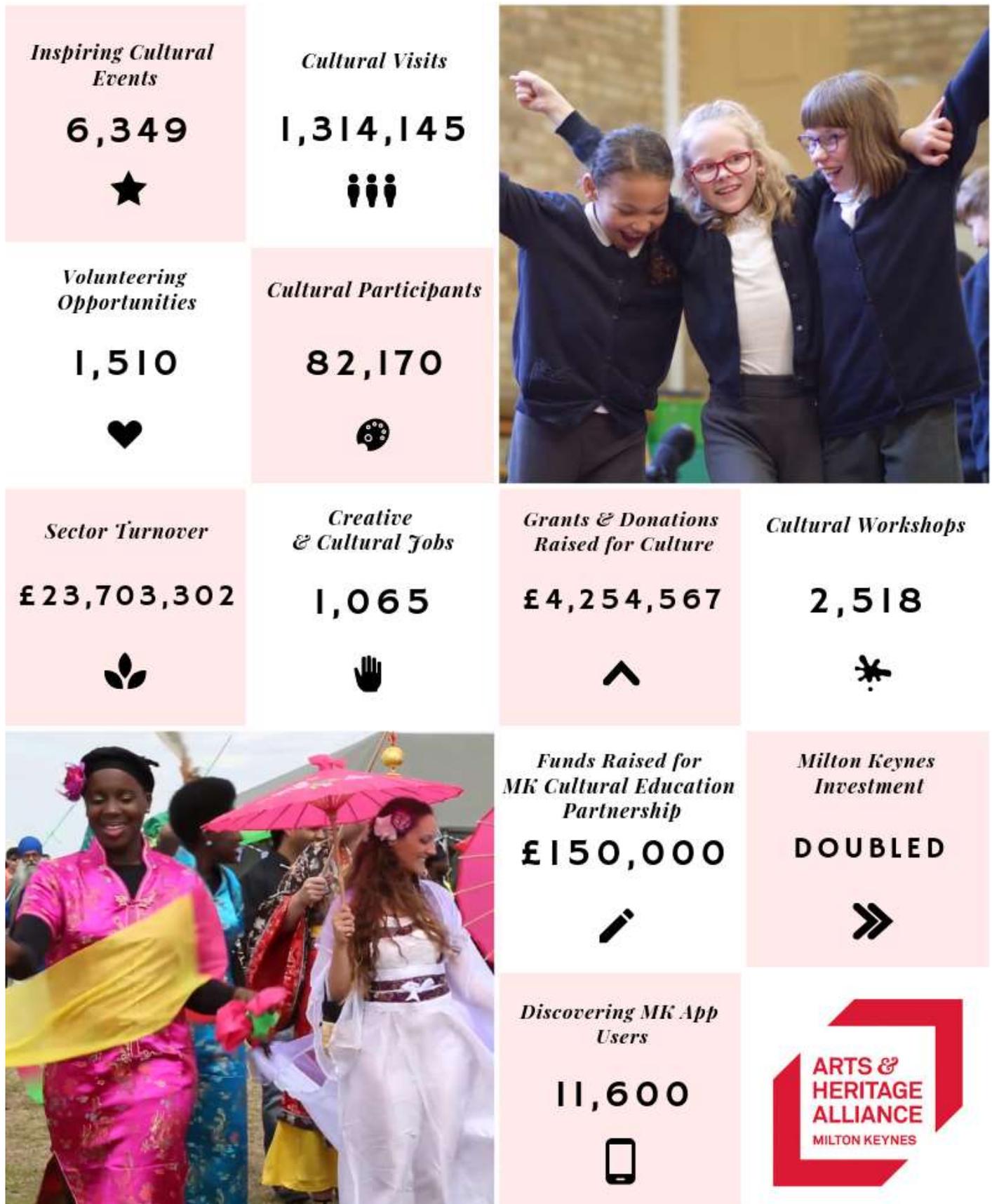


Arts & Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes Annual Report 2017 – 2018

Arts and Heritage Alliance Milton Keynes (AHA-MK) member impact:



AHA-MK Annual Report 2017 – 2018

Charity number: 1158874 / www.aha-mk.org / chair@aha-mk.org / [@AHA_MK](https://twitter.com/AHA_MK)

Information collated from AHA-MK members relating to the accounting year April 2017 – March 2018

AHA-MK is an alliance of 41 member organisations working together to:

- Promote Milton Keynes' unique cultural identity to local, regional and national audiences
- Advocate the impact of culture to businesses, stakeholders and strategic bodies
- Inspire through a development programme for members, staff and volunteers
- Encourage and facilitate collaboration by spearheading projects that achieve joint aims.

The impact on Milton Keynes that our members have delivered in 2017-18 is shown above.

AHA-MK direct delivery promoting and supporting the creative and cultural sector:

Advocated for the social and economic value that culture and creativity bring to those living, learning, working and playing in MK to MK Council, stakeholders and decision makers. Shared experiences of children and young people participating in projects through the MK Cultural Education Partnership to advocate for cultural learning and the impact of creativity across the curriculum on young people's skills, employability and wellbeing.

Supported the delivery of Pedalling Culture, an Arts Council England funded project to promote visits to cultural venues, especially using green transport methods. AHA-MK is a member of the project consortium and has managed the 'Reclaim the Redways' cultural commissions.

Launched [Discovering MK](#) smartphone app for MK50 and beyond, showcasing 50 heritage and culture landmarks across the city. The app encourages families to explore their local environment and has had nearly 11,600 users since it was launched in summer 2017. It has attracted considerable national news coverage including a half-page editorial in the Daily Telegraph on visiting Milton Keynes using the app. This project was funded by Heritage Lottery Fund, MK Community Foundation, Santander and MK Council.

Led the [MK Cultural Education Partnership](#) (MKCEP), a key national initiative of Arts Council England with support from [Artswork](#), the South East bridge. The MKCEP supports the cultural wellbeing of Milton Keynes' children and young people by joining up the cultural and education sectors. Collaboratively we have developed and published our Cultural Education Strategy. This year AHA-MK secured Arts Council investment via Artswork of c£50k for a partnership pilot project testing cultural education activity – increasing our project fund track record for the MKCEP to £150k.



Delivered [You, Me, Together](#), an innovative arts project in partnership with MK Council Public Health and MK CCG that addressed the mental health and emotional wellbeing of children and young people in MK. 150 children across 4 schools took part in creative activity designed to enable self-expression delivered by Artis Foundation. The project resulted in a moving [film](#) highlighting the children's views on mental health. This was made possible through national investment from Artswork and local funding from local partners.

Represented members and the cultural sector at [South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership](#) (SEMLEP) Creative and Cultural Industries Group, European Capital of Culture Steering Group Meetings, Cultural Leaders meetings. Submitted a paper for the Plan:MK consultation on the importance of culture in

place-making (June 2017) and supported development of the *Creative and Cultural Strategy 2018-2027* (CCS). Presented to MK Council supporting CCS in March 2018. CCS endorsed by AHA-MK in March 2018.

Delivered four Forum sessions for members to share good practice, exchange ideas, and hear from inspiring speakers. Topics included: how to embed culture and creativity in the lives of our children and young people; creative media for social change; demonstrating impact through research. At our December 2017 Forum, Dr Rebecca Gordon-Nesbitt of King's College London introduced the *Creative Health: The Arts for Health and Wellbeing* report commissioned by the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) for Arts, Health and Wellbeing inquiry. Other guest speakers included: Kayte Judge (Bedford Creative Arts), Samantha Lindley (Threshold Studios), Ian Revell (MK Community Foundation), Pam Gosal (MK Council), Dr Franzi Florack (Research and Impact Consultant).

Initiated member working group to develop Forum content and professional development programmes, invite speakers and plan 'Go and See' visits to learn from, and share, best practice and case studies from other cities and cultural organisations. AHA-MK members Go and See trips included a visit to The Wellcome Collection and a visit to the Ceramics Biennial in Stoke-on-Trent. Each trip included discussions, tours and talks by colleagues working with or for the organisations/festival.

Delivered an interactive vision session with members to gather insight on value, relevance and how to enhance AHA-MK for the future as a pioneering cultural partnership and collective voice supporting and advocating for creativity and culture in Milton Keynes. This evidence and input will result in a new vision, mission and manifesto for our charity that is endorsed and shared by our members.

Continued to build our charity board and governance and increased AHA-MK membership, ensuring an effective, representative voice and a wide pool of talent for the benefit of Milton Keynes.

Said a very warm thank you and good bye to Marion Hill (Trustee of AHA-MK for 3 years) and welcomed Emma Courtney to the AHA-MK Board.



Images: 'You, Me, Together' (MKCEP project), Art in the Park produced by MKIAC, workshop at Milton Keynes Arts Centre, young person at MK Museum, HRH Duke of Kent at MK SNAP (MKCEP project), CityFest produced by MK Council for MK50, Feast of Fire produced by IF: Milton Keynes International Festival, Festival of History produced by Heritage MK with The Parks Trust, Heritage Open Days at Bletchley Park.