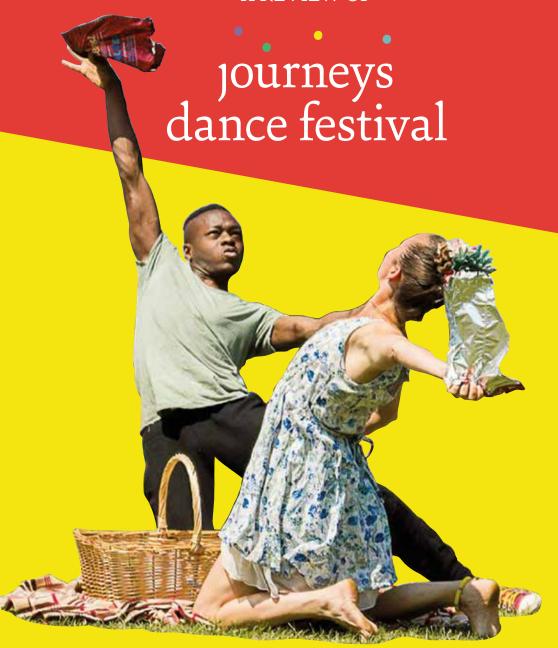
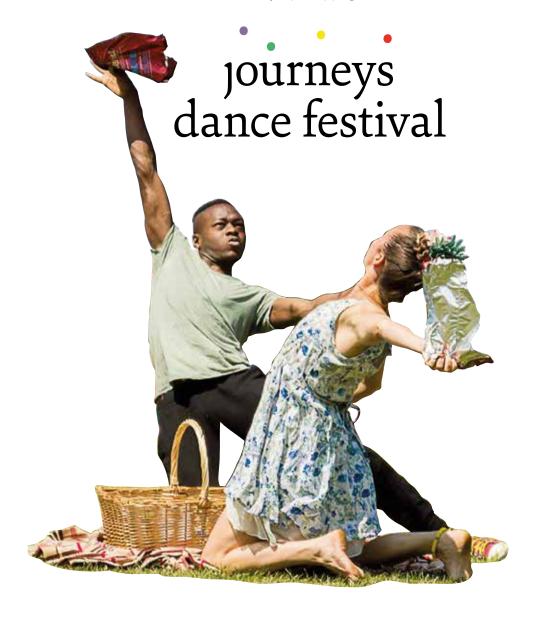
## A REVIEW OF







## A REVIEW OF







Front cover and title page image: Etta Ermini, *The Picnic* © Foteini Christofilopoulou Inside cover: 2-Faced Dance Company, *Moon* @John Cole
Above: Folkdance Re-mixed © Folkdance Re-mixed

## Contents

Authorship	4
ntroduction	4
Executive Summary	5
Overview of Journeys programmes	6
18 Hours Ltd and Journeys Dance Festival	18
Context	23
Engagement and participation in South East England Dance events in South East England	26 29
Purpose of this review	30
Key terms Mainstreaming: Environmental Responsibility	32 32 34
Evaluation	38
Summary and outcomes	42
Recommendations	46
Principles for future programming	49
Appendices	
1: Evaluation of mainstreaming in Journeys Dance Festival (JDF)	52
2: ACE's Inclusivity and Relevance investment principles & JDF	53
3: Evaluation of Environmental Responsibility in JDF	58
4: ACE's Environmental Responsibility investment principles & JDF	60
Data sources	61
Table 1: Population Ethnicity	23
Table 2: Gross Disposable Household Income	23
Table 3: Participation data from Active Lives	26
Figure 1: 18 Hours' approach to mainstreaming	33



## Authorship

Journeys Dance Festival was conceived and produced by 18 Hours Ltd in partnership with Arts Council England, Rother District Council, Hastings Borough Council, East Sussex Arts Partnership, De La Warr Pavilion, Coasters, Battle Festival and 1066 Country. From 2014 to 2019, Journeys has involved performances by diverse national and international artists, from Stopgap Dance Company to Compagnie Bilbobasso and the Zaza Tsara Mayottian dance troupe, to present a high-quality, accessible dance festival, raising the profile of dance, encouraging participation and reflecting local diversity.

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18 Hours Ltd. December 2020 office@18hours.org.uk www.18hours.org.uk

## Introduction

Having identified a lack of dance, Rother District Council approached 18 Hours to develop accessible dance performance within its district. In 2013, a successful Tango pilot event led to the development of Journeys Dance Festival, an annual 2-3-day multi-location, high quality outdoor festival of dance. The festival aims to promote dance, mainstream disabled artists, engage public involvement, sustain interest in dance, and raise the profile of event producers, 18 Hours Ltd, across Hastings, Rother and the wider region.

Over six years, Journeys Dance Festival has delivered 18 afternoons/early evenings of excellent quality, outdoor performances in a programme that reflects 18 Hours' values as not-for-profit organisation with a passion for mainstreaming diversity across all of its productions. 18 Hours also advocates an awareness, and protection, of the environment in which its events take place. To that end, it is founded on a responsible approach that seeks to minimise detrimental impacts on its physical environment, while seeking opportunities to enhance environmental, socio-cultural and community impacts in the areas in which it operates.













## **Executive Summary**

In April 2020, 18 Hours Ltd postponed Journeys 2020 due to the Covid-19 global pandemic. Although disappointing for all involved in delivering the planned programme, the postponement provided an opportunity for 18 Hours to reflect on Journeys Dance Festival, to evaluate its performance against its stated goals and to develop a road map for the next few years.

In alignment with the Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy, this evaluation project has focused on two areas in particular – mainstreaming dance performances and environmental responsibility. This has been driven by 18 Hours' ongoing reflective practice as a dynamic, ambitious and responsive learning organisation determined to maintain relevance and reflect not only its communities, but also societal shifts embedded in current movements like Black Lives Matter and Extinction Rebellion.

Journeys is a unique festival that brings excellent quality dance performance to everyday outdoor spaces. The evidence suggests that Journeys Dance Festival not only brings dance to new audiences but that it has developed a strong following that travel to the different locations in which the festival is held each year. Furthermore, it has the potential to become an international exemplar of mainstreaming and environmental responsibility in outdoor festivals if it develops a strong communication strategy that disseminates how its values, production processes and programming choices meet its community, diversity and environmental aspirations.

This project has been supported by the Arts Council Emergency Response Fund, thereby creating a rare strategic development opportunity for the Festival.



"Lots of different people coming together, old and young."

Hannah, 25+ JDF 2014





## August Bank Holiday weekend

## Rye

## **Saturday 23 August**

Rye Station Approach

The Picnic: Etta Ermini Dance Company

Audience numbers: 280

### **Hastings**

## **Sunday 24 August**

Stade Open Space

Live Jive: with the Jive Aces,

Cinque Ports Lindy Hoppers and wheelchair dance instructors from the Wheelchair Dance

Sports Association.

Audience numbers: 2000

### Bexhill

## Saturday 23 August

Bexhill Youth Club

The Picnic: Etta Ermini Dance Company

Audience numbers: 112

## Monday 25 August

De La Warr Pavilion

Tango Unlimited, Ragroof Players, Corina Piatte Trio and Kirsty Bennett

Kiju Tango DFJ

Audience numbers: 900

Overall live audiences: 3292

**Partners:** East Sussex Dance and Movement Partnership, Ramp Events, Wheelchair Dance Sports Association

**Outreach:** 4 x workshops with Ragroof Players 112 participants; Sidley Children's Centre, Amicus Horizon Housing Association, Hastings and Rother Rainbow Alliance (at Stade Hall)





## August Bank Holiday weekend

## Rye

## Saturday 29 August

Rye Studio School Manjusaka, The Equinox Flower Audience numbers: 43

## Hastings

## Sunday 30 August

Stade Open Space, Hastings Workshops Anna Mudeka Band plus Zimbabwean Dance Audience numbers: 1500

### Bexhill

## Monday 31 August

De La Warr Pavilion Kathak/Flamenco, plus Kathak dance workshop and Moxie Brawl (Candoco Associates) Produced in association with Ramp Events

Overall live audiences: 2273 (inc. workshops)

Partners: Ramp Events

Audience numbers: 500

**Outreach:** 3 x workshops with 230 participants







## **Hastings**

### Saturday 23 July

Stade Open Space
Zaza Tsara Mayottian Dance Troupe
Anyme Abdallah Mayottian singer
Phoenix Inferno contemporary dancers
Gabbidon reggae band
Audience numbers: 1500

### Saturday 24 July

East Hastings Angling Club Vocal Explosion Choir Zaza Tsara Mayottian dance troupe Audience numbers: 180

### Bexhill

### Sunday 24 July

Metropole Lawns, Bexhill
Zaza Tsara Mayottian Dance Troupe
Anyme Abdallah Mayottian singer
Sheik's Delights belly dancers
Phoenix Inferno contemporary dancers
Audience numbers: 800

Overall live audiences: 2510

Partners: Stade Saturdays,

French Government paid for travel from Paris, Mayottian Government paid for accommodation

**Outreach:** 2 x workshops Phoenix Inferno with 30 participants

Sheik's Delights, 12-15 members in workshops





## August Bank Holiday weekend

### Battle

## **Saturday 26 August**

Battle Abbey Green C-12 Dance Theatre, Secret Encounters Audience numbers: 250

## **Hastings**

## Saturday 26 August

Stade Open Space Compagnie Bilbobasso, *Polar* Audience numbers: 2600

### Bexhill

## **Monday 28 August**

The Terrace, De La Warr Pavilion Stopgap Dance Company, *The Awakening* Audience numbers: 400

Overall live audiences: 3250

Partners: Stade Saturdays and Coasters





## August Bank Holiday weekend

### **Battle**

## **Saturday 25 August**

Battle Abbey Green The Urban Playground Team, Zoo Humans Audience numbers: 450

## **Hastings**

## **Saturday 25 August**

Stade Open Space Southpaw Dance Company, Carousel Audience numbers: 2000

### **Bexhill**

## **Monday 27 August**

The Terrace, De La Warr Pavilion 2-Faced Dance Company, Moon Audience numbers: 1200

Overall live audiences: 3650

Partners: Stade Saturdays and Coasters





## 2019 journeys

## August Bank Holiday weekend

### Battle

## **Saturday 24 August**

Battle Abbey Green Sadhana Dance – Surrender Audience numbers: 120

## **Hastings**

## Saturday 24 August

Stade Open Space
Brilliant Ballroom with live music
by Simply Swing
dance workshops by Ballroom Glamour
and same-sex dance performances from
Dorothy's Shoes
Audience numbers: 1000

## Bexhill

## Monday 26 August

The Terrace, De La Warr Pavilion
Folk Dance Remixed
with Street Dance The Maypole workshops
Audience numbers: 1400

Overall live audiences: 2420

Partners: Stade Saturdays, Ballroom Glamour

## 18 Hours delivers events and education with a focus on global citizenship and diversity.

www.18hours.org.uk

Outdoor dance
that occurs in public spaces,
entices passers-by to stop and
engage with the performance.
At the time of writing this report,
no other outdoor festivals that focus
solely on dance have been identified
in the South East Region,
or in the remainder of
the UK.

## 18 Hours Ltd and Journeys Dance Festival

18 Hours Ltd was incorporated in May 2012, with the following social enterprise objectives:

- 1 Inception, direction, production and mentoring of local and regional events with an emphasis on community, inclusivity and diversity in all its forms
- 2 Evaluation and analysis using innovative methods of the company's and clients' projects
- 3 Supporting education of all ages through teaching, resource provision, conferences and teacher training with a particular expertise in global learning.

Now based in Bexhill on Sea, 18 Hours delivers successful events, education programmes and community projects in and around Sussex for clients including the British Council, Hastings Borough Council, Rother District Council, University of Brighton, Hastings Storytelling Festival, Streets of Rother Festival, Big Local and St Leonards Festival.

Whilst 18 Hours delivers very successful events on behalf of other agencies, Journeys Dance Festival was developed to build its own annual event in the shoulder months of the seaside towns' busy tourism season with strong branding developed by Sarah Macbeth. The inaugural Journeys Dance Festival was developed with Ramp Events, which had just been established as an inclusive arts events organisation. This collaboration between 18 Hours and Ramp Events' Lead Producer laid solid foundations for Journeys Dance Festival's mainstreaming objectives. The Festival's ambitions are to promote dance, mainstream disabled and diverse artists, engage public involvement, sustain interest in dance, and raise our profile across Hastings, Rother, and wider region. Having been commissioned by Active Rother (Rother District

Council) to map dance provision across the district in 2015, 18 Hours were able to create a festival that fully reflected the community, addressed a shortfall in local provision and promoted accessible dance in public spaces. Its shared vision to provide great cultural experiences for everyone are articulated as follows:

- An artistic vision, which offers dance stories that reflect Journeys programming for very high-quality work
- Respond to shortage of live dance opportunities in Hastings and Rother
- Reach new audiences with 18 Hours' own publicity, encouraging audiences to attend more than one show
- The Festival mainstreams disability and extends public opportunities for wheelchair users to participate in dance. Dance reflects diversity through links between Africa, Americas, Asia and UK
- In feedback, local dance enthusiasts have asked for the rare opportunity to dance to live music with opportunities to perform alongside professional artists and recruit members to sustain enthusiasm in dance beyond the Festival
- 18 Hours ambitions to own its own festival, Journeys (all other events delivered for clients), thereby developing its own team practice, which supports our organisational development and sustainability
- Work closely with new venues and new partners such as: Rye Creative School, Sussex Community Rail Partnership, De La Warr Pavilion, Wheelchair Dance Association, Stade Saturdays and Coasters (SeaChange Arts); and supported by Hastings Borough Council and especially Rother District Council to develop new partnership opportunities.

Journeys is a festival of dance, which has successfully levered external funding through partnerships with Arts Council England, Rother District Council, East Sussex Arts Partnership, Hastings Borough Council – Stade Saturdays and Coasters. It takes places in two or three outdoor locations in Rother and Hastings over a weekend in July or August each year. It is free and participatory. Diversity is mainstreamed throughout Journeys Dance Festival. See pages 6–17 for the summary of performances and programme since 2014.

## journeys



Six years of Journeys Dance Festival marketing



2-Faced Dance Company, *Moon* © John Cole







## **Key highlights/achievements in Journeys Dance Festival**

- Commissioning for example, Zaza Tsara Mayottian dance troupe, accompanied by Mayottian singer, Anyme Abdullah were commissioned for Journeys Dance Festival in 2016. This UK premiere involved working in partnership with both the Mayottian and French governments.
- Partnerships for example, Ramp Events, Wheelchair Dance Sports Association, East Sussex Dance and Movement Partnership, Coasters, Stade Saturdays, De La Warr Pavilion.
- Audiences audience feedback confirms that audiences follow the festival to its different locations across the weekend. Live audiences have increased from 2,000 to a peak in 2018 of 3,650.
- Mainstreaming since its inception, Journeys Dance Festival has offered
  a diverse programme that brings together Kathak, Flamenco and Candoco
  Associates Moxie Brawl, or Stopgap Dance Company alongside
  Compagnie Bilbobasso, and Sadhana Dance on the programme with Folk
  Dance Remixed into a diverse, coherent and excellent quality celebration of
  outdoor dance.



## Context

Journeys Dance Festival is based in the Hastings and Rother regions of the South East of England. Geographically, this region reaches from Oxfordshire, Berkshire and Buckinghamshire through to Kent, East and West Sussex and the Isle of Wight. According to the 2011 census, this diverse region's population totalled 8,635,000. The following table provides a summary of population ethnicity across the region, indicating a lower diversity of ethnic groups than in the regional average.

**Table 1:** Population ethnicity<sup>1</sup>

	South East (%)	Hastings (%)	Rother (%)	Wealden (%)
Asian	5.24	2.36	1.22	1.15
Black	1.58	1.18	0.34	0.23
Mixed	1.94	2.16	1.14	0.96
White	90.65	93.77	97.09	97.49
Other	0.59	0.54	0.22	0.17

Economically, Hastings and Rother fall below the UK and South East regional averages. As can be seen from Table 2, Hastings falls significantly below the regional average, achieving less than 73% of the South East's average gross disposable household income.

**Table 2:** Gross Disposable Household Income<sup>2</sup>

GDHI per head (£)	
24,318	
17,697	
21,854	
28,507	
	24,318 17,697 21,854





Simply Swing and Dorothy's Shoes

© Kim Hall

1 – Data from gov.uk 'Regional ethnic diversity facts and figures, last updated 7.8.2020 but based on census in 2011.

tinyurl.com/diversity-statistics

2 – tinyurl.com/household-incomes, data from 2018.

"Really joyful, inclusive event, dance & music an excellent combination."

Audience member

**JDF 2015** 

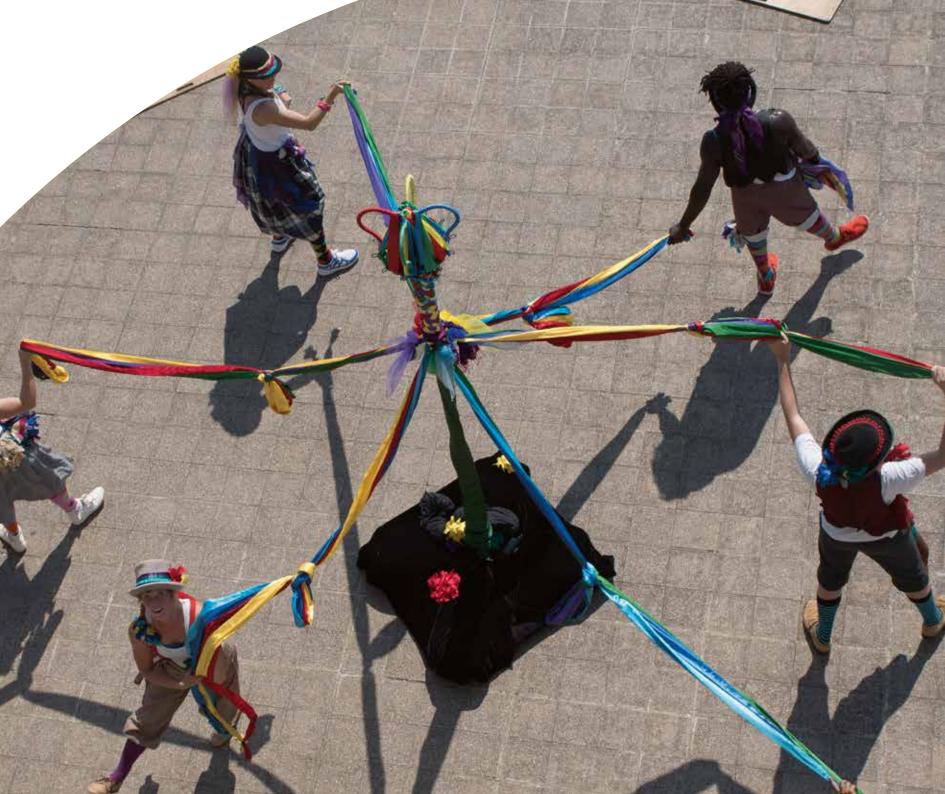
Indeed, when looking at the Government's Indices of Deprivation (2019), Hastings ranks 13th out of 317 local councils for deprivation figures based on employment, income, education, health, crime, living environment and barriers to housing and services. Rother was ranked at 135th and Wealden at 254th.

A similar breakdown of data for disability status is not available. However, in the South East, 19% of the population report living with a disability (1.7 million people), compared with 22% across the UK (data from 2017).

The socio-cultural and economic environment in which Journeys Dance Festival operates, therefore, is one in levels of deprivation across all indices are high, experiencing much lower disposable income per head, with a higher white proportion of the population than the regional average. The next section will examine the engagement and participation in the arts generally in the region, and then draw a tighter focus on dance.









Gabbadon Band © James Robertshaw

## **Engagement and participation in South East England**

For the purposes of this report, data on participation in the arts has been sourced from the Active Lives Survey, led by Sport England in partnership with the Arts Council, Public Health England and the Department of Transport, in conjunction with Taking Part Survey, commission by the DCMS in partnership with Arts Council England, Sport England and Historic England. In 2017, this survey focused on engagement and participation with specific arts activities in the preceding 12 months.

**Table 3:** Participation data from Active Lives

Done in previous 12 months	Spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical or music activity or craft (%)	Attended an event, performance or festival involving creative, artistic, dance, theatrical or music activity (%)	Dance (%)	Creative or artistic dance (%)	Creative or artistic dance – done in last 4 weeks (%)
All adults	35	52	21	5	2
Male	27	48	13	3	1
Female	42	56	29	7	3
Ethnicity (g	sh 36	55	20	4	2
White Othe		54	28	6	3
Asian	25	33	19	5	2
Black	29	42	35	9	5
Chinese	35	45	19	6	3
Mixed	43	59	34	9	5
Other ethni group	<b>c</b> 29	38	26	6	3

journeys

Done in previous 12 months	Spent time doing a creative, artistic, theatrical or music activity or craft (%)	or festival involving creative, artistic, dance, theatrical or music activity (%)	Dance (%)	Creative or artistic dance (%)	Creative or artistic dance – done in last 4 weeks (%)
Disability					
Limiting disability	34	42	14	4	2
Non-limitin disability	<b>g</b> 40	59	21	5	2
No disabilit	y 33	54	23	5	2
Age					
16-24	43	55	30	10	5
25-34	37	52	27	5	2
35-44	34	52	23	4	2
45-54	31	54	20	3	2
55-64	32	53	18	4	2
65-74	36	55	16	4	2
75-84	31	43	11	3	2
85+	23	29	6	2	1
Local Author	ority				
Hastings	40	57	19	4	2
Rother	41	57	19	4	2
Wealden	38	54	18	3	2

Attended an event, performance

The data in this table suggests that Hastings and Rother have higher than UK adult average participation and attendance in artistic activities, and a marginally lower engagement in dance and creative dance whether that is over the preceding 12 months or 4 weeks when compared to all adults.



Live Jive © Kevin Bowles



"Excellent diversity
of performances, loved the
Indian trad meets flamencoclassical guitar & table
(suberb!) What's not to like?
Viva Amrit & Suraj!"

Bernard, 50+
JDF 2015

This suggests potential scope to provide more opportunities to inspire people to engage with dance, particularly to those audiences currently unfamiliar with dance and/or who would not have the financial means to pay to see dance performances.

Taken in combination, these figures provide a socio-economic and cultural engagement picture of the communities in which 18 Hours, and Journeys Dance Festival, are geographically embedded. Underpinned by values of social justice, this context informs 18 Hours' work, and ambitions to provide creative cultural experiences that inform and encourage discussion and engagement.

As will be discussed further below, a scenario emerging from this analysis is that there is a lack of accessible, free-to-attend, high quality dance provision in Hastings and Rother. Indeed, an analysis of Arts Council project grant funding for the most recent 12 months (data from December 2018 to November 2019), shows that only one project that indicated dance as its main discipline was supported in Hastings (Journeys Dance Festival). The same

data shows that there were no dance projects in Rother, although this figure does not reflect the fact that Journeys Dance Festival spans across Rother's and Hastings' districts. Six organisations (out of 58) within the National Portfolio in the South East Region identify Dance as their primary discipline. This figure increases to 19 when combined arts, or not discipline specific such as Disability Arts Online or Artswork are included.

## **Dance events in South East England**

Outside of Journeys Dance Festival, opportunities to engage with dance in Hastings and Rother are predominantly limited to indoor performances. These are hosted by dance schools, such as Hastings School of Contemporary Dance, Dyamond Dance, and the East Sussex School of Performing Arts in Bexhill, or cultural centres such as the De La Warr Pavilion in Bexhill or St Mary in the Castle in Hastings. Opportunities such as these are valuable for local dance audiences and performers but their capacity to reach out to new audiences is limited and as such, they do not showcase dance to audiences who would not necessarily pay to see dance. In addition, there is an evident lack of high quality national, or international regular contemporary dance provision in this area.

Regionally, combined arts festivals such as those in Brighton, Canterbury or Rye include dance their programming as do cultural centres such as Brighton Dome and Chichester Festival Theatre. However, dance within these programmes competes with other disciplines in busy programmes. When schedules overlap, audiences have to make choices about which performances to see, or not to see. If they are not familiar with dance, there is a natural tendency to choose those disciplines that they are more familiar with. This is particularly the case for indoor, paid for performances.

Outdoor dance that occurs in public spaces, however, entices passers-by to stop and engage with the performance. At the time of writing this report, no other outdoor festivals that focus solely on dance have been identified in the South East Region, or in the remainder of the UK.



"Loved the sound of the tabla drum and seeing Indian and Spanish dancing combined."

Martin, 34+ JDF 2015

## LET'S CREATE

## Purpose of this review

ACE Let's Create Strategy 2020–2030 highlights significant strides that have been made towards equality in cultural experience over the last ten years. It does note, however, that there is more to do to address the persistent and widespread lack of diversity and inclusivity in cultural organisations' leadership, governance, workforce and audience. For example, dance has the highest BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) workforce (18%) out of the arts. The extent to which either of this is reflected in the performances is unclear. Dance also has the lowest percentage of disabled people in the workforce (3%) across National Portfolio Organisations.

Against this backdrop, emerging data demonstrates that the global pandemic (Covid-19) has exacerbated pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities, for creatives and audiences across those who fall under the Equality Act 2010's protected characteristics. In the words of John Kelly (musician and activist), 'The pandemic has just amplified our experience of discrimination'.



For social justice, it is essential that diversity is fully embedded across cultural organisations and experiences; as is environmental responsibility, the protection of the physical environment and reducing the sector's contribution to climate change. Journeys Dance Festival is founded on these principles and the pandemic has provided a timely opportunity to review the Festival's performance in these areas.

### To that end, this review aims to:

- assess how Journeys Dance Festival is performing against its mainstreaming and environmental responsibility objectives
- assess those objectives' currency and relevance
- recognise areas of good practice in relation to mainstreaming and environmental responsibility within Journeys Dance Festival
- identify and address problems and challenges in relation to mainstreaming and environmental responsibility
- act as a basis for future decision making and to inform a blueprint for JDF in relation to mainstreaming and environmental responsibility over the next five years to 2025
- contribute to broader evidence base to inform future policy and practice by others outside the organisation.

## journeys



Ragroof Players, Tango Unlimited

## "The exciting fusion of two cultures."

Kathy, 50+

**JDF 2015** 

## Key terms

## **Mainstreaming:**

For the purposes of this review, mainstreaming is informed by:

- The British Council's 'Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning' programme
- The Equalities Act 2010 (updated in 2016) particularly focusing on the protected characteristics of disability, gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation and religion and/or belief as well as socio-economic background.
- Arts Council England's 'Case for Diversity' and 'Let's Create' Strategy 2020–2030
- Social change campaigns such as #WeShallNotBeRemoved, Black Lives Matter, #cultureneedsdiversity, Gay Rights, #MeToo and gender equality movements, Extinction Rebellion, Julie's Bicycle, and Vision 2025.

18 Hours and Journeys Dance Festival is passionate about mainstreaming and its ultimate ambition is to create festivals that mainstream artists from all groups in society. Mainstreaming in this case simply means considering the protected characteristics listed above in everything that it does. It is also the means through which 18 Hours encourages its communities, audiences, networks and stakeholders to create an environment which best meets everyone's needs.

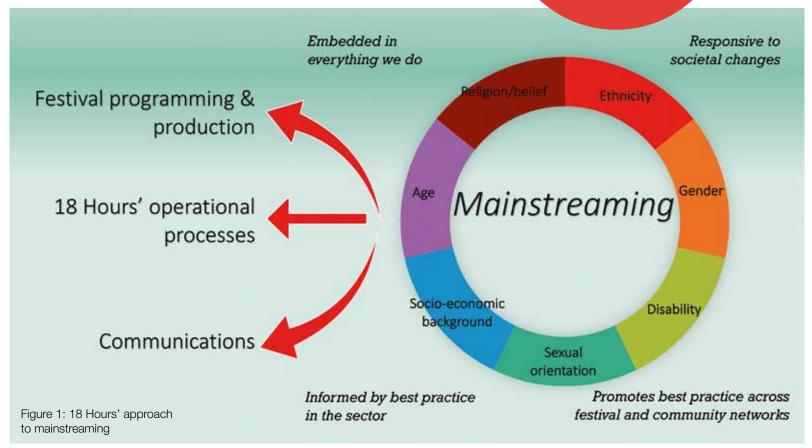
Mainstreaming is not about creating separate projects or targeting any one particular group, instead it requires that attention is given to diverse perspectives as an integral part of all activities across all programmes. Therefore, it helps organisations, and festivals, to make all their activities flexible and supportive to everyone. It is about creating a mindset in which organisations, and their outputs, are open to adapting their planning, work and evaluation so that opportunities to be involved are truly equal.

The diagram below summarises mainstreaming in 18 Hours, and accordingly, Journeys Dance Festival, adapted from the British Council's *Diversity*Assessment Framework.

As its own event, Journeys Dance Festival is guided by 18 Hours' Policy for Equal Opportunities in which it recognises a commitment to equalities and diversity beyond legal and regulatory requirements. It is committed to mainstreaming diversity and continually improving its equalities performance as an integral part of our business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. We encourage customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.

journeys

18 Hours and
Journeys Dance Festival
is passionate about
mainstreaming and its
ultimate ambition is
to create festivals that
mainstream artists from
all groups in society.



# "Family friendly, open air, great for sensory children."

Ethan, U15,

JDF 2018

## **Environmental Responsibility**

We are facing a global climate and environmental emergency and more than ever before events and festivals have a responsibility to protect the natural environment. According to Julie's Bicycle, the creative community is uniquely placed to transform the conversation around climate change and translate it into action. Creative practitioners, and the wider cultural community have a unique and critical role: they deal with the art of the possible and influence new ways of being, doing and thinking. Arts and culture not only respond to the world around us; they also influence our individual and collective experiences and shape the direction we take. Through discussion and through our own behaviour, the creative community can help change society for the better.

Arts and culture therefore have a unique platform from which to engage and inspire action on climate change. It can take a complex idea and present it in ways that are engaging and inspiring. Environmental sustainability is also intrinsic to the resilience of an arts organisation and makes economic as well environmental sense.

The Show Must Go On report (2015)<sup>3</sup> outlined the environmental impacts of the festival industry and provided a robust basis for an industry-wide approach to reducing environmental impacts. Based on 279 UK summer music festivals, the report found that the top five priorities for festival organisers are:

- 1 Sustainable approaches to energy
- 2 Standard approach to serve-ware and packaging
- 3 Use of re-usable cups
- 4 A standard approach to waste management systems
- 5 Sustainable travel policies.

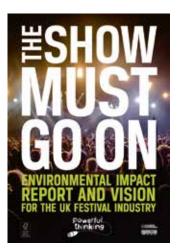
The report identified that the industry can realistically reduce its annual global greenhouse gas emissions by 50% within 10 years through incremental changes to energy supply and usage, waste management, food supply and reduction in food waste, and travel arrangements. Measurement of impacts and progress through robust reporting, engaging audiences and working with the supply chain are also key recommendations from the report.

Journeys Dance Festival is guided by 18 Hours' Environment Policy, in which 18 Hours recognises that it has a responsibility to the environment beyond legal and regulatory requirements. It is committed to reducing environmental impact and continually improving its environmental performance as an integral part of its business strategy and operating methods, with regular review points. It has recently joined the Vision: 2025 pledge (an outcome of the 'Show Must Go On' report) through a new partnership, Carnival Advances Responsibly for the Environment (CARE). 18 Hours encourages customers, suppliers and other stakeholders to do the same.



"Seeing able & differently abled bodies dancing with such skill together."

Fiona, 50+ JDF 2017



3 – Powerful Thinking (2015)

The Show Must Go On
is available here:
tinyurl.com/TheShowMustGoOnReport.





# "It was beautiful! The children were mesmerised and best of all it was free!" John, 25+ JDF 2018

## Evaluation

This report has assessed Journeys Dance Festivals' programming, policies/ practices and promotion activities in relation to both mainstreaming and environmental responsibility. Each evaluation of Journeys' performance in mainstreaming and environmental responsibility is supplemented by a mapping against the Arts Council England's investment principles that are outlined in its Let's Create strategy for 2020-2030 (see appendices).

In relation to mainstreaming, Journeys Dance Festival has consistently brought a diverse programme of high-quality dance performances to outdoor spaces in East Sussex. Mainstreaming is evidenced throughout. For example, with a partnership in 2014 with Ramp Events and the Wheelchair Dance Sports Association and programming that has included Kathak dance, Etta Ermini Dance Company, Candoco Associates Moxie Brawl, Sadhana Dance, Stopgap Dance Company, Zaza Tsara Mayottian dance troupe, Anna Mudeka Band plus Zimbabwean Dance.

This report has also identified a strong commitment to the environment, with its producers, 18 Hours, having over twenty years' experience of producing environmentally responsible events. Journeys Dance Festival, together with 18 Hours, has therefore been ahead of its time, in particular with relation to minimising waste (both on site and in production and promotional activities), minimising reliance on fossil fuels and reducing travel miles through prioritising dance companies from South East England.

In addition to the primary emphasis in this report on mainstreaming and environmental responsibility, this evaluation has uncovered additional strengths that confirm Journeys Dance Festival's, and 18 Hours' reputation as an ambitious organisation that focuses on quality and continuous development. For example, through its professional link with organisations such as South East Dance and its membership from 2016 of the South East Dance Producers Network.



Journeys Dance Festival's successes in these areas should be celebrated and communicated more widely to not only share their experience but also to demonstrate what can be achieved in mainstreaming and environmental responsibility in the outdoor festival sector (for further recommendations see below).

The tables in the appendices summarise the in-depth findings from the review in detail.



Live Jive with Cinque Ports Lindy Hoppers © Kev Bowles



"Profoundly
disabled daughter
LOVED IT – huge smiles
– she responded more
to this than a recent trip
to Disneyland!"

Audience member, JDF 2018

# Summary and outcomes

Conducting this review has underscored the many ways in which Journeys Dance Festival achieves its mainstreaming and environmental objectives, particularly through programming and event delivery. The evaluation has exposed some opportune areas for development such as in its external communications and the constitution of the event team.

In addition to the internal evaluation, the exercise in mapping Journeys against the investment principles set out in ACE *Let's Create 2020–30* strategy reinforced the links that 18 Hours, and Journeys Dance Festival, have with its communities in Hastings and Rother, whether that be local audiences, dance communities, or partnerships in dance and other cultural organisations. These relationships ensure a programme of dance that is relevant and reflects the communities in which it is embedded.

Recommendations for development identified throughout the report are summarised in the table overleaf. They have been categorised into four main areas: marketing and promotion, organisational development, programming and further research. These categories have emerged from this report to assist with prioritisation and workflow planning.

- Marketing and communications: Recommendations that cover all activities in relation to communication with external stakeholders (audiences, artists, partners, funders etc.).
- Organisational development: recommendations that aim to develop the skills, experience and membership of the 18 Hours and Journeys Dance Festival team, in accordance with 18 Hours' social enterprise values.
- Programming: recommendations to ensure festival programming continues
  to deliver excellent quality outdoor dance performances from national and
  international artists and participation opportunities to enable people from all
  backgrounds to engage in meaningful, creative and enjoyable dance experience.
- Research: recommendations for further research to ensure continued community relevance, and opportunities to broadly disseminate knowledge and experience.







# "It was wonderful to bring two cultures together, albeit briefly. Particularly as the choir was doing an evening of Afro Latin music – some of which the Mayottians knew. The thrill of them dancing while our choir sang was something we found to be very moving."

Juliet Russell,

Vocal Explosion JDF 2016

### Recommendations

#### 1 Marketing and Communications

- Build a dedicated Journeys Dance Festival website to distinguish it from 18 Hours website.
- Consider renaming the event to Journeys Festival of Dance as 'dance festival' is commonly understood to be a festival of dance music or a dance festival in indoor venues.
- Continue to develop database of local community groups and actively engage with them. Previous participants of the outreach programmes should be included in this database and should receive invites to the festival each year.
- Create a targeted communication strategy that outlines Journeys Dance Festival's values in relation to mainstreaming.
- Ensure imagery, text, formats, layouts and fonts are fully inclusive and embody our values of diversity and environmental responsibility.
   e.g. images of diverse artists, printing on recycled paper.
- Develop key communications messages that make Journeys Dance Festival's environmental responsibility approach and leadership in mainstreaming more explicit and prominent.

#### 2 Organisational development: Diversity

- Build more diversity into 18 Hours' team by developing a diverse Young
  Dance Producers programme, through freelance opportunities and through
  government schemes for 16-25-year olds, such as apprenticeship and
  kickstart schemes.
- Develop a measure of overall responsibility that incorporates environmental monitoring, diversity, economic and social responsibility across 18 Hours' events.
- Develop partnerships with larger organisations such as Coasters, Without Walls and Greenwich and Docklands International Festival to maximise potential from JDF's existing reputation and repeat audiences.

#### 3 Programming: Diversity

- Continue to build on existing relationships with diverse performers.
- Identify, and commission/programme/include opportunities for local diverse and up-and-coming artists to work alongside quality established / professional artists.

#### 4 Programming: Development

- Continue to schedule JDF in September to enable further partnership development opportunities with Coastal Currents Festival. This in turn brings larger and new audiences to Journeys.
- Use digital technologies to bring together asynchronous performances into an innovative blended programmed that overcomes scheduling clashes with local dance schools and other dance events such as Edinburgh.

#### 5 Programming: Environmental sustainability

- Ensure that when international artists are programmed, the remainder of the programme focuses on local or regional artists to avoid undue travel impacts whilst maintaining quality.
- Consider further options to programme content that focuses on environmental messages where appropriate.

#### **6 Research and Organisational Development**

- Extend the existing evaluation mechanisms to include feedback from local groups and communities as well as audiences.
- Consider a review of all 18 Hours' events in relation to economic and environmental impacts and diversity and inclusivity measures as a one-off developmental project for an apprentice.
- Funding allowing, there is scope for a project to reach out to members of the public, artists and creative practitioners that are unfamiliar with JDF to identify need and audiences for this event to update the research that initially underpinned JDF in 2013.



"Great to see inclusive work – able and disabled producing fantastic choreography."

> Elaine, JDF 2017





# Principles for future programming

journeys

In addition to an assessment of performance against mainstreaming and environmental responsibility goals, this review set out to develop aspirations for future programming and this project has enhanced understanding and knowledge of dance, festivals of dance and dance organisations regionally, nationally and internationally.

Journeys Dance Festival aspires to work with high-quality and diverse artists. Each festival aims to be an exemplar of mainstreaming in programming, a showcase of national/international dance excellence and platform for local dance organisations to perform to new audiences. In addition, each year, the festival aspires to feature a combination of new commissions and existing touring shows from high quality established and emerging dance companies. On that basis, future programming will be guided by the following core principles:

- Quality built through continued drive for commissioning, in particular recognising the importance of South East Dance network and exploring potential partnership with Without Walls
- Strong relationships (existing and new) with high quality and diverse agencies and dance companies such as Sarah Trist, Stopgap and Moxie Brawl
- Adding value to partnerships, for example through bringing diversity to the De La Warr Pavilion programme, and offering dance as part of the Stade Saturdays programme
- Demonstrating **leadership** in mainstreaming dance by incorporating latest research and industry developments.
- Ensuring Journeys Dance Festival maintains its relevance for local communities by incorporating local dance organisations in the programme.





# **Appendices**

#### 1: Evaluation of mainstreaming in Journeys Dance Festival (JDF)

F = fully met P = partly met N = not met	Disability	Gender	Ethnicity	Sexual orientation	Socio- economic background	Comments
Policies	F	F	F	F	F	JDF draws on 18 Hours' Policy for Equal Opportunities (last reviewed Sept 2019), which commits to mainstreaming diversity and providing equality of access and opportunity.
Programming	ı F	F	F	F	F	Artistic programming in JDF has been successful in creating a coherent festival that presents diverse performers across 3 locations.  Festival evaluation reports have identified key areas of success in this area, including excellent audience feedback.
Promotion	Р	Р	F	Р	Р	Images used in promotion of the festival and on 18 Hours' website and social media evidence the diverse programming throughout the festival. There is an opportunity to be more explicit in promotion about JDF's values in relation to mainstreaming, and how they are reflected in the festival.

#### **Summary**

Journeys Dance Festival's programme demonstrates its commitment to mainstreaming. Dancers with disabilities have performed alongside non-disabled dancers, Asian and African dance groups have been programmed alongside local belly dancers, contemporary dance has been programmed alongside ballroom and folk.

In addition to diversity in artists and dance genres, Journeys Dance Festival's free outdoor performances remove barriers

associated with the costs that may deter those from poorer socio-economic communities and those with disabilities from experiencing quality creative performances.

However, there is an opportunity to further highlight these values in communications activities, especially those beyond promotion of the annual festivals. This could be a simple strapline used across all information in relation to the event, that succinctly captures the mainstreaming ethos underpinning this event.

# Recommendations and actions

- 1 Review and update Policy for Equal Opportunities
- 2 Create communication strategy (eg via website, and statements on promotional materials) that outlines Journeys Dance Festival's values in relation to mainstreaming.

#### 2: ACE's Inclusivity and Relevance investment principles & JDF

post-event evaluation.

Key points	JDF and 18 Hours' contribution	Opportunities for development
Build on the Creative Case for Diversity to address persistent and widespread lack of diversity and inclusivity in cultural organisations' leadership, governance, workforce and audience	JDF is underpinned by values of diversity, environmental responsibility, quality, community engagement and responsiveness to audiences. It is owned and produced by a female-led organisation which delivers mainstreaming throughout its programming.  It employs young people on work experience to develop job-ready skills and experience.  It ensures accessibility for both artists and audiences, for example through venue choice, appropriate management of seating areas for those with wheelchairs and through stage ramps as a matter of course.  Community relevance is delivered by a robust audience evaluation process that feeds into producing each event and through accompanying outreach activities.	<ul> <li>18 Hours is female-led organisation with a team that are all white. To address this, different options for Journeys Dance Festival, and 18 Hours, could include:</li> <li>Develop a programme for Young Producers from diverse backgrounds.</li> <li>Continue to develop freelance opportunities that focus on those from diverse backgrounds</li> <li>Explore different government schemes for 16–25-year olds, such as apprenticeship and kickstart schemes.</li> <li>Continue to build on existing relationships with diverse performers</li> <li>Identify, and commission/programme new diverse artists, thereby creating new audiences for them and ensuring mainstreaming and quality in future.</li> </ul>
Promote equality and fairness, and ensure cultural organisations are more effective businesses.	18 Hours' Equality Policy applies to JDF. This policy recognises a commitment to equalities and diversity beyond legal and regulatory requirements as well as continuous improvement as integral part of business strategy and operating methods. This applies to the whole festival network, including volunteers, artists, committee members, suppliers and other stakeholders.  Diversity statistics (audiences and artists) are collated after each event for inclusion in the	Continue to explore options outline above.  Also, share more widely values and activities undertaken to support mainstreaming in communications to show 18 Hours' leadership in this area.

Targets for how governance, leadership, employees, participants, audiences and the work made will reflect the communities in which they work.

Targets to cover protected characteristics and socio-economic background.

18 Hours receives funding from ACE through the project grants, rather than through regular investments as an NPO. As a socially oriented, not for profit organisation, 18 Hours is embedded in its community which it aims to reflect throughout all of its festivals and events.

With over 20 years' experience in Hastings and Rother, 18 Hours has always worked hard to produce events that reflect its local community.

Journeys Dance Festival has consistently mainstreamed its programme to reflect this community.

Hastings and Rother include some of the poorest communities in the South East and who have fewer opportunities to access high quality creative performances. Hence the importance of producing a free festival which incorporates local dance groups alongside nationally and internationally renowned artists.

Current evaluation and reporting processes include diversity indicators for performers and audiences (where audience members are happy to provide such information).

Continue audience feedback and evaluation.

Further enhance the existing feedback mechanisms from local groups and communities.

If funds permit, consider a separate research project to gather more information from new audiences (e.g. in Bexhill).

In addition, if funds can be secured, an evaluation of all 18 Hours' events across the calendar year in relation to economic and environmental impacts and diversity and inclusivity measures could provide a standalone project for an apprentice. 18 Hours has the expertise within its existing employees to mentor such a project and would provide easily transferable skills to a young professional aspiring to work in the creative sector.

As identified above, there is an opportunity to create a more reflective team at the heart of the organisation.

Key points	JDF and 18 Hours' contribution	Opportunities for development	
Organisations to build closer connections with their	Through its wide network and regular research, 18 Hours has an excellent knowledge of its communities.	There is an opportunity to more strategically make use of multiple channels to reach community groups.	
communities.	It produces events on behalf of local community festivals whose committees consist of local volunteers, teacher and education networks,	Continue to extend and develop database of local community groups and actively engage with them year after year.	
	business and community group representatives.  As part of that role, 18 Hours fosters development of the committee's experiences, environmental and diversity responsibilities through a range of CPD activities.	Previous participants of the outreach programmes should be included in this database (if not already) and should receive invites	
	Furthermore, it is embedded within local creative networks across Hastings and Rother, and currently building avenues for mentoring with an upcoming move to larger premises.		
Organisations to strengthen their relevance to communities, partners and practitioners with	Journeys Dance Festival was developed in response to Rother District Council's desire to build local dance programming and commissioned 18 Hours initially to research local provision, and subsequently to develop the	This review proved 18 Hours' commitment and relevance to its communities, partners and practitioners that it works with. However, these positive attributes are not well known outside the organisation.	
whom they work.	festival.  Journey provides a platform for local dance groups to perform on the same stage as national and international professional dancers.  Examples of this include the ongoing relations	There is an opportunity, therefore, to share its good practice and to communicate many of the excellent initiatives more widely. This could be, for example, through a Journeys Dance Festival or 18 Hours' newsletter for audiences,	

with Stade Saturdays, programming Hastings

Dances in 2020 with Sujata Dance Company, membership of South East Dance Producers Network and fostering a strong working relationship with De La Warr Pavilion.

55

performers, partners and all stakeholders.

Organisations need to demonstrate how they are listening to the voices of the public, including children and young people, artists, and creative practitioners, as well as partners and how this is reflected in the planning of work.

Current event evaluations make recommendations based on audience members' and artists' feedback. Feedback is also gathered informally from venues, and other partners.

Audience development plans identify the responses that have been made as a result of those recommendations.

Feedback mechanisms currently capture the voices of those that have come to the festival.

Funding allowing, there is scope for a project to reach out to wider members of the public, artists and creative practitioners to identify need and audiences for this event to update the research that initially underpinned JDF in 2013.

However, as a niche festival that offers value for money, it is important to maintain a focus on the festival's original objectives and to avoid extending too far beyond the original scope of the festival.

In future, ACE will judge organisations for the way in which they reflect and build a relationship with their communities, as well as for the quality and ambition of their work.

Journeys Dance Festival is a high quality outdoor free-to-attend event that was originally commissioned by the local district council to further develop dance provision across the Hastings and Rother area.

Through 18 Hours, it has strong relationships with community groups and has provided excellent quality and ambition throughout its programming.

This review has indicated scope to focus on involving young people further and the feasibility of creating a project with dance schools should be considered.

Delivering the event in September offers significant advantages of further developing its partnership with Coastal Currents which, in turn brings larger and new audiences to Journeys. This September date, however, restricts the ways in which Journeys can connect with local dance schools. The potential of digital/blended programmes could be considered as a means to show work developed during the summer term during Journeys in September.



### 3: Evaluation of mainstreaming in Journeys Dance Festival (JDF)

F = fully met P = partly met N = not met	Commitment to tackle issues	Measuring impacts	Improving impacts	Sharing policy actions and knowledge	Comments
Policies	F	N	Р	Р	The policy was last updated in Sept 2019.  No evidence of regular monitoring and reporting environmental impacts.
Festival programme (including venue production, materials)	F	N	P	F	Dance performances are programmed primarily for artistic quality, mainstreaming and community goals. Where this results in artists' national and international Festival evaluation reports have identified key areas of success in this area, including excellent travel, and public transport is not feasible, it could be useful to monitor impacts through online calculators such as Julie's Bicycle.  In the production process, the printing of publication materials is kept to a minimum, with a strong focus on digital promotion. Local distributors are used for leaflet drops in select local venues to keep delivery miles low and leaflet dropping targeted.  On site mitigation actions are wide ranging and include the avoidance of diesel generators by choosing venues that have local power supplies available. Re-usable wooden signage boards are used, single- use plastics are avoided, and only re-usable or recyclable materials used for hospitality.  Waste: Materials reduced, reused and recycled where possible.
Promotion/ communication	F n	Р	Р	Р	Environmental responsibilities and goals not easily identifiable on external communications. This includes website, and festival promotion literature. Opportunities to showcase environmental responsibilities embedded within JDF, therefore, are not maximised. Communications could also encourage audiences to consider their journeys (e.g. use bicycles, public transport or car share).

#### **Summary**

18 Hours has been producing environmentally responsible events for over twenty years. It has therefore been ahead of its time in many respects such as minimising waste both on site and in production and promotional activities and minimising reliance on fossil fuels.

There is an opportunity to demonstrate their leadership in this area through communicating more widely on the environmental values underpinning the event, as well as the steps 18 Hours has taken to reduce the impact at each event. To do this, a means of monitoring and reporting could be considered to measure against for future events.

#### **Recommendations and actions**

- 1 Review and update 18 Hours' environmental policy for 2020 (due Sept 2020)
- 2 Incorporate environmental monitoring into festival evaluation reports
- 3 Create communication strategy (e.g. via website, and statements on promotional materials) that outlines Journeys Dance Festival's environmental responsibility approach
- 4 Ensure that when international artists are programmed, the remainder of the programme focuses on local or regional artists to avoid undue travel impacts whilst maintaining quality.
- 5 Consider developing a measure of overall responsibility that incorporates diversity, economic and social responsibility across 18 Hours' events.



#### 4: ACE's Environmental Responsibility investment principles & JDF

by 2025.

Key points	JDF and 18 Hours' contribution	Opportunities for development	
Expect organisations to intensify their commitment to environmental responsibility	18 Hours has committed to environmental responsibility for over 20 years. Its environmental policy extends beyond the legal and regulatory requirements. It has a commitment to reduce environmental impact and improve environmental performance as an integral part of business strategy and operating methods.  This is embedded in Journeys Dance Festival, as indicated above.	Journeys Dance Festival is located within easy distance of public transport and local train stations. There is minimal plastic waste, and re-usable signage is used throughout.  Its environmental policies, and actions, can be made more explicit through a wider range of communications to audiences, artists, venues and other suppliers.	
Plan to reduce impact, to measure, understand and report on their progress in doing so	18 Hours is actively involved in networks beyond Hastings and Rother regions to learn and share knowledge about sustainable practices. These include the New Carnival Company and Carnival Network South. 18 Hours and Radiator Arts presented at their	Currently, event evaluation reporting for Journeys Dance Festival does not explicitly include environmental monitoring. It could be useful to develop a means of recording travel miles (and means) of artists, and audiences into the evaluation.	
	conference, 'Towards A Greener Carnival' in March 2020, which examined sustainable practice in carnival arts.	However, there is a balance to be met to ensure no undue administrative cost of such a monitoring system that would detract from	
	Through this network, 18 Hours is part of a new partnership, Carnival Advances Responsibly for the Environment (CARE) which has signed up to the Vision:2025 pledge which aims to inspire and support a 50% reduction in the environmental impacts of the events sector	the delivery of safe, high quality, diverse and inspirational dance performances. This is especially the case for small, not for profit event producers like 18 Hours. Vision:2025, and the Responsible Carnival Network, will provide a useful framework for monitoring, and	

reducing, impacts.

Key points	JDF and 18 Hours' contribution	Opportunities for development
Organisations to lead change and should aim to be innovative	Programming for Journeys Dance Festival is based on quality, diversity and mainstreaming, with environmental responsibility informing the	Consider further options to programme content that focuses on environmental messages where appropriate.
and responsive in the choices they make	production of the event.  In 2020, the programme would have included the Sujata Bannerjee Dance Company's "Together We Can' show. This is a powerful story about climate change and its impact told through Kathak dance. Dance Hastings CIO had also been developing a new piece around environmental responsibility to accompany Sujata.	18 Hours and Journeys Dance Festival have consistently produced environmentally responsible events, with a significant amount of knowledge and experience embedded across the organisation. There is an opportunity to extend this beyond the organisation through better communicating its philosophy, experiences and knowledge to the public, its artists, suppliers and other networks.
		This could include, for example, presenting at conferences such as Association of Event Management Educators in 2021 (cohosted with the University of Brighton) and at conferences, webinars etc such as those hosted by CARE.

#### **Data sources**

This evaluation is based on a textual and documentary analysis of a number of Journeys Dance Festival related documents, including individual festival reports, audience feedback, company policy documents, and communications materials (e.g. leaflets and website). It has been written by members of the 18 Hours team and is therefore an internal, self-reflection of its performance





#### Thank you to our supporters



































Every year, Journeys Dance Festival brings a unique programme of excellent quality dance performance to new audiences in outdoor spaces.

Supported by the Arts Council Emergency
Response Fund, 18 Hours has evaluated Journeys
Dance Festival against its goals and values. In
particular, how production processes, programming
and communications feed into core objectives
of mainstreaming dance performances and
environmental responsibility.

This report captures that evaluation and sets out a road map for Journeys Dance Festival for the years ahead, in alignment with the Arts Council England's Let's Create strategy, to attain community, diversity and environmental aspirations.







#### A REVIEW OF

