ACTION RESEARCH PROJECT

PLANNING A TECHNICAL WORKSHOP SPACE FOR DIGITAL FABRICATION



P R O J E C T B A C K G R O U N D

My role: Specialist Digital Fabrication Technician

Move from CCW Foundation to Lime Grove

Delays, challenges, changes



RATIONALE FOR PROJECT

- Born from necessity
- Pressure to open for student use
- Exciting opportunity to design a space from the ground up
- Exploring the concept of an ethical space
- 'engagement, dialogic processes and principles such as mutual respect, and introspection and reflection.' (Nikolakis, W. and Hotte, N. 2021)'
- Hotte, Ngaio & Nikolakis, William (2021) *Implementing "ethical space": An exploratory study of Indigenous-conservation partnerships*, Conservation Science and Practice

Lime Grove Technical Resources Questionnaire

BIUGX

Thank you for taking part in this questionnaire. The responses will be used as data for the action research project as part of my PGCert. Write as much or as little as you want, any feedback is helpful and appreciated! Your nomes and job titles can remain anonymous.

This form is automatically collecting emails from all respondents. Change settings

Name & Job Title

1 Add file

Leave blank if you would like to remain anonymous.
Short answer text
If you were starting a new workshop, what would be your top priorities in terms of planning the space? For context: myselT and my colleagues are currently setting up a new dipital fabrication workshop at Line Grove
Long answer text
Could you briefly talk about what is working successfully in your space & what needs to be improved? This could be about the size of the space, equipment, booking issues, students not engaging as intended etc.
Long answer text
Were you ever consulted about the design of your space? If so were things followed through? Long answer test
How has your space evolved over time?
For example, this could be at a small scale eg. new equipment or large scale eg. moving/expanding the space itself.
any and the start
Is there anything you do to ensure your workshop is accessible to all students? For example disability access, learning accessibility & social justice.
Is there anything you do to ensure your workshop is accessible to all students? For example disability access, learning accessibility & social justice. Long answer text

A View folder

RESEARCH METHODS RATIONALE QUESTIONNAIRE & SEMI STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

Questionnaire sent to technicians across UAL

Open-ended questions regarding space

Site visits to Camberwell & Chelsea digital fabrication workshops

Exploring the locality to other workshops

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Flexibility and adaptability
- Space functionality and workflow
- Frustration with lack of follow-through
- Evolving student needs
- Physical and learning accessibility



DATA LIMITATIONS

- Only sent to technical staff
- No academic or student voice
- Difficult to filter through data
- Large variation in response length
- Could have worded the questions better to get more desired responses

Is there anything you do to ensure your workshop is accessible to all students? For example disability access, learning accessibility & social justice.

Width between benches

SEMI-STRUCTURED INTERVIEWS

'Helps with student's connective thinking'

'The space is never really finished'

'Noise of the 3D workshop travels across to the digital fabrication space' 'Can always chat to other technicians immediately '







SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

- Close proximity to other workshops is very beneficial for student creativity and exploration but has the downside of noise, dust etc.
- Suggestions include setting specific 'quiet hours' or using soundproofing solutions for the workshop
- There is a strong focus on ensuring that the workshop does not become a 'service bureau'

DATA LIMITATIONS

- Only visited 2 UAL digital fabrication workshops
- Informal nature of transcript was difficult to filter though
- Could have steered the conversation towards more ethical considerations
- Potential Follow-ups: surveys with students, structured interviews

GOING FORWARD \longrightarrow









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