

Document 4 Environmental and Sustainability Policy

Inclusive Performing Arts Community Interest Company

Date: 18/07/2025

1. Introduction

At Inclusive Performing Arts CIC, we are committed to promoting sustainability and minimizing our environmental impact across all areas of our operations. As an inclusive performing arts organization, we believe it is essential to align our activities with the principles of environmental responsibility to create a better future for both the SEND young people we work with and the wider community. This policy outlines our approach to integrating environmental and sustainability practices in our programs, events, and organizational processes.

2. Objectives

Our primary sustainability objectives are:

- To reduce our carbon footprint by using sustainable materials and energy-efficient practices.
- To foster awareness about environmental issues among young people with SEND.
- To support inclusivity and accessibility through environmentally responsible practices.
- To create a sustainable environment for our one-day festival and all associated events.

3. Commitment to Sustainability

We are committed to:

- Promoting environmental sustainability in our artistic programming, outreach, and education.
- Leading by example and encouraging all stakeholders (staff, participants, volunteers, and audience) to adopt sustainable practices.
- Engaging SEND young people in activities that teach environmental awareness through creative expression.

4. Key Areas of Focus

4.1 Sustainable Event Planning

For our one-day festival and other events, we will ensure:

- **Eco-friendly Venues:** Choosing venues with sustainable operations, such as energy-efficient lighting, water-saving facilities, and waste reduction programs.
- **Digital Materials:** Reducing printed materials in favour of digital communications to reduce paper waste.

- **Public Transport & Carpooling:** Encouraging all participants, staff, and audience members to use public transport, carpool, or use eco-friendly travel options.
- **Zero Waste:** Implementing waste management practices including the use of compostable or recyclable materials for food, drinks, and other event-related items.
- **Sustainable Merchandise:** If selling merchandise, we will focus on eco-friendly products and packaging that align with our sustainability goals.

4.2 Environmental Education and Awareness

As part of our inclusive programming, we will:

- **Workshops on Sustainability:** Incorporate workshops and activities that explore environmental topics, encouraging SEND young people to use creative arts as a way to express their commitment to sustainability.
- **Sustainable Art:** Encourage the use of upcycled or sustainably sourced materials for costumes, props, and stage designs during performances and workshops.
- **Awareness Campaigns:** Provide opportunities for SEND young people to engage in environmental awareness campaigns through performance pieces, helping them to develop a deeper understanding of their role in protecting the environment.

4.3 Resource Efficiency

In the day-to-day operations of our organization, we will:

- **Energy Efficiency:** Prioritize energy-efficient lighting, heating, and appliances for rehearsals, workshops, and other activities.
- **Water Conservation:** Encourage water-saving practices at all our venues and activities, reducing our water usage wherever possible.
- **Waste Management:** Implement strategies to minimize waste, such as reducing single-use plastic, and ensuring proper recycling facilities are available at all events and in our offices.

4.4 Inclusive and Accessible Sustainability

We are committed to ensuring that our environmental initiatives are accessible and inclusive for SEND young people. This includes:

- Designing sustainable programs that are adaptable to various abilities and needs.
- Ensuring accessibility at all events by providing necessary accommodations such as sensory-friendly environments, accessible entrances, and alternative communication methods.

5. Actions and Implementation

To ensure the successful implementation of this policy, we will:

- **Establish a Sustainability Team:** Form a dedicated team to oversee the implementation of sustainability initiatives, track progress, and suggest improvements.
- **Create an Action Plan:** Develop and monitor a comprehensive action plan with specific targets, timelines, and responsibilities for all sustainable practices across events and programs.
- **Engage with Partners:** Work with suppliers, partners, and sponsors who share our values around sustainability and inclusivity, ensuring that they align with our environmental standards.
- **Regular Reporting and Evaluation:** Continuously evaluate our environmental and sustainability efforts through feedback from participants, staff, and the community. We will report on our progress and make necessary adjustments to our practices as needed.

6. Monitoring and Review

This policy will be reviewed annually to ensure it remains relevant and effective in achieving our sustainability goals. Any updates will be communicated to all stakeholders involved in our programs and events.

7. Conclusion

At Inclusive Performing Arts, we believe in the power of arts to bring positive change, both creatively and environmentally. By integrating sustainability into every aspect of our work, from workshops to performances to our one-day festival, we are ensuring that our actions today contribute to a healthier, more inclusive, and sustainable future for all.