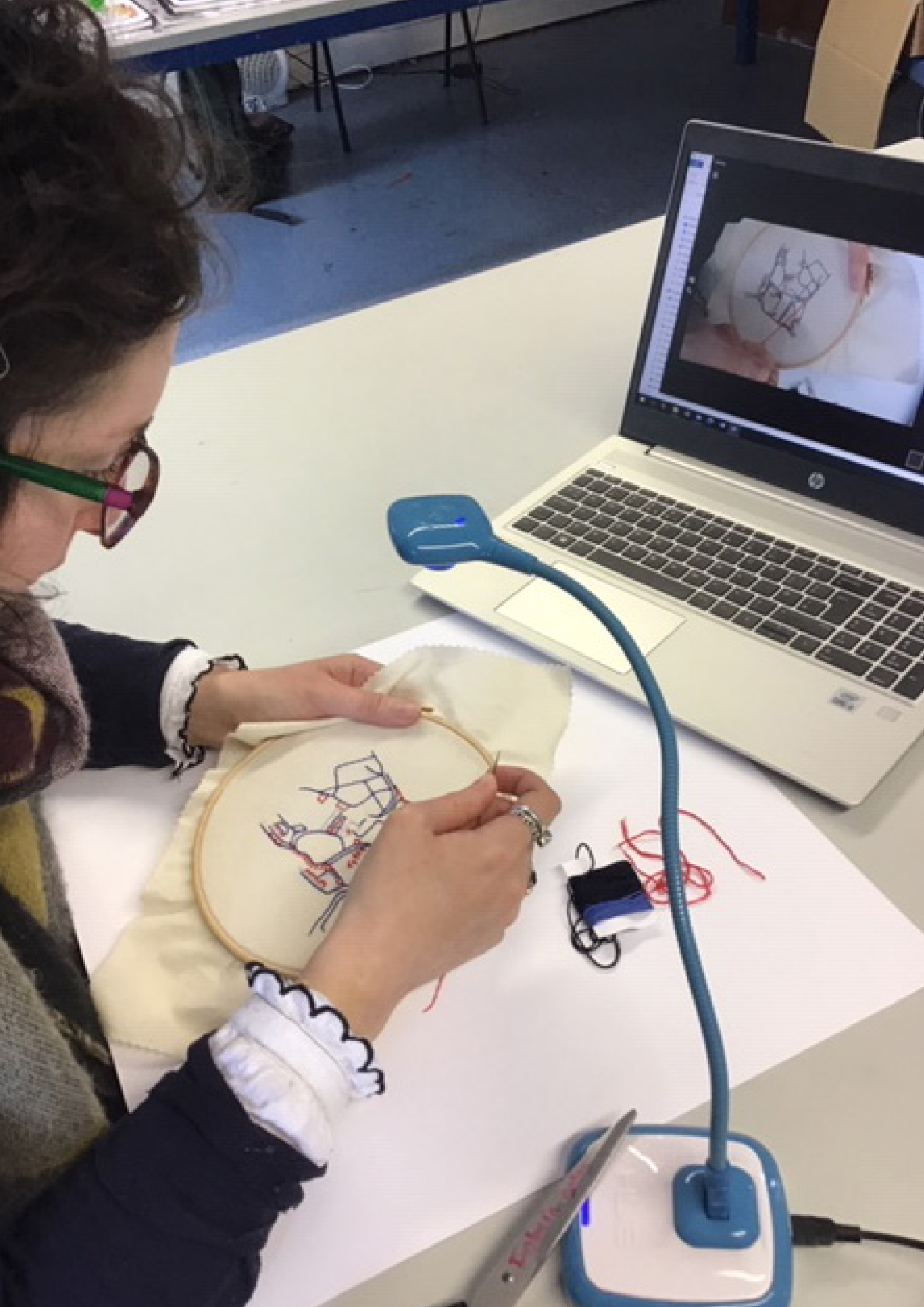


Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre

Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre (LGAC) is the regional centre for visual and applied art in South-East Wales, presenting exhibitions and an extensive programme of education and engagement with the local community. Audiences engage with our projects at the centre, at other venues across the country and connect with us digitally, reinforcing our position as a valued resource within our local community, county, region and nationally. Our key asset remains the building in which we have resided for 55 years which plays a vital role in delivering our aims and objectives, housing three gallery spaces, craft shop, café, education and meeting rooms.

Image on opposite page:

Becky Lewis using the Hue Camera to film demonstration



The context

During this past year of lockdown and the resulting closure of the arts centre building we have been unable to continue with our in person education programme. The building has always been the centre for our learning activities, whether workshops are taking place there or it's acting as the base for outreach sessions within the community. The closure meant that we have had to find new ways of engaging with our audiences. Working from home, we offered a selection of written activities and inspiring still images and we commissioned artists to create video tutorials to continue to be able to engage. As Senior Education Officer I head up the learning programme but have little experience with digital learning. When past projects have required such expertise I have commissioned freelance artists/art educators. Going forward I understand that we will never fully return to just in-person learning and that myself and my colleague need CPD training in the use of basic film making equipment and editing. We will always try to work in partnership with freelance artists and offer them opportunities but as a charity with limited non restricted funds we need to be able to create new digital ways of learning in house.

The grant activity

The micro grant from Engage allowed us to purchase three new cameras, one for myself and one for my colleague to use both whilst working from home or at the arts centre. The cameras will be used to create instructional or inspirational videos for both young people and adults who take part in our education programmes. Videos will also be created to try and engage with new audiences via social media and through our website,

(which we are currently re-designing as part of a re-branding project). The additional camera is for any of the freelance artists that we employ to use in the creation of digital tutorials.

We employed Coleg Gwent tutor Elaine Webb to instruct us in the use of the Hue Pro HD cameras via a live digital tutorial in March. The grant also enabled us to work with animator and arts educator Darren Latham on using iPads to both create and edit films. We purchased table clamps for iPads which will prove invaluable when both animating and documenting hands for demonstrations. The Hue cameras are also perfect for filming work at close range, for example, when trying to capture a delicate craft such as embroidery. We worked via zoom with Darren over two sessions in March. Darren also provided us with presentations and films to compliment the training sessions. Both Elaine and Darren have given us the opportunity to follow up with them after our training, allowing us the opportunity to ask any technical questions when they should arise.

What happened as a result of the grant activity?

The most important benefit to Llantarnam Grange Arts Centre as a result of the micro grant is the opportunity for the education staff, both permanent and freelance, to develop an educational programme of blended learning.

Even when the arts centre is fully open to visitors and participants engaged in our activities, our working lives will never be the same. We need to be able to offer a varied way of learning that is inclusive, so anyone unable to physically visit the centre is still able to access quality resources. Without the new

equipment and training all our digital resources would have had to be created by external artists/tutors.

We can now adapt to change and create almost spontaneous workshop sessions for our online audiences. We can react to exhibitions, themes, cultural anniversaries and our community.

We can create simple yet effective digital workshops without the time needed or cost in outsourcing.

We will start to feel the full benefit of these resources in terms of productive engagement and the creation of new audiences when our re-branding and subsequent new website is completed in the next couple of months.

What did you find out?

The main outcome of the micro grant and the consequent purchasing of new equipment and training for me, is the realisation of how easy it is to make changes in working practices.

As Senior Education Officer, I have historically delegated out any digital workshops/activities or projects as I believed that I didn't have the required skills set. I had a fear and reluctance to embrace new technologies, believing that digital skills such as film making were beyond me. Undertaking training, using simple technology and user friendly editing packages such as iMovie proved that I can be creative in the digital realm. This has already influenced the way I develop my programming.

For the first time we are running our Criw Celf programme online using a mix of online workshops, virtual exhibitions, video tutorials and written activities. I also have more of an

understanding when commissioning freelance artists to produce digital workshops. I still feel that in-person learning is essential but I now have the ability to create resources for participants to enhance their experience.

The arts centre can provide supporting digital documentation before, during or after workshops to help in the creative development and enjoyment of our participants. We will also be able to build up a bank of creative and credible learning resources for school's teaching staff and art educators.