

**CHRYSLIS ARTS
DEVELOPMENT**
Ecological Statement of Responsibility
Chrysalis Arts Development Ltd.
02.07.2023

Context

This document accompanies Revised Action Plans (both documents will be up dated annually) and is interconnected with the whole practice of Chrysalis Arts Development (CAD). We define ecological as the relational interdependencies of the life web, including the diverse cultures of humans and other than humans. It is “the pattern that connects” (Bateson). Our proactive arts-led, practice-based approach to embed ecology connects the people and other than humans with whom we work to environment, as a whole system, thereby breaking from foreground-background orientation of much Western thinking. This approach is expressed through our ethos and demonstrated by our programmes of work and projects therein.

Organisation

CAD addresses the need for excellent art and for high quality support for talent development across a challenging geographical area. We believe that artists can transform places and invigorate communities both through the work they make and through their contribution to the wider social and economic infrastructure.

Central to all our work is a commitment to environmentally responsible arts practice and to supporting artists and audiences to develop new skills and knowledge so that they may engage with the cultural and environmental context in which we live.

CAD began to address environmental issues and adopt a more ethical approach to the company's working methods and artistic practice in 2006/2007. The development of a Slow Art philosophy and an increased focus on the nexus of climate, species and cultural crises is now central to the content of our creative projects, continuous professional development programmes for artists and placemaking work with local communities. CAD aims to be leaders on ecological thinking and action within the sector.

Current creative practice

morals in practice

CAD recognises the nexus of climate, species and cultural crises and embraces its responsibility. CAD takes a proactive stance rather than a reactive one on the issue. Central to the ethos of the company is the belief that people matter and their sense of health, well-being and identity and this includes interconnectivity with environment. Regarding funding to our best ability we identify funders and sponsors who themselves have environmentally ethical approaches.

Understanding the nexus of climate, biodiversity and cultural crises to be a complex problem, CAD seeks diverse creative approaches. UK and international artists share their ecological, environmental and sustainable arts practices with other artists wanting to learn how to incorporate such work into their own practices. This co-learning process with other artists enables CAD to build a comprehensive repertoire of ecological arts knowledge and helps CAD to understand the worldviews and needs of artists wanting to develop ecological arts practices.

Since 2006 CAD has developed a programme of projects with artists and communities to explore and engage the transformational challenges of climate, biodiversity and culture, while celebrating the natural world. This emerged from a Slow Art, long term commitment, to work with artists, other disciplines and people from other sectors, to create opportunities for transdisciplinary knowledge to emerge. Enabling us and others to learn, while expanding our ecological arts programme, we aim to increase awareness of environmental and social issues through a diverse range of creative and inclusive approaches and activities. We thereby generate a creative eco-pedagogical culture.

CHRYSLIS ARTS DEVELOPMENT

Culture is not only about the arts – “Culture is the whole society and the ethos by which society operates” (Raymond Williams).

Aspirations for future practices

Turning audiences (human and other than human) into communities

While our ethical approach goes beyond material aspects of environmentalism, moral aspirations are to pursue further and deeper understandings of eco-pedagogy and decolonising society.

Our transitional process to evolve and strengthen the company's practice

- Work to reach a wider spectrum of artists, including young and emerging artists to encourage them to make their work more environmentally responsible.
- Increase the profile of our current work and create content which shares our learning, processes and influences with others at local, national and international level.
- Further develop the delivery of national and international environmental policy on behalf of county, national and international agencies.
- Develop a broader spectrum of data collection and interpretation that explores research methodologies to make the data meaningful through a reflexive approach.
- This is a dynamic and ongoing process.

Making manifest

Please refer to CAD Environmental Policy and Action Plan that further support this Ecological Statement of Responsibility.

Greening Arts Practice (GAP) Guide

<https://www.chrysalisarts.com/resources/greening-arts-practice-resources-links>.