



How Did Your Garden Grow?

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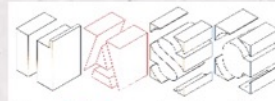
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the architecture school for children



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HOW DID YOUR GARDEN GROW

tasc **'the architecture school for children'** Present another exciting project drawing upon the city of Manchester as a rich resource.

120 children from four schools from Moss Side and Hulme explored the story of Manchester Piccadilly Gardens, working with artists from tasc, staff from Archives + Manchester Central Library, North West Film Archive at Manchester Metropolitan University, staff and students from EdLab MMU and NorthWest heritage specialist. The children involved in this project imaginatively peeled back the layers of time to chart the amazing changes Piccadilly Gardens has been through over the past 500 years.

This was a great opportunity for the children to have first-hand experience of exploring the city space, followed by interactive studio sessions in the city's cultural venues, where they were encouraged to develop their own exciting ideas. Using archive film footage, collage, digital mapping the children reflected their understanding and created books about the gardens history.

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PICCADILLY GARDENS

The project **'HOW DID YOUR GARDEN GROW'** brought the gardens history and surroundings to life, which sparked the children's imaginations, they explored its statues, buildings and street names in the context of the city's development from the 1500's to present day.

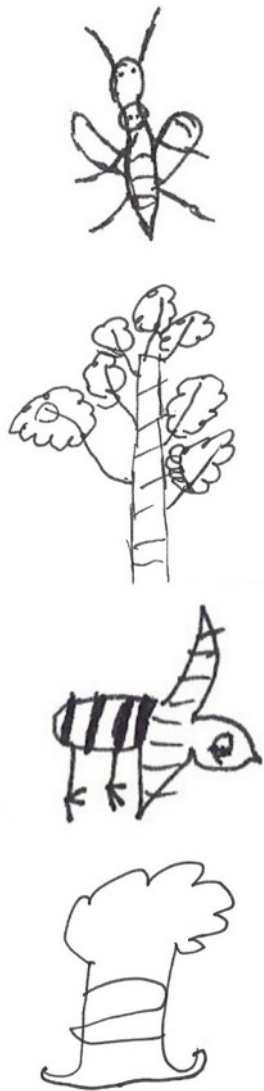
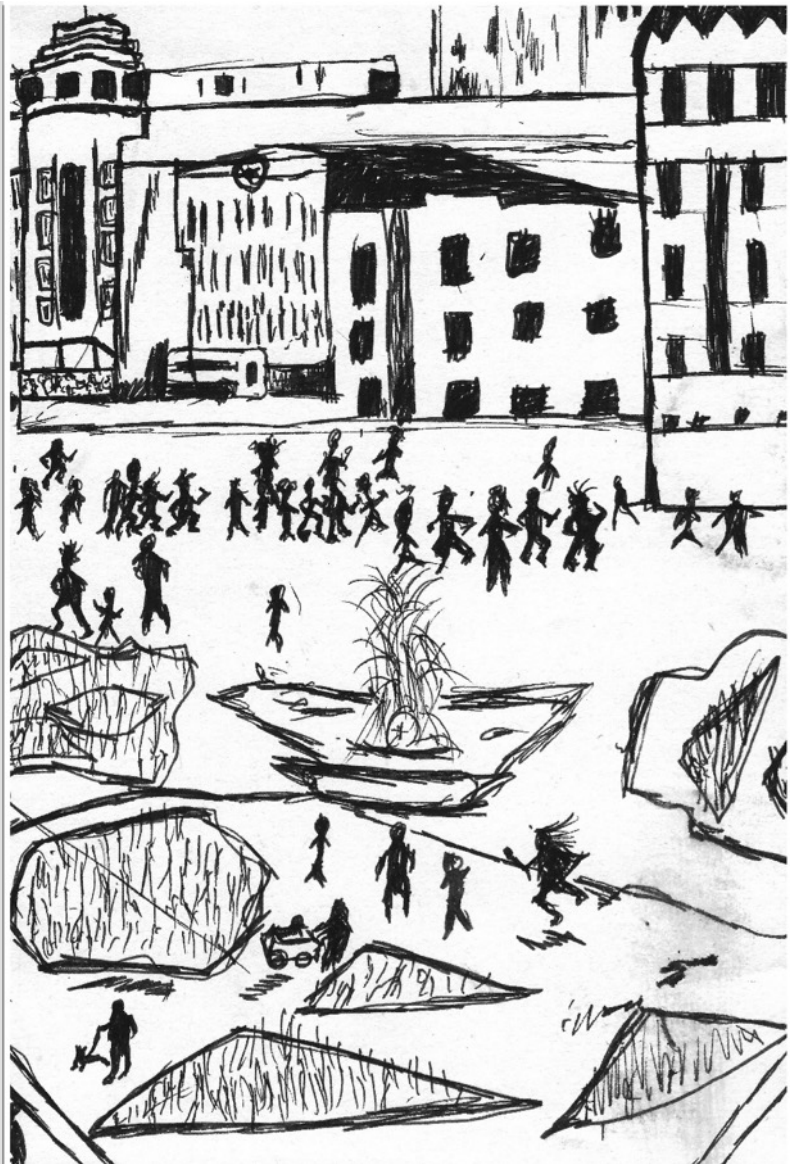
Piccadilly Gardens is a green space in Manchester city centre, England, between Market Street and the edge of the Northern Quarter. Piccadilly runs eastwards from the junction of Market Street with Mosley Street to the junction of London Road with Ducie Street; to the south are the gardens and paved areas. The area was reconfigured in 2002 with a water feature and concrete pavilion by Japanese architect Tadao Ando.

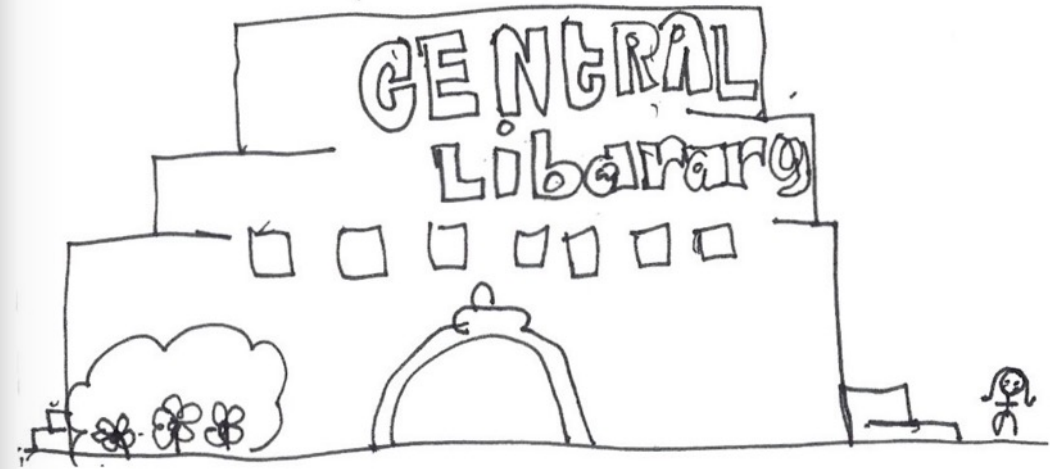




Manchester City Art Gallery

A visit to Manchester City Art Gallery was an opportunity for the children to further investigate Piccadilly Gardens. Studying L.S Lowry's picture of the gardens, with a social historian talking them through the painting as a source of historical reference and within a social context of a particular time and place. This was an opportunity to discuss how the city was documented and captured through different mediums i.e. painting, drawing, film, photography throughout the decades.





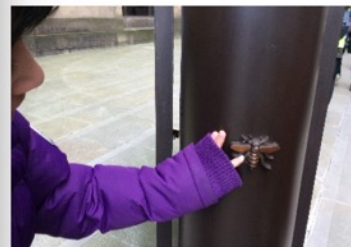
Manchester Central Library

Manchester Central Library and the performance space became an interactive immersive hub in which the children worked with archivists, social historians and artists from **tasc** to research Piccadilly Gardens history, its designs, plans and development past and present, via archive film footage, images, books, slides and maps.

Exploring the history of Piccadilly Gardens through key individuals and key events. The children discussed how they might imagine the past and what the design of the gardens in the future should look like and what it could be used for. The children's ideas, knowledge and understanding of Piccadilly Gardens, was expressed creatively through the process of making 3D books.

The teachers felt this was an exciting and innovative approach to learning and working in this way reflected in the quality of the work produced by the children.

They thought that the children had developed a broader and deeper knowledge and understanding of the Gardens & Manchester's social history.









Manchester Metropolitan University



Edlab MMU, Brooks Building, Birley Fields Campus

tasc introduced the children to the Brooks building and said that it had only been built three years ago, one of the children asked **'So what was here before if this is new, there must have been something here?'** She had remembered the story of Piccadilly gardens and had understood that places change and evolve and had been able to apply her thinking to this new space. We were able to give the history behind the site and also had access to images which we projected on the walls. This was also an opportunity to explore the newly landscaped area outside the building and asked the children their opinions on the design and how it compared with Piccadilly Gardens. We flew a drone over the area whilst the children were outside so they could see it later from a 'birds eye view' This technology absolutely fascinated the children, they were really excited about it.

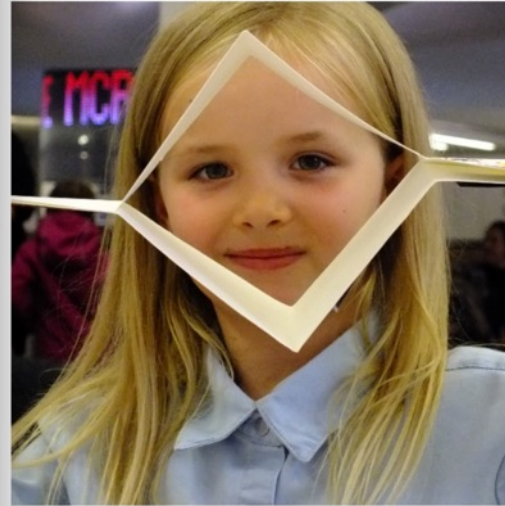






community workshops

tasc delivered a series of community workshops held at Manchester Central Library, the sessions ran at the weekends for the duration of the project exhibition. The attendees had the opportunity to create and develop their ideas around the history and context of piccadilly gardens.





into a power outlet.

EXHIBITION

HOW DID YOUR GARDEN GROW



MANCHESTER

The exhibition at Manchester Central Library was a fantastic opportunity to bring all the creativity of the project together in one space. The celebration day was attended by the all schools involved and was opened by the newly appointed Lord Mayor of Manchester Eddie Newman. The exhibition co-incided with Manchester International Festival, this was a great opportunity for the children's work to be showcased during an international cultural event. Visitors responded enthusiastically to the exhibition, this was reflected in the 'post it' comments from all over the world.

"I was impressed by the level of engagement that this project had with children and young people and how the end product(s) brought the space to live in a way some exhibitions can't."

You could sense the level of participation and co-creation and the space was fully animated making it a very pleasant learning experience for all visiting the library. I would be keen to see what else was possible."

Neil MacInnes-Strategic Lead - Libraries, Galleries and Culture





HOW DID YOUR GARDEN GROW PICCADILLY GARDENS

Former Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Carl Austin-Behan:

"It's fantastic that so many pupils have been able to benefit from this project to explore the history and discover the story of Piccadilly Gardens. This initiative provides a real opportunity for young Mancunians to connect with our city through a process that allows the children to document their findings using their natural creativity."

Jack student volunteer Manchester Metropolitan University

"It's great for the children to be out and about in the city and learn about the history, and by taking part I've learned so much myself about Manchester that I never knew."

Teaching Assistant Claremont Primary School

"I think it's wonderful what's happened here today... from this experience the children have got a sense of belonging, it is something they will remember for the rest of their lives"

Angela Rawcliffe: Learning Officer Archives + Manchester Central Library

"Working on this project and seeing the enthusiasm of TASC The Architecture School for Children being passed on to the school children about the architecture in Manchester has been amazing... such a great way of encouraging children and their families to engage with the spaces in public buildings and outdoors."

Jeremy Jackson Head teacher Webster Primary School

"We strongly believe in learning outside the classroom, using cross-curricular themes which engage our pupils and fire their enthusiasm for learning, this project being a perfect example."

Lano aged 8 years pupil at Claremont Primary School

"It's good to know our city's history, when we have children we will be able to tell them about our visit and what we've learned and they will be able to tell their children, we will be part of the history ...that's generational"

Anne Beswick: Local Historian

"If you want to have an influence on your environment, tell these children your story. They'll remember what you say and they'll shape the future."

Dan Wheatley TASC

"The Piccadilly Gardens project has enabled us all to experience places in the city of Manchester first hand, hear stories of its past and the wonderful people who have shaped it, connected us with the place, each other and the wider world. In true Mancunian style the children have creatively engaged in this process and as citizens, have much to say about the future".

THE PICCADILLY GARDENS PROJECT HAS BEEN FUNDED BY THE HERITAGE LOTTERY AND WAS A FANTASTIC OPPORTUNITY FOR US TO WORK WITH SUCH WONDERFULLY ENTHUSIASTIC CHILDREN AND STAFF AND COLLABORATE WITH OUR PARTNER ORGANISATIONS, ALL HAVE CONTRIBUTED IN MANY WAYS AND MADE THIS AN AMAZINGLY RICH HERITAGE PROJECT

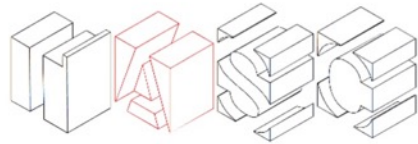
WITH SPECIAL THANKS TO:

ALL THE CHILDREN AND STAFF FROM:

**CLAREMONT PRIMARY SCHOOL
MARTENSCROFT NURSERY SCHOOL
ST MARY'S C OF E PRIMARY SCHOOL
WEBSTER PRIMARY SCHOOL**

**MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY ARCHIVES+
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ANNE BESWICK HISTORIAN
MICK CHESTERMAN MMU EDLAB
STAFF AND STUDENTS EDLAB MMU
DR STEPH HAWKE CURIOUS MINDS
AND ALL VOLUNTEERS**

**ARTISTS FROM TASC
CATHERINE CLEMENTS
DAN WHEATLEY**



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