



# REPURPOSE AND CULTURAL REGENERATION

**9 Bridge Street, Newport**

# THE PEOPLE ARE THE CITY

Tin Shed Theatre Co are pleased to announce their success in securing an Arts Council of Wales grant entitled 'The People are the City' to support their development to consult, research and begin investigation to repurpose the 2 spaces for a number of social and cultural purposes.

The People are the City is a multi-partnership project taking place in the city of Newport.

Using art and community creation as the vehicle, the partnering organisations seek to discover a new focus of cultural regeneration through 3 strands:

1. Outreach, Skill building and growing grassroots cultural and creative provision.
2. Investigating redevelopment of Social and cultural infrastructure, re-imagining our cityscape vs landscapes and reconnecting to Heritage.
3. Arts and business Development, strengthening collaborations, sustainability and resilience.

The People are the City is a collaboration between Newport City Homes, Tin Shed Theatre Co. CADW, Newport Fusion, Newport Museum and Heritage Service managed by Newport City Council, Newport Youth Academy, Friars Walk Shopping Centre, Maindee Unlimited, Arts Agenda and Wales Co-op.

Through a common value system, each organisation is linked to the project by social aims at the core of their strategic focus. Each organisation involved focuses on how best to enrich the social, cultural and economical environment around us through collaboration, diversification and social purpose

# THE SPACE

## **The Building. Ground floor Art and Community Space**

At present TSTC envisages the downstairs space, previously St Paul's Church would be a number of independent community and arts spaces, sub leased and managed through TSTC, we anticipate that we will design a number of studios that are linked via a number of social and communal actions and spaces. These may include: The reinstatement of the foodbank, a communal social and cafe space, a community kitchen, a small, pop up event space and lounge area.

The primary function of these spaces are to allow for local community groups, independent artists and a number of organisations a place to deliver their provision. TSTC are currently working on a project with Sgilliau and Newport youth academy to create a pop up shop.

## **Pending further agreements: Unit 2 The Electric**

We anticipate. In the future, this space will allow us to host larger scale workshops and events, allowing for the exploration of larger groups to gather for activities. We would hope to advertise this as a multi functional arts space.

TSTC would agree to initially instate a pilot version in the downstairs area as an independent event space, they will produce their own theatrical work and host national and international artists, this will allow the company and visitors to share in a thriving city centre art and event space.

Management: TSTC, with a background in event management, social, community and cultural work are highly skilled in managing, curating and repurposing space. To date the company has worked with a number of organisations to manage and construct spaces in empty retail units, terraced houses, warehouses and other spaces resulting in a thriving arts and cultural community. TSTC have worked to develop processes and procedures for the effective management and curation of such spaces, ensuring for the safe delivery of multidisciplinary activity.

# RESEARCH



Our current research has taken place in practice in Unit 9 Friars walk. Supported and gifted by the shopping centre, TSTC has a 18 month full diary of community groups and artists showcasing work and social activity in and from the space.

It is evident that there is a need for this provision in Newport and we are excited about the possibility to explore this project with a number of exciting partners.



TSTC will undertake a further extensive research and development phase to interrogate community groups and Newport residents on the functionality and need of this type of venue. They will also visit other community and social initiatives across the UK.



TSTC have identified that alongside the loft UK Newport Market regeneration and influx of visitors into the city to access these new social spaces, 9 Bridge Street with its close proximity to the train station, sits at a gateway point and route.

With the correct investment this building could act as an immediate visual signifier to culture and vibrant regeneration across the city.



# IMPROVEMENT AND DEVELOPMENTS

The initial development focus will be to employ a number of local artists to regenerate the external fascia of the building.

Focusing on the cultural history of Newport, its iconic status as Ritzy's club and Newport's thriving historical arts and music cultures, we want to create bespoke public art pieces on the side and front of the building that feel vibrant, eye-catching and newport-centric.



@MollyMURAL

The front piece will also be the signage for the new and developing arts space.



Further ideas for development are: Community garden space, the use of the car park for food markets, outdoor events, artwork external to the building.



Current partners and Stakeholders: Newport City Homes, Newport Youth Academy, Friars Walk, CADW, Fusion project, Arts Council Wales, Sgilliau, Newport Youth Academy, Riverfront Theatre, BID newport.