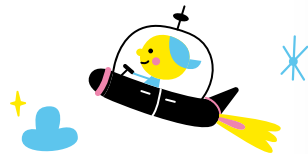




About Model City



Model City was an outdoor 360° audio installation that took over Hull's busiest shopping street, King Edward Street, and was created by BAFTA award-winning composer Dan Jones with primary school children from across the city.

This original soundscape, created by the children, transported citizens of Hull to alternate realities. The children's voices were recorded and their hopes and dreams for the future of the city were brought to life alongside specially-designed sound effects and musical score. They asked listeners to consider – what do they want for their future city?

Accompanying the soundscape, over February half-term 2020, more than 3000 people visited our Model City Space to learn more about how the piece was made and to have their say about their aspirations for the future of the city. Designed and curated by RESOLVE Collective, alongside our fantastic Absolutely Cultured volunteers, the Model City Space took over an empty shop unit and invited visitors to explore their thoughts for the future through free family activities, a library and an evolving exhibition.

In this booklet, we'll share some of the main themes and opinions that were captured through the Model City project.

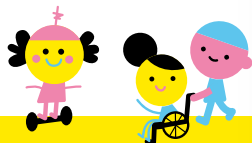


"It's a sort of three-dimensional painting of the world they've imagined. There are unicorns, robot-run hair salons and animal translating devices and fantastic, beautiful comedic things. But there is a lot of stuff which is very moving about how we face the challenges of how we co-exist in sprawling cities with wildlife, how do we find space for deprived people and how we integrate as a society. I think it's a very optimistic piece."

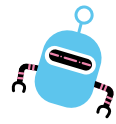
Dan Jones, Artist



▶ Watch the Model City documentary [here](#).



How it was made



To create Model City, Dan Jones and Absolutely Cultured worked with design collective RESOLVE to facilitate workshops with children from three primary schools across Hull – Bricknell Primary School, Newington Academy and Woodland Primary School.

Over the course of five workshops, this next generation of city planners considered how architecture, engineering, technology and arts can impact Hull. They learnt about different jobs that keep a city running and explored how these might change in the future. They invented new modes of transport and future products for new world shops. They prototyped innovative public spaces that champion communication and designed cities created specifically for children.

These interactive sessions stimulated and captured their observations about our city today and their dreams for the future. The children gained confidence as they identified issues they'd like to change and made imaginative plans for resolutions, unbounded by the everyday.

Dan Jones then turned voice recordings captured during these sessions into Model City - an immersive, thought-provoking work created especially for Hull. Every child felt their ideas were valued, and they felt proud of their involvement as they were empowered to share their opinions, plans and dreams with the world.



“ In the future, I think that there will only be a few taxis and cars so that people can walk and bike everywhere to get exercise. ”

“ There should be a thing to put in all the adults and it zooms up to space. ”

“ In the future, I hope people are looking after more animals and taking care of them. ”

“ In the future, there will be no phones. Less technology. Yeah. In the future, I will play tig. And hide and seek. ”

🔊 Listen to the Model City soundscape [here](#).

The people's voice

Through a series of free creative activities, a comments wall and conversations with Absolutely Cultured Volunteers, audiences to Model City answered the question:

“What would you include in your future city?”

We collected responses from a massive variety of different people and voices – all ages, backgrounds, likes and dislikes and a range of languages. Despite our differences, a lot of the same aims and aspirations for the future of Hull kept coming up!

Photo: © Tom Arran



Photo: © Tom Arran



Environment

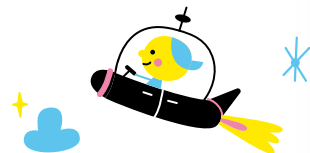
By far and away the highest priority for a future city was a clean and green environment. Specifically visitors wanted plenty of parks and open spaces, and to minimise plastic use, litter and pollution.

What would visitors include in their future city?

- “ Big gardens and allotments where everyone can grow their own food. ”
- “ Planted trees all around. ”
- “ Clean air. ”
- “ Less use of plastic. ”
- “ More connected to nature - cleaner, more parks and green spaces, less pollution. ”



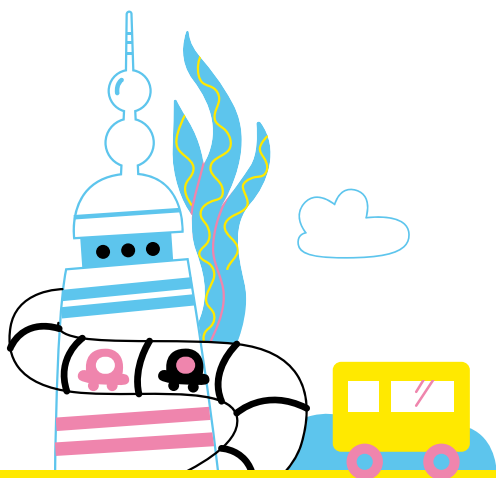
What would you include in your future city?



Retail & transport

Many people said they wanted their future city to have a high-quality and accessible public transport system, a safe and extensive cycle network, and a broad range of shops.

- “ For the future of Hull I want free transport for everyone. As well as this you could have a tram system which is much more environmentally friendly than buses. ”
- “ Free public transport for all at weekends. ”
- “ Better shops, more shops. ”
- “ A bigger designer outlet. ”



Health

Health and wellbeing was another priority area. In particular visitors wanted to see extensive mental health support, safe spaces and activities for young people, and a reduction in smoking prevalence.

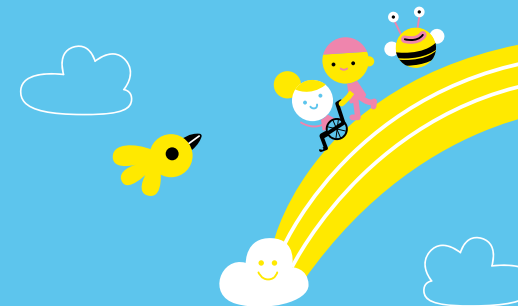
- “ A place where people can go if they feel worried or sad. ”
- “ Smoke free Hull and more help for smokers to stop. ”
- “ Space for young people to express and be themselves, meet their friends and feel safe. ”

Culture

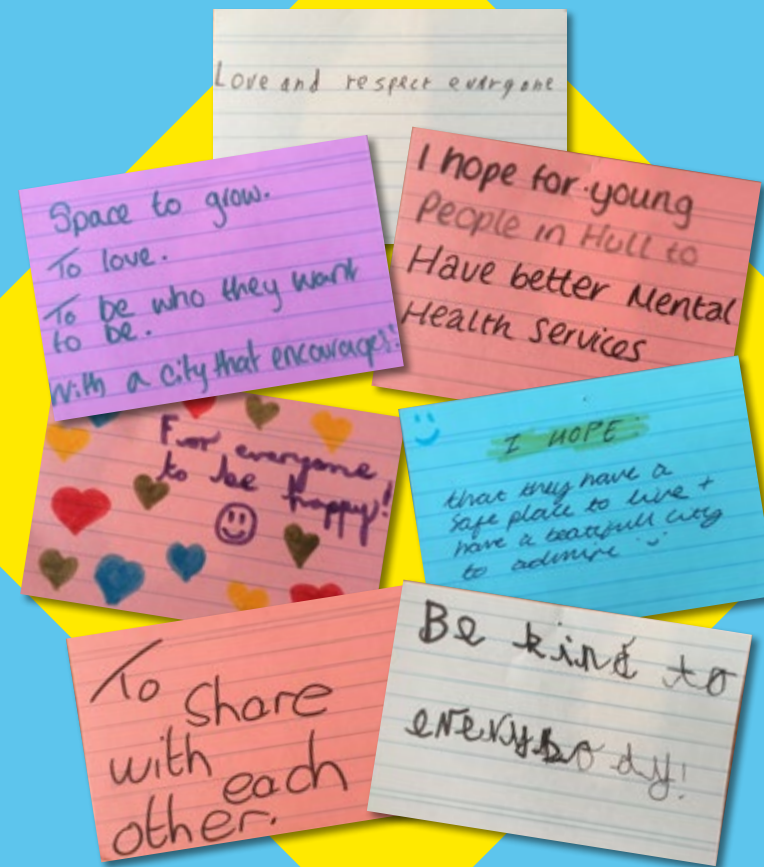
A wide-ranging cultural offer was also highly desirable. Many people said it was important to give people from all backgrounds the opportunity to experience and participate in the arts.

- “ More festivals and events, more shops, museums to be open more/longer. ”
- “ More street exhibitions. ”
- “ More arts and culture for everyone. ”

Aspirations

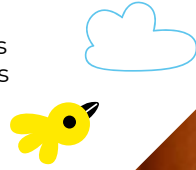


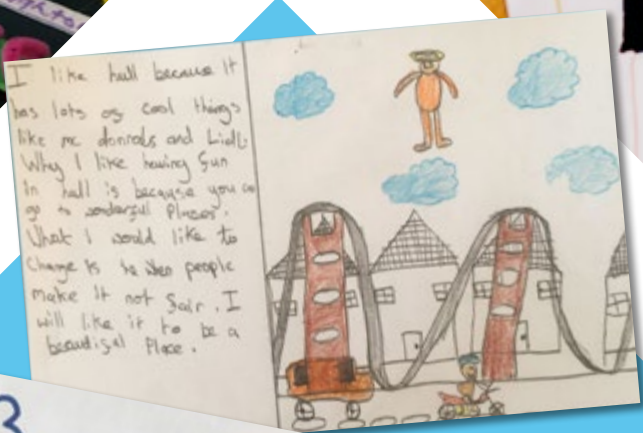
Visitors to Model City Space were also asked what they hope for young people in Hull. Again the environment was important, but most hoped that young people would be happy and experience the love of friends and family.



Visitors were asked to imagine they were the Mayor of Hull, living 100 or even 1000 years in the future. They designed & built 3D models of their ideal future city!

Over 1,500 school children wrote letters to a young person living in Hull in 50 years time. They shared their favourite things about the city and what they hope will change.





How did Model City make you feel?



Throughout and following the project, we collected feedback from audiences and everyone involved including the children, artist, facilitators, funders and volunteers. These responses help us to understand what they thought about the project, what they liked about it and what we can learn to make future projects even more impactful, thought-provoking and exciting.



92% of audiences felt that Model City had been an enjoyable experience

88% said it had made them think about the future of the city

HULL



67% of audiences felt more connected to the city

50% said the experience had shown them that there was more to the city than they had expected



"I think that this project is an exemplar project of working with children and young people. It has absolutely been about hearing their voices but it has also had them thinking about what they want from their city, what they think about where they live and what they want for the future. And so all of those things combined make it a really powerful project."

Jessica Farmer, Arts Council England

"It was a real privilege to have Model City Space as a meeting point for people to come and talk, but the fact that it was filled with ways of being engaged and people being able to leave their ideas I think was really important and a real tribute to the idea, not just a symbolic tribute but a real platform for people to be able to leave their ideas, which for me is the strongest legacy of the piece."

Dan Jones, Artist

"The children absolutely loved the workshops, the outings to the shops, the opportunity of being interviewed and becoming journalists themselves. Most of all they've enjoyed designing and creating the city of the future from their point of view."

Teacher

"I'm proud of living in Hull because there's lots of people and they're all different."

Pupil

"I felt excited a lot because I was learning lots of new things."

Pupil

"I felt hopeful after we'd built our own model city because I was thinking about what the future could be like."

Pupil

Notes from the comments wall

"Model City made me feel happy. Because it's inspiring children to become involved in Hull and what will make them better."

"Like there was an opportunity to change and help our future for the better."

"Model City made me feel inspired to look at things in a new way."

"It made me feel confused as in the future Hull will probably have nobody living here as it will be overpopulated at a point and full of plastic."



Thank you

A massive thank you and congratulations to the artist Dan Jones and to facilitators Seth Scafe-Smith and Akil Scafe-Smith of RESOLVE Collective.

We would like to thank everyone who supported Model City by offering their time, work spaces or materials during the project:

William Blyth
Matt Broadhead, Dean Handly and Terry Smith (Street Scene)
Emma Brown (Living With Water)
DoubleTree by Hilton Hull
Fone World
Matthew Green (Yorkshire Ambulance Service, NHS Trust)
Hares & Graces
Richard Henderson (Queens House Building Manager)
Hull City Council
Hull Clinical Commissioning Group
Hull Libraries and Makerspace (part of Hull Culture & Leisure Ltd)
St Stephen's Shopping Centre
Dr Sujitha Selvarajah
PC Ian Sweeney and Cindy the police dog (Humberside Police)
Virgin Money



Model City Steering Group

Natasha Banke, Susan Cairns, Ruth Drake, Susan Lee, Melissa Cooper, Gabriela Surdyk, Lisa Wedgner

We offer huge thanks to the staff and the children from Bricknell Primary School, Newington Academy and Woodland Primary School for their contribution to this work.

Bricknell Primary School

Calan, Charlie, Chung, Lacey, Lexi May, Tyler

Newington Academy

Elsie, Ionut, Jak, Kai, Miya, Rania

Woodland Primary School

Alan, Isabelle, Lydia, Tommy, Tyler, Zain



Official Funding Partners



Report Author: Tom Brennan, Brennan Research Ltd.

Design and Layout: Tom Stevens Design. Model City Illustrations: Chi He

Our thanks go to the Absolutely Cultured project team and the amazing volunteers for their support and co-operation in securing the data that informs the findings of this booklet.