

THIS LAND B-SIDE FESTIVAL 2023

HEADLINE FEEDBACK REPORT



B-SIDE'S INTENDED OUTCOMES



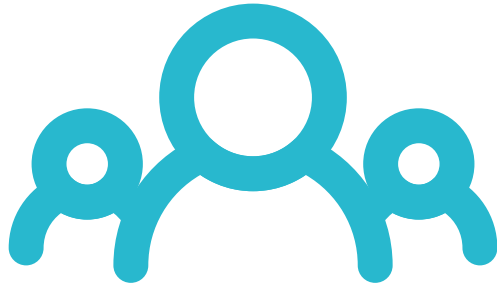
b-side's ambitious programme of creative collaboration, between the community on Portland and local, national and international artists, is strengthening local recognition of the importance of culture and creativity in their own right, and their role in all of our health and wellbeing.



b-side is enabling more people living and/or working on Portland to participate in arts and heritage activities, to work with each other, to acquire new interests and skills and to contribute to the decisions that promote and protect the island's culture, environment and heritage.



b-side is a socially, environmentally and financially sustainable organisation serving the Isle of Portland and benefiting a wider population of artists and audiences. By highlighting Portland as a microcosm of global issues, b-side is attracting supporters, collaborators and commentators from well beyond its physical borders.



6,587

Visits to festival sites (inc estimates for non invigilated work)



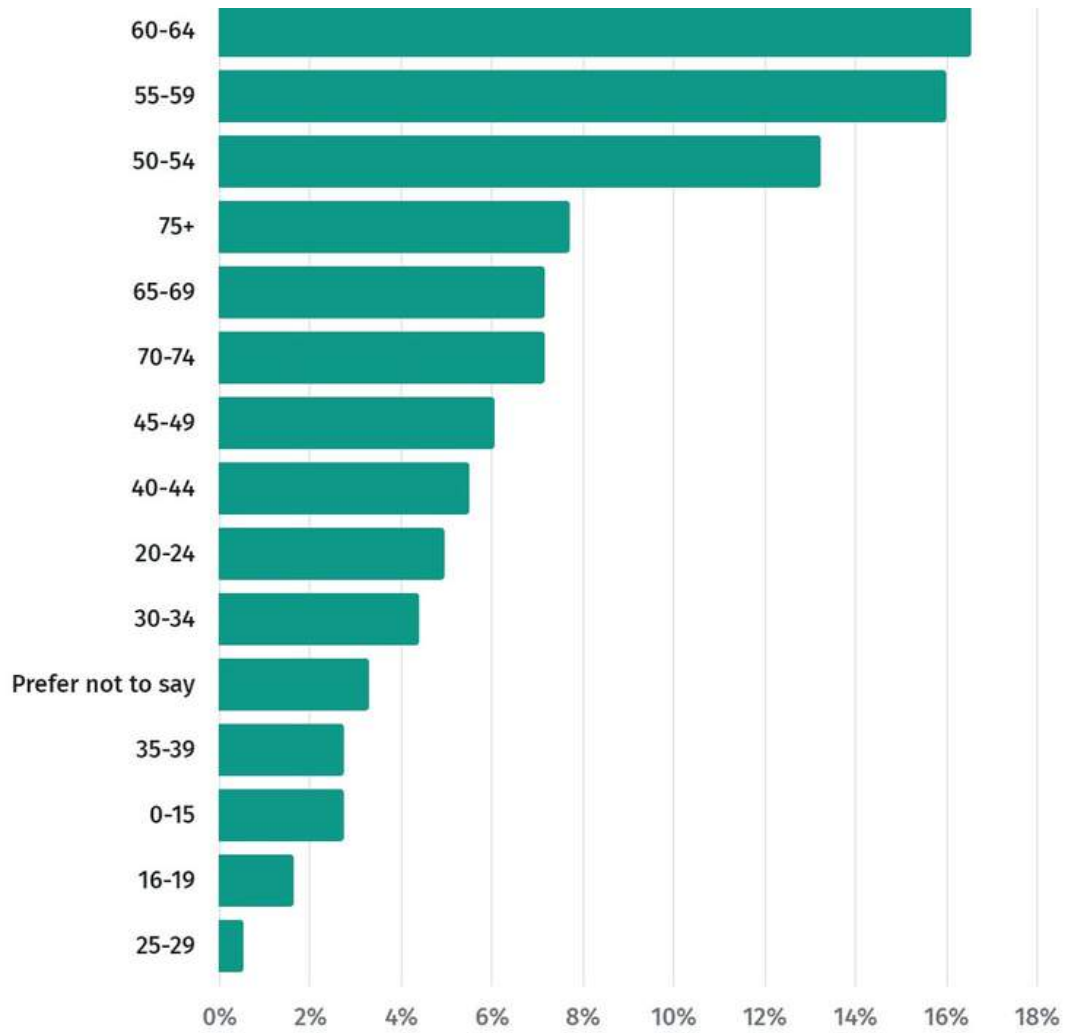
641

people participated in festival workshops,



138

People came on a b-side walk or guided tour in the Portland Landscape



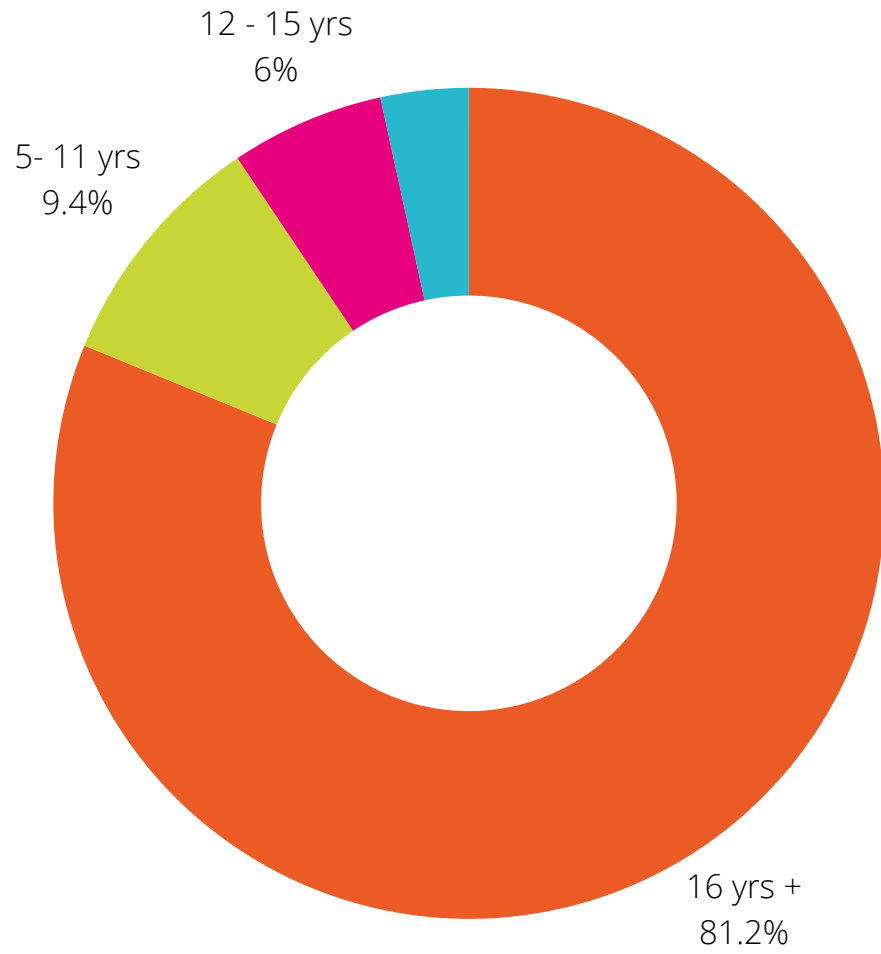
WHO CAME?

Age range of survey respondents

“Great concept and great film. Thank you to all involved,
especially those pedalling”

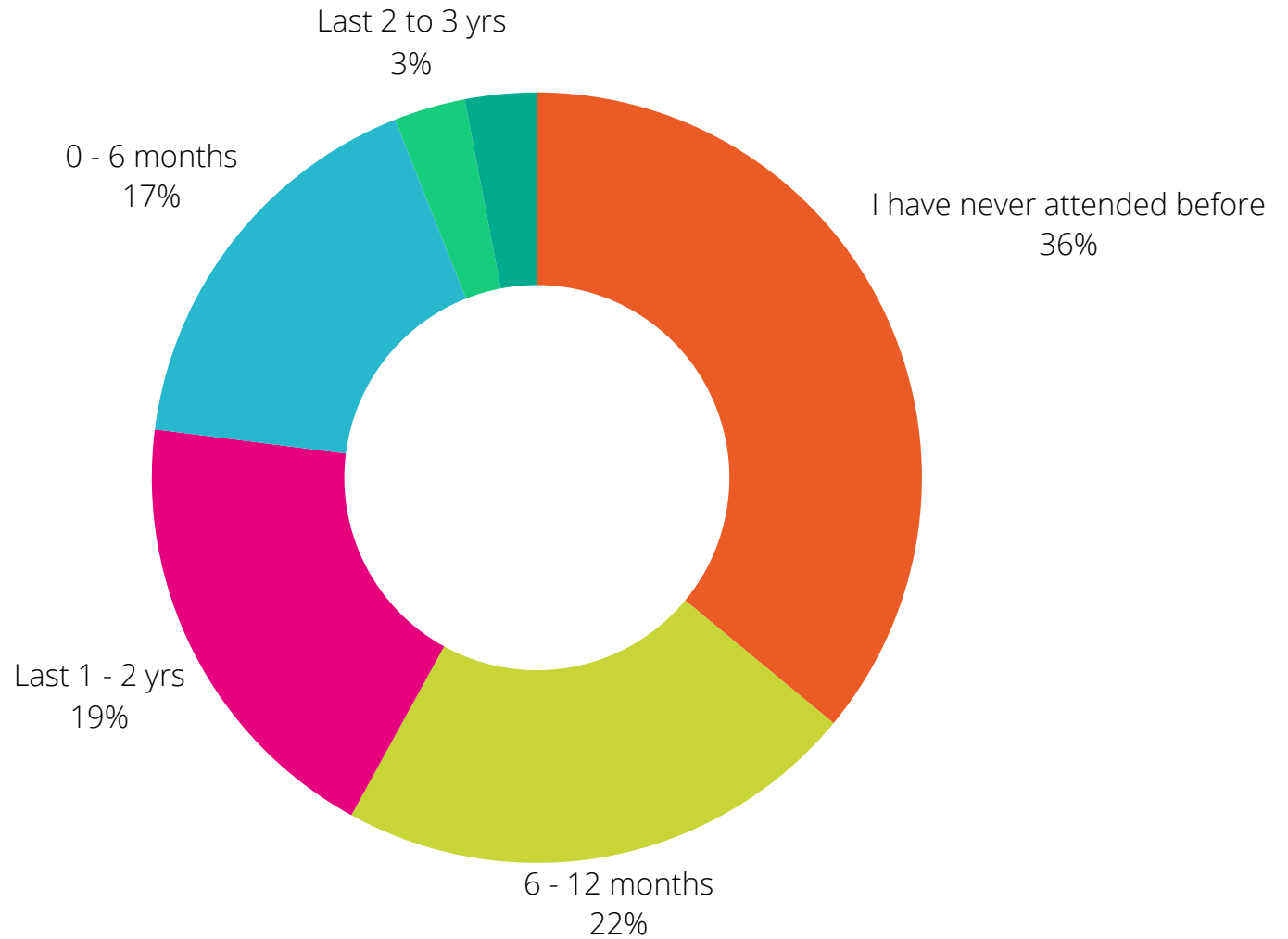


Image: Belleville Rendezvous Pedal Powered cinema, in partnership
with Artsreach and Electric Pedals



GROUP COMPOSITION OF VISITORS SURVEYED

Which age groups were the people who attended with you (excluding yourself)?



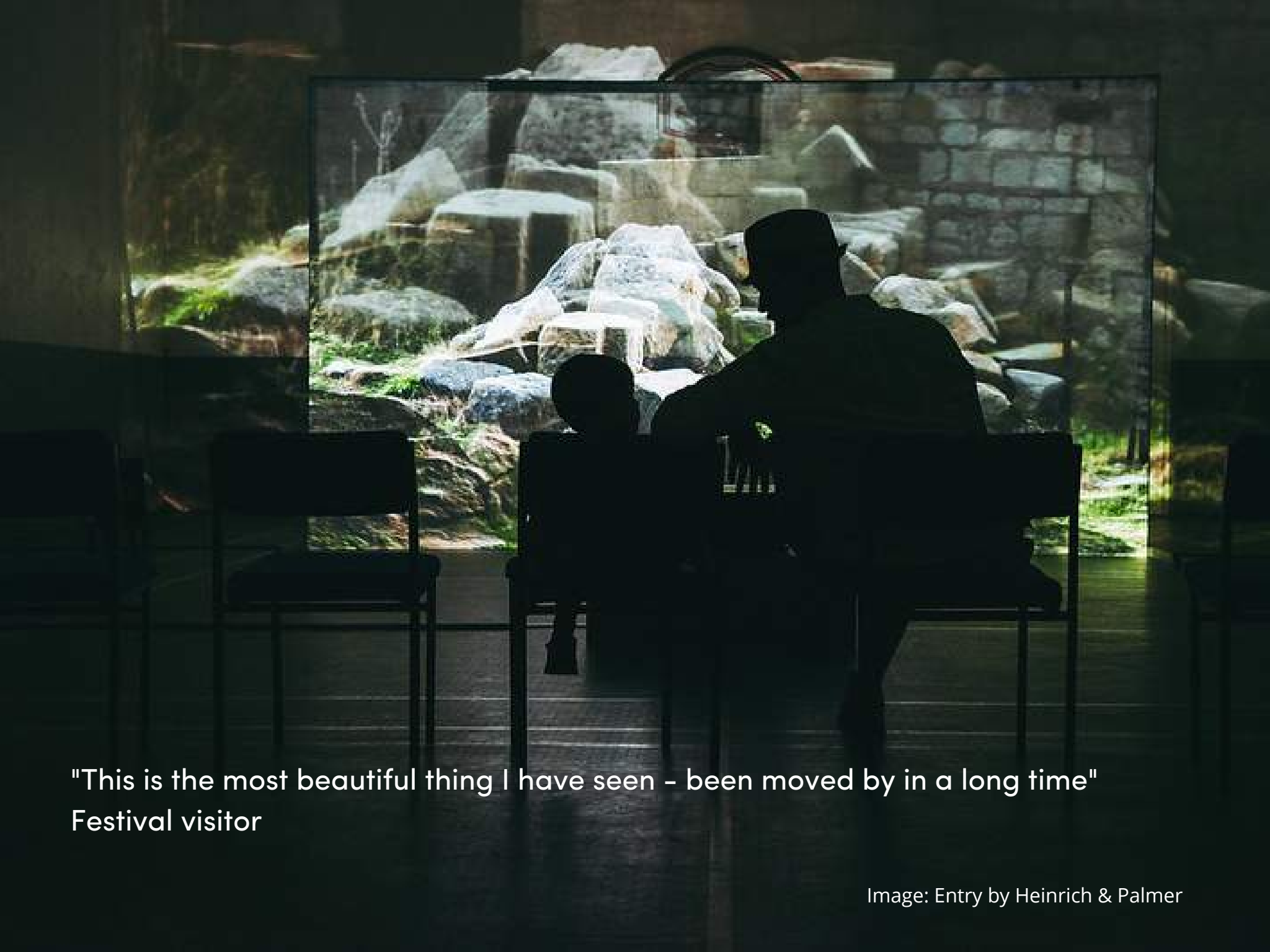
ATTENDANCE 2023

When did you last attend an event by this organisation?



"The chance to visit beautiful locations and to hear people's hopes and wishes for the future creates a wonderful sense of community. A lovely sense of hope in somewhat concerning times"

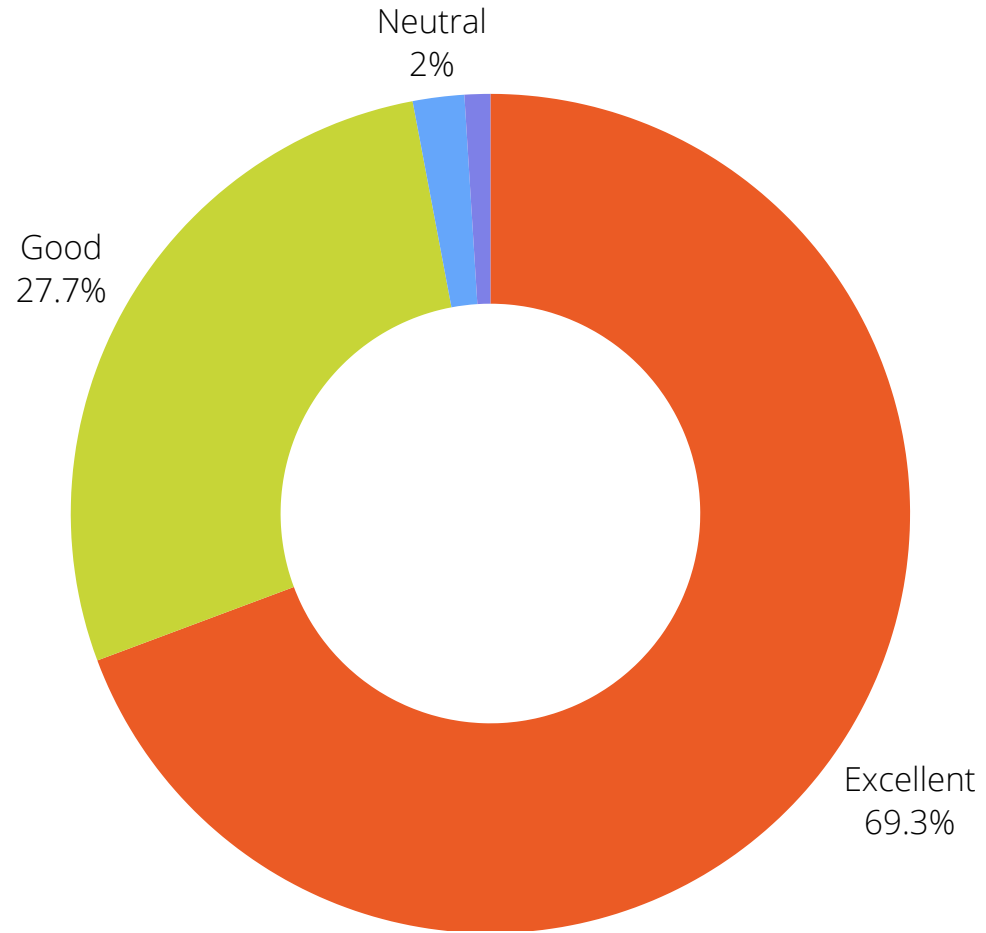
Festival visitor



"This is the most beautiful thing I have seen - been moved by in a long time"
Festival visitor



Image: UnCommon Land by Wildworks



ABOUT YOUR VISIT 2023

How would you rate your experience overall?

"Brilliant concept, very 'Portland'
Festival Visitor

Image: Lost Words by Wild Rumpus





Images: Constant Effort by Emily Tracy

“Beautiful and sombre art, hit me in the gut and eyes”
Festival Visitor



Image: Constant Effort by Emily Tracy



"To have this on my doorstep was an amazing treat and I just hope we can have more of this.

Times are quite tough for a lot of people at the moment and free events like this offer a precious opportunity for everyone to enjoy, share, learn, be inspired, and to think about their world in new and explorative ways"

Festival Visitor

Image: Festival visitor at UnCommon Land



ARTISTS



4

Major new commissions created by artists Wildworks, Heinrich + Palmer, Kneed and Emily Tracy



53

International, national and regional artists made work and delivered events for Festival 2023.



42

Volunteers supported the delivery of the Festival as front of house, artists assistants, invigilators and event stewards



"This was the most significant piece of work I have undertaken and therefore b-side has really helped me develop my experience and practice. The final work was very close to what was envisaged originally.

Through the process I gained experience in developing an Art Fund grant application which whilst unsuccessful was useful experience and b-side supported me in this."

Christopher Lee

Image: Familiar Histories and artist Christopher Lee

"We really enjoy the process of developing a piece of work that has grown for a site or place and we found the research undertaken by Dr Jeanie Sinclair and the community of researchers a great starting point for developing the final work...we felt that b-side's local knowledge and connections with Portland's community was invaluable." Leon Palmer & Anna Heinrich






"This was one of the nicest commissions I've had. It's made me hugely evaluate the direction my work and company. As well as having an opportunity to deliver in a unique way. The bus and commission outcomes enabled a much more positive experience, over our usual quite clinical approach to community work."

Jodie House

Rock, Paper, Scissors Bus

A woman with long, wavy brown hair and bangs is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a white sleeveless top. In the foreground, she is holding a large, out-of-focus bouquet of dried, yellow and white flowers. The background is a blurred indoor setting with white drawers or cabinets.

"This project really allowed me to explore presenting and exploring data to create an installation on the scale that is hard to find the opportunity for.

The project team supported the development of the project in a really open way which was fantastic. The project length really allowed for this. I wish all projects were like this!"

Emily Tracy



"Wildworks loves the overall ethos of the festival and our team really enjoyed being in Portland both times we've been programmed as part of b-side. Support and communication has always been great with the offer of brilliant volunteers and superb hosting."

Gwen Scolding, Wildworks

Image: UnCommon Land by Wildworks



"I had two people bring their dads old phones, both whom had passed away this year. They wanted these to be mined so that the copper from them got added to the final piece - this was so so touching and sums up everything I love about b-side.

The engagement element of the festival is soo central to my work and despite losing my voice every year and wiping myself out from chatting - I love it and its one of the best places I think my work fits!"

Katie Surridge

Image: Katie Surridge

“I am really interested to continue working with rope... there is a natural underlying context of connection through the material which seems to lend itself well to working collaboratively and with the community and hopefully, I have found a way to bring collaborative and community engagement into my practice.”

Carrie Mason



Image: Carrie Mason installing Siren

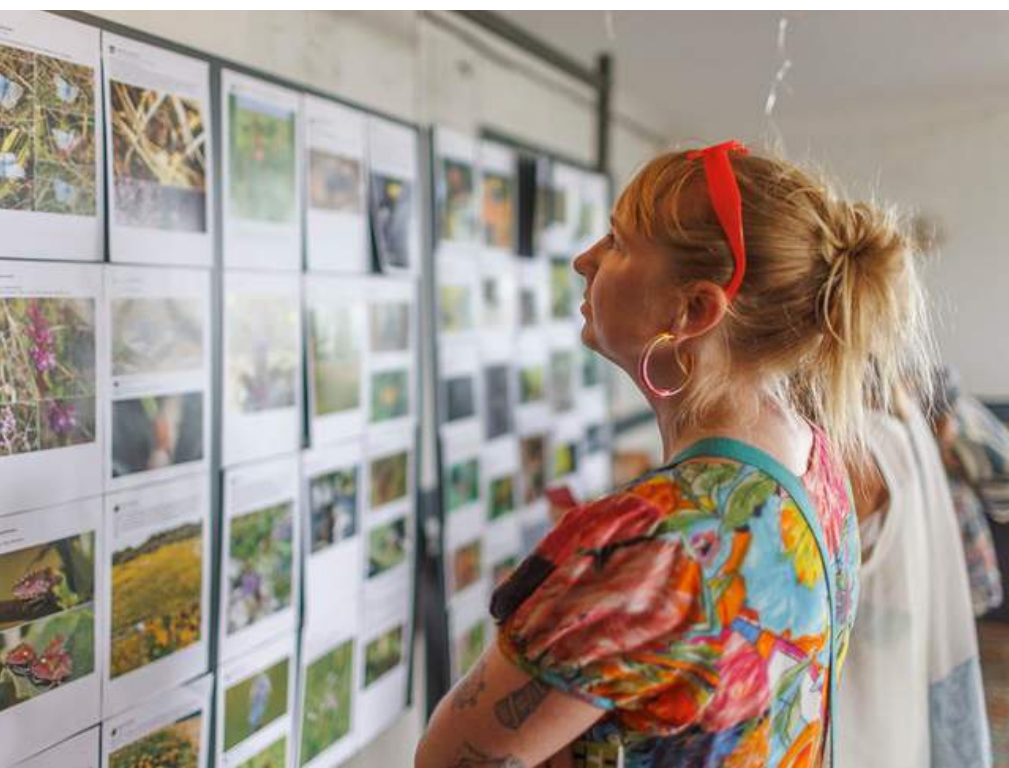


“We have learnt a lot about the importance of an arts organisation being embedded with their local community and really value the way b-side is doing this long term work.

Our work was enabled by the rich and varied connections with different groups of people on the island b-side staff have – we felt very welcome in different settings as soon as we said we were working with b-side, which goes to show the impact you have!”

KNEED (Ishwari Bhalerao + Leonie Rousham)

Image: KNEED



“Yes, we thought we knew Portland (as a regular visitor from Bridport) but today our eyes have been opened. The place is even more special than we had imagined”

Festival Visitor

Image: This Land Exhibition at The Pulpit pub



“My two sisters who no longer live on Portland were equally knocked out and it was great to see two friends actually in the performance. I know how fired up and exhilarated they were to have been part of the performance”



Siren of Hopes and Dreams, Carrie Mason



COMMUNITY

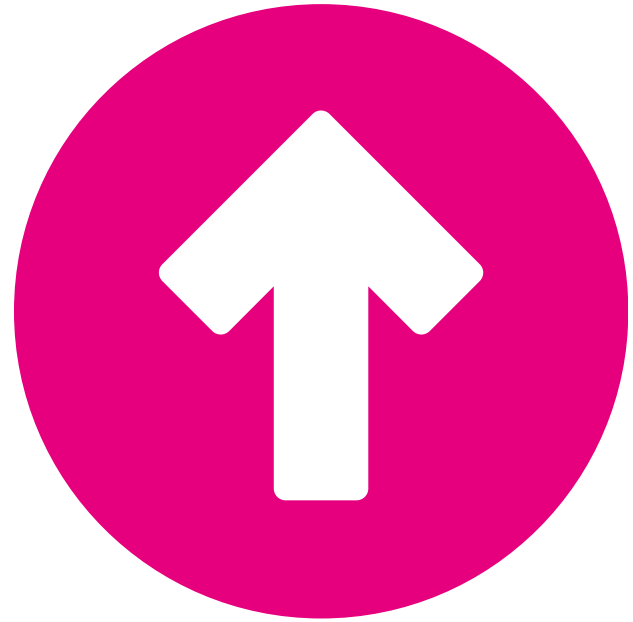
A vibrant parade scene with people in costumes and a dog. The word "COMMUNITY" is overlaid in large white letters. In the foreground, a man in a purple floral jumpsuit and a woman in a colorful, patterned dress are visible. A small dog is walking in the middle ground. A woman in the background wears a sign that says "KEEP PORTLAND WEIRD".

Image: Keep Portland Weird and Wonderful Parade



44

Artists took part in the b-side Fringe 2023
between Sept 07 -17



That's an increase of
50% on 2022







Haiku-Your-Bike-U

14 poems were sent in by Dorset residents after an open call.
Selected poems were printed onto banners and towed around Portland by bike.
This project was sponsored by two local companies Electric Fury and Print Team.







Image: Little Big Horns of the Keep Portland Weird +Wonderful Parade 2023



Images Keep Portland Weird + Wonderful Parade





Image: KNEED workshop with The Drop In, Portland



Images: Emily Tracy workshop

We worked with and connected our festival artists with 15 different community groups to create and deliver the festival, including....

The Portland Association, Muntsys, Badgers, The Drop-In, Islanders, St. George's School, Weymouth and Portland Access Group, The Community Fridge, The Social Club, The Music Lab, Portland Bird Observatory, Portland Town Council, The Buildings Preservation Trust. Community Researchers, Portland Museum Trust, Cycling Without Age

PARTICIPATION

Image: Modern Mining by Katie Surridge



“I’m getting in touch because that day (at the festival) really inspired me. The very next day after a 5 yr hiatus due to ill health, I took the first steps to resuming my career as an artist..”

Festival visitor



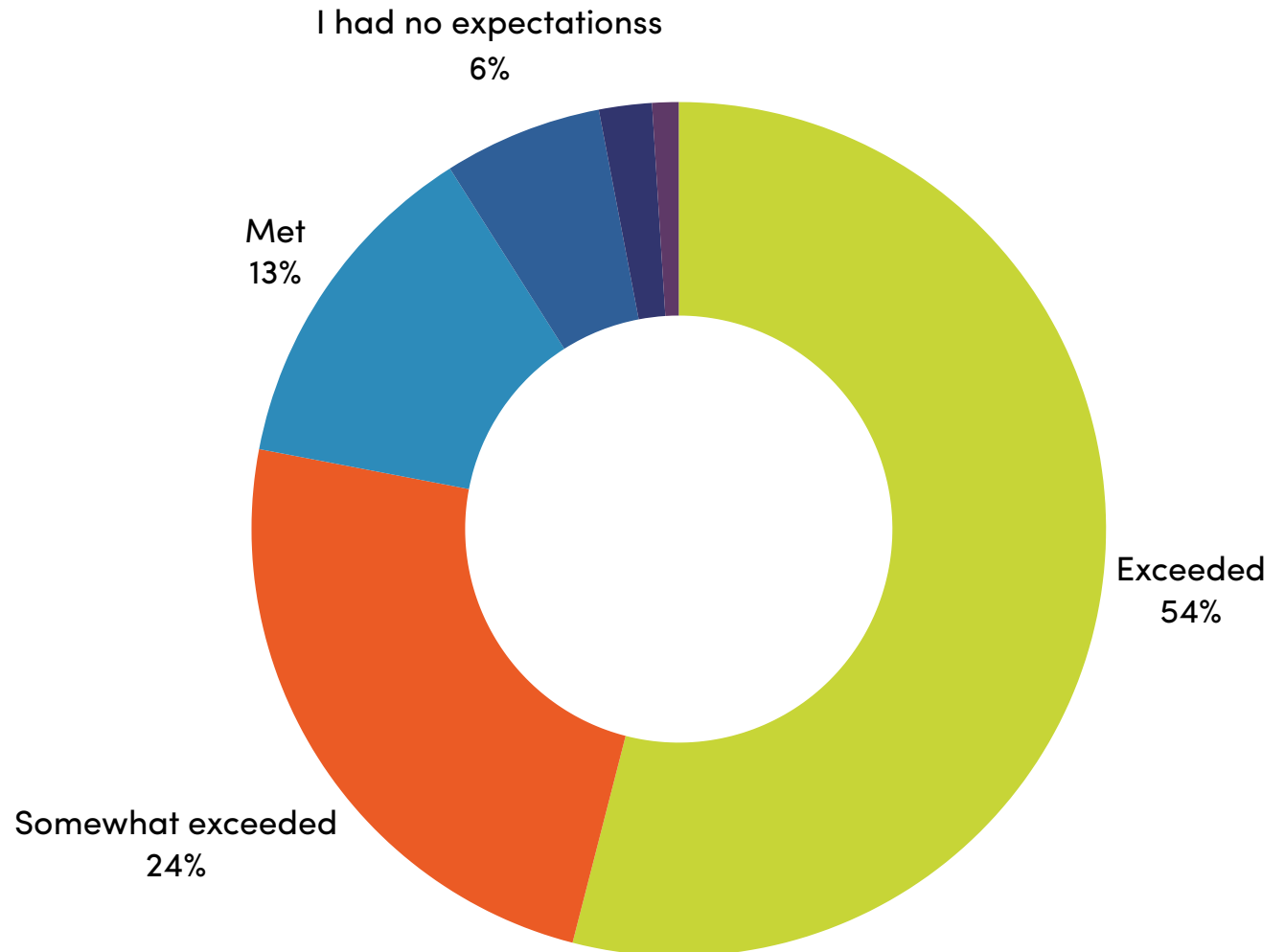


“The festival is great - it attracts a really interested crowd who are willing to try new things and get involved”

Festival visitor







EXPECTATION

How did the event compare to your expectations?



ACCESS



EASY READ GUIDE

Downloadable Easy Read Festival Guide
produced for the Festival programme



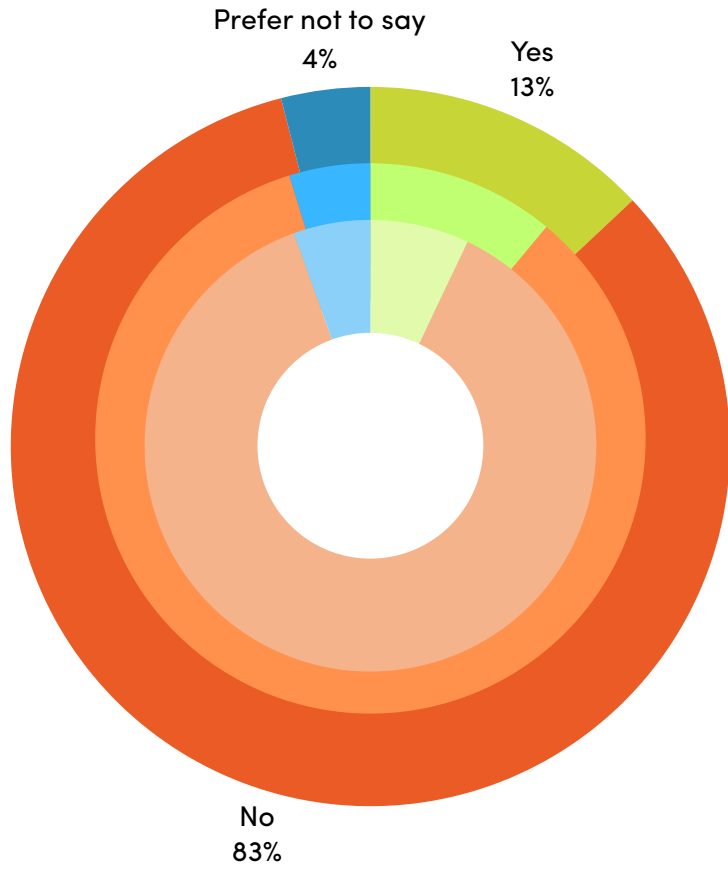
TALKING LABELS

Audio explanations of artworks recorded
by the artists were available on artwork
signage



ACCESSIBLE BUS TOUR


Sponsorship with Weyline enabled two
FREE accessible minibus tours of the
Festival



INNER DONUT 2021 responses
 MIDDLE DONUT 2022 responses
 OUTER DONUT 2023 responses

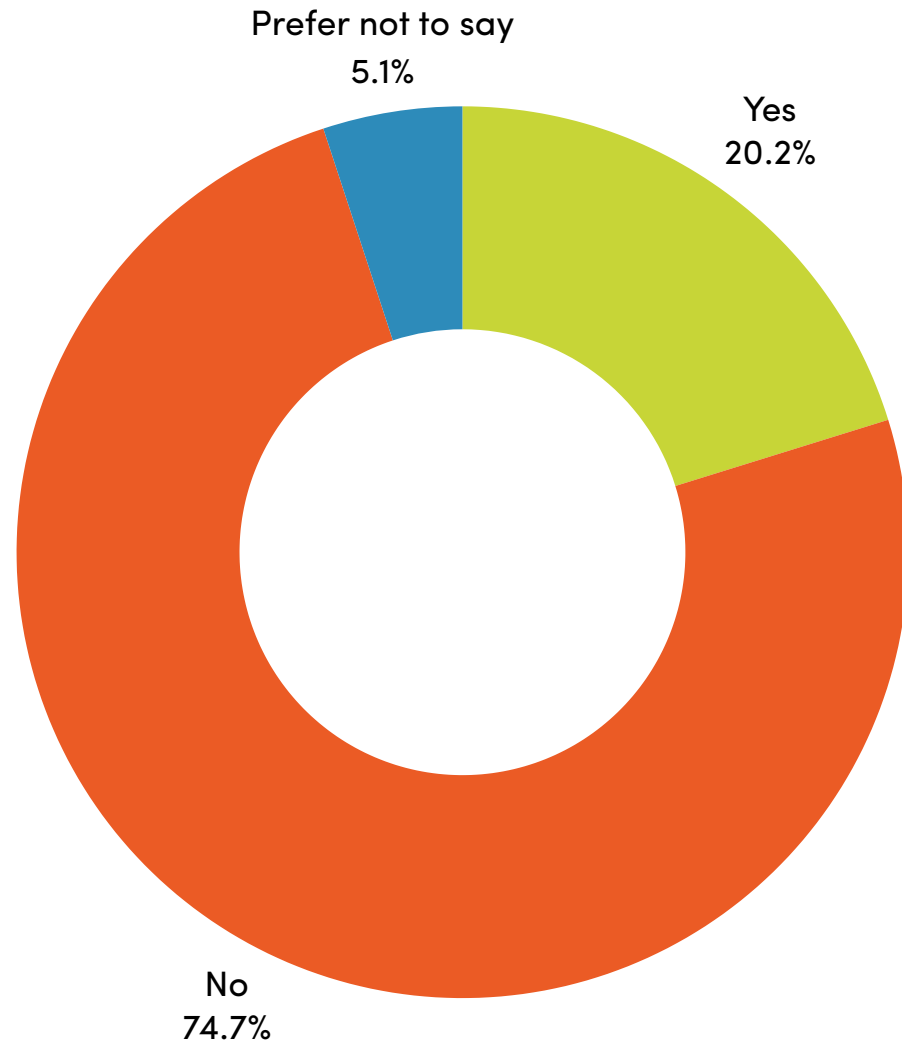
ACCESS 2023

Do you identify as a D/deaf and/or disabled person, or have a long term health condition?



"I enjoyed joining in the singing and dancing, I loved the fact that we as spectators were equally part of the performance. And having a signer actually made me brim up as I reflected that this was truly an inclusive experience for everyone. It delighted me that people with disability could be part of the event with others too."

Festival Visitor



ACCESS 2023

Do you identify as neurodivergent? Being Neurodivergent could include Dyslexia, ADHD etc.



MARKETING



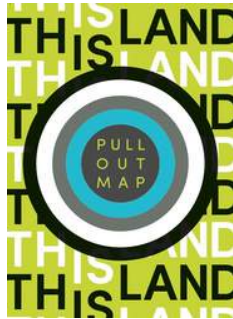
41,799K

Social media reach over the Festival period Sept 7th - 10th



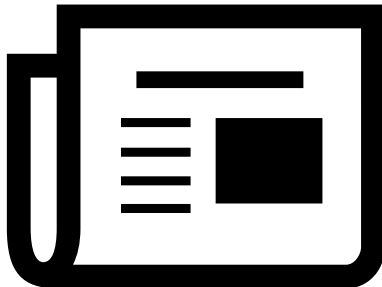
22,000K

Page views of the b-side festival website July - Sept 2023



15,000

Dorset Festivals eco-friendly leaflets were distributed throughout the South West in August. 6000 free festival 2023 guides and 2500 Fringe leaflets were distributed locally prior to and during the festival.



1,037,051,324

Media coverage reach through 89 new pieces of press inc radio, broadcast TV, online and print Feb to Sept 2023

I think Elvis
would love

the b-side festival.

♡ Bidi



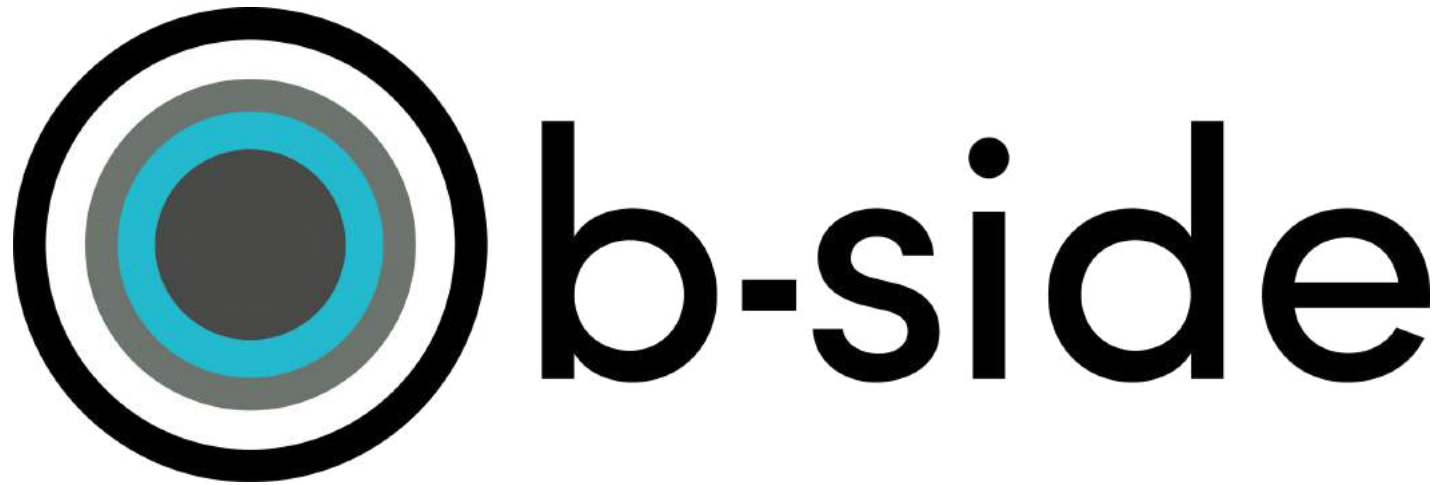
THISLAND
b-side 2023
7-10 SEPT

b-side.org.au

Welcome to The Last Landcape

Headline Festival Feedback 2023 compiled from:

189 Festival Visitor surveys, visitor comments books, emails and social media posts, Artist surveys.
Documentation by photographers Paul Box, Pete Millson, Jayne Jackson, Kim Cullimore and b-side team.



For more information on the projects mentioned in this report please visit:

[Festival 2023](#)

[New Curators](#)

[This Land](#)

[All b-side festival 2023 images](#)



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Made possible with
**Heritage
Fund**



**Dorset
Council**




PENNSYLVANIA CASTLE ESTATE
Isle of Portland