

# Creativity, Climate & Health: Joining the dots

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# Why a climate award?

Image credit: Cody Dock (2021 Award Winners)

CHWA runs an annual  
**Climate Award**



Joining the  
dots...



# Climate Award partners

- The Happy Museum Project looks at how the museum sector can respond to the challenge of creating a more sustainable future.



- Culture Declares Emergency is a growing international movement of individuals and organisations in the cultural sector declaring climate and ecological emergency. This means telling the truth, taking action and seeking justice.

**CULTURE  
DECLARES**

# Case studies from the 2020 and 2021 shortlists:

## 1. Cody Dock

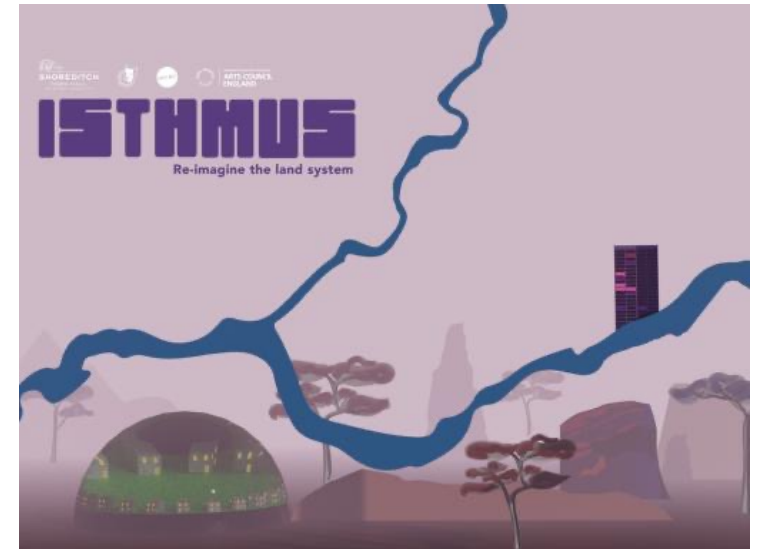
- **Newham, Greater London**
- Projects at Cody Dock funded by the Green Recovery Challenge Fund (DEFRA, Natural England, Environment Agency and Heritage Lottery Fund, TNL Community Fund and UnLTD work towards the development of a sustainable community space and establishing Cody Dock as a flagship centre for community led citizen science and academic ecology studies, providing employment, volunteering and internship opportunities.





## 2. Isthmus (Abby & Alice)

- This project supports the 1st R&D phase for a new tabletop game (with an additional virtual version) about the systems that control access to land in England, played at home. We will produce a discussion and learning tool: giving audiences the knowledge and tools to understand and reimagine a confusing and overwhelming system.



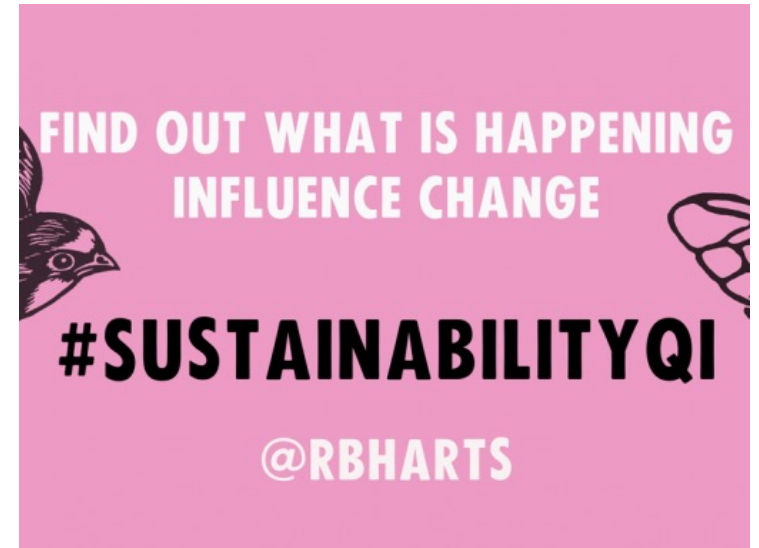
### 3. Roots & Shoots

- Roots and Shoots - Nature and nurture since 1982: training young people to fulfil their potential and environmental education for all.



## 4. rb&hArts

- Using the Culture Declares branding, the Arts team launched a quality improvement initiative at Royal Brompton & Harefield NHS Foundation Trust, with forums, videos, newsletters and case studies. The public engagement approach succeeded in featuring climate change on the Trust risk register, resulting in a new Executive director level responsibility for sustainability.

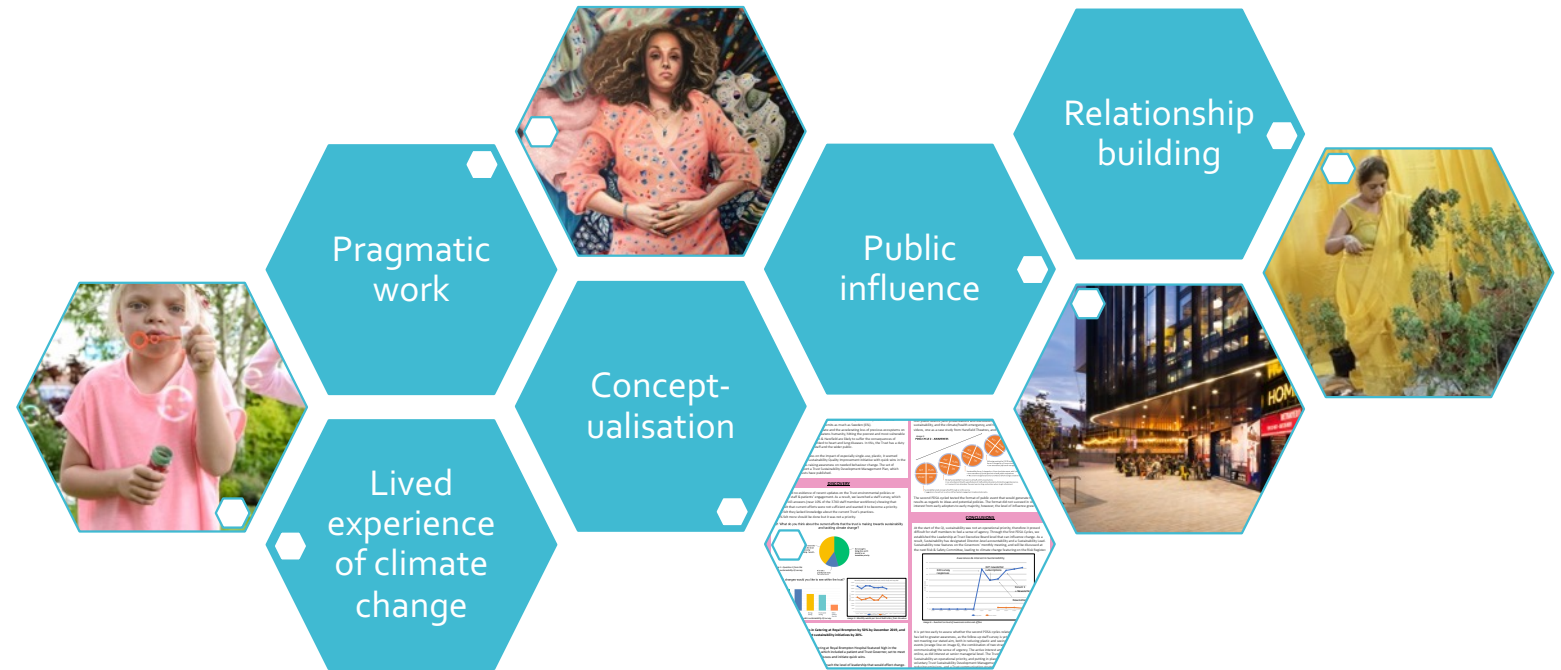




# Summary findings – Climate Awards

- 18 projects over 3 years
- Based in rural / urban / periurban areas from north to south of England
- From lone freelance practitioners to large cultural organisations
- 100% are sharing work specifically to influence change in others

# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards: Themes



Images - clockwise from bottom left: Courtyard Centre for the Arts, Cartwheel Arts, Be-coming tree, Home Manchester, rb&hArts.

# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards: Themes

- **Conceptualisation (90%)**

“The role of creativity is to make radical change imaginable. This new era requires solutions employing intersectional, respectful collaboration at scale: a community-based, inclusive, socio-environmental revolution.” (Abby & Alice, 2021 shortlist)

- Fostering connections to nature linked with mental wellbeing (40%)
- Linking climate & skills development (44%)
- Explicitly “building a new story” (17%)
- Connection to myth / identity / ritual (17%)
- Accessing external training / info (17%)
  - Are we connecting as well as we could to existing legislation and resources?

# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards: Themes

- **Pragmatic work (50%)**
  - Not relevant to everyone
  - Carbon literacy training
  - Energy reduction
  - Recycling
  - Procurement
  - Sustainable travel
  - Sustainable materials
  - Rewilding, restoration etc.

# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards: Themes

- **Relationship building**

“no single person has the solution” (rb&hArts)

- 61% have developed local partnerships – often extensive
- At least 80% building groups, externally – e.g. young people in a local area; or internally – e.g. groups of staff inside an NHS Trust or a large cultural org
- 30% explicitly using citizens assemblies or other modes of democratic engagement
- Clear commitment to collective action



# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards: Themes

- **Public influence**

- 67% Public events or public art
- 50% Fostering activism / action – growing trend?
- 40% National / international links
- We're now asking whether people have declared an emergency – to connect with other campaigns

# Light-touch analysis of Climate Awards

- Shifts?
  - toward focus on more specific groups - often young people
  - towards *living with* climate change, and community-building
  - lived experience becoming more real
  - moving via partnership to a greater emphasis on supporting activism
- Our developing resource:
  - <https://www.culturehealthandwellbeing.org.uk/key-themes/creativity-climate-and-health-accelerating-impact>