



nArture

about @narture

Founded in June 2020 by father and daughter artist team, Robert and Saskia Singer, Narture CIC aims to transform empty town centre units into creative community spaces across Ayr, embracing the belief that **everyone is an artist**. Central to Narture is its award-winning Sourdough Bakery, which funds arts initiatives through artisan baking and training for marginalised youth groups. Surplus profits support community projects and cultural participation. Narture offers affordable workspaces, a community darkroom and RISO printer, exhibitions, and workshops.



Founders



*We unite **food** and **arts** practices to create sustainable community spaces*

Vision & Mission



VISION

Narture's vision is to encourage places where society values art and artists believe they can make a difference.

MISSION

Narture's mission is to breathe new life into town centres by transforming empty spaces into places where people connect, learn and make.

We champion arts and culture, providing affordable, accessible spaces and opportunities for creativity to flourish.

Through skills development, artisan training, apprenticeships and local employment across real food and the arts, we open pathways into meaningful work.

By encouraging play, experimentation and bold ideas, we build a creative community where everyone can contribute and thrive.

Values



THEMES

Champion Arts & Culture

Support Artists & Creative Careers

Develop Skills, Training & Employment

Regenerate Places

Build Community Through Food & Creativity

VALUES

Everyone is an artist — Creativity belongs to everyone.

Opportunity — Talent is everywhere. Opportunity should be too.

Community — We achieve more together than alone.

Making — We learn by doing, experimenting and creating.

Care — We invest in people, places and the planet for the long term.

The bread.

We bake real bread to earn the dough to fund arts projects



The bakery is the heart of our social enterprise...

Our Spaces



THE AULD
TOY SHOP



knead



create



make



Shape

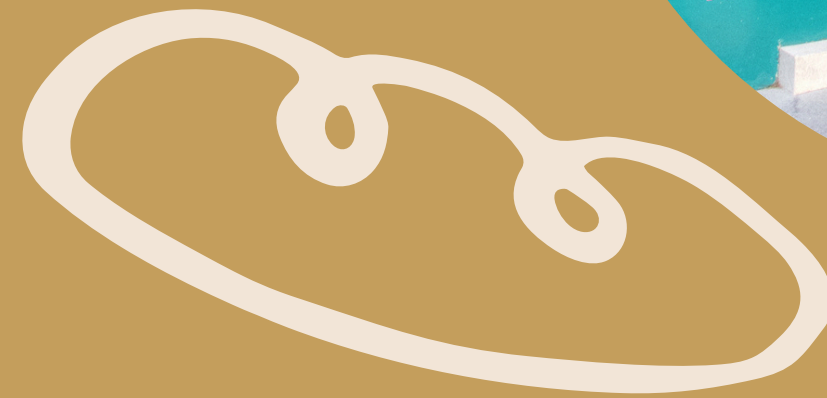


nArture
Studios

Knead

Sourdough Bakery

Where all the sourdough baking action happens- located at 3 Cathcart Street. Our bakery delivers both wholesale orders and supplies to a wide range of enterprises across Ayrshire, as well as to buy in our Cafe/ Bread Shop at Shape.



shape

Our Cafe/ Bread Shop

Our cosy breadshop and café, where you can pick up all your sourdough essentials alongside great coffee and seasonal bakes. It's a warm, friendly spot to grab something delicious or sit in and soak up the community buzz at 32 Newmarket Street.



make

Creative Residency Studio/Gallery

Our artist-in-residence studio, welcoming local, national and international artists at 30 Newmarket Street. Make offers creatives the space, time and support to experiment, develop new work and connect with the community — through workshops and a final exhibition. A chance to make, show and connect.



create

Riso Print Studio & Dark Room

Ayrshire's first Riso print studio, hosting workshops, drop-ins, and hands-on sessions for anyone curious about vibrant, sustainable printmaking & analogue photography at 22 Sandgate. Create is all about easy, accessible experimentation and joyful making.



nArture Studios

Art/ Wellbeing Studios & Workshops

Home to our artist studios, creative workspace, wellbeing studio and office team at 34 Newmarket Street. It's a supportive, collaborative hub where artists, makers, and facilitators work side by side, nurturing a lively mix of ideas and creativity. It is available to hire for co-working/ events/ classes.

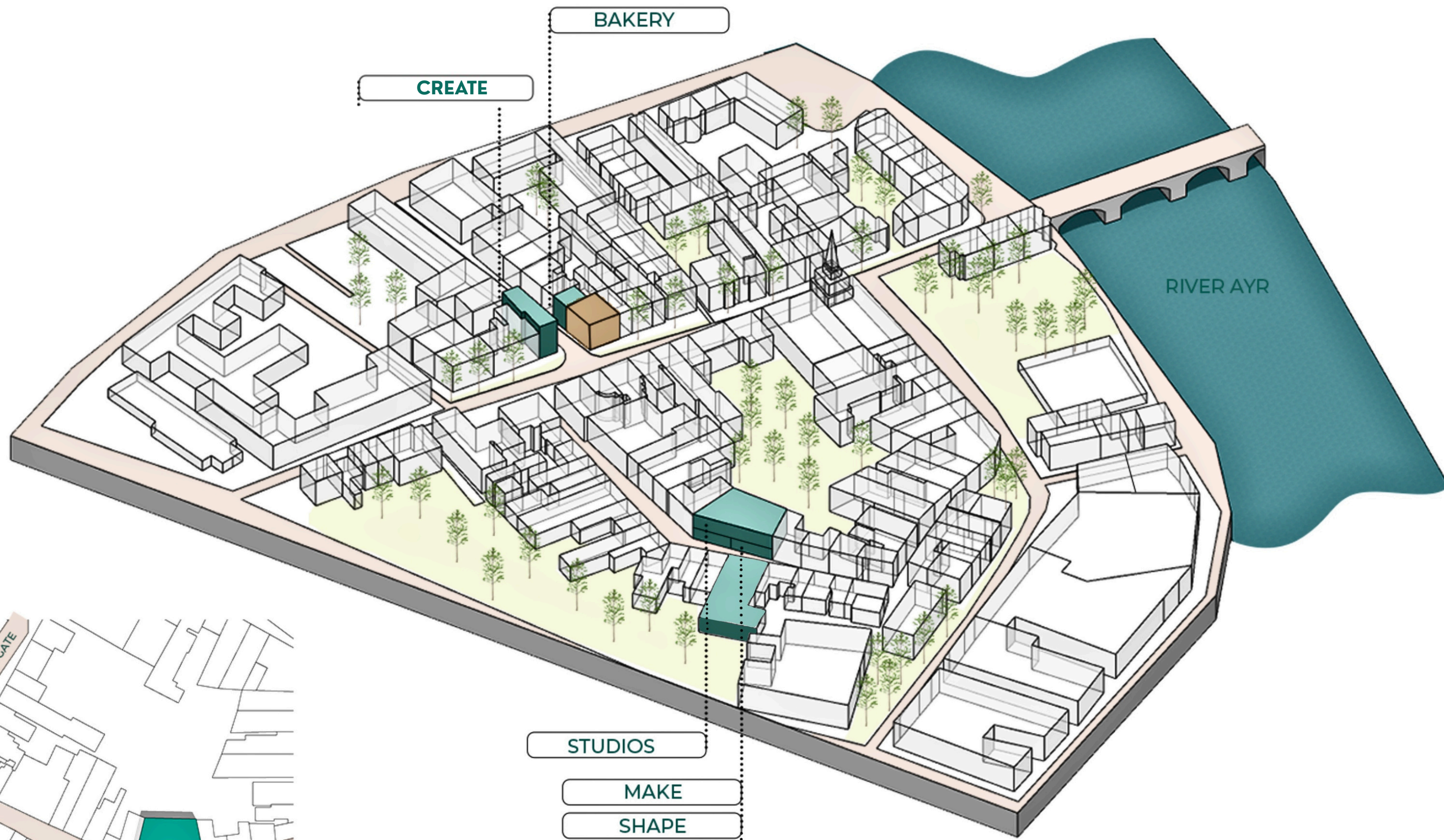


THE AULD TOY SHOP

Culture Collective Hub

We are excited to begin our biggest project yet: The Auld Toy Shop – A Place for Play, Ideas & Collective Imagination. Supported by Creative Scotland's Culture Collective programme, this year-long initiative will transform a much-loved former toy shop into a living space for creativity, connection and community-led change. Through workshops, exhibitions, shared meals, artist residencies and creative conversations, local people will collectively explore what Ayr needs to thrive creatively while shaping the building's future. Alongside the programme, we are developing partnerships to restore the historic building permanently, creating a lasting cultural hub that supports regeneration, wellbeing, creativity and community for generations to come.





CREATE

BAKERY

RIVER AYR

STUDIOS

MAKE

SHAPE

AULD TOY SHOP



Food & Arts to **SHAPE** *a brighter future*

Nurture
Creativity

Develop
Skills

Connect
People

Boost
Wellbeing

Build
Confidence

Current Partners

ARTS

**THE GLASGOW
SCHOOL OF ART**

scottish
artists
union

CREATIVE LAND
ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

SCOTTISH
CONTEMPORARY
ART
NETWORK

Culture Collective
Co-Chomann Cultair

COMMUNITY

University of
Strathclyde
Glasgow

SOCIAL
ENTERPRISE
SCOTLAND

RIVER GARDEN
AUCHINCUIVE

just enterprise



**SCOTTISH
EDGE**

Awards





SOCIAL *IMPACT*

“Narture are inspirational, the venture has opened up opportunities & creativity to so many people in Ayr and beyond.”

Social Impact

FOLLOW THE THREAD

by Liz Baird

“Exhibiting my work for the first time brought me recognition & a sense of legacy, proving **that creativity has no age limit.**”

Artist/ Glenfairn Care home resident (93)



Projects

TEMPLES OF CARE

Recovery Ayr & National Galleries project



“The art project with Narture gave me hope during a painful time, turning grief into creativity. It showed me that art is a quiet but powerful form of resilience”

— RECOVERY Ayr PARTICIPANT

RISE Festival 2025



JOIN US TO CELEBRATE **FIVE YEARS** OF IMPACT!

Food • Art • Wellbeing • Skills • Regeneration
Workshops, exhibitions, music, and community
— a space to connect, create, and rise together.

30 - 34 Newmarket street, Ayr.

NURTURING THE ARTS, RESPECTING NATURE



In September 2025, we celebrated five years of Narture with our first ever RISE Festival, a three-day celebration of food, art, and wellbeing rooted in community and place.

Across our venues, we hosted a packed programme of workshops, exhibitions, gigs, and interactive installations, including the return of Laura McGlinchey's Paper Cave and a retrospective of Narture's creative journey.

The festival brought together artists, residents, and visitors in a vibrant showcase of creativity, collaboration, and regeneration, a reflection of how Narture blends art, food, and community to make Ayr thrive.



Overview

HIGHLIGHTS

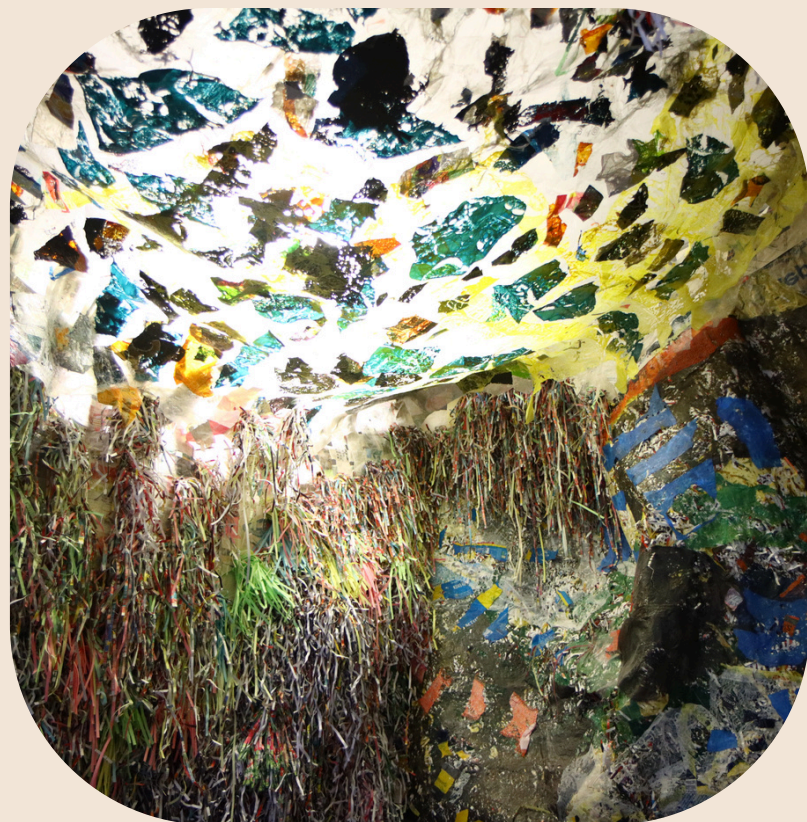
- **3010** attendees across all events and venues
- **4** artists commissioned & 1 artist in residence
- **18** paid facilitators (**21** including staff)
- **306** free workshop and event tickets
- **13** volunteers supporting delivery
- **13** sponsors and **19** local suppliers involved

KEY OUTCOMES

- Strong community participation and local pride
- Accessible creative and wellbeing workshops for all ages
- Collaboration between artists, facilitators, and businesses
- Greater visibility for Narture's social enterprise model

OUR SPONSORS





Workshops

RISE Festival offered a vibrant mix of creative and wellbeing workshops, designed to inspire connection, learning, and self-expression for people of all ages and abilities.

Across the three days, visitors could take part in free, hands-on sessions that encouraged experimentation, creativity, and community — giving everyone a taste of what we do here at Narture CIC.

Workshops included:

Paper making, RISO printing, Gelli printing, Weaving, Origami, Life drawing, Mixed media painting, Twine and bead making, Yoga, Sound therapy and storytelling, Nutrition talk, Introduction to Shamanism.



Gelli printing Workshop



Nutrition Workshop

Exhibitions



**NARTURE RETROSPECTIVE
EXHIBITON IN SHAPE**



**LAURA MCGLINCHEY'S PAPER CAVE
IN MAKE**



S.C.R.A.P EXHIBITON IN 18/20

Events

RISE Festival featured live music by local artists every night from a variety of genres, from singer song-writing to world jazz. We also had an incredible poetry reading to start of the Friday night festivities.





BLANK CANVAS

ARTIST RESIDENCY

A month to **make boldly** — with time, space, fee and support, rooted in food, art and community in the heart of Ayr.



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

BLANK CANVAS

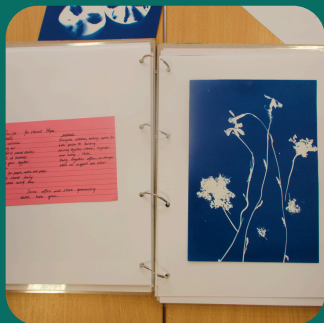
ARTIST RESIDENCY



JUNE

AIMEE KENT - AYR

Multidisciplinary surface pattern and textile designer specialising in sustainable print for interiors, fashion and lifestyle. Her practice blends hand-crafted and digital techniques, drawing on nature, architecture and traditional print processes.



JULY

CHRISTINA RILEY - TROON

Florida-born, Ayrshire-based photographer and writer, author of Looking Down at the Stars (2025) and founder of The Nature Library. Her work explores climate, care and the relationship between literature and the natural world.



AUGUST

AMY GROGAN - RUTHERGLEN

Amy is an artist working with participatory sculpture and spatial installation. Her practice centres on accessibility, labour, and environments of making.



SEPTEMBER

JOSAFINNI CHAMBERS - GLASGOW

Designer working at the intersection of community, wellbeing and multisensory spatial design. Founder of Josafinni Studio, with projects for V&A Dundee, SAMH and community-led organisations.



OCTOBER

VELVET RAMOS - ARUBA

Interdisciplinary artist working across installation, printmaking, drawing, video, performance and relational art. Her work stages domestic objects and everyday scenarios to explore empathy, witnessing and the roles of participant, bystander and narrator.



NOVEMBER

ANDREW PATERSON - FINLAND

Artist-organiser, cultural producer and researcher with 25+ years' international practice across art, ecology, digital culture and DIY/DIWO methods.



NARTURE CULTURE COLLECTIVE

Narture Culture Collective is a year-long, process-led creative enquiry into what Ayr needs to thrive creatively. Through an open call, we will select a team of socially engaged practitioners to work with communities through creative conversations, food/arts workshops, interviews and large community events. The project explores how food, creativity and place shape wellbeing, confidence and community connection. Ayr faces some of the UK's highest town-centre deprivation, recently named the Empty Shop capital of Scotland; this project supports regeneration by helping residents co-design cultural activity rooted in lived experience.

A Place for Play, Ideas & Collective Imagination

For over 35 years, The Auld Toy Shop was woven into the lives of local families before standing empty for the past 12 years. Ayr faces some of the UK's highest levels of town-centre deprivation. Through this project, we will honour its history while exploring what a creative future for Ayr could look like.

We are transforming this much-loved former toy shop into a living space for creativity, connection and community-led change — demonstrating how empty buildings can become catalysts for cultural participation, civic pride and long-term regeneration.



NARTURE CULTURE COLLECTIVE

WHAT HAPPENS HERE?

Local residents will take part in creative conversations, workshops, exhibitions, shared meals, interviews and public events that use food and creativity as tools for connection. Rather than delivering a pre-determined programme, the project is a process-led enquiry, inviting people to collectively imagine and shape the future of both the building and the town.

This work explores five interconnected themes:

PLAY - imagination, creativity, curiosity

PLACE - memories, identity, belonging

FOOD - connection, stories, sharing

LEARNING - skills, confidence, opportunity

HOPE - regeneration, future-making, possibility

Together, these themes guide how the community will use The Auld Toy Shop as a living space for creativity, connection and community-led change.



Ayr Past, Present, Future Exhibition

This exhibition was a tribute to the town we called home. So many people remembered Beattie's Toy Shop with joy, and we hoped to create new memories, a place for creativity, learning, play and connection.

Over the weekend, we had over 2000 visitors and 60 artists exhibiting with a range of art forms. They submitted work in various art forms: painting, drawing, sculpture, photography, illustration, jewelry design, ceramics, textiles and more.



THE AULD
TOY SHOP





Drugs prevention & rehabilitation

Creative and Resilient Workshops
Partnered with Recovery Ayr on
creativity, resilience & critical
thinking.

Artistic Collaboration
Worked with Alberta Whittle & the
National Galleries of Scotland.

Empowering through Employment

Bakery apprenticeships for
Recovery Ayr graduates.



Regenerating commercial properties

Urban Revitalisation

Transformed **6** vacant properties
in Ayr since 2020.

Community Engagement

Hosted **thousands** of pop-ups &
creative initiatives since 2016,
involving thousands of artists &
locals..



Employment & Volunteering

Growing Team

Employs **16** staff members across
Narture's spaces.

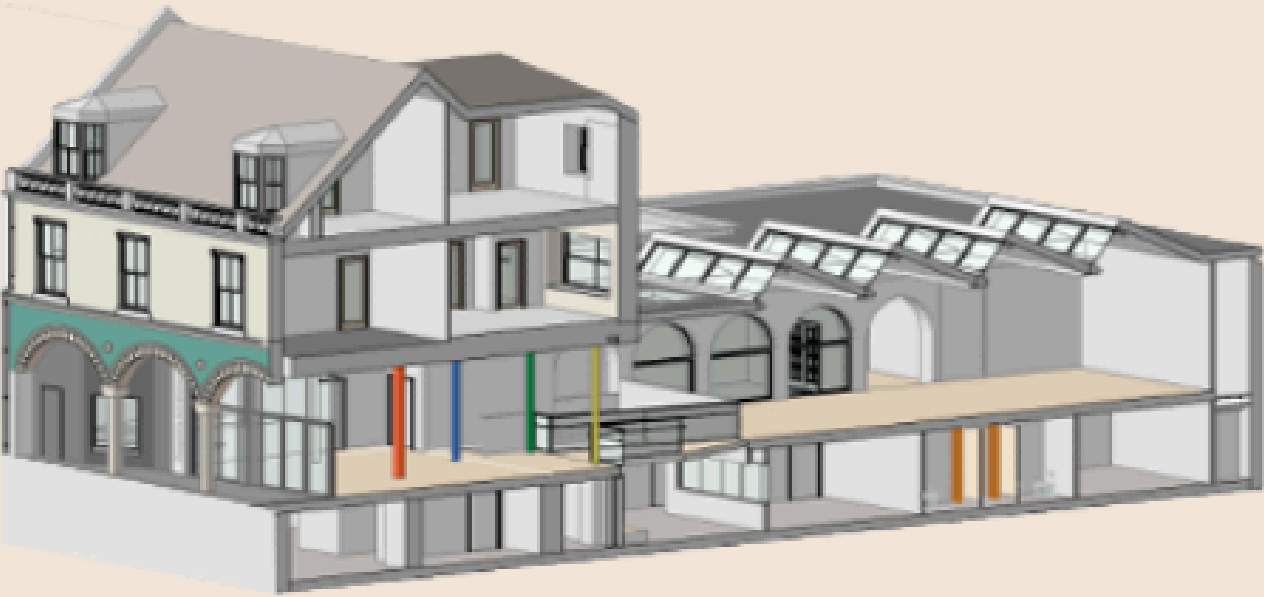
Volunteer Power

Engages 50 volunteers,
supporting community, local
initiatives & career development.



HOPES & **ASPIRATIONS**

Auld Toy Shop





THANK YOU
connect with us



@narture.cic info@narture.co.uk

join mailing list: www.narture.co.uk

A TOWN
TRANSFORMED
BY FOOD AND ART

