

Background Information

Founding Objectives

The core legacy organisational objectives or articles as established in 1969:

- To establish community centres for the benefit of the inhabitants of the town of Farnham and the neighbourhood, without distinction of sex or political, religious or other opinions, for the advancement of education and the provision of facilities, in the interests of social welfare, for recreation and leisure-time occupation, with the object of improving the conditions/quality of life for the said inhabitants.
- To promote and encourage the arts for the public benefit, including the musical, visual, dramatic, cinematic, and applied arts.
- Generally, to encourage, promote, undertake or carry on or assist the promotion, undertaking or carrying on of such charitable activities and purposes as may strengthen the bonds of community life of the inhabitants aforesaid or otherwise be beneficial to the community

Who we are today

Farnham Maltings is a cultural organisation, based in Southwest Surrey, that works locally, nationally and internationally to encourage people to participate in, shape and understand the world in which we live.

We believe that by encouraging people to be actively creative; connecting with others unlike ourselves; and by articulating new ideas we will foster a happier, healthier and more inclusive set of communities. We instinctively gravitate to the margins, aspire to be generous, seek out surprising partnerships and delight in working with people who can do things better than us.

What we stand for

Equality and diversity

The principle of *everyone* demonstrably sits at the heart of all our practice and is understood from the board down. We are committed to creating a working environment in which employees, potential employees and volunteers have fair and equal access to available opportunities and receives unbiased treatment. We promote equality across our sector, encourage diverse talent and are increasing opportunities to enter the arts workforce.

Though our *Community Engagement work*, we are able to give value to the contribution everybody can make to a just and fair society. In this, we apply our knowledge of our local area to target the most disadvantaged or under-represented members of our communities.

We recognise the role we can play in shaping and influencing practice across the sector, especially through the *house* network. We will continue the long slow journey to broaden

the audience and makers of art across the region. In this we are particularly focused on the issue of class, believing as we do that this is the most pressing divide within our communities.

Listening to others

We believe that the best art will spring from better understanding the relationship between artists and communities particularly those people who do not have easy access to the arts. And that achieving this will lead to a more resilient, inclusive and useful arts sector. We will listen and adapt rather than acting as 'missionaries' committed to bringing art to the masses. We manage multiple strands of work to reach different audiences, with a range of funders and partners and capture data from multiple sources.

International

We believe that our vision can only be achieved by understanding our place in the world. This needs to be felt throughout the organisation providing opportunities to introduce new work, thinking and solutions. We commission international makers, work with theatre makers, and international partners to promote cultural export and exchange.

Collaborative

We delight in cultivating partnerships beyond the traditional arts sector and believe that working with others enhances our reach, sustainability and resilience. We are driven by a core purpose and ambition that favours an entrepreneurial approach to delivering that purpose through surprising means.