

## Report back to The Funding Network

### 1. Name of your organisation and date funded by TFN:

The Lightbox  
November 2012

### 2. What was the project you sought funding for from TFN?

What are its aims and objectives? Have these changed since receiving TFN funding?

The project funded by TFN was Art in Mind (previously named Arts 4 Dementia). This was a series of art workshops for people in the early stages of dementia and their carers, led by an artist. The emphasis was on simple art activities, inspired by works from the Ingram Collection of Modern and Contemporary British Art, but an important element was the opportunity for social interaction and discussion about particular art works.

There are currently very few programmes for the elderly on offer in major arts venues and research has shown that participation in arts activities has significantly positive effects and can prolong the ability of people with dementia to play an active part in society. Responding to these findings, The Lightbox was keen to engage with adults in the early stages of dementia and provide an opportunity for the participant and their carer/supporter to learn a new skill together in The Lightbox.

### 3. Were you able to do this work as you described it in your application and presentation?

Yes

No

What evidence do you have for the success or failure of the funded project?

We were not able to deliver as many sessions as we had initially hoped, however, the funding allowed us to receive staff and volunteer dementia training, deliver a pilot project of four, fortnightly sessions and to produce an evaluation report. The pilot enabled us to establish the success or otherwise of this model of working and we are confident that our approach and method of working were correct and successful.

### 4. If you were not able, please explain what happened and why?

Can you quantify any changes? Eg ...expanding number of employees, number of projects, geographical scope.

It became apparent that training for staff and volunteers on the project was essential – something that had not initially been part of our funding application. The cost of this, as well as higher evaluation fees, reduced the number of Art in Mind sessions we could deliver.

The number of participants in the sessions was lower than expected – 3 people with dementia plus their carers attended. We have learned that word of mouth is particularly important in reaching this particular group of people and that it will take time to develop a network of carers and supporters, essential to encouraging people with dementia to participate.

**5. Can you measure, assess or describe the change that happened as a result of this work?**

What actual change did the funded project generate? What proportion of the project/work did TFN fund (eg all/x%)?

As a result of the project, The Lightbox has become a Dementia Friendly Surrey Champion. Staff and volunteers are more aware of the needs of people with dementia and related organisations now recognise The Lightbox as a place of safety and accessibility. TFN funded 100% of the Art in Mind pilot project. The success of the project has enabled us to raise additional funding to continue the Art in Mind work for a further 12 months. The first five sessions are now fully booked.

**6. As a result of presenting at TFN, did you experience any of the following;**

- new subscribers to your mailing list
- new volunteers to your organisation
- further funding from individual donors
- further funding from institutional funders
- an introduction that benefited your organisation (e.g. to an individual, business or other organisation)
- other benefit (please describe)

As a result of presenting at TFN, we have been able to deliver a successful project which has led to further funding from the Dementia Friendly Surrey Innovation Fund. We have been introduced to potential partners in social adult care and dementia support, which we are hopeful will lead to further funding for Art in Mind. The Lightbox staff have benefited from dementia awareness training and the organisation is now a Dementia Friendly Champion.

**7. Could you give us an estimate of how many people have been reached by the TFN funded project/work and by how much?**

Six people took part in the Art in Mind pilot project (three people with dementia and their carers). The impact of the work on two of those three was particularly positive and they have signed up for the next sessions due to start in April. The impact on the staff and volunteers has also been positive. There is a team of 2 staff members, an artist and 6 volunteers directly involved in the project and all have found it a life-enhancing experience. 3 members of Front of House staff also took part in dementia awareness training and found it highly beneficial to their understanding of the condition and their roles in the organisation.

**8. Can you tell us any personal stories to highlight the value of funding from TFN?**

One of the common side effects of living with dementia is that people who have hitherto led lives of responsibility and sometimes influence, are now in the position of being cared for and without authority. This role reversal, which often takes place within marriages, can be difficult to adjust to. This was the case with one of the couples who participated in the Art in Mind pilot project, but it was extremely rewarding for the gentleman with dementia, who was an experienced amateur artist, to be able to encourage and support his wife at the sessions, who had never done any art work before. She was deeply touched by his pride in her and also felt her own sense of achievement.

An unexpected, but pleasing outcome of the project is that, as a result of the relationship made during the sessions, one of the volunteers on the team, who is a retired nurse, has

offered to provide some respite time to one of the carers, which has been gratefully accepted.

**9. Since presenting at TFN, has your organisation undergone any significant change(s) which our donors would be interested to know about (these changes do not need to be related to the experience of presenting at TFN).**

Since presenting at TFN we have taken part in a major national project funded by The Paul Hamlyn Foundation which aims to help museums and galleries work more closely in partnership with their local community. This has widened our reach into the community and given community members a voice in the type of projects they would like us to help them deliver. This has been a new way of thinking and has greatly increased community participation and the delivery of an increased number of programmes, some with older people and with those with learning difficulties.

**10. Do you have any other comments regarding TFN funding?**

We are grateful to TFN for enabling us to begin this important work and look forward to future possible partnerships.

**11. Can you please include any relevant photos or clips that may relate to the project.**

The evaluation report by Susan Potter is attached, which includes photos from the Art in Mind sessions.