

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Venture Arts secures £147,000 of Elevate funding from the Arts Council**

Venture Arts is delighted to announce that it has secured £147,000 funding from the Arts Council England’s Elevate Fund, which aims to strengthen the resilience of organisations who are working towards the creative case for diversity.

The funding will be used over the next 18 months to build on the progressive work Venture Arts do in the North West to support and promote learning disabled artists, and continue to champion equality, diversity and artistic excellence in contemporary visual arts.

Developments will include a new studio space in addition to the current studio in Hulme, Manchester, which will allow more emerging artists to develop their own personal practice and work with other lead artists in the field. This grant will also help the organisation to diversify its income streams to become a stronger more resilient organisation in order to grow and develop its artistic programme reaching out across the North of England

Amanda Sutton, Director of Venture Arts said: “We are over the moon to receive this funding from Arts Council England. With our current ACE funded project OutsiderXchanges already in progress, this feels like the perfect time to build on the momentum and springboard our organisation into an exciting future.

Our OutsiderXchanges project will be presented at the Manchester Contemporary in September. Our other plans include a symposium on Tuesday 18 October, hosted at the BALTIC Centre for Contemporary Arts, to discuss collaborative practice in contemporary visual art, and present the work of emerging artists both with and without learning disabilities. We’re really excited about embarking on further projects and reaching a wider audience with our work.”

Howard Rifkin, Chair of the Board of Trustees said: “This funding marks an exciting and ambitious new phase for Venture Arts. It will enable the organisation to offer further opportunities to emerging and exciting visual artists in the North West. It also enables our team to share their best practice with other leaders in the field, to work towards a greater diversity in the visual arts on a national level.”

**For more information about this and other projects Venture Arts are developing please contact Amanda Sutton / Emma Bosworth on** **amanda@venturearts.org** **/ info@venturearts.org or call on 0161 232 1223**

Note to editors:

**Venture Arts** is a progressive visual arts charity based in Hulme, Manchester. It works with learning disabled artists to create and showcase exciting new collaborative visual art work using a range of art mediums including Illustration, Photography, Moving image, Animation, Textile art, Ceramics and Art as Environment. The organisation’s vision is to see learning disabled people play a valued and valuable role within arts and culture as artists, critics, audiences, advocates and workers. It delivers a huge range of visual arts projects all year round working with over 200 people and runs work schemes that help learning disabled people to work and volunteer in cultural and educational environments. Artists from Venture Arts have had their work exhibited locally, nationally and internationally.

**For more information follow on social media:**

**Facebook:** [**www.facebook.com/VentureArtsManchester**](http://www.facebook.com/VentureArtsManchester)

**Twitter:** [**@VentureArts**](https://twitter.com/VentureArts)

**OutsiderXchanges** is a collaborative visual arts project bringing together learning disabled & non-learning disabled artists to develop new artwork & ideas.

**For more information visit the online blog: www.outsiderxchanges.com**