

Appendix 1: Rich Pictures

1. Introduction

In order to develop an overview of visual arts activities beyond the main cities at a regional level Jason and Julie were signposted to recommended activities by introductions from the East Midlands County Arts Officers' Group in relation to each of their respective counties. Subsequently an audit questionnaire was distributed to local arts officers throughout the region and to the ten cases studied in the review.

Together the recommendations and returned audits collected information regarding the 'assets' supporting visual arts activity in each county, in terms of social, human, physical and environmental capital.

Jason and Julie interpreted this information at County level as a series of diagrammatic 'pictures' of each of the five counties. Each county 'rich picture' presents this information in terms of 'assets' that support:

- **the *production* of visual arts activity (eg human and social capital)**
- **the *presentation* of visual arts activity (eg physical and environmental), and the *circulation* of visual arts activity (eg social and environmental)**

These 'pictures' present an overview of each county in terms of supporting the *production* (via studio groups, informal and formal training initiatives and participatory programmes), *presentation* (via public art and gallery programmes) and *circulation* of visual arts activity, categorizing the distribution networks and mechanisms in each County via:

- **Artists' Networks**
- **Arts Officers'/Strategic Networks**
- **Curatorial Networks**
- **Producing Networks**
- **Open Studios**
- **Touring Networks**
- **Festivals**
- **Collective websites**

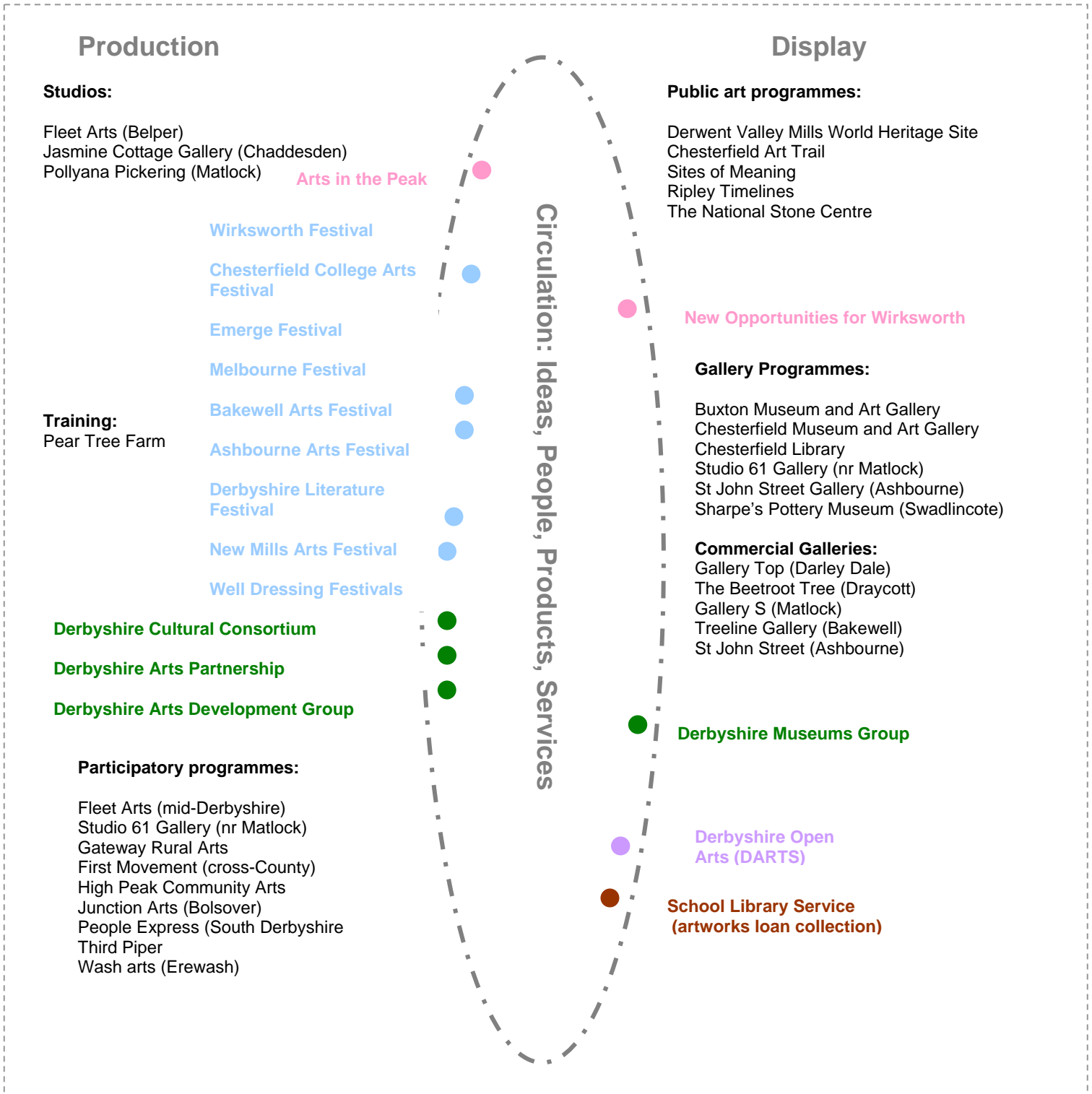
With additional desk-based research these pictures then contributed to an overview 'picture' of the East Midlands Region (see Section Three on page xx). This East Midlands 'rich picture' presents an overview of the region's activity, to inform the conclusions (Section Six) and recommendations (Section Seven) in this report.

Both the county and regional pictorial diagrams represent an indication of the visual arts behaviour of each of the counties and should not be read as a comprehensive audit, as this was beyond the scope of the review.

This appendix contains the diagrams at county level. Following each county 'rich picture' is a description of its content highlighting the social, human, physical and environmental assets to support the *production*, *presentation* and *circulation* of visual arts activity in that county with a summary of its key assets and challenges.

2. Rich Pictures

a. Derbyshire



Derbyshire

Support for Production

The county has various forms of training initiatives in the education sector at community, HE and FE levels and some provision of creative business support and incubation services. It hosts significant creative community development programmes such as New Opportunities for Wirksworth. The county includes one urban university which trains artists, The University of Derby. Studio provision is primarily of individual home-based studios.

Presentation

Derbyshire is host to a series of gallery-based activities that include small-scale commercial ventures which operate within tourist areas. These operate alongside museums and libraries which provide gallery-based programmes. Significantly, a new capital project for the city of Derby is being developed. Quad, which is a new centre for visual arts and media will open in 2008.

Public Art is a developing area of activity in Derbyshire and includes art trails, temporary projects including artist-led initiations and works sited in heritage settings. These initiatives occur in tandem with projects, initiatives and organisations dedicated to participatory projects including visual arts activities alongside other art forms.

Circulation

Individual artists such as Charles Monkhouse and Sally Lemsford have initiated several key projects in the region which have taken place in public spaces and have also developed events based activities. Studio provision is again primarily of individual home-based studios. The Derbyshire open studios programme, Derby Open arts is artist-run and was initiated by artist Ally Rodgers. Arts in the Peak is a membership based project which has diversified into cultural and curatorial development and is creating new partnerships with non-arts specific agencies in the Peak District National Park including supporting training and curatorial development. Derbyshire

County-wide networks exist at an organisational level for arts officers and arts organisations, with significant projects as outputs and a strong culture of co-working with organisations, projects and practitioners exists at that level. Derbyshire Arts Development Group previously commissioned Alice Angus and Deborah Smith to develop a Visual arts Action Research project in 2003/4 which examined touring opportunities within the county. This work resulted in the appointment of David Gilbert at Arts in the Peak to undertake research into a county wide, peripatetic programme of site-specific works which is currently underway. Recent initiatives in Derbyshire include the launch of a county-wide web presence that supports all art forms – www.artsderbyshire.org.uk. There are localised networks for visual arts practitioners and the Derbyshire Museums Forum provides a network for some curators.

Derbyshire has a proliferation of art-oriented and community festivals which provide opportunities for professional and non-professional practitioners including the Wirksworth festival which is recognised for its impact on supporting artists and the regeneration of the town by developing a creative community at the centre of the town's

development via projects such as New Opportunities for Wirksworth's Creative Futures Programme. The new Melbourne Festival has followed this model. Derbyshire is also home to the unique act of well dressing which takes place from May through to late September each year when communities dress their wells with flora.

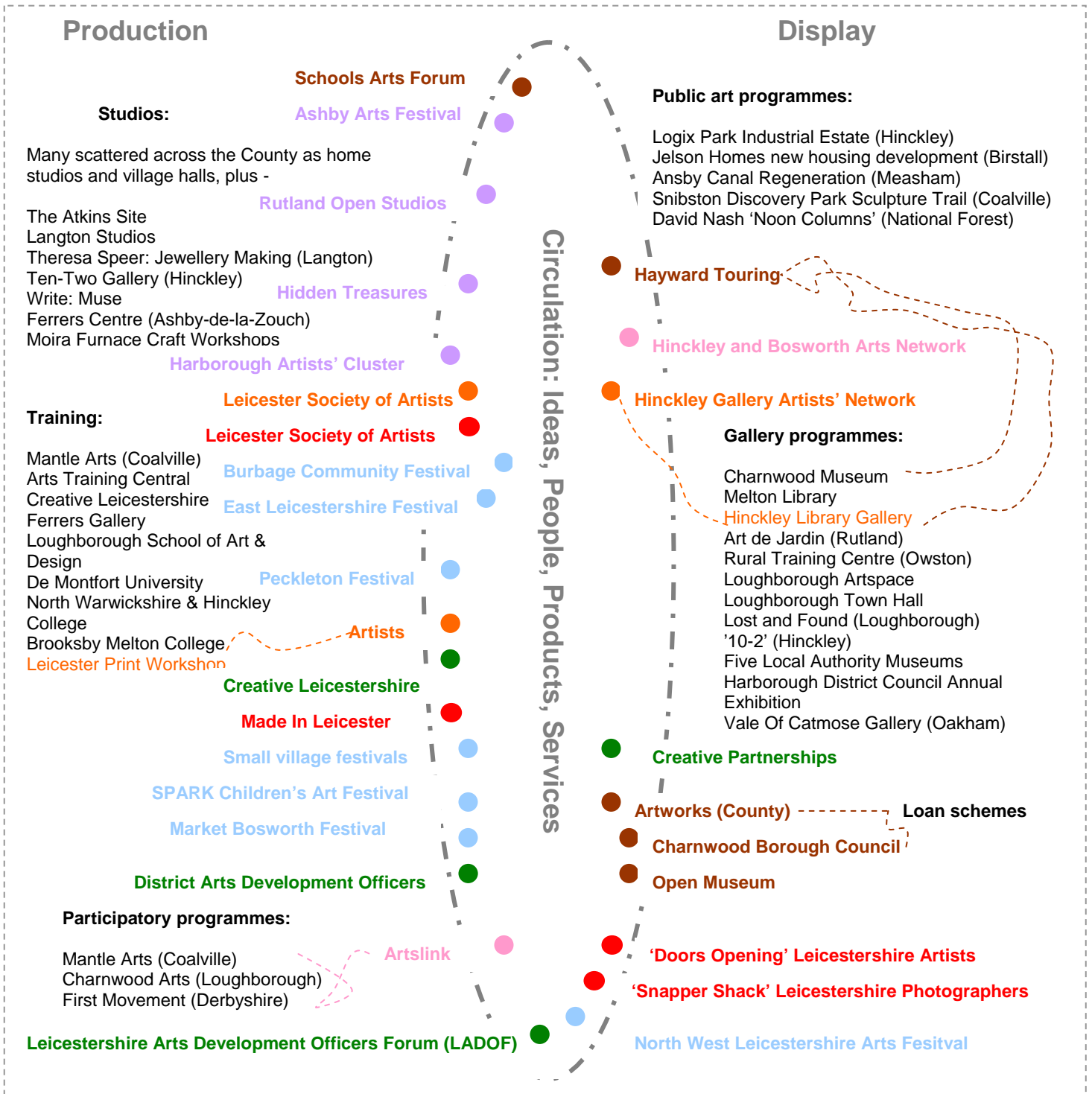
There is one loans collection dedicated to school settings which supports curricular development and interpretation through the loan of objects, books, artefacts and ephemera.

Assets for and Challenges to Supporting Visual Arts Activity in Derbyshire

In the SWOT analysis undertaken by arts development officers and consultees it is noted that the natural environment, heritage architecture and the dedication of county arts officers are key strengths in the county. There is an indication that the natural environment provides a unique series of assets for negotiating new partnerships to deliver off-site programming and to supporting artist-led non-gallery based projects and initiatives at short and mid-term timescales. A lack of formal networks, limited support for artist-led initiatives and insufficient dedicated gallery spaces for diverse representations of contemporary were seen as weaknesses.

The forthcoming downscaling of grant support from ACE is highlighted as a threat.

b. Leicestershire and Rutland



Leicestershire and Rutland

Support for Production

Leicestershire and Rutland has various forms of training initiatives in the education sector at community, HE and FE levels. These include two universities that train artists at De Montford University and Loughborough University. Loughborough University has recently appointed a new Director of Arts to develop an expansive programme for the University. Further forms of training, professional development and business incubation support are delivered in the visual arts and creative industries sectors. These initiatives also have significant web presence including programmes by Creative Leicestershire and Arts Training Central who also signpost to other initiatives at a regional level.

Studio provision is primarily of individual home-based studios and within village hall settings. There are collective studios (some with a crafts focus) which are again primarily small-scale but often within multi-use sites alongside galleries or workshops for production allowing for cross-pollination to take place.

Presentation

Leicestershire is also host to a series of gallery-based activities that include small-scale commercial galleries, several municipal museums and artist-led projects, although the latter takes place mostly in urban settings. (Dot case study pp xx). Visual arts activities also take place in non-dedicated art spaces including: town halls, libraries and in open spaces, although there are no dedicated spaces for contemporary art exhibiting outside of the city.

Public art is operating within both urban and rural settings with a regeneration and housing renewal focus, and there is predicted growth in this area of practice and this includes in the open spaces of the national forest. Public Art Leicester has primarily focused on initiatives within the city of Leicester.

Circulation

Two initiatives have engaged in touring activities via a relationship with Hayward Touring (Arts Council England Collection); Hinckley Library and Charnwood Museum. The county also includes one nationally significant public collection, Artworks which operates as a loan collection for distribution to art dedicated and non-art settings on a county-wide basis, including educational and community settings. Artworks sits within the auspices of the Open Museum Project. The quality of the collection is high and holds over 900 works from the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Charnwood Council also holds a loans-based collection and purchases are made annually from degree shows at Loughborough University.

There are several individual initiatives for open studio events, but collaborative working is not yet taking place between those responsible, although these initiatives do take place in rural settings.

County-wide networks exist at an organisational level for arts officers, creative industries and designers-makers. Whilst there is web presence of artists networks, these are primarily urban and localized. However there are two county-wide presences including one dedicated specifically to lens-based practitioners.

Leicestershire has a high level of festival activities including opportunities for professional and non-professional artists. These festivals include community festivals with targeted communities and art-dedicated festivals with broad audiences and one targeted specifically at children. In tandem there are several projects across the county that have a dedicated focus on participation in the arts including visual arts activities.

Assets for and Challenges to Supporting Visual Arts Activity in Leicestershire and Rutland

The Artworks collection is understood to be a key asset to the county, alongside the dedication of networked arts development officers and strong networks of artists. However there is a reliance on the resilience of practitioners and voluntary activity, which may decrease over time and allow for complacency.

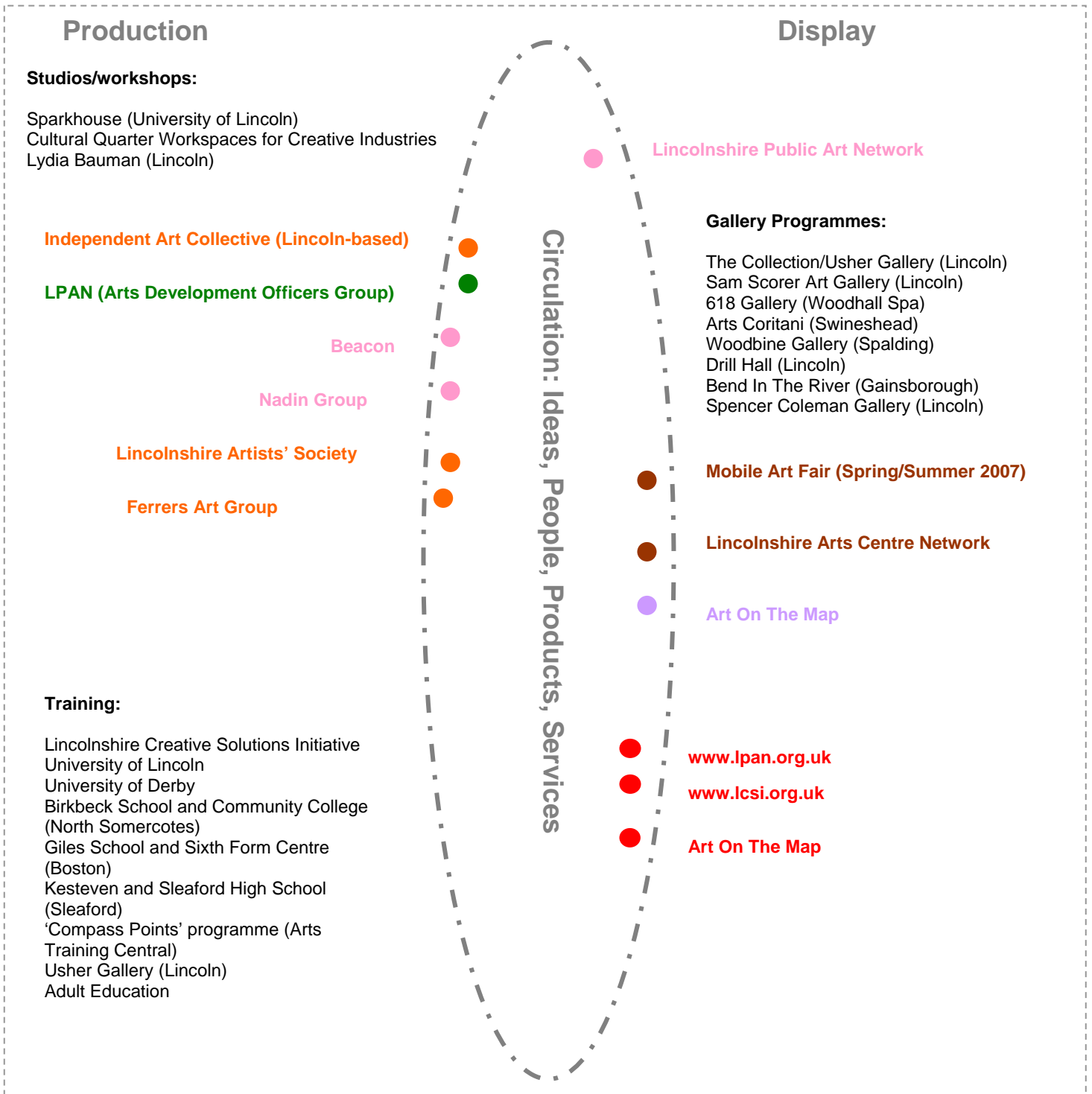
Artists' workspaces have been identified as an issue, as there are few subsidized spaces, and the county is without a county-wide open studio programme. Whilst initiatives exist to create visibility of visual arts practitioners, they are currently under-resourced and there is a perception that festivals, street fairs and open studios are only one route, and that a focus on these models monopolises the arts officers' time. There is also a perception that networks of artists should not be favoured over individual artists.

Whilst the local arts development officers' forum is a key initiation it does not have any current visual arts projects in its portfolio as a group. There is also concern that the visual arts are delineated in the capital Cultural Quarter projects and therefore the sector will not benefit from its impact. Simultaneously Creative Leicestershire has been seen to support development of workspaces, open studios and business.

There are no dedicated spaces for solely showing contemporary art, although two libraries have provided visual arts programming. However one of these is soon to close (the gallery at Melton Library). In tandem the Artworks loan collection is a non-statutory service which for financial reasons is unable to continue to make quality purchases, and whilst the service is valued, there are security and insurance issues that impact upon the confidence of smaller community and education venues to borrow high value works. Without a venue suitable in the county for a large-scale exhibition of the collection its potential as a key asset is dormant.

The impact of the decrease in available subsidy by ACE is seen to be a key threat.

c. Lincolnshire



Lincolnshire

Support for Production

Lincolnshire demonstrates that the county has various forms of training initiatives in the education sector at community, HE and FE levels including at the University of Lincoln. Creative business support and incubation service providers also exist for the cultural sector including visual arts activity. Lincolnshire Creative Solutions Initiative has supported the development of creative industries through a series of programmes including support for Beacon and Art on the Map. They have publicised a recent report by Burns Owen Partnership on the potential for the development of the creative industries in the county. By December 2007 they aim to have established 3 public art programmes, supported over 60 creative businesses, and supported over ten festivals.

Across the county studio provision is primarily of individual home-based studios, as opposed to collective studios complexes, which reflects the rural dynamics in terms of settlements. However, a new studio complex in the city will contribute with The Collection to the development of Lincoln's Cultural Quarter.

Arts NK has a significant and influential history of working in North Kesteven. It focuses on participatory arts activities in all art-forms, and delivers against strategic objectives and includes regeneration activities. This work complements their involvement in the Lincolnshire Public art Network which is made up of a group of officers from local authorities, and aims to promote works and projects across the county, frequently in partnership with other agencies' agendas including tourism.

Presentation

Lincolnshire is also host to a series of gallery-based activities that are primarily small-scale commercial ventures, which operate within tourist and regeneration areas, to which they contribute. Bend in the River is a model based on social entrepreneurship, though in legal terms is a commercial gallery which is recognized for its impact on the regeneration of Gainsborough.

The county also includes one public collection of archeology and art which is run in tandem with a temporary programme of contemporary visual arts. The Collection is a key development in Lincoln, and central to the development of its new cultural quarter.

Circulation

There is also one project which negotiates the use of rural historic sites across the county on an annual basis for the commissioning of site-specific works of national significance. Beacon has been recognized nationally for being a pioneering model for the development of contemporary art and audience development in rural contexts.

Whilst county-wide networks exist at an organisational level for arts officers, arts centers and for public art development, there is limited visibility of county-wide/regional and national networks at practitioner level. There is visible evidence of localized networks for practitioners, but primarily within urban contexts. Currently there is no dedicated visual arts festival in Lincolnshire, although there are temporary celebratory events programmes relating to public art and open studio activities, and LCSi is currently

incubating festival development in the county. There is one significant Open Studios event, Art on the Map, which is membership oriented and takes place annually across the county over several weekends providing visibility of artists and their studios. 2007 will see the initiation of the county's first coastal mobile art fair which will compliment this activity (in co-operation with the City Art House in Eastgate, Lincoln).

Assets for and Challenges to Supporting Visual Arts Activity in Lincolnshire

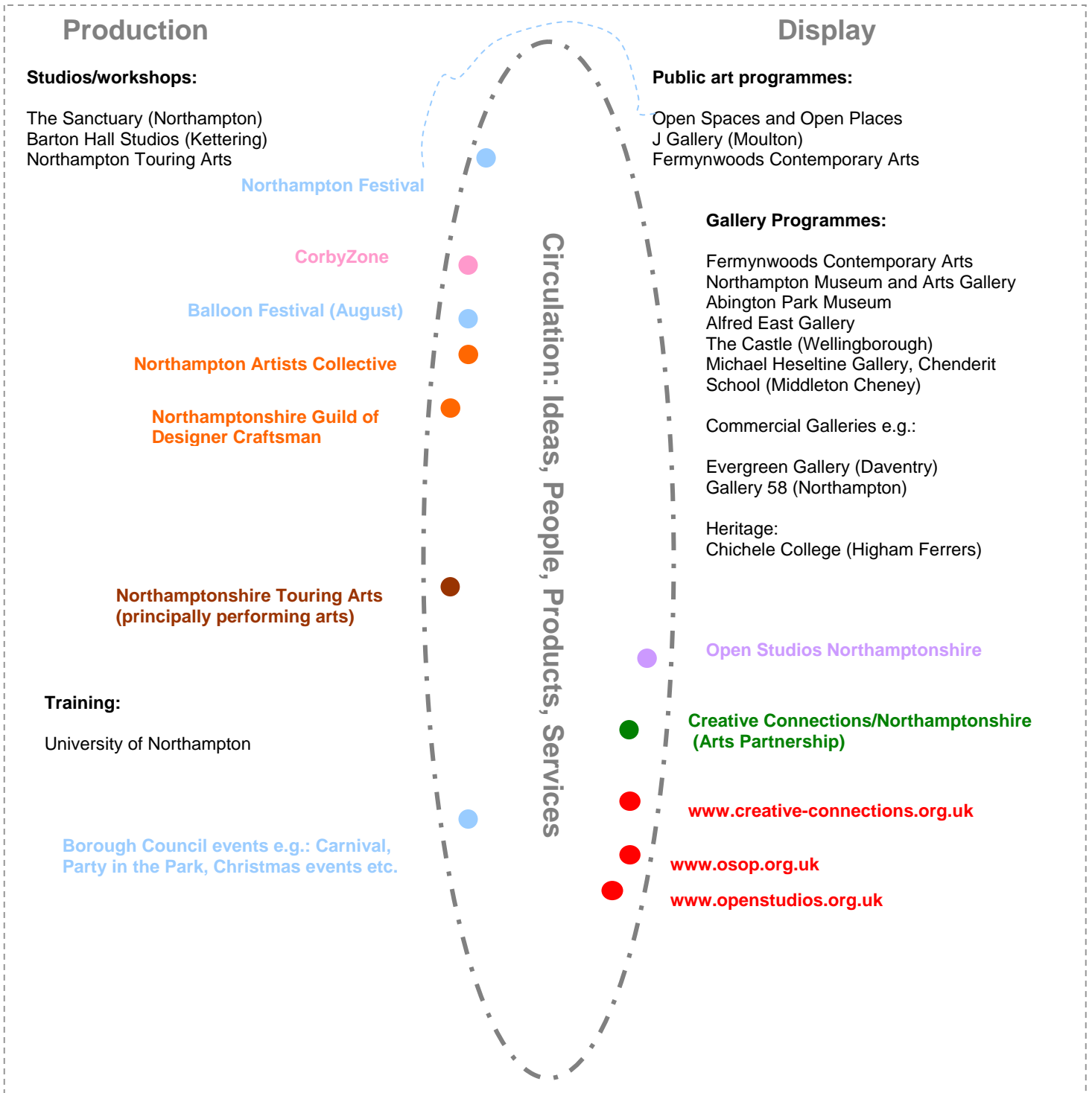
The advent of The Collection in Lincoln is understood to be a beacon project in the county, which demonstrates the capacity of Lincolnshire as a county in relation to the visual arts sector in tandem with the 'Connect' exhibition programme which supports emerging artists, although graduate retention was seen to be a key issue. There is also a perception that exhibition opportunities for artists living in the county are delineated in relation to opportunities for those living outside of the county.

The current gallery and studio initiatives in Lincoln are seen to maintain a focus on the city of Lincoln and in South Lincoln. And with limited provision in the North and Eastern coastal areas of the county. The existing infra-structure was questioned, in that there is a perception that there is fewer exhibitions, but with longer timescales which has been read as a lack of financial investment. Again, the prioritization of ACE funds for the Olympics was seen to be a key threat, as was local government strategy as a means to influence the types of art shown in public sector spaces.

The county is large rural county with significant transport issues, both in terms of the roads infrastructure and public transport. Therefore, the accessibility of the rest of the East Midlands region remains problematic. There is a perception that the geographic base of ACE is too distanced from the Lincolnshire as a county.

There is a recognition of the benefits of partnership working, including work being undertaken to ensure the development of creative industries in the county. This can be seen to develop an existing active independent sector which includes the Art on the Map open studios programme which provides a strong introduction to and visibility of visual artists in the county but is not seen to incubate a strong culture of buying art. However, there is a perception that opportunities, information and further support mechanisms are not sufficiently resourced in terms of individual artists, and that the district councils have a maintained focus on supporting groups and charities.

d. Northamptonshire



Northamptonshire

Support for Production

Northamptonshire does not have any significant sustainable various forms of visual arts sector-specific training initiatives except within Higher Education at the University of Northampton and via an agency for the creative industries. Creative Connections was formed in 2005 by The Northamptonshire Arts Partnership which consists of each of the local authorities in Northamptonshire plus The Arts Council England East Midlands. Creative Connections is a support mechanism that supports the growth of creative businesses (as defined by DCMS) within the county. It is developing a network of creative practitioners and runs a website which signposts to galleries, studios and creatives.

Studio provision is again primarily of individual home-based studios with limited small-scale clusters of studios across the county. Creative Connections is engaged in activities to develop creative industries workspaces in partnership with Local Authorities and developers.

Presentation

Northamptonshire is also host to a series of gallery-based activities that include small-scale commercial ventures of which there are few focusing on contemporary visual arts. Programmes are developed by small museums with temporary gallery programmes and in educational and garden settings. The county includes one significant rural project, Fermynwoods Contemporary Art, which commissions and exhibits and has an education programme for contemporary art, which is hosted in the home of an artist and architect which is now recognized as a significant model in the region.

Northamptonshire has a series of developments in the field of public art which also has cross-pollination with artist initiated projects such as the Bathing Beauties project which takes place at beach huts on the coast or with Fermynwoods. Corby is currently host to a series of regeneration programmes being delivered by North Northants Development Company which includes several public art programmes. These developments have informed the development of the Corby Zone artists' collective who strive to compliment the regeneration process by creating a network of practitioners and initiating projects. (Corby Zone case study pp xx). The activities of Corby Zone compliment the programme of Open Spaces, Open Places which has been operating in the county for seven years and commissions contemporary visual artists to make new work in site specific spaces with a focus on artists from the county and beyond.

Circulation

A consortia of the borough, district, county and Arts Council have developed a partnership (Creative Connections) to support creative industries development which has provided a platform that has supported Northampton to be selected for Ace's Thrive! programme. This venture seeks to now develop a new arts development agency. This consortia has provided a key networking opportunity at an organisational and officers level, and demonstrates the benefits of partnership working.

There is no significant collection of modern and/or contemporary art in the region that is available for loan, and whilst there is one touring network, its primary focus is on live work. There is a programme of events based activities by the borough councils which provide cultural opportunities including carnivals and winter festival events and also encourage the use of open spaces such as parks for cultural events. There are two festivals within which art is represented to varying degrees, and one county-wide open studio event. Open Studios Northamptonshire understands itself to be the county's largest visual arts event which takes place annually. Their website is well produced and signposts to studios and artists. This compliments the monthly e-bulletin 'Northants Arts News' and the quarterly 'Artyfacts' which promote opportunities and events across the county.

The Northants Arts Development county website has no section dedicated to visual arts but promotes the Bridges project which is a new project to support and strengthen community organisations that organise or contribute to festivals in Northamptonshire, and to encourage the use of the arts as a way of celebrating diversity.

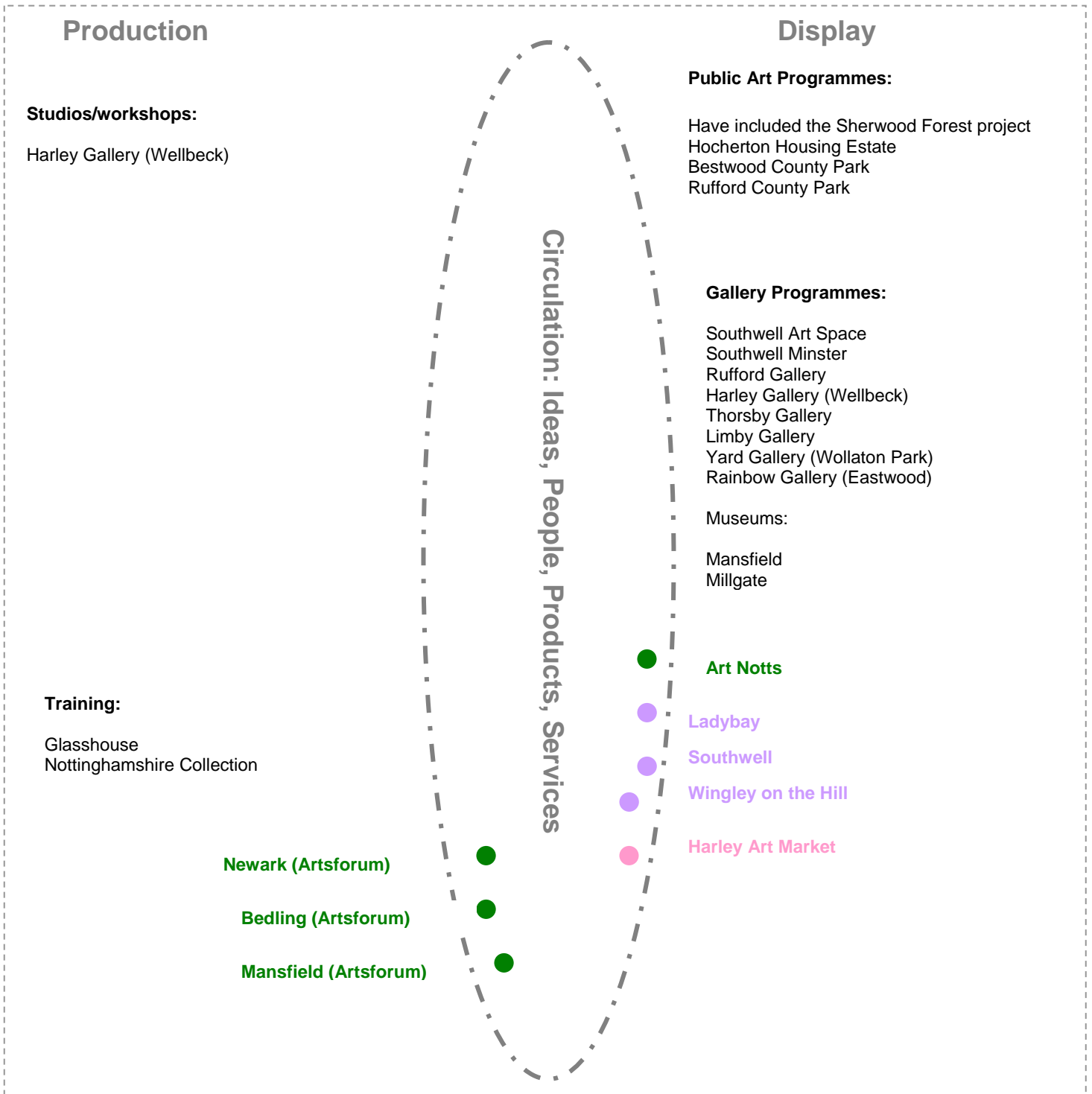
Assets for and Challenges to Support Visual Arts Activity in Northamptonshire

The partnership working which has initiated Creative Connections and seeks to build upon this by developing Creative Northamptonshire has been perceived as beneficial as it indicates the possibility to address key issues in Northamptonshire. Whilst the region is host to a key regional/national contemporary art project there is a lack of other venues to exhibit contemporary art, a dearth of studio provision and there is no municipal gallery with a remit for contemporary art which indicates a lack of investment in the visual arts infra-structure in the county.

However, Northamptonshire will be accommodating 45% of the Milton Keynes South Midlands (MKSM) growth. 73,000 new homes will be built in the county over the next 25 years. The growth agenda is seen to create new opportunities for the arts, particularly in the area of public art, together with public spaces for literature, visual arts and creative reading with a proposed Cultural Mile in Northampton, Cultural Crescent in Wellingborough, and a Heritage Quarter in Kettering and the River Nene Regional Park.

Key threats are the indicated cuts at local authority and county council levels in combination with the ACE cuts in arts funding.

e. Nottinghamshire



Nottinghamshire

Support for Production

Nottinghamshire does not have any significant sustainable forms of visual arts sector-specific training initiatives except within Higher Education at Nottingham Trent University in the City. A group of creative industry and support agencies make up the Shoutout partnership. Collectively the partnership covers all sectors, offering support, guidance, development and investment opportunities including for the Creative Industries. The project is currently under review, but also had a region-wide focus. A further consortia including Nottinghamshire County Council established The Nottingham Collection which offered business support to artists and craftspeople living in the county. The project ran a pilot retail outlet at Thoresby Courtyard, North Nottinghamshire in 2005, and is now dormant.

There are many formations of studio groups within the city of Nottingham but most studio provision outside of the city is home based. However, the Harley Foundation provides 24 studios/workshops on the Ducal Estate of Wellbeck. A recent significant development is Southwell Artspace which hosts five studios and a gallery programme in what was a run-down shop in Southwell. The demand for these workspaces spaces was high with over 150 applications made.

Through partnerships, Nottinghamshire County Council also supports a commissioning scheme for community grant support to realize projects which support the development of sculpture, installation, and new works for touring, environmental improvement and for site-specific works or festival contexts. These grants focus on regeneration, environmental improvement, community empowerment and excluded groups.

Presentation

Many of the opportunities for the visual arts sector reside within the city of Nottingham. In 2008 The centre for Contemporary Arts in Nottingham will open in the city centre and states that will also be a platform for local artists amidst its aims to be of national and international standing. CCAN understands itself to be committed to a broad definition of visual arts and will provide the county and region with one of the largest-scale dedicated galleries for contemporary art in the UK.

Central to Nottinghamshire are a series of activities and resources which are based at Rufford County Park which include a sculpture trail, a crafts centre and three galleries. Overall the project has a crafts focus at a local, regional and national level of programming. It also hosts a significant ceramics festival on an annual basis.

The Harley Foundation also funds the Harley Gallery which has three exhibition spaces with a focus on crafts and contemporary visual arts. Central to the space at Southwell Artspace is its gallery, Drawing Space which exhibits contemporary drawing. There are several small commercial galleries in the county. In tandem some of Nottinghamshire's museums also operate temporary exhibition programmes including at Millgate which hosts the Mezzanine Gallery which focuses on artists in the county, as does the Gilstrap Centre.

A recent initiative has been the series of 'Parade' exhibitions held at the influential Angel Row Gallery in Nottingham. The gallery will close at the opening of CCAN. 'Parade' has provided a county-wide showcase of work produced in the East Midlands and has represented the significant developments within artist-led culture in the region. 'Parade' has also provided a platform for practices based outside the region's metropolitan centres.

The county has several key open spaces including Sherwood Forest and Beeston and Rufford country parks which have a history of being used as a site for arts events and festivals including long-term developments at Rufford. In 2005/6 over ninety events were held in the county's parks.

The county also hosts a series of small-scale commercial galleries and a series of public art activities exist within both urban and rural contexts, and these primarily focus on housing renewal initiatives. There is no loans collection in the county for contemporary art and outside of the city most collections are held within municipal museums, each with an individual focus.

Circulation

There are a series of strong networks at officer's level which demonstrates that much of the development of cultural sector in the county has been within the auspices of the county council. Recent initiatives have included a series of visual arts forums to increase networking between visual arts professionals within the county although these have been held within the city of Nottingham.

Many of the studio groups across the county organise open studio events including the proliferation of studio groups within the city of Nottingham. However, there is currently not a county-wide open studios events.

Nottinghamshire Museums have a strong network which has also seen their involvement in the Museum Maker project which was an initiative that was region wide and saw new commissions for artists, crafts people and designer/makers being commissioned to curate site-sensitive works within museums across the region. Currently there are no significant county-wide networks at practitioner level although informal networks do exist at local levels.

Nottinghamshire Festival Forum meets quarterly and consists of representatives from local community and artist-led festivals, and meets quarterly. The Forum acts as a support mechanism for festivals, and provides networking and training opportunities as well as a focal point for discussion and debate, but this initiative currently focuses on North Nottinghamshire.

Assets for and Challenges to Support Visual Arts Activity in Nottinghamshire

The Centre for Contemporary Arts Nottingham represents a major development in the county in terms of the visual arts sector nationally. However, this development also

means the closure of Angel Row which has a long and established history in the county and has been of national significance. CCAN also has the opportunity to curate an impact in the county but does retain a focus on the city of Nottingham which retains most of the assets for the development of the visual arts sector in the county. The development of CCAN will provide a key resource for informing the county's audiences regarding contemporary visual arts.

Nottinghamshire County Council has a history of developing project and initiatives 'in-house' and has been a long-term provider of cultural projects and development. Its grants schemes have focused on the patronage model and have not always retained a strategic focus.

The fact that the county holds ducal estates which have developed the means of production and presentation for artists and artworks is a unique asset as they are funded through foundations and owing to their settings also encourage cultural tourism. These operate in tandem with other initiatives which have demonstrated a continued use of open spaces and parks for initiatives throughout the county.

Whilst the county retains many small-scale municipal museums there has been limited activity in terms of increasing their capacity for visual arts events beyond singular initiatives excepting those which have temporary, visual arts programmes.

The decrease in ACE grants represents a threat to initiating other projects within the region including those by artists. Training and networking provision for the visual arts sector retains a city-centric focus.