

Dundee Creative Space Survey 2023: Findings

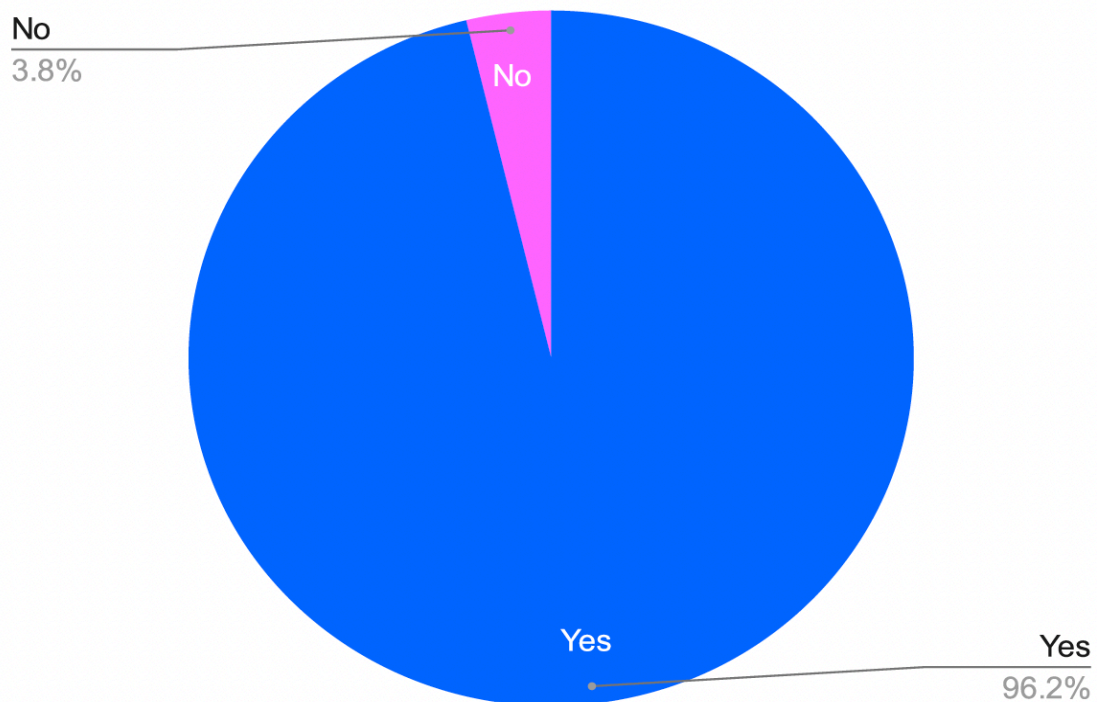
A lack of creative space is limiting the growth of the city's creative sector.

Last year a series of events brought forward powerful stories about the opportunities that more accessible and collaborative creative space could provide. To better advocate and negotiate for space, we need data to demonstrate the need. Alongside the launch of [Hapworks](#), we launched a survey aimed at creative practitioners, businesses and organisations based in the city in October 2023. The survey and the results were created and collated by [Creative Dundee](#), we are sharing the findings in this report.

The survey received **106 responses** between 31 October and 10 December 2023.

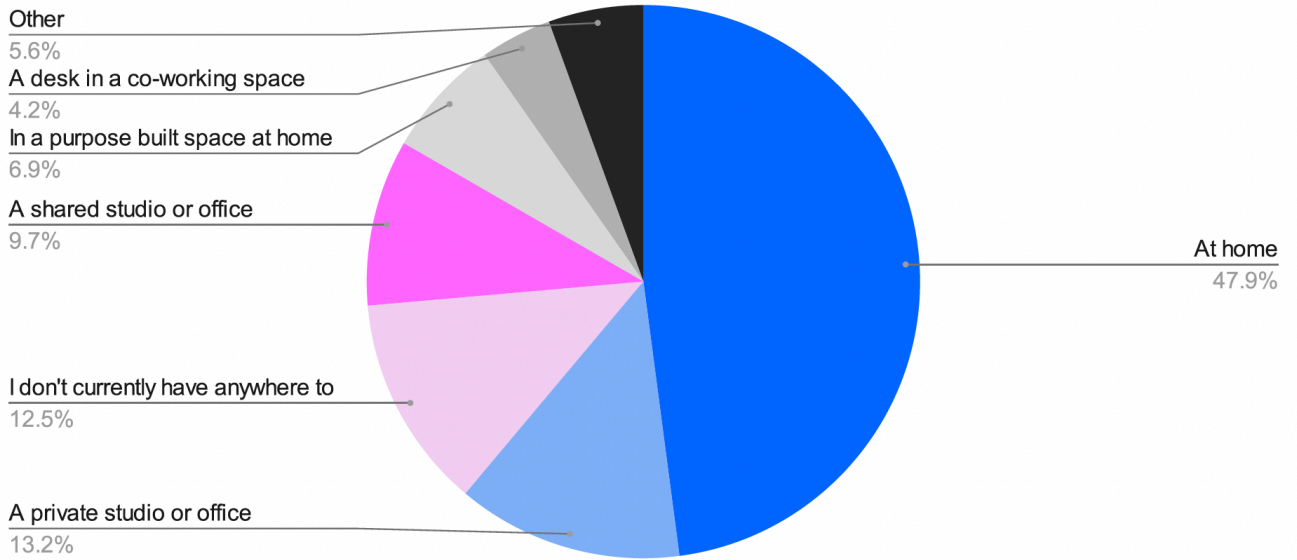
Access to Space

Have you ever struggled to find the space you need for your creative practice, business or projects?



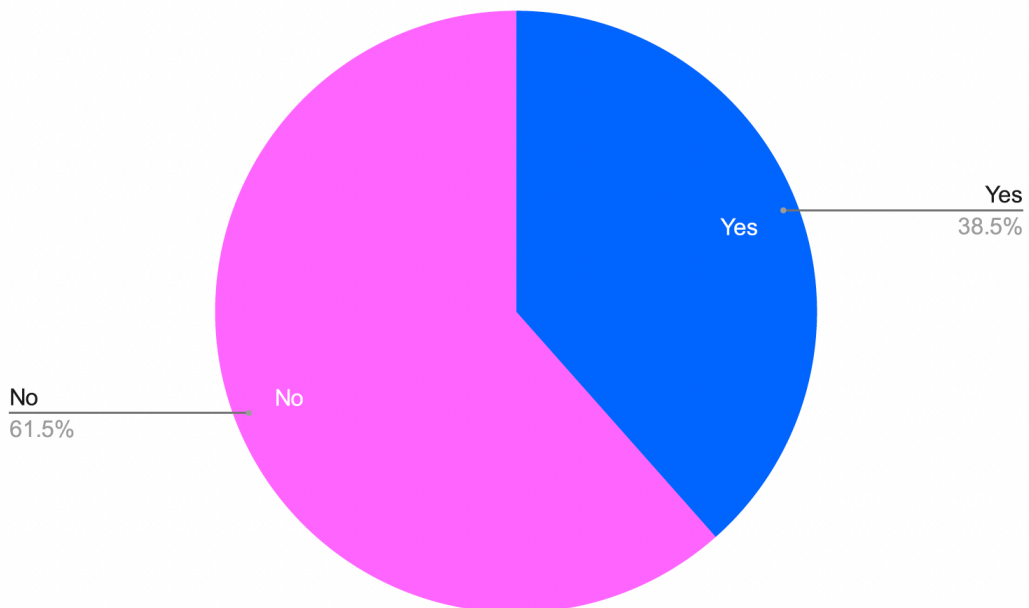
Where do you currently do your creative work?

Respondents could choose more than one answer.



Other responses were primarily local cafes with some using borrowed space from relatives or workplaces.

If you have a space, is it fit for purpose?



“My home space is not a workspace, and I work best when surrounded by fellow creatives.”

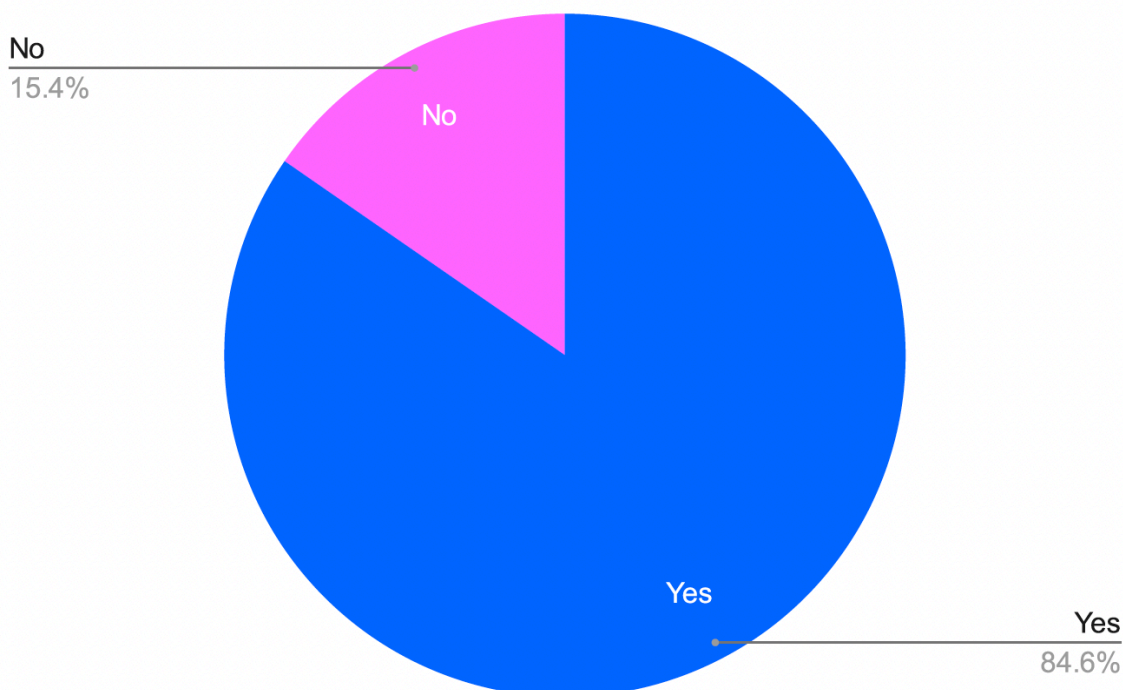
“Freelancing is already quite a challenging and isolating path despite doing what I love. However, working from home adds another layer of challenges. It blurs the lines of home space (rest) and work which impacts my mental health (if there is any left freelancing for two years)”

“I am restricted in the scale and volume of my work. I am either sacrificing comfort in my living space or not creating at all. It is difficult for me to move beyond planning and experimentation to development and bringing ideas to fruition.”

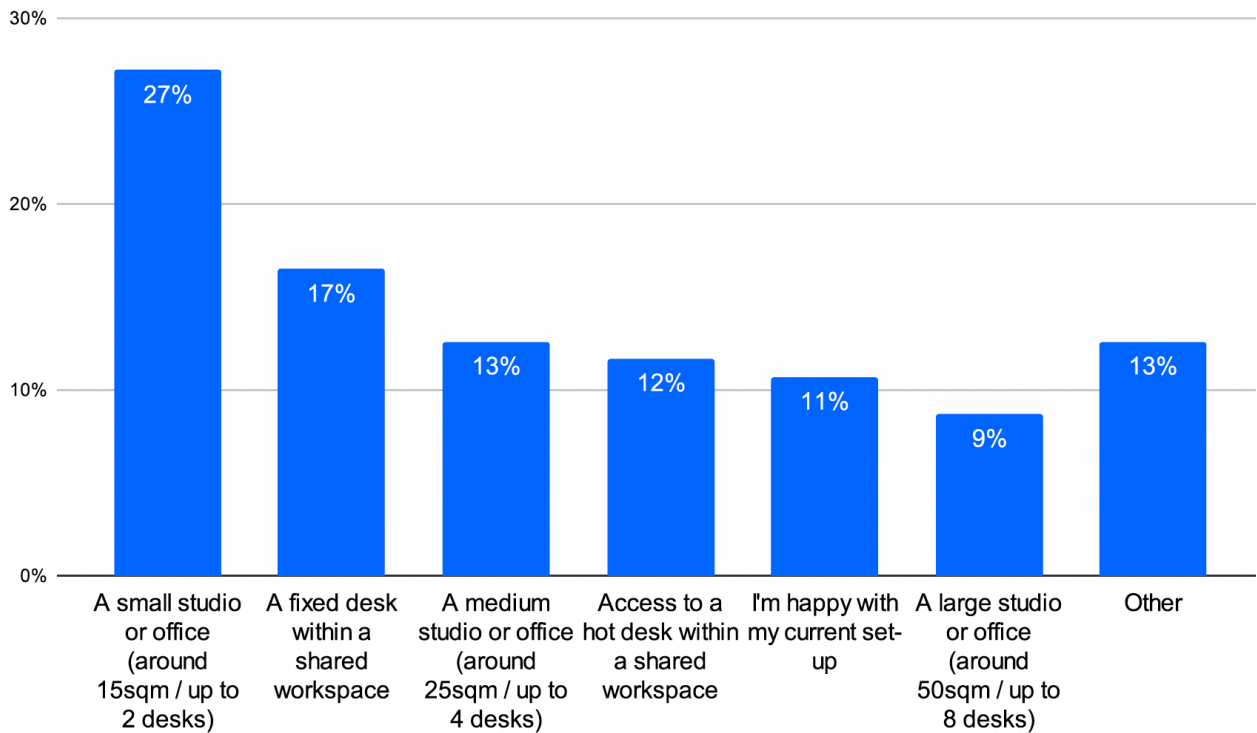
Survey respondents, 2023

Space Needs

Do you need an alternative creative space to work in?

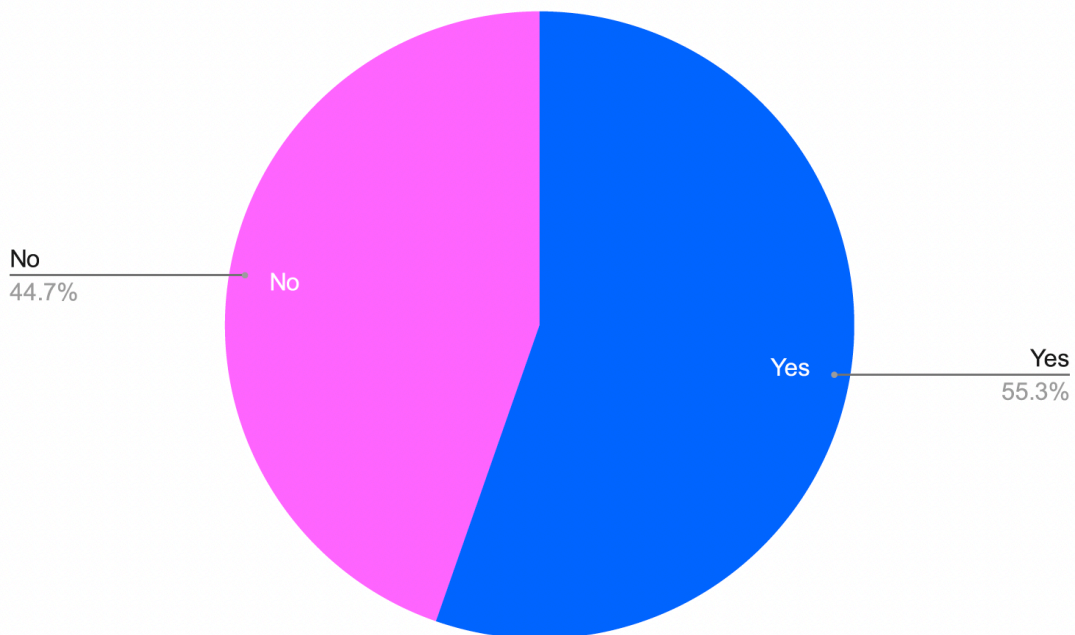


What primary type of workspace do you need?



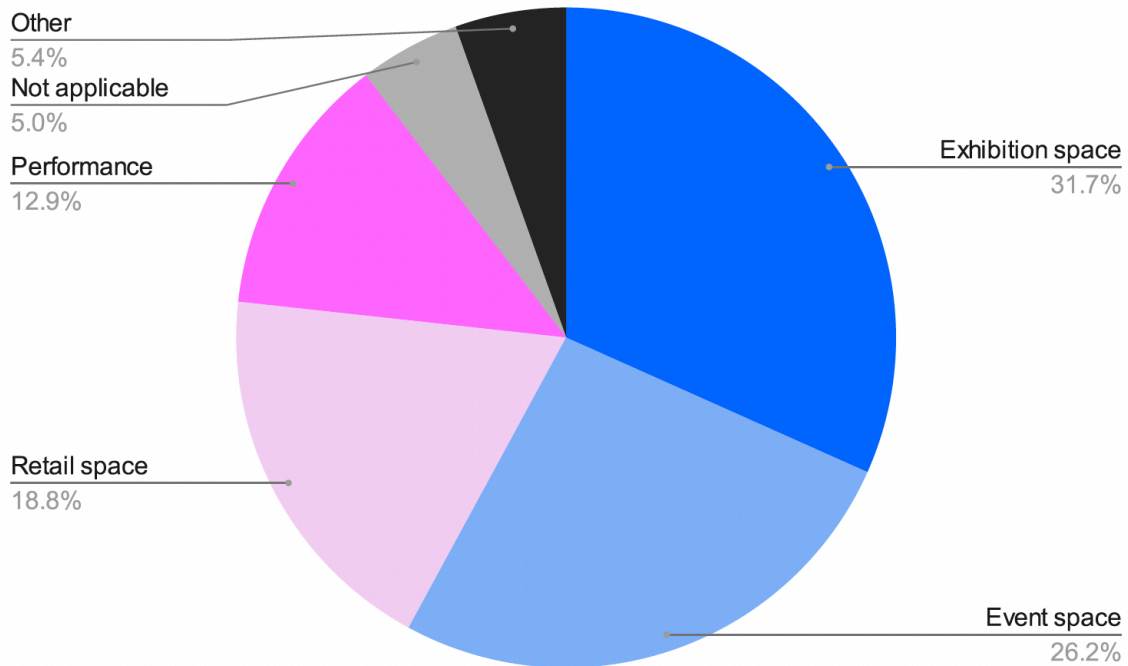
Other spaces needed included a maker space with access to equipment (34), recording studio (14), space to hold workshops (2), photography studio and/or dark room (5), performance or rehearsal space (4).

Does the space need to be suitable for messy work?



What type of space enables you to share your work?

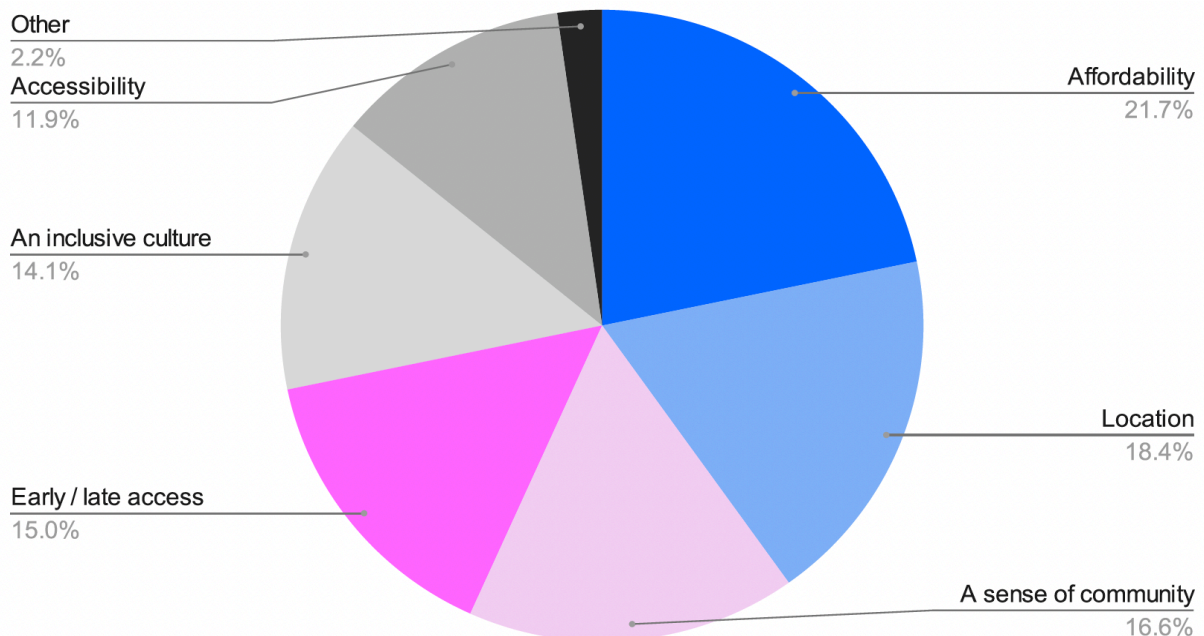
Respondents could choose more than one answer.



Other spaces needed to share work included meeting rooms(19), performance or rehearsal space (13), space to hold workshops (7).

What is important to you when choosing space for your creative work?

Respondents could choose more than one answer.



Other considerations included safety and security of the space, natural light, proximity to childcare, kitchen facilities and public accessibility.

What would be your budget per month for the type of space you need?

This is based on responses from respondents who specified what type of space they need for their creative work and their budget per month for this type of space.

	Less than £50	Between £50-£100	Between £100-£200	Between £200-£300	Between £300-£400	Between £400 - £500 pm	More than £500
Hot Desking	2	5	2				
Fixed Desk	2	4	8	1	1		
Small studio or office space (around 15sqm)	1	4	14	4	1		
Medium studio or office (around 25sqm)		1	4	5	1	1	
Large studio or office (around 50sqm)	1			1	2	1	3

“It’s hard to know what you definitely need when there is such a lack of space, that work-arounds etc. become the norm.”

“I would love to have access to a really nice public space I could use for a few hours per week for workshops, where I could also store equipment. Preferably somewhere where there is lots going on so that the workshop feels as though it is 'part of something'.”

“I would love a communal kitchen / eating / informal space to discuss and share day to day activities rather than relying on only formal spaces or pre organised meetings.”

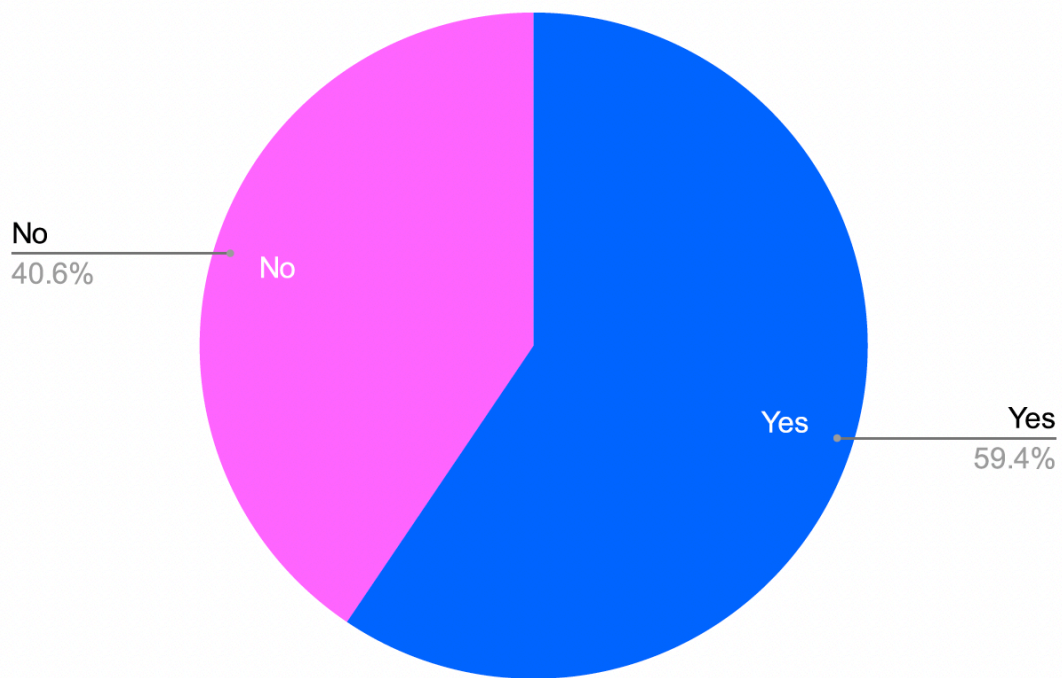
“The need for long-term locations for studios is important, many of the other opportunities I have seen do not offer any stability from month to month and I also need a place to store my materials, not just work in.”

“I find it challenging to find accessible spaces for workshops. By accessible I mean, has good wheelchair access, suitable baby/child changing facilities and an induction loop. This would be good to consider when creating new spaces.”

Survey respondents, 2023

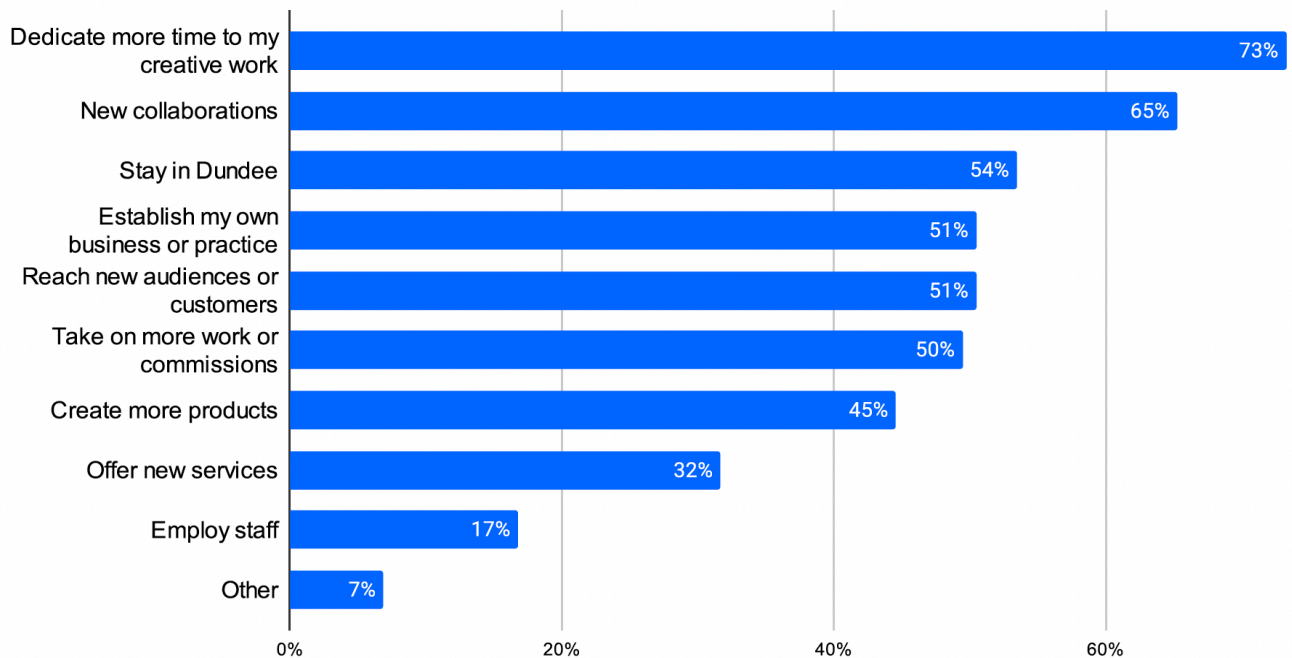
Opportunities and Risks for Dundee

Have you ever considered leaving Dundee due to a lack of creative spaces?



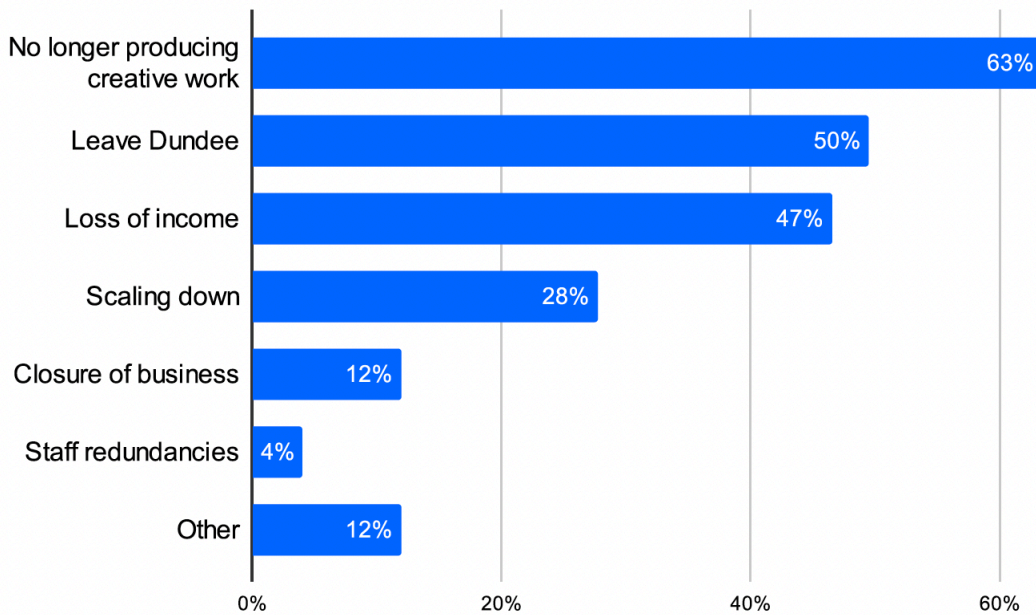
What opportunities could this type of space enable for your practice or business?

Respondents could choose more than one answer.



What are the potential risks to your practice or business if you were unable to access adequate space?

Respondents could choose more than one answer.



Other responses included, “Slower growth, having to adapt quicker.”, “Loneliness” and “Unable to realise my creative ideas.”.

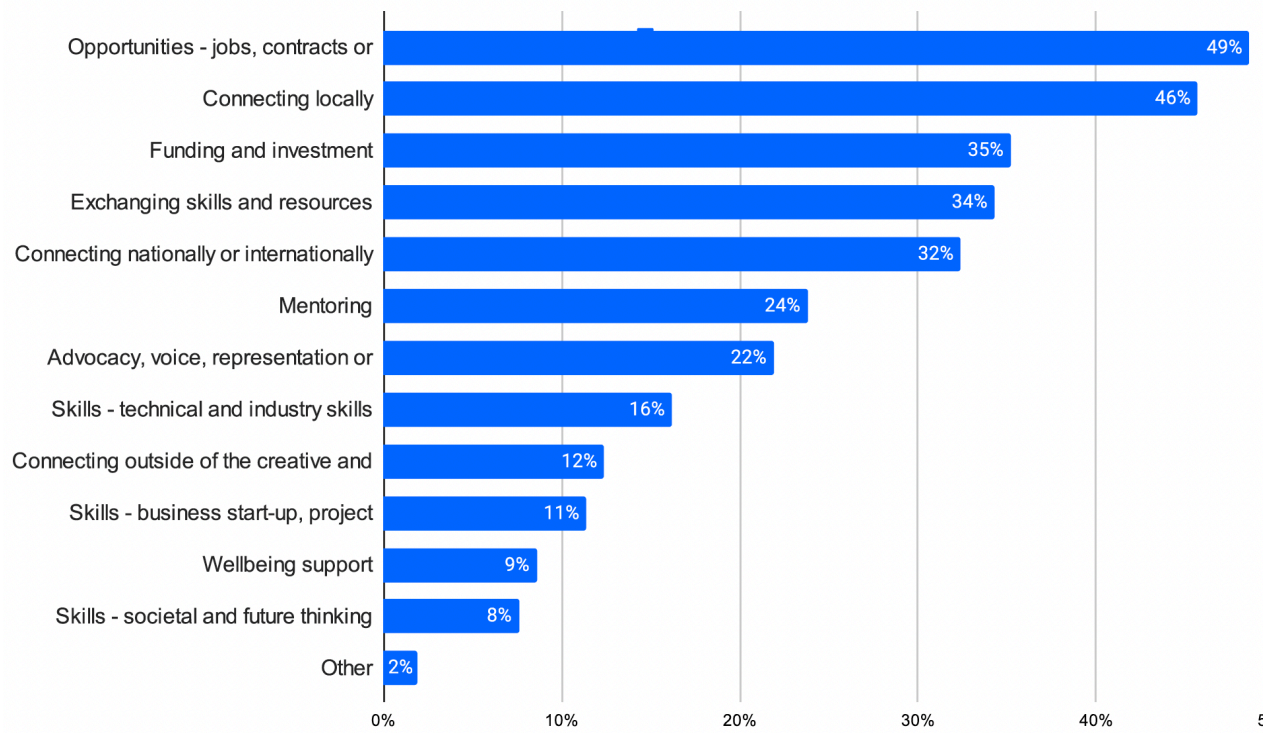
“I have previously left Dundee due to lack of space and community - I have returned to the area in hope this can still be improved and to advocate for the arts in this area.”

“I was part of Unit 5 it was most valuable workspace community I've ever come across I love working in the Vision building it helped my small company rise out of the shadows its closure led me to leave Scotland, I feel something more could of been done to support us to save it, I am now back in Dundee set up in good space but on my own it's tough some days and more should done to recognise how important Dundee creative industries are and how it contributes greatly to local economy.”

Survey respondents, 2023

What other forms of support would enhance your creative work?

Respondents could choose a maximum of three answers.

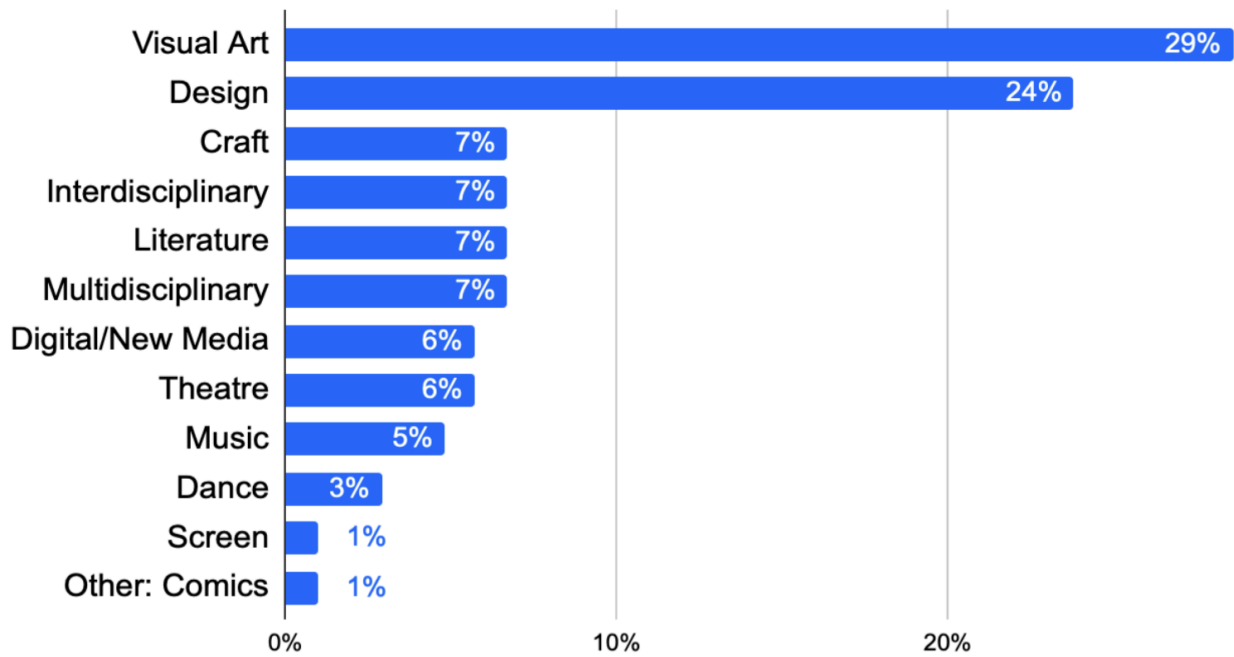


“Without a visible and interconnected creative environment any creative practices are bound to be severely limited in scope or indeed fail all together. Through public visibility comes better understanding and acceptance in the wider community which, in turn, leads to better education and opportunities. With an interconnected creative community comes a far greater range of works and solutions to problems with more opportunities organically flowing to fellow practitioners.”

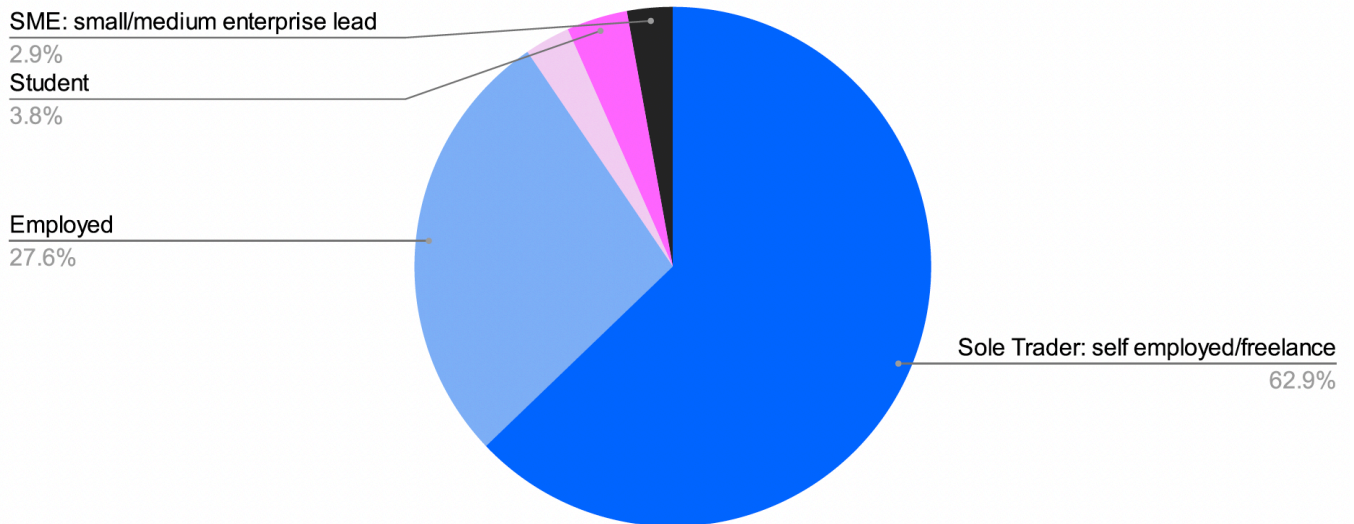
Survey respondent, 2023

Who took part?

Which of these best describes your creative work?



In your main occupation you are:



About:

Hapworks aims to develop a network of creative spaces which creates new opportunities for the creative sector in Dundee to thrive. hapworks.co

Creative Dundee centres creative communities as powerful catalysts for collective good. creativedundee.com