

Graft graffiti workshops at the Island

Accessibility guide



At Graft we place a high value on the accessibility of all our workshops and activities. With extensive experience of supporting people with additional needs, both professionally and within our own families, all of our team are keen to accommodate and welcome people with any accessibility needs.

This information sheet refers to our workshops at the Island, but we may also be able to come to your venue.

Address of venue: The Island, Nelson Street, Bristol BS1 2BE.

Getting here:

- The Island is in Bristol city centre, near Broadmead shopping area.
- The nearest train station is Bristol Temple Meads.
- Many buses stop nearby in Broadmead or the Centre, including Park & Ride services.
- There is no onsite parking.
- The cheapest parking nearby is the Galleries shopping centre car park.
- For specific questions about travel, please contact us.

Venue accessibility:

- The Island is a Grade II listed former police station, which has limited accessibility for visitors with mobility difficulties.
- There is one level entrance, on Bridewell Street. Most of our workshops take place on the ground floor, but larger group workshops take place in the basement, which is not wheelchair accessible.
- There are no accessible toilets in the building, although all toilets are inclusive of all gender identities.
- Accessible toilets are available in the Courts, right next door, and the Station, just around the corner, which are both owned by the same landlord (Creative Youth Network).
- If your group requires a fully accessible venue, please get in touch to discuss your needs and we can find something suitable.

Other accessibility points:

Communication needs:

We are very happy to adapt our communication to participants' needs. Please let us know if you need us to speak more slowly or clearly, shorten our introduction, repeat instructions, provide more visual examples, or avoid certain trigger words. If you require a sign language interpreter, let us know and we can help you to book one for the session.

Arriving late and leaving early:

We understand that additional needs can make it more difficult to arrive on time, or to stay for a full session. If you are going to be late, we just ask that you text your workshop leader before the start of the workshop to let us know (we will provide a contact number before your workshop). If you need to leave early, just let us know.

Free carer tickets:

We offer free places to carers who are not participating. Please bring evidence of eligibility: pink card / DLA / diagnosis letter / access card / carer's allowance letter. Get in touch if you don't have any of these.

Site rules and security:

The Island is a private venue which employs a key code entry system. Only your workshop leader is allowed to let you into the building, so please don't ask anyone else to let you in. If you need to leave the building, we will accompany you to the door to ensure no-one else comes in, and we will let you back in if you are returning. Please discuss this with your workshop leader.

The Island is a working space, and other studio holders will be at work while you are here. We are not allowed to let participants walk around the building unaccompanied or wait in corridors. If you need a sensory/movement break, you can take this within our workshop space, or by leaving the building and re-entering.

Health and safety:

We only use water-based non-toxic paints in our workshops. However, due to the aerosol nature of the spraypaint, we strongly advise the use of masks (dust/surgical/cloth masks are sufficient), as well as vinyl gloves and aprons. If participants choose not to wear these, the responsibility lies with them or their parent/carer.

Children under 16 must be accompanied by a supervising and participating (except in the case of eligible carers) adult. The materials we use carry risks and must be used carefully. Full instruction and demonstration will be given, and if we deem that materials are not being used safely, we reserve the right to withdraw the materials or ask you to leave. This is for the safety of all participants.

If you feel that your child would like to participate but is not able to use spraycans safely, please discuss this with us, as we can support them to co-create a piece with our workshop leaders holding the cans.

Food and drink:

Our workshops take place in working art studios which are not hygienic places for eating. You are welcome to bring bottled soft drinks or coffees with lids. If you need to eat, please let us know and we will facilitate you washing hands and finding a place to sit and have a snack.

Stimming, tics, noise-making etc:

We are committed to accessibility and inclusivity, and we welcome participants expressing themselves in whatever ways feel good to them. Please do not be ashamed or embarrassed; we love to hear people responding to their creativity!

Potential triggers:

We know some people find certain things triggering or uncomfortable. Here are some things you may encounter at the Island which may cause difficulty for some participants. Please get in touch with us to discuss ways of avoiding or reducing particular triggers:

- smells: the Island is an old building in a city centre, and is also a working arts studio. You may come across strong or strange smells: traffic fumes, musty/mouldy smells, toilet/drain smells, paint/varnish/ink/solvents, bird/animal smells, including dead mice. The spraypaint we use is water-based so does not have a strong smell or fumes, but it does have a slight odour and creates paint dust. The basement room we use for some workshops is used as a nightclub sometimes, so you may smell alcohol residue.
- loud noises: these may include traffic noises and shouting from outside the building, music from rehearsals or dance classes, power tools or machinery being used nearby. In general the studios and corridors are quiet, but noises from outside the building can be loud.
- fire alarms: the fire alarm is tested briefly every Monday at 10:30am. No alarms are expected at other times.
- hand dryers and hairdryers: most of the toilets at the Island do not have hand dryers. Paper towels are always available. We sometimes use hairdryers in our workshops to help dry the canvases, but we do not have to use these if anyone in the group finds the noise distressing.
- echoes: some spaces are echoey.

- dark spaces: you may see dark corners or corridors which may feel spooky.
- jail/police/cells/locks/bars: the Island is a former police station, with original cells which we normally show to participants.
- old/dirty places: the building is old, and is quite grotty in some areas. The toilets have a lot of graffiti.
- traffic: there are busy roads surrounding the building, which can be loud.
- birds: there are often pigeons and sometimes seagulls in the exercise yard or outside the building.
- sitting still: most of the session takes place seated at tables. If you need a sensory/movement break, let us know and we will facilitate that. You are welcome to bring wobble cushions or fidget toys to the workshops.
- following instructions: for health and safety reasons, we will require you to follow instructions around using the materials, especially the spraycans and paint markers. If this is difficult for you or your child, let us know and we can present instructions in a less direct way. However, there is also plenty of freedom to create whatever design you want!
- sharing resources: you will be sharing paint markers, spraycans, stencils, books and sheets with others in the group. If sharing is difficult and you wish to bring your own materials to use, let us know and we can advise what to buy.
- turn taking: you may need to wait for a turn to use a certain colour, or book, and you will be taking turns in small groups to do the spraypainting. If this is challenging, please discuss this with us.