



FLATPACK PROJECTS

REPORT OF THE TRUSTEES FOR THE YEAR
1ST SEPTEMBER 2022 – 31ST AUGUST 2023

**"THIS WAS A REALLY EYE OPENING,
INSPIRING EXPERIENCE FOR ME. I
MET OTHER YOUNG FILMMAKERS AND
MADE SOME GREAT NEW FRIENDS
WHO I WOULDN'T HAVE OTHERWISE
MET. THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THIS IN
BIRMINGHAM AND I'M SO GRATEFUL IT
EXISTS"**

- AUDIENCE MEMBER



seven inch cinema

are looking for
pictures that move;

- [] bedroom animation
- [] old home-movies
- [] music video mash-ups
- [] low-budget shorts
- [] you name it...

anything we like will be
shown at a new monthly film-
night at the Rainbow pub in
Digbeth, starting june24, 03.
All formats accepted: unit 302
the Custard Factory, B9 4AA.



In 2023 Flatpack celebrated 20 years of one-of-a-kind, DIY film events across the Midlands and beyond. What began as a film night in a local pub has grown to include a celebrated international festival, year-round events bringing local communities together and a portfolio of heritage projects exploring the rich history of Birmingham.

Flatpack's agile, versatile approach enables us to reach different audiences across the region (over 23,000!) while limiting environmental impact.

Packing a huge range of activity from 144 events at 32 venues into a just few pages, this annual report outlines highlights and achievements from the past year, including:

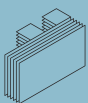




Image credit: Katja Ogrin

COMMISSIONING NEW WORK, BRINGING UNIQUE AUDIOVISUAL PERFORMANCES TO BIRMINGHAM, WORKING WITH 80+ ARTISTS & FILMMAKERS



Image credit: Katja Ogrin

**A THREEFOLD INCREASE IN THE RANGE OF VOICES
SHAPING OUR PROGRAMMING**



Image credit: Irina Mackie

THE GROWTH OF OUR CO-CREATED COMMUNITY NEIGHBOURHOOD PROGRAMME, TRANSFORMING MORE THAN 30 SPACES (INCLUDING PARKS, GARDENS, CHURCHES AND PUBS) INTO CINEMAS



Image credit: Will Pace

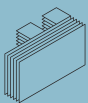
**A MONTHLY FAMILY PROGRAMME OF RELAXED,
INTERACTIVE SCREENINGS AND CREATIVE
WORKSHOPS**



**LEADING THE DEVELOPMENT OF FILM CULTURE
ACROSS THE UK WITH OUR 'SPOTLIGHT' APPROACH**

THE RESULTS OF THIS WORK ARE DIZZYINGLY ECLECTIC, FROM LIVE CINEMA AND POETRY TO SWIMMING POOL INSTALLATIONS AND FREE FAMILY FILMS IN PARKS. NO MATTER THE FORMAT, WITH THE RIGHT INGREDIENTS A FILM EVENT CAN SPARK MEANINGFUL CONNECTIONS AND TRANSFORM LIVES. THOSE INGREDIENTS:

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SHOWING AMAZING WORK

FLATPACK FESTIVAL 2023

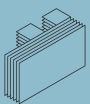
Special guests Ukrainian musicians Roksana Smirnova and Misha Kalinin launched the 17th festival with their stunning live score to 1920s experimental documentary *In Spring*, performing to a spell-bound audience in the (drained) swimming pool Moseley Road Baths.

While in Birmingham, Misha and Roksana worked with Birmingham-based mixed media artist and musician Sarah Farmer on a brand new live score for pioneer filmmaker Dziga Vertov's landmark silent film *Man with a Movie Camera*, supported by the British Council.

Other audiovisual treats at Flatpack 2023 included:

- Mesmerising illuminations and electroacoustic soundscapes coming to Birmingham from Montreal courtesy of digital artist and performer Myriam Bleau
- Radical tech met art met science in award-winning German artist Ralf Baecker's real-time projections of shape-shifting liquid metal
- A visual and electronic reinterpretation of Terry Riley's seminal work 'In C' from France-based ensemble Julien Sénélas, Jérôme Vassereau and Soia. Prompting some great audience feedback from "Best version of In C I've ever heard!" to "Incredible! I feel like my mind has been cleared"

99% of our audience rated programme quality good or very good



A man in a black shirt is operating a camera rig. He is looking down at the camera. The rig is complex, with many cables and a large lens. In the background, there is a large, glowing blue neon outline of a face. The scene is dimly lit, with the blue neon providing a strong light source. The man is wearing a black watch on his left wrist. The overall atmosphere is technical and artistic.

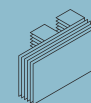
**“NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE THIS
BEFORE. FANTASTIC. MORE PLEASE”**

AUDIENCE MEMBER

GUEST CURATION

Flatpack's Open Call continues to enrich and expand the festival programme each year, with screenings and events programmed by curators from underrepresented groups. In 2023:

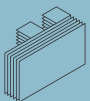
- Philippa Walusimbi explored expressions of Black womanhood with three short films and a live demonstration of Ampe, a rhythmic, high-energy Ghanaian game.
- Selene's Archive shared 1985 documentary *The Year of the Beaver* with a panel discussion centred around the Grunwick Dispute, a two-year strike at a photo-processing plant in North London led predominantly by a workforce of South Asian women.
- Beth Steventon-Crinks hosted 'Queer living: Wanna get into my drawers?' an immersive screening and exploration of Queer living, chosen family and the stories that can be found on a bedside table.
- Abiba Coulibaly paired two short documentaries exploring the varied and overlooked importance of driving and car culture amongst British-South Asian communities.

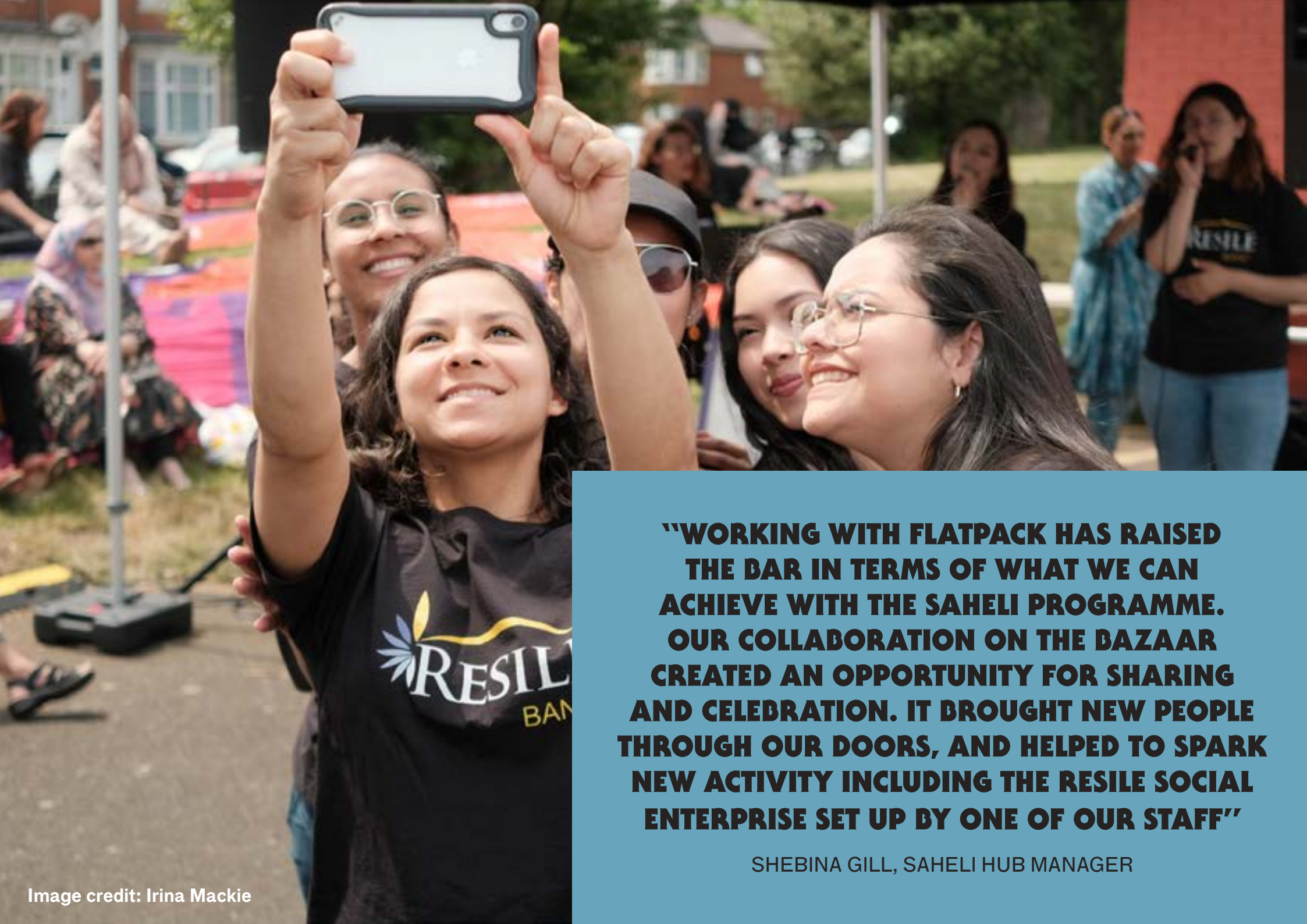




“IT WAS THE FIRST TIME I SAW A WOMAN ON THE SCREEN, WHO LOOKED LIKE ME - DEAF, ASIAN FEMALE. LISTENING TO HER STORY MOVED ME. THANK YOU FOR SHARING DIVERSE STORIES. THEY MATTER.”

AUDIENCE MEMBER





“WORKING WITH FLATPACK HAS RAISED THE BAR IN TERMS OF WHAT WE CAN ACHIEVE WITH THE SAHELI PROGRAMME. OUR COLLABORATION ON THE BAZAAR CREATED AN OPPORTUNITY FOR SHARING AND CELEBRATION. IT BROUGHT NEW PEOPLE THROUGH OUR DOORS, AND HELPED TO SPARK NEW ACTIVITY INCLUDING THE RESILE SOCIAL ENTERPRISE SET UP BY ONE OF OUR STAFF”

SHEBINA GILL, SAHELI HUB MANAGER



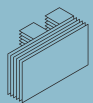
BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

WALDORF CINEMA CLUB

In June 2022 we worked with Birmingham Indian Film Festival to transform a Hindu temple in Sparkbrook back into a cinema for the day, 40 years after it closed its doors as the Waldorf Cinema. The event was a resounding success, with pleas for more of the same, so for spring/summer 2023 we launched Waldorf Cinema Club. Members of the local community attended the club for a surprise film, special guests and a chance to chat and reminisce over free chai.

OUTDOOR CINEMA

We packed in a lot of al fresco cinema this year. Folk and aquatic horror at Dudley Castle, forest sprites and cat buses at Botanical Gardens and free neighbourhood events in parks across Birmingham. The scene setting and wraparound activity made these events extra special, whether that be spoken word and live music or beautiful lighting projections combined with atmospheric soundtracks.





**“HAD A REALLY WELCOMING AND
HEART-WARMING EXPERIENCE
CONNECTING TO OTHER PEOPLE AND
CULTURES IN DRUM”**

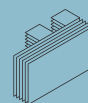
WALDORF CINEMA CLUB ATTENDEE

BALSALL HEATH BAZAAR

Summer 2023 also saw the return of the Balsall Heath Bazaar in collaboration with Sähëli Hub. The programme included an art market, live music, a talent show, free food, zine workshops with artist Gugan Gill, plant and seed giveaways from Fruit & Nut Village and a reading corner and book swap with Back to Books Brum.

TWENTY YEARS OF 7INCH CINEMA

The first seedlings of Flatpack Festival were sown in June 2003, when a new film night launched at the recently-rejuvenated Rainbow pub in Digbeth. 2023 marked 20 years of bringing people together to watch unique films in unlikely places. We celebrated with a throwback evening of locally made shorts alongside pre-YouTube online discoveries, archive oddities, DJs and live scores.





“7 INCH CINEMA GIGS ARE SOME OF THE BEST TIMES I’VE HAD IN BIRMINGHAM. IT PRESENTED A NEW WORLD OF NETWORKS IN A NEW CITY. I HAD GREAT FUN SOCIALISING, WATCHING AND EXPERIMENTING - THE VIBE WAS AWESOME. EVENTS LIKE THESE HELP YOU TO FIND YOUR ‘CREW’ OF PEOPLE - A PLACE TO FEEL AT HOME”

SIMA GONSAI, FILMMAKER AND EARLY DAYS
7INCH ATTENDEE

BUILD YOUR OWN FILM NIGHT

Our film exhibition development scheme saw fifty 16-25 year olds plan, programme and produce their own film events, including:

- A youth charity in rural Herefordshire curate a short film festival themed around sports and getting active
- Broadway Cinema in Nottingham set up a regular Young People's Programmers Group
- Pocket Film Festival in Staffs encouraging locals to select films
- Coventry University embed BYOFN into their BA in Film Studies course, leading to Coventry Phoenix Film Festival attracting over 1200 film fans

COLOUR BOX

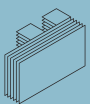
Our monthly family screenings in partnership with Midlands Arts Centre continue to go from strength to strength, growing a loyal audience. Families can watch non-mainstream films in a relaxed cinema environment and take part in creative workshops led by artists and filmmakers, using their imaginations to bring the magic of cinema to life.

WE CALLED IT CAGES

We teamed up with The GAP for an evening of film and poetry curated by the GAP's Culture Collective, a group of young people who meet regularly to explore, express and experiment with their ideas in a safe space. The evening included a first time screening of Birmingham-based poet Zakariye's short spoken word film Cages.



NURTURING CREATIVITY





**"HAD A NEW EXPERIENCE WITH
MY DAUGHTER. HER FIRST CINEMA
EXPERIENCE."**

- COLOUR BOX ATTENDEE

WONDERLAND

Autumn 2022 saw the culmination of Flatpack's hugely popular Wonderland exhibition at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, including numerous school visits and a city-wide treasure hunt. The project has continued to evolve, with a team of volunteers and interns helping to develop our online resource and neighbourhood cinema walks taking place across the city. The Wonderland archive has helped support campaigns to protect cinemas at risk including Sutton Empire and the Electric, demonstrating the vital community role of these venues.

BHTV

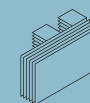
We were delighted to be part of the Living Room project at Moseley Road Baths, producing an enormous retro TV installation in the empty Gala Pool and using it to screen a selection of family films and Balsall Heath archive material for over 2000 visitors. The project was a fun, interactive way of sharing hyperlocal content, and became a focal point of the Living Room programme.

SPOTLIGHT

Since 2016 Flatpack have led on a series of place-based interventions, collaborating with local partners to boost film culture and spark sustainable activity. Recognising this approach as a model of good practice, in 2023 the BFI rolled out Spotlight to Film Hubs across the UK. The initiative creates the space to focus on a particular area for three years, and in Flatpack's case we have begun to build a range of partnerships with exhibitors and community groups in Staffordshire.



ILLUMINATING PLACE





“FLATPACK’S COMMISSION WAS THE BEATING HEART OF THE PROJECT, PROVIDING AN EVER-CHANGING LENS TO INFORM AND ENTERTAIN OUR VISITORS FROM BALSALL HEATH AND BEYOND, ENRICH OUR COMMUNITY EVENTS AND TRULY TURN THE EDWARDIAN SWIMMING POOL INTO A ‘LIVING ROOM.’”

TIM HODGSON, TICKER TAPE PRODUCTIONS

WHO WE ARE

Flatpack is a mobile arts organisation born out of a monthly film and mixed-media night in Digbeth. Every May you'll find us taking over venues across Birmingham with the "magnificently eclectic" Flatpack Festival, while throughout the year we pop up across the Midlands with everything from family activities to al fresco horror. Our mission? To enrich people's lives through imaginative film events.

FILM HUB MIDLANDS

Flatpack is a lead partner in Film Hub Midlands, an initiative as part of the BFI Film Audience Network to develop a thriving film culture in the Midlands, and among other things this means working with partners across the region, sending out monthly Filmwire bulletins and breeding the next generation of exhibitors through Build Your Own Filmnight.

INNOVATIVE PRACTICE

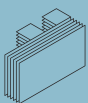
We're committed to continued development and innovation in order to care for our staff, stakeholders and planet. In 2022-23 we took part in the UK's 4 day week pilot programme, a coordinated, 6-month trial of a 32-hour week, with no reduction in pay or benefits for staff, and have now permanently implemented this new way of working. We also trialled our first battery-powered cinema screenings in parks around the Midlands.

THE TEAM

Everything we do at Flatpack is achieved with a core team of six staff members alongside a pool of freelancers and volunteers.



MAKING IT
HAPPEN



“LIKE MANY OTHER ORGANISATIONS, WE’VE REFLECTED ON HOW INCLUSIVE WE ARE AND OVERHAULING HOW WE DO THINGS, WHICH HAS INCLUDED SOME OPEN AND HONEST CONVERSATIONS ABOUT WORKLOAD AND OFFICE CULTURE. RUNNING A FESTIVAL IS EXCITING AND REWARDING, BUT INVOLVES PERIODS OF VERY INTENSIVE WORK. WE WANTED TO EXPLORE WAYS OF OFFERING BALANCE IN THE FACE OF THIS, AND REMOVE BARRIERS FOR THOSE WHO MIGHT FIND A TYPICAL 40 HOUR WEEK CHALLENGING.”

ABBE ELLISTON, HEAD OF OPERATIONS AT FLATPACK

A photograph showing three women from behind, looking towards the right. They are wearing black t-shirts. The woman in the center has long brown hair and is wearing a t-shirt with the text 'Flatpack festival' printed on the back. The woman on the left has long, wavy blonde hair. The woman on the right has her hair pulled back and is smiling. They appear to be at an outdoor event, possibly a festival, with a metal railing in the foreground.

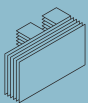
Flatpack
festival

THANK YOU

Flatpack Projects is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, reg no 1162754

Our core funders are Arts Council England and the British Film Institute. In partnership with Broadway in Nottingham, Flatpack also co-lead Film Hub Midlands as part of the BFI Film Audience Network. Along with core funding and earned income, Flatpack's work would not be possible without the support of a huge range of partners, trusts & foundations and cultural institutes. In 2022/23, these included:

- The British Council
- The Active Wellbeing Society
- Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
- Goethe Institute
- Polish Cultural Institute
- Birmingham City Council
- Canal and River Trust
- Birmingham Museums Trust
- Compton Verney
- Punch Records
- Midlands Arts Centre
- Dudley Castle
- Sense
- The GAP
- Moseley Road Baths
- Saheli Hub
- Birmingham Indian Film Festival
- The Barber Institute
- Mockingbird Cinema



PUBLIC BENEFIT STATEMENT

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in Section 4 of the Charities Act 2006 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

SUMMARY OF THE OBJECTS OF THE CHARITY SET OUT IN ITS GOVERNING DOCUMENT

1. To promote appreciation of and education in the arts and their associated technologies, especially but not exclusively those of the cinema, film and other forms of moving images, through the production and performance of festivals, workshops, seminars, projects, events, online resources, new media and in any other ways as the CIO may decide from time to time.
2. To advance the education of the public in the history, culture, aesthetics, practice and theory of arts, cinema, film and other moving images.

STATEMENT OF THE CHARITY'S POLICY ON RESERVES

It is the policy of Flatpack Projects (CIO) to retain sufficient reserves to cover the organisation's overheads for a 3 month period should there be any unexpected costs or delays in receiving any funds owed.

The trustees have regard to the guidance issued by the charity commission on public benefit.

Approved by order of the board of trustees on 15 June 2022 and signed on its behalf by:



Dan Lawson - Chair of Trustees

CHARITY INFORMATION

