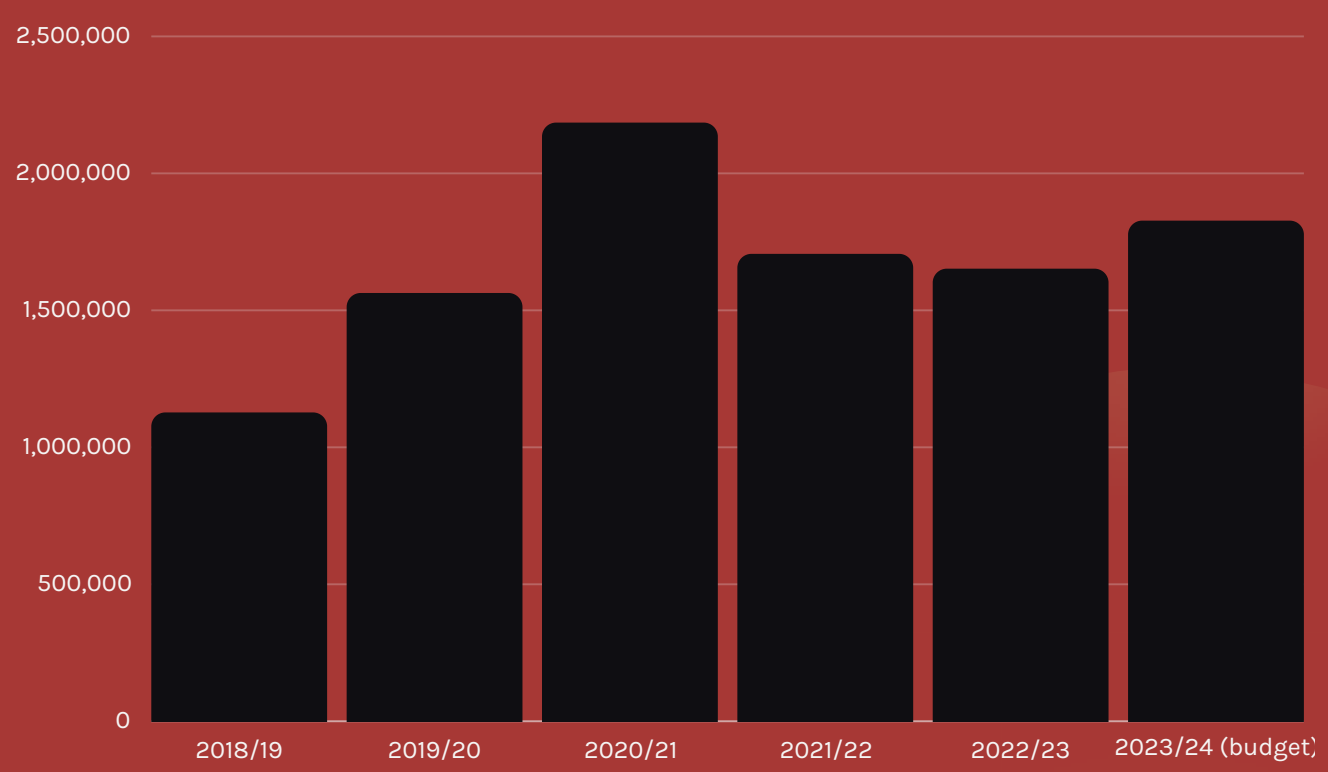
KWMC achieved a surplus of £21,488 in 2022/23, which increased unrestricted (free) reserves from £256,500 to £277,988. All of the above results are derived from continuing activities. There were no other recognised gains or losses other than those stated above.

# Balance Sheet as of 31 March 2023

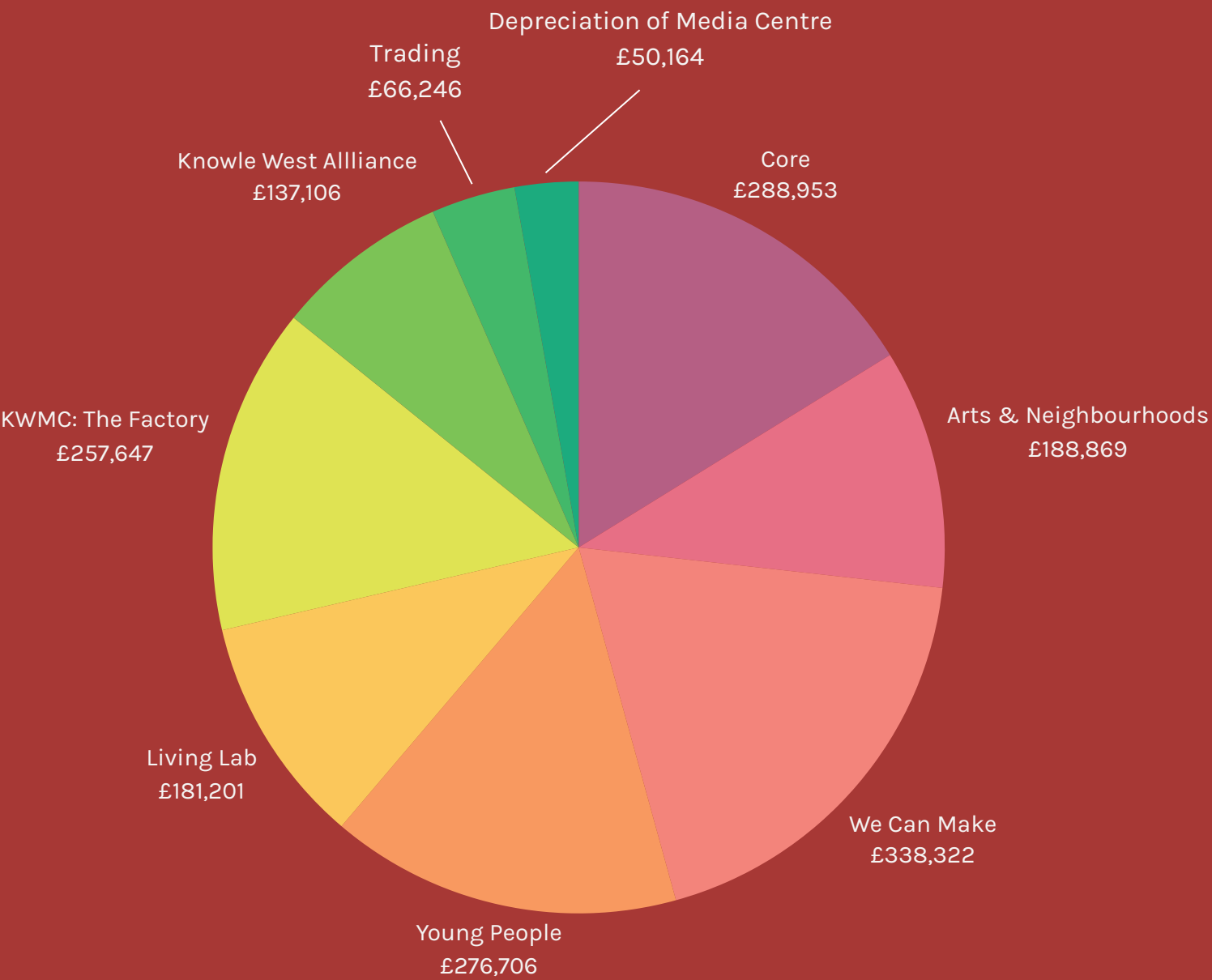
	2023	2022
	£	£
Fixed assets		
Tangible assets	2,336,638	2,415,892
Long-term investments	50	50
Current assets		
Debtors and prepayments	320,444	172,482
Stock	3,795	1,886
Cash at bank and in hand	533,452	782,497
	857,691	956,865
Current liabilities		
Creditors: amounts falling due within 12 months	(180,868)	(226,184)
Net current assets	676,823	730,681
Creditors: amounts falling due after more than one year	(155,000)	(155,000)
Net assets	2,858,511	2,991,623

Funds		
Unrestricted funds		
General funds	277,988	256,500
Designated funds	186,200	153,826
	464,188	410,326
Restricted funds		
Project grants	386,334	479,407
Depreciation reserve	2,007,989	2,101,890
Restricted funds	2,394,323	2,581,297
Total funds	2,858,511	2,991,623

## Income Bar Chart



# Expenditure by programme 2022/2023



# LOOKING FORWARD



Image: Ibolya Fehrer

“The last year has been both exciting and challenging. Post-Covid recovery has been tough for KWMC, our community and the arts and cultural sector. The challenges facing us all economically, socially, culturally – with the lack of public funding, cost of living crisis, environmental challenges and the huge uncertainty that this brings, plus the effects on our collective mental health have contributed to us re-thinking KWMC’s role in the world, and our work in the community. This year with the restructuring of the Factory, we said goodbye to Penny Evans, film-maker, projects instigator, all-round agitator for change, valued colleague and friend – so a huge thank you to her for her work and commitment over many years.

Looking forward we understand we need fresh eyes, renewed commitment and focus, clarifying what we do and why. As I step back after over 25 years, I am heartened by the enthusiasm, passion and creativity of the team and know that the future is exciting for KWMC. It has been a privilege to work in such a brilliant community with so many creative and inspiring people – thank you all.

2024 will be exciting with collective planning, reimagining the future, and taking forward our values and mission, I know KWMC will be in safe hands. What a journey it’s been, but with so much more to do, alongside so many fantastic people, KWMC will be driving change where it matters.”



Image: Alistair Campbell

Words from Carolyn Hassan,  
CEO of Knowle West Media Centre

“After working at KWMC for 8 years I am thrilled to be taking on the role of Interim Creative Director as we move into an exciting phase of evolution for KWMC. In the new year we will be working with external change strategy experts to help move us in to a resilient future for the organisation. Ensuring we have a best-fit leadership and organisational structure to deliver our mission and bring our unique practices of arts, community tech and storytelling into the Knowle West Alliance local ecology.

The coming year will see continued mission driven programming in response to community priorities and an enhanced focus on our role as a community-tech organisation. We will be working across the KW neighbourhood in homes, high streets and green spaces, continuing to share our practice at national and global level.

We are working on an exciting people powered retrofit project in KW reimagining retrofit at street level. More WCM homes are in planning. We will be continuing our KW climate action planning, neighbourhood science environmental data work and advocacy for application of the KW Public Art strategy (KW is the only neighbourhood that has one!). We want to go even further in making it possible for community members, of all ages, to be at the heart of shaping, driving and participating in everything we do.”



Image: Alistair Campbell

Words from Martha King,  
Interim Creative Director

## Thanks

Finally, we'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us this year. Everyone who took part in our activities and projects, and the fantastic artists, makers, young people, community groups, and individuals we've worked with.

Our trustees, volunteers and team for their dedication and creativity.

All those involved in the Knowle West Alliance: together we are stronger.

Our funders and everyone who has provided financial support.

Our partners who supported us to deliver our work: from local freelance creatives to collaborators in international partnership projects, researchers and Universities and the European Network of Living Labs.

Thanks to Real Ideas Organisation, Civic Square, Nudge, MAIA group, Onion Collective, Hasting Commons, Co-lab Dudley and all the inspiring organisations we have connected with over the last year for their generosity in sharing learning and experiences.



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