



**WHY DO ARTS
IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE
MATTER?**

ARTS IN CRIMINAL JUSTICE HAVE THE POWER TO...



TRANSFORM LIVES

Art, design and creativity have the power to **transform lives** – enabling personal development and fostering positive relationships



REDUCE CRIME

Arts and cultural opportunities can help **reduce crime** by **unlocking untapped talent, improving wellbeing** and boosting employability



CHALLENGE STEREOTYPES

Exhibitions and performances **engage wider communities** and **challenge negative stereotypes** about people with criminal records



ENHANCE ART AND CULTURE

Art produced by **diverse and unheard voices** enhances art and **culture for all**

“I would be lost without art. Back in the system.”

Project participant

“The nature of the art produced in the criminal justice system leads to a richer cultural exchange and more diverse stories. There is lots to gain from this work and it is a prize worth fighting for.”

Richard Russell, CEO, Arts Council England

“That which I have not felt capable of, has now become possible.”

Project participant

“I have witnessed the profound impact of the arts to build hope, empathy and resilience – changing people and prisons and helping people make different life choices and embark on a crime free future.”

Governor at HMP Drake Hall

WHAT'S THE EVIDENCE?

Leading evidence from academia¹ and the Ministry of Justice² indicates that **the arts support the process of desistance from crime** by fostering empathy, building family connections and playing a role in restorative justice.

Research also suggests using **the arts in criminal justice settings is cost effective**³, can **improve safety and wellbeing**⁴ in prisons and communities, and can support the **professional development** of artists and of criminal justice practitioners.

See the National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance's internationally renowned digital Evidence Library for evaluations of arts in criminal justice settings.

www.artsevidence.org.uk

WHAT WE WANT TO SEE

- **Sustainable, high quality arts** across the criminal justice sector, where the art produced is **valued and celebrated** by the public and politicians alike
- Quality arts **embedded in all aspects of prison and probation settings** – across education, health, rehabilitation and resettlement
- **Arts and culture supporting all those in the criminal justice system**, including women and people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds, to flourish in all aspects of their lives
- Cultural pathways to support people in the criminal justice system into **employment in the creative industries**.



WHAT WE DO

The National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance aims to ensure all those in the criminal justice system get access to arts and culture as a springboard to positive change. We do this by providing a network for artists, arts organisations and criminal justice practitioners delivering innovative work across the country. We influence policy, improve research, encourage effective practice and raise the profile of the arts in criminal justice sector.

“There are many good examples of how cultural interventions can benefit prisoners, ex-offenders and people at risk of becoming involved in crime.”

Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, Culture White Paper

“Through being creative we can innovate, we can imagine a better future and then realise it.”

Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England

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JOIN US

The National Criminal Justice Arts Alliance provides a vital network for those working in arts and criminal justice.

Join us to add your voice to a national coalition that believes in the positive impact of the arts in criminal justice.

BECOME A MEMBER FOR FREE...

www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk/membership



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1. Anderson, Colvin, McNeill, Nellis, Overy, Sparks & Tett. (2011). Inspiring Change. Online: www.artsevidence.org.uk/media/uploads/evaluation-downloads/mc-inspiring-change-april-2011.pdf (last accessed: 10.10.2018)
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3. New Philanthropy Capital. (2011). Unlocking Value: The economic benefit of the arts in criminal justice. Online: www.artsincriminaljustice.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/Unlocking-Value-NPC-Alliance-Report-October-2011-FINAL.pdf (last accessed: 10.10.2018)
4. Cox & Gellthorpe. (2008). Beats and Bars. Online: www.artsevidence.org.uk/media/uploads/evaluation-downloads/mip-beats-and-bars-2008.pdf (last accessed: 10.10.2018)