

## Digital culture network: Digital inclusion award

### Introduction to Walk the Plank and Green Space Dark Skies

[Walk the Plank's](#) team of outdoor art experts work together to dream up, create and produce outstanding moments of outdoor theatre and participation. We have a long track record of making large-scale events and festivals that bring people together in public celebration. This is based on our ability to come up with big ideas that connect with people from all paths in life.

Storytelling is at the heart of nearly everything we do, and the arena for our work is the great outdoors. Our mission is to enrich lives through shared creative experiences.

Walk the Plank was commissioned by Unboxed: Creativity in the UK, to deliver Green Space Dark Skies across the UK in 2022.

Green Space Dark Skies is the largest project Walk the Plank has undertaken, with 20 events delivered in 16 locations across the four nations of the UK within six months. Each event had different production teams, directors, creatives and participants producing 16 short, free to watch films produced in partnership with CC Lab.

Open to all, each mass gathering celebrated nature, our responsibility to protect it and everyone's right to explore the countryside. Green Space Dark Skies invited thousands of people, from all paths in life, to make a journey into the landscape together. There, they experienced beautiful landscapes - National Parks and Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty - across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland as dusk fell.

### Inclusive participation

Educating and encouraging everyone, from all walks of life, to understand that they have the right to roam our landscapes and that we all have a duty to protect it was at the forefront of our minds when formulating this project. We also placed emphasis on reaching those with less confidence or perceived ability to get out into their local green areas.

Through working with local directors, creatives and participants we welcomed people from all ages, backgrounds and areas of the UK to help create a live artwork, to explore green areas they didn't know they could and to make new friends and new memories.

### Feedback from some Participants and Groups who took part in Green Space Dark Skies:

"I wanted to share my experience of being a Lumenator participant at the first Green Space Dark Skies during Ramadan and how it changed the way I see my role as a Steward of the Earth.

I was a little apprehensive at first if we would manage to take part with our kids and while fasting! but something was spurring me on and I spoke to Gareth, one of the organisers to ask if it would be possible to take some time out from rehearsals at 8.21pm to break our fast and pray. He was more than happy to accommodate us with our request, the on-site café offered us hot drinks and refreshments.

We prayed and broke our fast comfortably with a fantastic view of Ilam Park in the Peak District. It was a serene evening, a multi-sensory experience with so much beauty, imagery, sound to absorb. We have never done anything like this during Ramadan and so we were really out of our comfort zone but found everyone so friendly and full of energy which definitely made the difference.

During our experience we were ripples of the Sun's reflection (using our geolights) gleaming on the River Manifold at the bottom of the beautiful valley. So much of what I learnt and experienced that evening

resonated with me as a Muslim. As we listened on our headsets to the Spoken Word piece 'Right to Roam' read by Sophie Sparham with music by Pete Moser - it really brought home to me this Earth in all its glory.

I'm so grateful to have been part of such a wonderful experience, being exposed to all the elements, the lush greenery, the open fields, the visual performances, the choir, the sound of the water gushing downstream. Last Ramadan was filled with blessings for me, renewed connection and grounding with the Earth.

My experience of the Green Space Dark Skies inspired me to share my love of nature and all things environmentally conscious, so I went about organising Leicester's first Green Deen Ethical Multifaith Iftar with support from the Green Guardians Leicester, The City Retreat and The Rabbani Project.

#### **Member of the Muslim Hikers Group - Peak District National Park**

"I want to say a huge thank you to you from Grace The Space Group and the women who came with us on the day to Green Space Dark Skies. What a delight! It was really wonderful to see the women enjoying the event, each other's company and creativity in nature. So lovely to be in community again, too. The atmosphere was so relaxed and also vibrant. I think it was a really rich gift to everyone there - the blend of different community groups - I spoke with people of all ages and cultural backgrounds, those with special needs. The whole day really embodied the 'Everyone's Welcome' and the 'Anything's Possible'!"

#### **Grace The Space Group - Dorset AONB**

"Absolutely beautiful and so fresh to see different people feeling part of this land...we are all here together in this story...every voice, every person. Gorgeous powerful images and stunning music woven with strong poetic words thank you so much."

#### **Participant - Three Cliffs Bay, Gower AONB**

"Enjoyed the spectacle. My 91-year-old Mum loved it. Our house was owned by a sea captain who sailed a 3-masted Schooner, transporting copper to the new world in the early 1900's."

#### **Participant – Anglesey: Mynydd Parys (Parys Mountain) and Amlwch Harbour**

You can see all the event short films on our [website](#) or [You Tube Channel](#)