
**WHAT DO PEOPLE
THINK OF
HEADS TOGETHER?**

Stephanie Simm
Lead Officer – Arts Council England, Yorkshire

Heads Together are about creative solutions

They work with education and communities but not just in the formal education sector.

They are not a hit and run company like some arts organisations – it is not about going in and doing a project AT a community, it's about the community doing something with the help of Heads Together.

HT are more about forming a relationship and partnership with communities and other groups and organisations involved in the project. It is about taking a journey together.

HT encourages their creative development and leaves a legacy for the community they work with. It is about the passing on of skills and knowledge and is a two way / mutually beneficially process.

Heads Together are not defined by their projects.

Creative solutions

Relationship and partnership

Taking a journey together

Leaves a legacy

HT not defined by their projects

Margaret Broughton
Conisbrough & Denaby Main Education Action Zone

Heads Together provide a bridge between how the EAZ works in a school with the curriculum and takes a project much further and wider than that curriculum dictates.

Enables all schools and communities to work together on a single project that is an empowering process for everyone involved.

No other company could bring people together to collaborate and share in the way HT do.

They are facilitators of collaboration. It is very hard to be a facilitator in the true sense of the word and is a great skill to have. They don't do projects for people and communities, they let them do it themselves.

HT are a unique establishment that enables and facilitates diverse communities and projects to work together and goes beyond normal expectation to allow this to happen.

Provide a bridge

Enables and facilitates a community

Empowering

Encourages collaboration

David Collins

Arthouse

Heads Together are a participatory and collaborative arts organisation that works in communities with issues and problems.

HT work is about socially engaged practice. There are lots of organisations that do 'art' with people and communities but HT are careful about choosing the right kind of projects to do with a community, making it specific and particular to that area and it's people.

HT do collaborative and issue-based work.

Participatory and collaborative

Socially engaged practice

Issue-based

Dick Downing
NEFR

Heads Together are creative community workers.

They look at the wider picture in their projects. It is not about developing the level of arts skills in communities and schools but about using and developing arts skills to develop the community and the people that live in the community.

They don't just go into schools and do projects; they consider the community aspect of schools and their place in the community.

Creative community work

Using the arts to develop the community

Steve Pool

Heads Together are about creative intervention.

Remember that street they turfed in Leeds....

Creative intervention

Keith Reeves

Community-based and arts orientated development organisation.

Heads Together are about developing personal skills, life skills and awareness of environment and self through whichever media is relevant to the community / organisation.

They work with different groups but always look at the individual.

HT go into each project without any pre-conceived ideas or prejudices.

It is about the empowerment of the individual through development of their community.

Arts orientated development organisation

Empowerment of the individual

No preconceived ideas or prejudices.

Toby Hyam
Director, The Media Centre

Heads Together motivate and create – they use an enabling process within their projects.

Not just an arts organisation.

HT uses the arts as part of a process to help people develop themselves, to communicate and articulate things about themselves and their environment.

To develop new and different ideas about themselves and their community through the use of creative work and projects.

HT have chosen to work in situations doing long-term work so it is not just about going in and doing something, then leaving. HT create a cycle to their projects and don't do just a one-off consultancy job.

HT have genuinely enabled people to develop

Motivate and create

Arts are a part of process

Create a cycle of work and development

Enabling

Andy Edwards
Designer

Heads Together do exactly what their name describes. They put heads together on different projects to get the best out of the process and outcome, using a creative approach to the work.

HT use a creative approach for community projects in a way that isn't necessarily and immediately obvious. They analyse what would be the best approach to provide a solution for the community – but at the same time it doesn't have to have a final solution. The process of development is just as important.

Although they are an arts organisation they don't just do arts – they do projects that are particular to the community and create a partnership between all people involved.

They are media-agnostic. They analyse problems and then decide on approach.

HT believe there should be a relative autonomy in the partnership. It is about enabling and empowering.

Creative approach

Analysis of particular community

Media agnostic

Relative autonomy in partnership

Laura Taylor

HT do creative arts projects in schools and communities.

They take a very participatory approach to working with people and it is all about getting people and communities to do stuff for themselves.

Participatory approach

Do it for themselves

Andy Merckel
Leeds City Council

Heads Together are a community arts company that look at the issues in a community and use projects to develop both community and individual.

They use projects to highlight issues in communities and then find ways to tackle those issues.

Instead of just talking at a community they get them to explore issues and work out own solutions by facilitating the process.

Highlights issues in a community

Gets community to explore issues

Facilitates process

Paul Eubanks

HT are about helping communities broaden their horizons and develop links with each other.

Their projects get people and communities involved in each other and their community.

The projects also help to develop links between young and old people that they wouldn't normally experience.

It gives the communities an interest in something they would never have thought possible and never dreamed of.

Broaden horizons

Develop links

Gives communities an interest

Simone Wood

HT work in schools bringing art / visual experiences to the children and the teachers in an environment where they don't really have an opportunity or experience of creativity.

The school projects give the children something that the teachers can't give or provide in the boundaries of the curriculum.

They provide a wider experience than the normal school day can provide and leaves the children with a longer lasting impression and something substantial to take away with them.

Visual experience

Wider experience than boundaries of curriculum

Leaves something substantial

Jane Austin

Sherburn Community Education

HT do creative arts projects in communities. The projects are about getting a response from the community. They get the community communicating with each other and responding to each other.

The projects allow people to get involved in community work that gives them ownership and gives the community back to the community.

The projects provide a positive outcome for the community.

Community response

Communication

Positive outcomes

June Bradley
Wilthorpe Primary School

HT have enabled us to widen our horizons and enabled us to see what was possible in the school.

The projects have brought in skills and thoughts that we didn't have or could provide and given the children a different aspect on creative work.

The creativity was missing from just doing the curriculum. The school had got very focused on just delivering what was in the curriculum. Now we think more about how the curriculum can be delivered in a creative way.

We have broken out of our bounds.

Widen horizons

New creative skills

Creativity to curriculum

Vicky Cann
Transport 2000

When HT do a project they don't have the mentality of it being just another job, client or contract but take on more, get involved and deliver more.

The work is about involvement, leadership and helping to develop.

Working with HT is not a passive relationship but a very interactive experience. It is a partnership between organisations and communities.

They empower people to take control of their own lives through creativity and development and are at all times responsive to the needs of the community.

HT has a vision about the value of community involvement and participation

More than just a job

Involvement and leadership

Interactive partnership

Community involvement and participation

Paul Kaiserman
Education Leeds

HT are about enabling participants to have direction and ownership of any work or projects that they do with communities.

They have expertise in placing participants at the centre of the project.

HT come up with and offer strategies for people's views to be heard and gives a voice to communities.

It is not a disadvantage that HT can't be defined in a particular area or by a particular art form. HT also have an agency aspect to their work in that they use freelancers from a wide network to do the best job for a particular project.

HT's work always has a certain level of quality and you can trust their judgement.

Community direction and ownership

Strategies for people's views to be heard.

Certain level of quality

Anne Brammer

Balby Street School

The project has enabled the children to increase and develop skills in things they haven't done before or experienced.

It has given people a chance to try new things and increase creativity and arts skills.

However it has been hard to keep momentum going and has been hard to fit in the work around the curriculum and existing work level of teachers.

Develop skills

Provides new experiences

Increases creativity and arts skills

Tim Gill

Children's Play Council

CPC has known of Heads Together for some years, almost exclusively through our work on home zones (especially with Transport 2000). Initially we were in touch with Adrian as a local campaigner, and the idea of the first HZ video grew out of this contact. This partnership worked well, so naturally we came back to Adrian when we wanted to develop a second video.

As for my impression of HT as an organisation, we've always had a good working relationship on projects. I think that your projects typically use media (especially video, audio, photography new media) as a tool for participation and community capacity-building, especially but not exclusively those involving children and young people, and that you aim to help those directly concerned tell their stories rather than have you or others tell them for them (if you see what I mean).

Finally, HT would certainly be on my list for any relevant project CPC might be involved in.

Partnership

Use media as a tool

Participation and community capacity building