



CLYDESIDE INITIATIVE FOR ARTS LTD

Founding Charity of SWG3
Annual Review 2024-25



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SWG3

1. Hello & Welcome

Hello and welcome to our Annual Report.

This has been an exciting and transformative year for Clydeside Initiative for Arts, the charity at the heart of SWG3. Over the past year, we've continued to grow in scale and impact — supporting artists, inspiring audiences, and engaging more deeply with communities close to our venue.

A major milestone this year was securing multi-year funding from Creative Scotland for the first time, providing much-needed stability as we plan for the future. Alongside this, we carried out a full governance review to ensure our structure is fit for the next phase of growth.

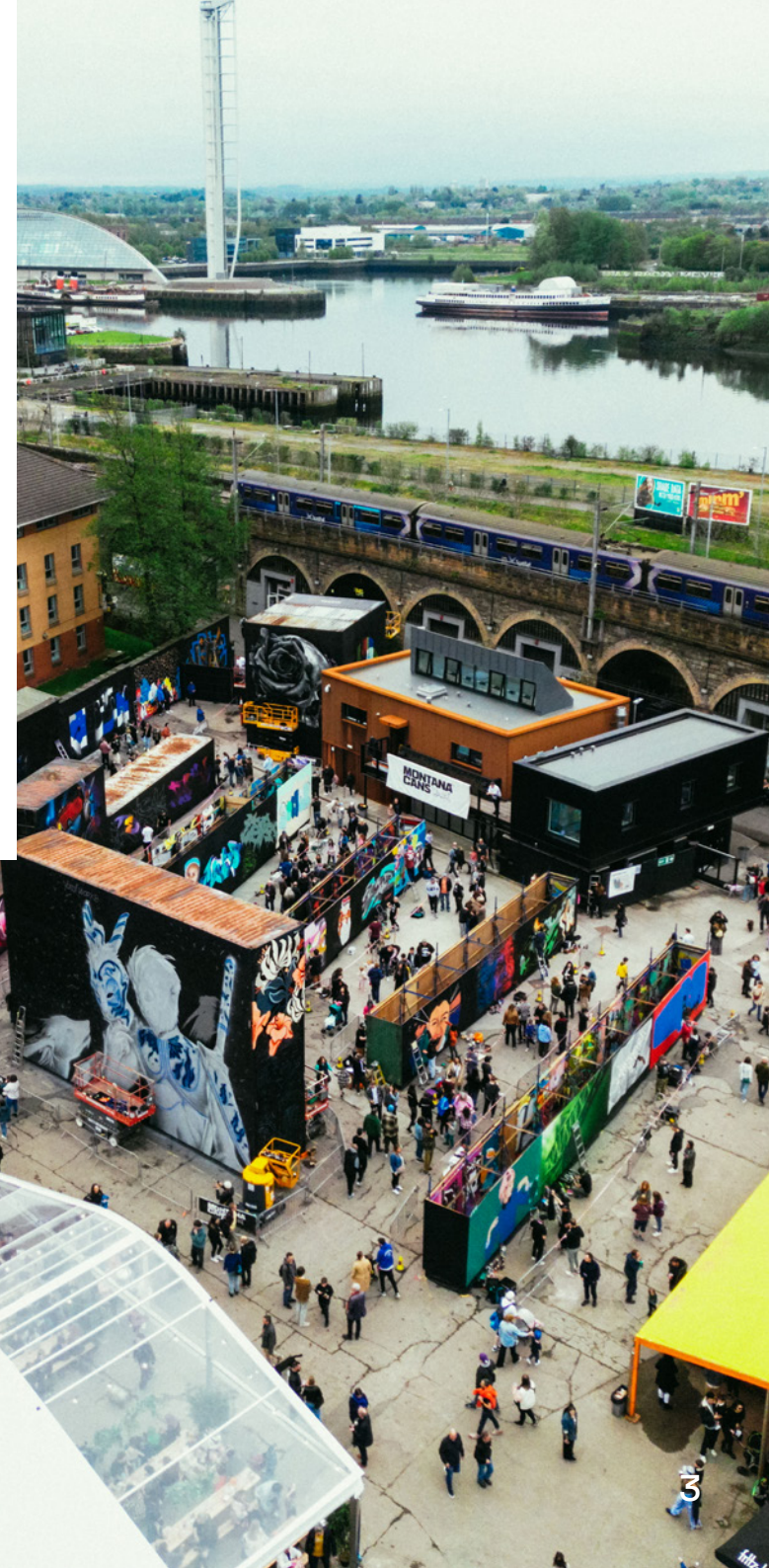
We also developed a new shared vision across the wider SWG3 group — rooted in creativity, community, and placemaking — helping align our work across all areas of the organisation.

Sustainability remains central to our work, and we were delighted to be recognised this year through four environmental awards.

As economic pressures continue to affect artists, audiences and communities, our work feels more vital than ever. We remain committed to supporting creative careers and increasing access to the arts, through activities like our Artist Mentoring Programme and Yardworks Studio, now an SQA-accredited education centre.

A huge thank you to all our team, residents, funders, and audiences for making this work possible.

Alison Fullerton
Executive Director



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2. What We Do

Clydeside Initiative for Arts Ltd (CIA) — better known as SWG3 — is one of Scotland's largest cultural hubs attracting a diverse community of creators and audiences under one roof.

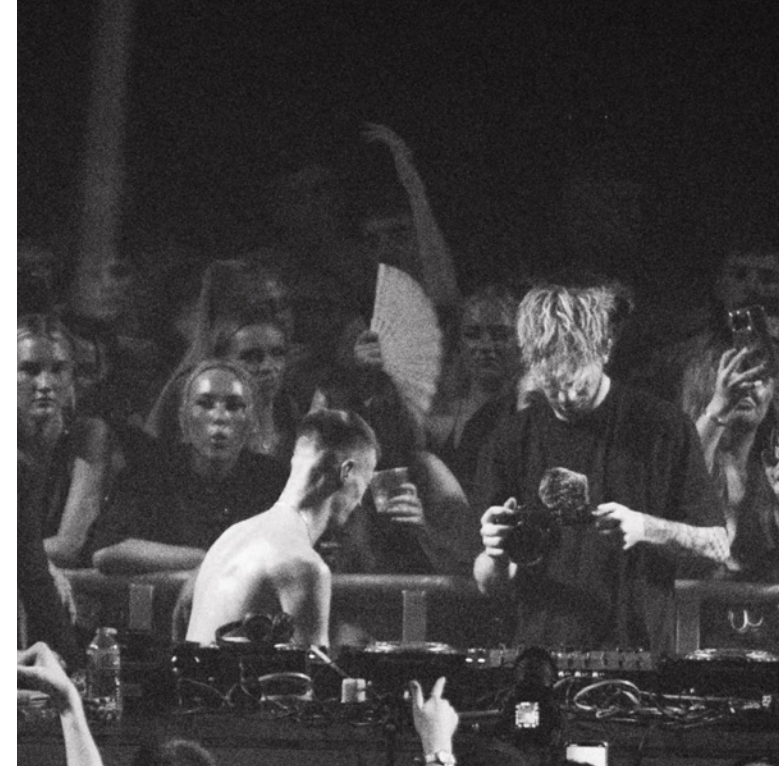
We bring together a wide mix of creatives — including artists, designers, musicians, promoters, organisations, and community members — to collaborate, share ideas, and spark new projects. This mix of local and international talent creates a vibrant, supportive community where innovation thrives.

We provide a variety of spaces, from individual and shared studios to exhibition and event spaces, a garden and growing space. We're also home to Yardworks Studio, Scotland's first purpose-built facility for graffiti and street art.

Our studios are offered at below-market rates, and we try to make them as affordable as possible to support the careers of creative people. In turn, this supports them to make creative work that inspires people in Glasgow and beyond.

Working in partnership with events company, SWG3 Ltd, we provide space that hosts hundreds of events across art, design, music, fashion, retail, food, nature, and everything in between.

Beyond our walls, our community programmes — including street arts and graffiti project, Yardworks GRID — help people to improve their local environment with public art, build pride in their community, and open up creative opportunities across the city.



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3. Vision and Mission

Our Vision is to ignite **Glasgow's creative energy** and bring people together through inspirational **experiences, connections, and opportunities.**

So, how do we do this?

WE BRING JOY

through an inspirational programme of visual art, design, live music, clubs, fashion, food, entertainment, and nature, designed for everyone.

WE CHANGE PLACES

by revitalising the urban landscape with cultural spaces, amenities, and public art, enhancing Glasgow's international status and the lived experience of its people.

WE CREATE CHANCES

for anyone to be creative, build skills, create networks, grow businesses, experiment, and innovate.



4. 2024-25 Highlights

70+

strong resident artist community

637

improved creative skills

31

volunteers

15

artists on mentoring programme

35

public art commissions

700

gigs, clubs and events

300k

audience members



UK's biggest graffiti festival,
Yardworks Festival

4

environmental awards



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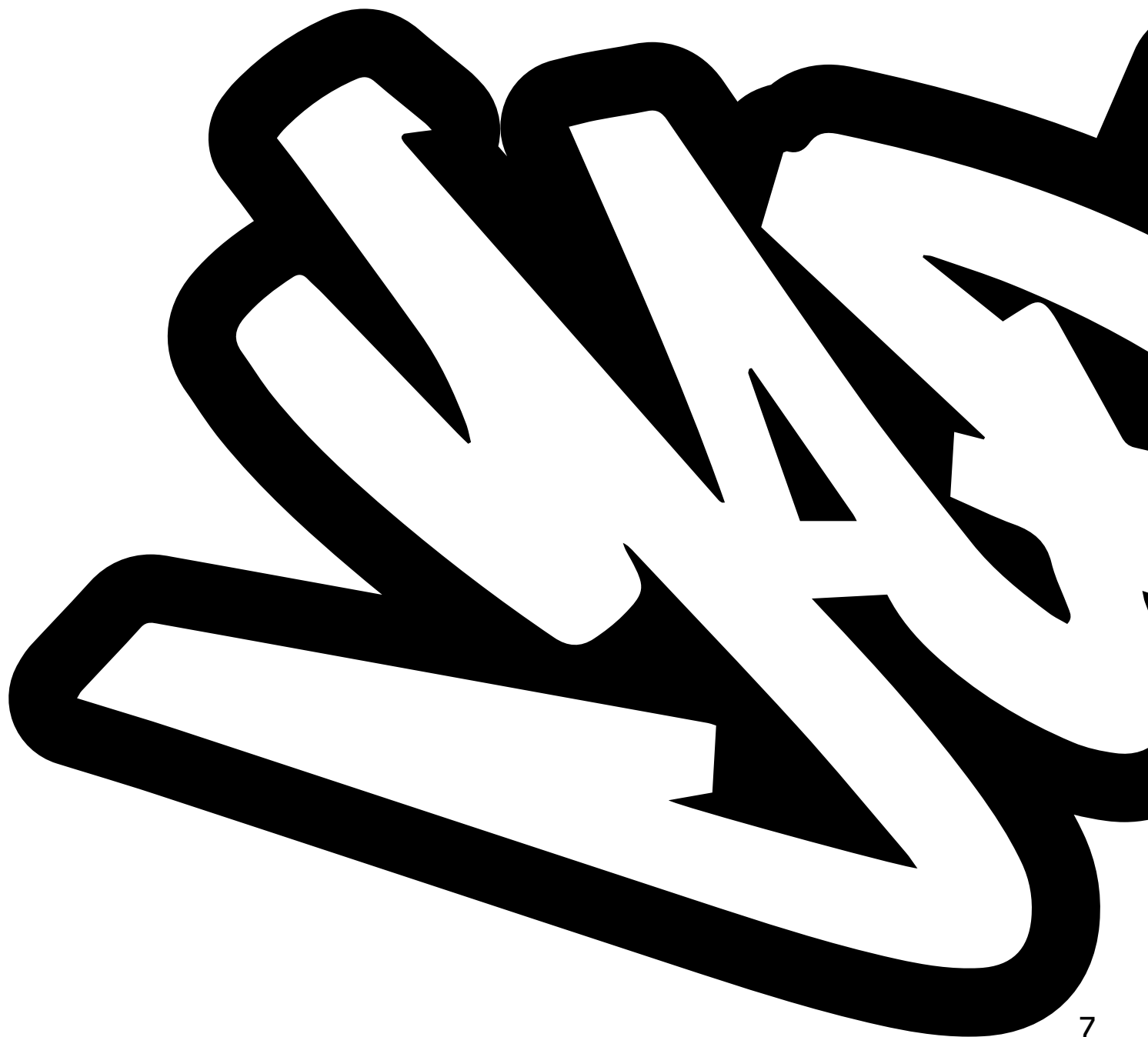
5. Yardworks

Our flagship programme, Yardworks, has grown from an ambitious arts initiative from across the River Clyde to a world-leading initiative that champions street art, graffiti and design across a **globally respected creative programme**, and. connects people and ideas around the world.

Graffiti and street art can come with a negative public perception. One of the main aims of Yardworks has always been to help overcome that, whether that's by introducing people to the creativity, skill and inspiration to be found amongst the aerosols and tags, or through supporting artists to discover and develop their talent.

Yardworks Festival

Yardworks Festival, one of the **UK's largest graffiti festivals** where our Galvanizers Yard is transformed into a vibrant canvas of colour and creativity, was held again in May. Over **100 artists from around world** participated, and **5000 visitors** attended over one weekend.



5. Yardworks GRID

Yardworks GRID is a creative placemaking programme aiming to transform the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District into a vibrant Street Arts District and Open-Air Gallery. We engaged communities in Partick, Yorkhill, and Govan through graffiti and street art, skills development, and public space improvement.

This has led us to engage with the GRID communities of Govan, Yorkhill, and Partick in recent years through graffiti and street art, skills development, and improvement of public space.

This year, we finished a second phase of the programme (2023–2025), funded by Glasgow Community and Place Fund and Creative Scotland. Our evaluation showed a big impact over the two year period:

Key Achievements

- Over **1,100 people** engaged in creative activities, including children, young people, adults, and older residents.
- **315 people** improved their creative skills, **258 people** enhanced life skills, boosting employability.
- **Over 500 people** gained exposure to new artforms through one off events and engagement activities
- **41 permanent public artworks** and **200+ temporary installations transformed local spaces.**
- **90%** of treated sites have stayed graffiti-free since installation
- **84%** of people surveyed reported improved perception of their local area
- **12,455 visitors** attended Yardworks events, boosting local tourism and economy.
- **25 partner organisations** collaborated, strengthening community networks



One project partner said:

“Before I probably looked at graffiti as shocking. I thought, that shouldn’t be happening. But now when you think about why graffiti exists, it’s a release. And all the graffiti in Glasgow adds colour to the city. I think if it’s done properly and safely, it adds to the city, it should be encouraged.” [Partner]



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5. Yardworks: Artist Mentoring Programme

AMP supports underrepresented artists, particularly those who are self-taught, lack a formal arts education, or are not currently working in the sector.

This year, we supported 15 artists, each receiving a bursary, 1:1 mentoring, technical and business skills training, and access to professional equipment.

- **73% (11) went on to secure paid commissions, and some led large-scale public art projects** for the first time.
- **1965 hours of freelance work opportunities** was created for **30+ artists**
- **3 artists developed** facilitation skills
- **12 artists gaining industry-recognised IPAF qualifications / accreditation** from Yardworks to operate cherry picker and scissor lifts
- **Opportunities to attend additional training** covered public art planning, installation techniques, ProCreate software, oil painting, screen printing, and life drawing

“I’ve been drawing all my life, working as a chef for 12 years too. Didn’t have money for art school when I was younger. This [AMP] programme has helped me find the solution to change my life.” [AMP Artist]

“Socially it is still really male dominated... it’s often done illegally so it isn’t safe. The programme has encouraged safe practices of street arts...breeding a safer environment.” [AMP Artist]

“I’m now confident on any project, no matter the size. That’s a huge change for me.” [AMP Artist]



5. Yardworks: Volunteering

Our volunteering strand through GRID was also a launchpad for new careers.

Thirty-one people volunteered, including ten AMP artists and twenty-one local residents. Three transitioned into paid roles directly through Yardworks GRID — one starting as a volunteer and progressing to delivering commissioned works and running workshops.

“I started as a volunteer and within 18 months I was working here. I’ve had training, commissions, and a whole new career path.” [Volunteer]



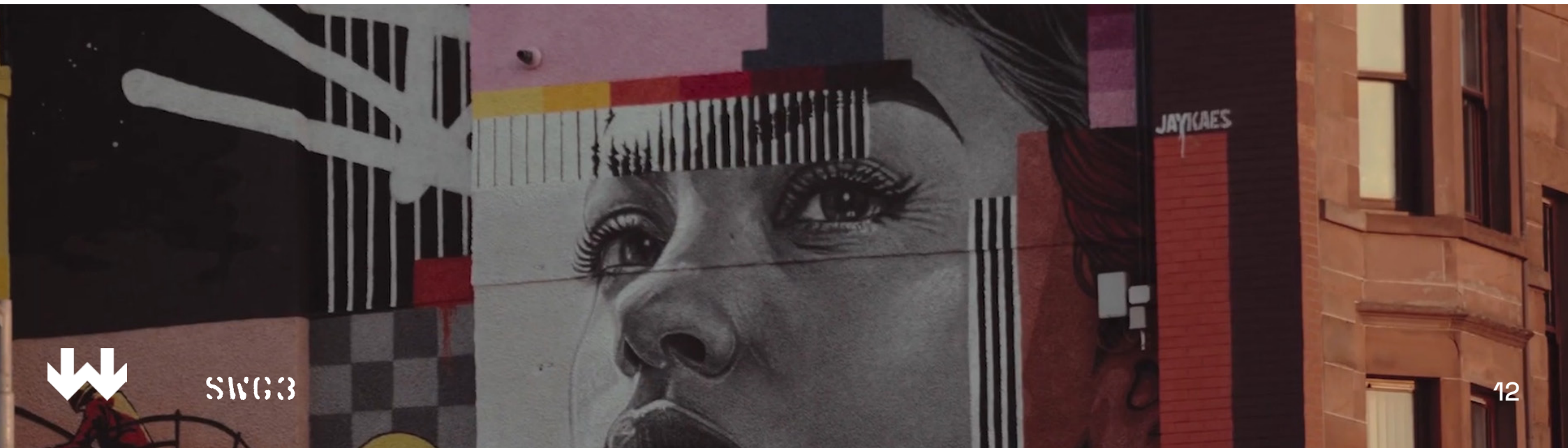
5. Yardworks: Creative Pathways

GRID's work with young people has been particularly transformative, especially for **boys disengaged from mainstream education**. Through spray-painting sessions, mural design, and mentoring, Yardworks GRID has helped them find **confidence, develop skills, and connect with positive role models**.

We have now developed an **Introduction to Creative Industries course** and a partnership with Glasgow City Council's Education Department.

We were also delighted to get **Yardworks Studio** accredited as a **Scottish Qualifications Authority Education Centre**.

“It gives kids who don't fit mainstream education the chance to fulfil their potential.” [Youth Partner]



6. Garden & Growing Space

In June, we proudly opened our new garden and growing space — transforming a piece of land that had sat derelict for over two decades into a vibrant community asset. Working closely with local residents, staff, and community groups, we've turned 3,200m² of wasteland into a shared space for growing, relaxing, creating, and experiencing art outdoors.

Designed by horticultural expert Jeremy Needham, with community engagement led by Propagate, the garden features native planting, beehives, growing beds, and more than 50 mature trees generously donated by The New York Times after COP26.

Stephen Dunbar-Johnson of The New York Times and Richard Williams from VELUX and the VKR Foundation officially opened the garden, with a performance by STASIS showcasing its potential as an outdoor arts venue.

Thanks to the Scottish Government's Vacant and Derelict Land Fund, the UK Community Renewal Fund, The New York Times, and the VKR Foundation for bringing this new green square space to life.



SWG3

Richard Williams, Business Development Manager at VELUX, said:

“It’s a privilege for VELUX to be part of this project, which will provide the local community with much needed green space and somewhere to come together.”

‘Stasis performance 2024’

7. Environmental Performance

Sustainability is at the core of what we do, and we were delighted this year to win four environmental awards.

We're working towards achieving net-zero operations by 2027 and reducing our wider environmental impact — including Scope 3 emissions — by 2030.

+ **Green Champion**
at the 2024 Glasgow Business Awards

THE
GLASGOW
BUSINESS AWARDS

+ **Sustainable Development**
at the 2024 Glasgow Business Awards

THE
GLASGOW
BUSINESS AWARDS

+ **Sustainability Award**
at the 2024 Best Bar None Awards

BEST BAR NONE


+ **Vision in Business Awards**
at the 2024 VIBES Scottish Environment Business Awards

SCOTTISH
ENVIRONMENT
BUSINESS AWARDS  **2024**



SWG3

7. Environmental Performance

How are we doing?

In 2024

- Our total carbon footprint was **963.91 tCO2e** — a **35% rise from the previous year**. This increase reflects an expanded measurement scope (now including refrigerants and diesel) and a near-doubling of average audience travel distances, which drove a 34% rise in travel-related emissions. As noted in our 2023 sustainability report, we expected our footprint to grow as data collection improves before it begins to fall.

Encouragingly, we achieved reductions elsewhere:

- Emissions from gas use and business travel **fell by over 50%**.
- While staff commuting, waste, and recycling emissions dropped by **more than 20%**.
- Our recycling rate also rose to **64% (up 2%)**, putting us on track to reach our **70% target by 2025/26**.



7. Environmental Performance: BODYHEAT

A large crowd of people is silhouetted against a dark background, illuminated by bright stage lights. The word 'BODYHEAT' is prominently displayed in the center in a large, white, stylized font. The 'O' and 'Y' are solid, while the 'B', 'D', 'H', 'E', and 'A' are composed of horizontal bars. The 'T' is also solid. The background shows a concert scene with people raising their hands and a bright spotlight from the right.

BODYHEAT



SWG3

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW THE FILM](#)

8. Our Team

We achieved this impact thanks to the hard work of a team employed on a mixture of permanent, freelance and fixed term posts.

Our Team

Helen Fallowell: Finance Manager

Gary Mackay: Yardworks Creative Director

Laura Frood: Yardworks GRID Programme Manager (to March 2025, now Creative Placemaking and Social Impact Lead)

Dair McCormack: Yardworks Assistant (to June 2025)

Devon Poole: Social Media and Content Officer (to March 2025, now Youth Coordinator)

Michaela McManus: Yardworks Coordinator (until March 2025)

Tuesday McPhail: Yardworks Coordinator (freelance)

Alison Fullerton: Strategic Impact Lead / Executive Director (from Feb 2025)

Our Trustees

Morag Arnot (Chair): Consultant

Damien Smith: Co-Founder and Partner at ISO Design

Baljinder Singh: Campaign Manager, Show Racism the Red Card

Joe Logan: Architect and Developer, The Loft

Wendy Jordan: Wheatley Foundation Officer, Wheatley Group (resigned June 2025)

Andrew Fleming Brown: Founder of Clydeside Initiative for Arts Ltd and Managing Director, SWG3 Ltd



8. Our Founders

We are grateful to the following funders and their support this year:

SWG3 Ltd

Creative Scotland

Glasgow Community and Place Fund

Glasgow City Council

Glasgow 850

National Lottery Awards for All

Montana Cans

VKR Foundation

**Scottish Government Vacant
and Derelict Land Fund**

The New York Times



9. Our Model

Clydeside Initiative for Arts (CIA) remains at the heart of SWG3. As the site has grown, a small group of connected organisations has been established to protect the charity, support its vision, and ensure long-term sustainability.

When opportunities arose to expand into neighbouring buildings, separate ownership companies were set up to secure private finance to purchase the buildings, protecting the site from outside developers. As activity on site increased — particularly events and licensed trade — SWG3 Ltd was created to manage commercial operations, including events, bars, security, and health and safety. Income from these activities helps to fund CIA's charitable and community work.

Today, SWG3 operates through several legally distinct entities, including CIA, SWG3 Ltd, Douglas House Security (DHS), and Yard Works Ltd. While each has its own role, all share a common goal: to support creativity, bring people together, and make a positive impact in Glasgow and beyond.



SWG3



10. Financial Year

This is a summary of our income and expenditure for the year.

For more information, you will find our full audited accounts on the Companies House website.

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
SWG3 Ltd Donation	£201,406	Venue Expenses	£66,693
Other donations and gifts	£49,284	Arts Programme	£487,164
Venue income (rent, hires, operator fees)	£289,040	Staff Costs	£173,769
Yardworks Programme Income	£213,533	Building Costs	£187,287
Grants	£306,460	Administration Costs	£101,383
Investments	£1,308	Depreciation	£255,193
TOTAL	+£1,061,031	TOTAL	-£1,271,489

SURPLUS / DEFICIT: -£210,458 (Operating surplus of £44,735 prior to depreciation being applied.)



Thanks for Your Support

Get in touch at info@swg3.tv

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Charity Registration No. SC037703
Company No. SC286669



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