

Thursday, 10 November 2022

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND CONTINUES INVESTING IN B-SIDE ON THE ISLE OF PORTLAND

Following the national announcement on Friday November 4<sup>th</sup>, b-side are delighted to announce that the organisation continues to be part of the Arts Council's National Portfolio.

b-side is one of the cultural organisations to benefit from an investment boost of over £15 million in Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole, sustaining ten transformative organisations bringing accessible culture and creativity county-wide.

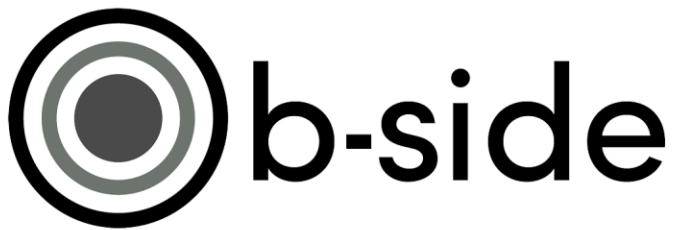
Phil Gibby, Area Director, South West, Arts Council England said:

***“We’re pleased to offer continued regular investment to b-side festival through the Arts Council’s 2023-26 National Portfolio programme.***

***Their unique approach brings communities together to celebrate the cultural and creative identity on the rural Isle of Portland in Dorset. Their fantastic collaborative approach inspires audiences and artists alike, and reaches across Dorset and further afield. We can’t wait to see them continue to develop their offer over the next three years.***

***This renewed funding helps us to achieve the vision we set out in our strategy Let’s Create – so that there are more opportunities to take part in creativity, and be inspired no matter where we live.”***

The 2022 Festival attracted over 5,500 visits to b-side's four day festival with nearly 2000 people being actively involved as participants or creators. The Festival took place all over Portland, opening up and making accessible many spaces and venues, encouraging visitors to enjoy the landscape from foot or bike as they travelled between festival artworks. b-side is committed to sharing the unique landscape of Portland with artists and communities to bring investment and opportunities to the Isle and Dorset in a sustainable and environmentally aware way.



Rocca Holly-Nambi, Executive Director for b-side said,

***“We are delighted b-side and the Isle of Portland has been awarded ongoing investment through Arts Council England’s National Portfolio.***

***Everything we do is inspired by Portland - how its landscape, culture, and myths resonate way beyond its borders. Everything we create is made by and between the people who live on and visit our magical island.***

***Join us 7 - 10 September 2023 and discover the stories, ideas and imaginations Portland has to offer.”***

- ENDS -

#### **Boilerplate:**

##### **Further information about the Arts Council:**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let’s Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk).

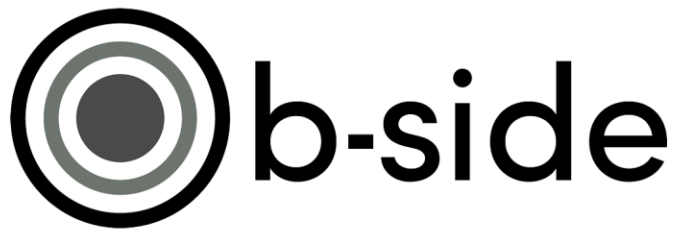
Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million Emergency Response Package, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of the bodies responsible for administering the Government’s unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

##### **FURTHER INFO ON B-SIDE:**

b-side is an internationally recognised and locally loved arts organisation that both embodies and enriches its place of origin – the Isle of Portland in Dorset.

b-side invite artists, residents, and researchers to create unique and inventive projects inspired by the themes of ‘people’ and ‘place’. Hosting big discussions on topics that affect us both locally and globally and create art that exists in unusual and unexpected places.

Underpinning b-side’s approach is the recognition of the need for sustainable tourism. Providing opportunities for everyone to experience Portland in a way that respects and benefits the island and those who live and work there.



b-side have a year round programme of events and projects and produce the b-side festival, which brings new, unique art to local audiences and visitors alike, sharing incredible stories about and with the Isle of Portland, as well as the rest of the world.

b-side is run by a collaborative team of artists, producers and curators with experience in visual arts, live art, performance, social practice, heritage, environment and arts education.

The next b-side festival will take place on Portland 07 – 10 September 2023.

**PRESS IMAGES [HERE](#)**

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