



## Flow Observatorium: Report of 2018 - 2019

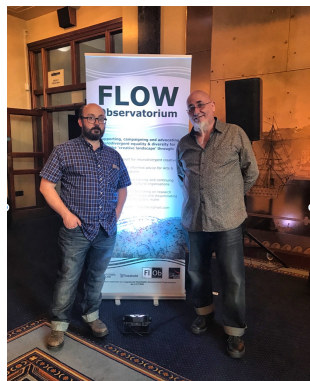
2018-19 we had a busy year plus a few challenges but in March 2018 we successfully registered as a CIO and spent time establishing ourselves as a 'go to' organisation to promote Neurodivergent equality, equity and respect for Neurodivergent people in the creative landscape.



During the year we have been actively campaigning as a catalyst for change towards greater equality and diversity amongst the arts and advocating for Arts Council and organisations to recognise and support Neurodivergent artists. We have advised and encouraged autistic artists over the year and we hope in the near future to encourage the set up of autistic 'safe places' and focus on peer and mental health support which is often lacking but vital.



We attended World Autism awareness day at Gunwharf Quays where the Spinnaker Tower was lit up gold with the encouragement of several autistic led groups. We have advised organisations, Neurodivergent artists, policy influencers, politicians and researchers during the year. We are now part of 'Portsmouth Autism Community forum', linked with 'Autism Hampshire', the local Council and have promoted Flow at various events.



As we received no funding during this year we have had to rely on the generosity of organisations and people giving their time, space and energy both to work with us and support us. Our Artistic director, a well known Neurodivergent artist and advocate has spent every opportunity to speak out for change and recognition.

During the year as part of his advocacy and creative practice, he's appeared in Peter Bazalgette's book 'art of empathy' and spoken on Neurodivergent Culture at 'Hay Festival at Ruskin Mill', Edinburgh Film Festival, and the Scottish Autism Conference in Glasgow. He has also had artwork on show in London and was commissioned to make work for 'Confronting Boundaries' Festival at the Royal Academy. He also went to INSAR in Rotterdam to record interviews with many autism researchers. All these events gave him opportunities to speak about and promote Flow's ideals and Neurodivergent equality and diversity.



In September we had a very successful launch in Portsmouth Guildhall where the Portsmouth Cultural Trust have kindly provided us with a base. The launch brought together distinguished members of the local community and autistic people from afar. Among many others, our local MP Stephen Morgan spoke about the importance of the issues we hope to tackle and American writer Steve Silberman (Neurotribes) broadcast a message of solidarity for Flow from the USA. We also had a reading of the Neurodivergent Arts Manifesto now in use worldwide. In addition to this, we gave recognition through an award (a Flob Mark) to Filskit Theatre Company for their support of Neurodivergent creatives, who our autistic director advised and has worked with on other creative projects.



### Flow Observatorium

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Registered Charity Number: 1177328