
Pier PROJECTS

14 November 2025

Dear Felixstowe Town Councillors,

**Grant Report: £200 towards bursary tickets for Felixstowe residents to attend Social Mini:
Exploring Socially-engaged practice in the East.**

I am writing to both thank you and provide an update on the support you kindly offered towards a symposium on social art practice in Felixstowe which took place on Thursday 6 November at Harvest House.



Your support of £200 towards 10 bursary places for local arts practitioners enabled residents who face financial hardship to attend the day free of charge, removing barriers to new connections and insights that can help springboard new projects that meet local need and work

opportunities. Your support was acknowledged in-person at the event in the introductory speech and through wording and use of your logo on all marketing and promotional materials including our website, e-newsletter, social media as well as on posters and signs at the event.

The sold-out event was, to our knowledge, the first event of its kind to take place in the East of England. Its focus was to bring together a wide range of practitioners who use arts-based approaches to develop and deliver projects that offer social benefit particularly those that address health inequality, support young people and tackle the climate emergency. A range of Felixstowe-based artists, practitioners and organisations participated, leading parts of the day and ensuring the town's cultural voice was heard and shared.



Over sixty people attended and came from Cambridgeshire, Essex, Norfolk as well across Suffolk to be part of a day of workshops, professional development opportunities, panel discussions and networking sessions to explore how practitioners might collaborate to maximise public benefit. Many attendees were coming to Felixstowe for the first time and were able to learn more about the arts and cultural offerings within the town, raising its profile across the East.

To co-convene the day, Pier Projects invited nationally-known arts charity *Take a Part*, whose specialism is enabling communities to have a stake in cultural decision making and lead their

own projects. With their support, they are offering signposting for local artists into national opportunities.

Since the event, I am aware of many conversations that have begun about new initiatives and partnerships.



Feedback to date has included:

Describe the Day in Three Words:

Enriching, care, connective
Positive, engaging and rewarding
Leaving with care!
Refreshing, Connecting, Creative

I had some very interesting conversations about the idea of convalescence and the history of its provision in Felixstowe - as well as some great opportunities to learn more about the range of creative and policy work that's happening in and around the town. What an incredible group of people you brought together.

A huge thank you for today. It was a really brilliant day, and I deeply appreciate all the work you and your team put into making it happen.

Thanks so much for a great day. It was really well put together and great to meet more socially engaged artists. The co-production session was excellent and really useful.

It was great connecting with other socially-engaged practitioners, working in different contexts. Looking forward to following up with people and continuing the conversations.

What a gorgeous and rich day convening, celebrating, and supporting Socially Engaged Arts (SEA) practice across the East of England, alongside our long-term partners, Pier Projects. This gathering was profoundly significant. As Pier Projects concludes its decade of transformative work, they chose to make a strategic final investment in Social Mini - our regional development programme co-convened in partnership to support a space for mapping, networking, and solidifying a future for their dedicated and careful practice. This was a dedicated effort to 'Leave Well', investing as a final act of love and solidarity in the future, legitimacy, and connectivity of the SEA network in the East, ensuring this vital practice moves forward - forever. For us at Take A Part, it allowed us to truly listen to the local context and cement new, forward collaborations. A huge thank you to Pier Projects for this incredible generosity in legacy investment in the region's artists and network. You secured the future!

I had an absolutely fantastic time - what a day! Everyone in the room was absolutely brilliant and all there for the right reasons.

I have definitely come away with more connections I would like to follow up on so thank you so much again for having me involved in this special event and book launch.

It was a brilliant, creative and well run event and I was proud to support and help raise the profile on this type of work. Well done.

The symposium was excellent - so good to attend something that looked forward and had a future-facing, positive approach, that recognised challenges but looked to ways to support better practice. I hope you can look through and realise what a vital and essential part Pier Projects has played in the cultural history of Felixstowe. Sending congratulations on a brilliant day, if leaving well was the aim, then you more than achieved that.

Thanks so much for inviting us to be part of Social Mini. It was such a great event, and definitely felt like the start of something rather than an ending.

It was a brilliant day and an absolute pleasure to contribute. Thank you for the opportunity to lead the workshop, I really enjoyed preparing and being part of the event.



Thank you once again for choosing to invest in the bursaries which unlocked the opportunity to participate for local artists and practitioners. As this is our final piece of programme as a Community Interest Company in Felixstowe, I would also like to take the opportunity to thank you for your support across the last nine years.

Warmest wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'NP' or similar initials, written in a cursive style.

Natalie Pace

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Co-Founder and Director, Pier Projects Art Agency CIC