

Bringing us to today...

Introduction given by Jayne Quantrill at 'elemental' East Midlands.

- **The first Arts Council Theatre Policy (2000) identified a number of priority areas including for the first time a commitment to the development of street arts and outdoor performance.**
- **In 2001 Arts Council appointed an external researcher Helen Jermyn to undertake a piece of research aimed at generating statistics about Street Art and Circus sectors – this provided us with the document - Street Arts and Circus; a snapshot**
- **This research was followed by 2 Strategy Reports one for Circus and one for Street Arts (2002) written by Felicity Hall**

These reports, commissioned by Arts Council England, outlined the growth of a sector, in particular leading out of the Millennium Dome development, but identified a fragile sector. The report recommended that Arts Council England prioritise action on a number of areas in order to support this growth. This action focused on Artistic Development, Infrastructure, Advocacy and profile and Distribution and audience development.

- **Arts Council England followed these reports with the publication of its Street Arts Health check in 2006, which gave an update on the state of street arts in England.**

Author David Micklem suggested that Grants for the Arts had a positive impact on the sector. He reports on 14 regularly funded organisations whose main area of work is within outdoor performance, alongside a rise in artistic quality within the sector.

However, many of the issues raised by Hall in her initial 2002 report remained.

- **In 2008 Arts Council England published "New Landscapes – outdoor arts development plan. Which was launched at X-Trax in Manchester last year.**

This report was informed by consultation with artists, organisations, producers, promoters, ACE staff, local authorities and stakeholders.

It recognises the ongoing investment being made by local government and the potential of outdoor performance to meet the agendas of other broader

A series of conversations around Circus and Street Art

stakeholders including Higher Education and organisations such as National Heritage.

It sets out a framework for collaboration with partners and the investment in the development and production of outdoor performances with the intention of maximising the number and range of people who have high quality experiences of the arts.

The report also contains a definition of “outdoor arts work”

And you can download it from Art Council England’s Website

www.artscouncil.org.uk

Which brings us to today and Arts Council England’s on going commitment to working with & developing both the Circus & Street Arts sector...