



DISCOVERY PLANET C.I.C.



Impact Report 2023- 2024

10 years of innovative engagement & community learning

Discovery Planet is an award-winning grassroots organisation which was set up in 2014 to bring accessible, enriching, creative and educational experiences to the heart of our underserved community. Since then, over 26,000+ visits have been made to our interactive workshops, and we are nationally celebrated for excellence in community engagement.

Since February 2022 we have operated from a commercial unit on Ramsgate High Street, a former optician's shop. This good-sized, prominently positioned venue has enabled us to reach a larger audience, and increase our number of collaborations. We understand that our innovative project is the only one of its kind operating in the U.K.

Our Mission:

- To deliver a programme of enriching educational activities, with an emphasis on STEM
- To broaden participation by listening to our community & removing barriers to taking part
- To enhance our offer by collaborating with a range of individuals, organisations, and businesses
- To maintain a creative, innovative approach, pushing boundaries to inspire participants
- To create opportunities for work experience and volunteering
- To contribute to a vibrant High Street
- To provide infrastructure support to other individuals and organisations, so that they can deliver activities of benefit to the community



Winner Royal Society of Chemistry Inclusion and Diversity Prize 2024

Shortlisted Creative Lives Award 2024

Winner South East Physics Network Award for Innovation 2023

Winner Ramsgate Society Civic Champion Award 2022

Winner The Ogden Trust Award for Longitudinal Projects to Widen Participation 2022



Our Impact



3,502
individuals
attended our
workshops
and events

1,654 primary school
children attended interactive,
curriculum enriching workshops
linking cutting edge research to
the world around them

In response to demand, we extended the range of topics we cover and linked-in with national initiatives.
For example:

- We worked with Christ Church Canterbury University to deliver **12** creative writing workshops to schools and family groups, as part of the Being Human Festival, the UK's national Festival of the Humanities.
- We co-created an exhibition with Pie Factory Music, to celebrate the positive contribution and resilience of displaced people, as part of Refugee Week 2023. This was attended by **58** members of the public
'The Discovery Planet team are such nice people: it's a pleasure to collaborate with them' **Youth worker**

151 45-minute-long workshops covered **11** different topics including solar energy; exploring the moonscape; spider venom and bio-pesticides; materials science; creative writing; birth and motherhood.

We continued to build relationships with **5** schools for young people with special educational needs (S.E.N.) and offered them specially tailored sessions
"Truly inspired provision, hands on, interactive and an absolute pleasure to attend. Staff are friendly and accommodating to the needs of our children" **Key Stage 3 teacher at local S.E.N. School**



Our events showcased the activities of **5** local businesses: SGS Energy; Cummins; Venomtech; A4P Bio and Discovery Park.
"We loved working with you on [the Cummins Lego challenge], we were all buzzing with passion and enthusiasm after the event" **Cummins employee**

61 volunteers assisted in the delivery of workshops and events.
"The work experience I have had at Discovery Planet has inspired me to pursue my education at University." **6th form student**

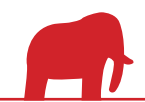
Invited by The National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement (NCCPE) to present our work to an international audience at **1** conference

We provided space and capacity building support to at least **8** other organisations, including

- Kent Coast Volunteering: Weekly advice and volunteer recruitment drop-in
- Sandra Art for All: A 4-week Open Studio and Exhibition for artists, with a range of abilities and learning impairments *"this has been one of the most valuable experiences for Art4All as a group... The Discovery Planet venue was the perfect space in terms of size and light for our Artists to work in and show off their artwork on the walls. It looked and felt so calming, which is important for our unique group of Artists."*
- Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust: Health and wellbeing advice
- Happy Mondays Project: Weekly creative arts sessions to build social connections and promote volunteering
- We hosted Ramsgate Festival of the Senses, Festival of Sound and Santa's Grotto

At least **20** scientists, engineers and researchers from other fields have had the opportunity to develop their skills in public engagement

Winner of **1** prestigious prize for Inclusion and Diversity from the Royal Society of Chemistry; and shortlisted for 1 Creative Lives Award





Cover photo and top left this page Jaron James. All others Pete Bateson

Huge thanks are due to our supporters, including...

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London Array | The Nineveh Trust | People's Postcode Trust
Kent Community Foundation | Arts Council England
Ramsgate Town Council

www.discoveryplanet.co.uk

Instagram: @discovery_planet_0 | Facebook: @DiscoveryPlanetUK | LinkedIn: Discovery Planet C.I.C
Contact us via info@discoveryplanet.co.uk

