



Bristol Harbourside Place Making Strategy 2024

Recommendations for a Trans
Dreamt Bristol Harbourside

By Sid Boyer





Who?

I'll be engaging with trans and gnc young people in Bristol aged 18+.

Why this group?

I have decided to go with the age bracket of 18 - 30 because a lot of youth services for queer people stop being funded age 18 - 25 and there's suddenly a large drop off of support, community, funding and care. With the lack of services there is also a decline in amplifying the voices of that group.

What about younger trans voices?

There is currently a nationwide campaign against queer, specifically trans, youth support accessing statutory services which would make it challenging to reach queer teenagers in a meaningful way whilst at school. With the campaigning against Stonewall from the UK charity 'LGB alliance'* and continuing threats towards trans young people, most Queer youth groups in Bristol anonymise their venue and change it regularly to protect their young people from hate. If the council hopes to engage this age group thoughtfully, I would suggest someone with queer lived experience spending time with a consistent group over a longer period (at least 6 months) to gain genuine and authentic trust.

Scope:

First idea:

Initially I thought about using the £300 budget for materials and engagement to pay 8 participants for an hour of their time doing a walk of the harbourside and doing a deep dive of their relationship with that space. My thought process was that during the walk we could identify the spaces along the harbourside where they felt most themselves and we could do a creative exercise in that space linked to mapmaking so that they felt a sense of ownership of that area and when they returned to that space they could reconnect with the validation of that moment. I want to use the fluidity and shape of the harbour as a nature connection exercise with the fluidity of gender in a way that affirms and grounds people in their bodies if they're experiencing dysmorphia in the city.

During the 1:1s I was hoping to use the things that felt good about the space to feed into immediate, mid term and longer term recommendations for how those spaces could become hubs and safe spaces for the trans community.

* The LGB Alliance is a British nonprofit advocacy group founded in 2019 in opposition to the policies of LGBT rights charity Stonewall on transgender issues.





Reflections on first idea:

On reflection the 1:1s for an hour create a space which could be really energising or could be a sharing that felt too intense for people (and myself). I felt that this format could potentially open boxes for people that I wouldn't properly be resourced to close again for them. I also reflected on the labour of the participant who would only be paid about £40 for that hour which could entail a lot of emotional labour on their part. Although the hope of the work was to support their wellbeing if the session had been really challenging for someone and the result of that challenge fed into policy shaping I felt that £40 would not properly remunerate that time.

Final shaping of the consultation process:

With this in mind I decided I would create a less labour/emotion intensive entry point to consultation, that took the form of a survey. Each participant could then invoice for £30, take part from the comfort of their own home and was invited to feed back in various formats that felt the most accessible to them. My hope was that the survey would take 15 - 30 mins max (I asked people to cut off after 30 minutes if they were still reflecting) and submit whatever they had.

After collecting their responses I used their feedback to inform a creative wellbeing session centred around the harbourside. As this session was optional, supportive of wellbeing and there was no expectation to contribute anything personal I felt that this session could be just attended without paying for attendees time.

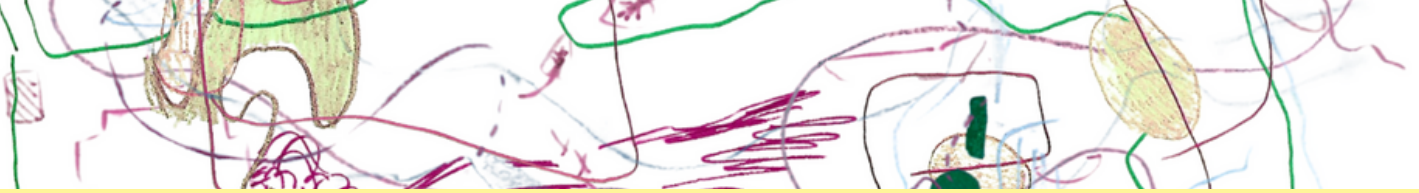
Engagement:

Having spent the first few weeks of this project thinking primarily about scope and how I could strategically reach key voices in the community I was direct in my engagement with the survey. I reflected on who in the city had been hosting/supporting/facilitating trans community spaces long-term and would have a clear idea of what barriers the community was facing outside of their own experiences.

I spoke with:

- A trans therapist who supports young people 11 - 25 primarily through music therapy.
- A trans youth worker who supports OTR's Freedom (the longest running LGBT+ youth group in the UK) and recently travelled to America to run a summer camp in one of the states experiencing the most trans violence in the US.
- A trans youth worker and researcher who has just finished their PHD investigating the transition from primary to secondary education for trans young people.





- Two co-hosts of a global majority trans group exploring how we make cultural institutions more accessible through the therapeutic arts, creative intervention and the study of queer ecology.
- A non binary painter, ceramicist, tattoo artist and facilitator who holds sound bath spaces for healing and community building.
- A trans poet who facilitates 'sober queers' and specifically poetry led spaces to hold trans grief and loss.
- A non binary musician, animator and teacher who explores identity through curating soundscapes of interviews.
- A non binary curator and poet supporting queer global majority people to community build in the city through performance.

Engagement Reflections:

Intersectionality: Whilst each person I contacted is a hub in their own way for the wider trans community I'd like to acknowledge that only 4 of the 9 people who got involved are POC. Beyond that I didn't ask further questions about peoples lived experience other than confirming their trans identity. When speaking with the global majority trans people who took part it felt key to highlight that as this engagement process was direct and narrow it does not speak for all trans people in the city and on reflection I would have made a more concerted effort to address the lack of intersectionality in the group.

Payment: I primarily spoke to artists and youth workers in the city. I know and support a lot of the artists through Rising and am used to cheerleading them to share their opinion. I remind them constantly that their lived experience is expertise and invaluable to policy change. With that context I wasn't surprised that the Rising artists were keen to share their thoughts, be boundaried with their time and send me an invoice.

The youth workers were much less confident to contribute, questioned why they had been contacted and none of them sent an invoice for their time. One participant shared: 'My first response when I read your message was I'm not sure I have anything useful to say.'

I was reminded how much leg work and trust building happens at Rising before someone with an underrepresented voice is empowered to not just share but know the value of their sharing. Payment for the sharing of lived experience needs to become commonplace in order for marginalised voices to be able to engage not just in targeted but citywide participation towards change.



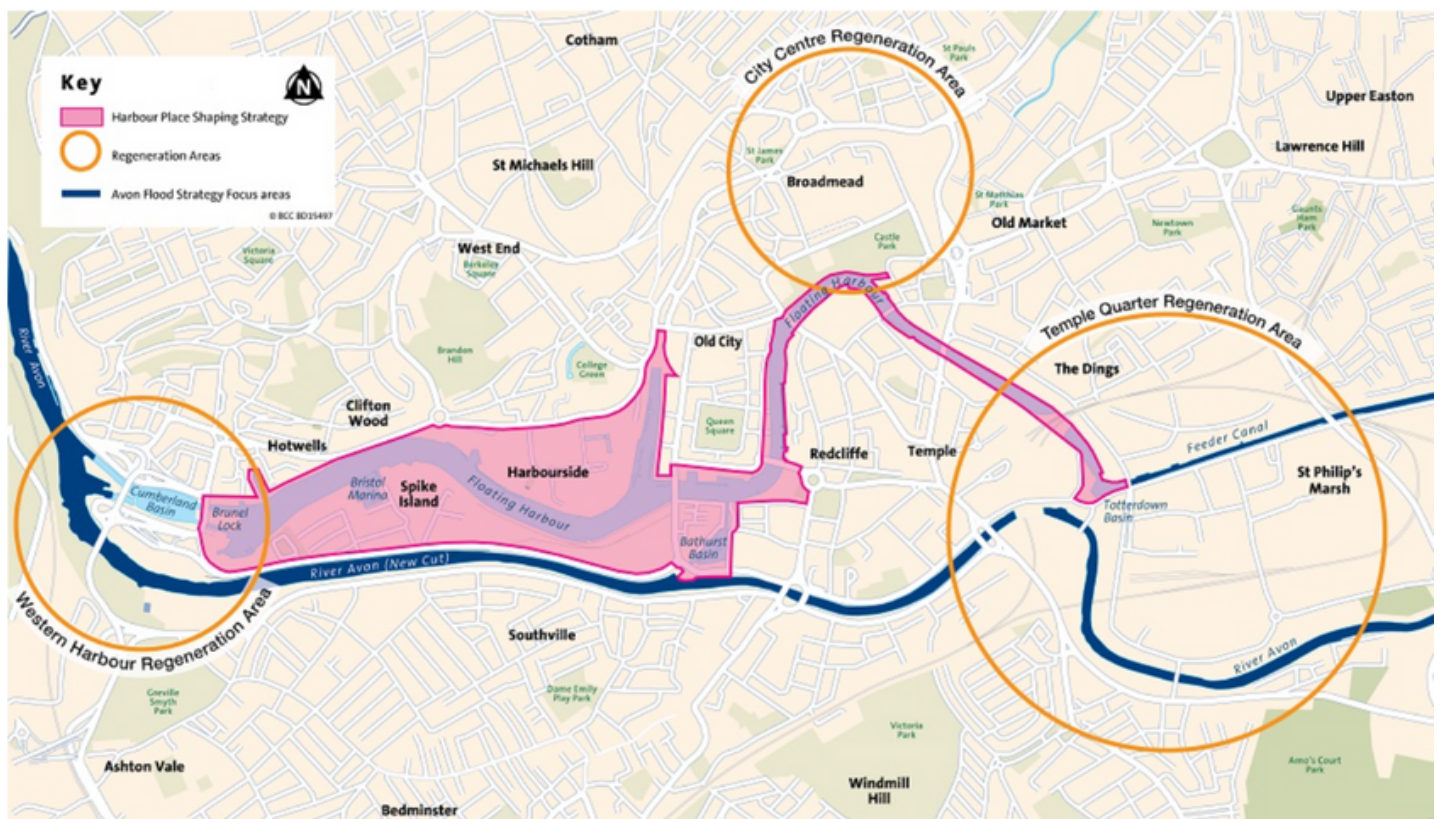
Now let's get down to some data!

Survey time:

Each participant was given 2 weeks to submit their response to the survey. Here are the ways people could participate:

'This survey should take about 15 mins, if writing isn't your thing and you'd prefer to send me a voicenote, have a phone call or a tea in person please email sid-boyer@hotmail.com and let me know how you'd rather give your feedback.'

I began by sharing DK-CM's map so that people were aware of what/where I meant when I said Bristol Harbourside.



Part 1: A Trans Dreamt Bristol Harbourside (the survey)

Question 1 results:


How do you use the harbourside? Tick all that apply

It's on my commute 🚲	(4)
I meet friends there for a walk 🚶	(9)
I go to museums/galleries/cinemas there 🎨	(10)
I go to see the water and wildlife 🦆	(5)
I use the ferry 🚢	
I get food there 🍔	(3)
I regularly cross a bridge 🌉	(2)
Something else? Please write how else below	'At times I've used it as a traffic free and fairly serene (and flat) way to cross the city centre on my bike, going from the portway along to temple meads and Old Market for work.'

Question 1 key takeaways:

- 100% said they visit cultural institutions and 90% would meet their friend for a walk.
- Do we need to tell more people about the tiny ferry?!
- 50% of participants got to see the wildlife
- 2 people didn't have time to fill in the whole survey but all 10 filled in the multiple choice question - maybe people didn't have the space to engage in a larger piece of consultation right now but tick boxes felt accessible by all!





Question 2 results:

'Where along the Harbourside do you enjoy visiting or feel most yourself? (You don't need an exact road name or postcode, describe it in your own words or link me to a pin on google maps)'

Answers (I've listed just the locations in their words):

- 'The westernmost point of the Harbourside' (towards cumberland basin).
- 'the Arnolfini and also the other side of the bridge which leads to the ostrich pub.'
- 'The little ferry point'
- 'Probably by Arnolfini and along the other side by the old oil rigs'
- 'My favourite spots have been the Floating Harbour'
- 'The little benches to the left of the steps.'
- 'from the watery steps along to the arnolfini cafe.'
- 'the bridge from Bedminster'

Most people started to explore why it was their favourite spot:

- 2 people mentioned the liked spaces that weren't busy
- 4 people mentioned that they liked the spaces when they were warm (2 of which like to dip their feet in the water when it is).
- 5 people mentioned being close to the water, the water itself being calming and 2 of those people mentioned seeing the water reducing their anxiety and stress.

Key quotes that explore what feels good in these particular places:

- 'I don't know why I feel calmest in **liminal** spaces'
- 'I like it most in the day **when it's sunny** and I'll sit with my feet hanging off the edge and eat my lunch. Or when it's dark and I walk along with a friend **watching the lights** glisten off the water'
- 'Whenever I have a while to wait for the bus home from the harbourside, I wait on one of the benches which look out onto the water. **This helps to ground me and reflect on the day**, and watching the ripples swirl in the water eases any anxiety.'
- 'I used to make my way there after sixth form during the summers to **sit and feel the waters rise and fall**. Sometimes there'd be a duck or a swan curiously swimming along. It was just very pretty, especially when it's quiet.'
- '**Being closer to the water feels more peaceful**'.



- 'I love to spend time there during the **warmer months** especially.'
- 'there's generally more space around and within your head! It feels a bit more out of the way, and I get a sense of being quite close to the avon gorge, and by extension green spaces/countryside and the rest of the world outside the city, **which helps me deal with the claustrophobic feeling that being in Bristol can bring**. So although the harbourside isn't those places itself, it kind of suggests them and being there makes me feel in contact with them as well as suggesting a sense of freedom. As a result the harbourside's one of my favourite places in Bristol'
- '**in a fantasy world i'd quite like to live there/nearby** because of that sense of physical and psychological space.'

I was particularly struck by this last quote which really highlights how distant a reality it feels to live near the Harbourside.

Question 3 results:

If you could choose somewhere along the Harbourside that became a space for the trans community to come together, where would it be? Why?

Key quotes:

- 'Somewhere with lots of open space and privacy so we can shout, unmask and be weird.'
- 'maybe the roller disco!'
- 'maybe in my wildest dreams I'd pick Lloyds, I skate but have always felt that's a hyper masculine space so never felt comfortable going'
- 'The watershed because it already feels like a safe place for LGBTQ+ people of all ages to go to'
- 'I think the area along merchants Quay seems like a really nice place, where there are lots of nice pubs and walks but it doesn't feel oversaturated. Quite a few places along the harbour are perhaps a bit gentrified in terms of areas of Bristol ~ so somewhere with a wide range of people would be a good option in my eyes. Also somewhere where there is more nature.'
- 'I want to prioritise somewhere that feels calm, open, close to nature, tranquil, but also its really important to note those areas might be less accessible'
- 'The part around the lightship (in bathurst basin) feels a little bit separate, and also potentially kind of cosy with its mix of boats, houses and also close access to all the busy bits around the swing bridge/arnolfini/ m shed etc., while not being in the thick of things. The lightship itself is also a really cool venue which I think would welcome being used by the trans community.'

Key points about a space for trans people to gather:

- Lots of space
- Diverse
- Free
- Near wildlife
- Accessible





Question 4 results:

Does anywhere on the Harbourside feel safe and supportive for you and why?

Key Quotes:

- in the spike area.
- I think **it's more the people i'm with** rather than the locations that make me feel safe
- **I used to say arnolfini** but their political standpoint recently has nullified that feeling of safety
- I feel supported by nature in "gods garden" by the Louisiana, but that's often got human Poo and the risk of feeling vulnerable. **So no, nowhere that feels safe** and supported if I was on my own apart from watershed!
- There's a little stretch towards the right part shown on the map **which feels safe, as I have friends who had a student house right by there.** Whenever I walk around there now I still say hello to some of the people I recognise who lived near where my friends are. **I think building a stronger sense of community is important because you feel safer if you are even around people you vaguely know** or have seen around before as you hope they would intervene if something unsafe happens.
- **Not particularly** - it feels mostly private residential with expensive looking flats and "clean" and "quiet" streets with very little social noise. And the social noise that does exist seems to come from establishments for drinking and food. **There doesn't feel like there are many spaces to just sit and exist.**
- The **areas that feel connected/green and near people** in short.
- The marina by Spike Island feels particularly homely as there are lots of nice benches and trees. I also really like Spike Island as a gallery and think **a lot of progressive people go there.**
- 'Places where I can see the sun and the water, the **places with seating** close to the Arnolfini. Places you can have a bit of a moment. Places that encourage **rest.**
- I think this depends on the **time of year and day.**

Key takeaways:

- People feel safer when friends/acquaintances/community/representation is nearby. How can we make trans people more visible around the harbourside to create wider safe havens?
- I was struck by someone saying they thought 'progressive' people go to Spike, I'm curious about the link between all 10 trans people using the harbour for cultural institutions and creative spaces being viewed as progressive, do people feel their identity is more protected there?
- Lots of people mentioned feeling differently at night time/ in the winter.
- There was appetite for more third spaces/ free spaces/ rest spaces.

- **3 people noted nowhere on the Harbourside feeling safe for them if they were alone**



Question 5 results:

Does anywhere on the Harbourside feel unwelcoming or inaccessible for you and why?

- I get **sensory overload** quite often and find when I am in castle park
- **in areas of affluence** I get a few odd looks.
- To be fair, anywhere along the waterfront on my own at night! **It's dark** and it feels like a space for **dangerous predators and drunk people**.
- **Just behind the bus stops** (on the centre) I have been **shouted** out before there and called a **'dyke'** and a **'faggot'** due to the fact I was holding hands with my partner at the time, and they assumed we were a same gender couple. One time also, me and two of my friends were **followed** by someone all the way up the Harbourside from that spot, so we had to divert to go **into the watershed where they allowed us to use the toilet even though there was a private event to help keep us safe**. The security also watched us leave and made sure that the same person had stopped following us.
- It feels like there are **gaps left purposefully blank** and I can't help but shake the feeling it's because so many of the buildings are private residents wanting to keep it **"clean" and "empty"**.
- places to sit down feel so **sparse, spread out and cold** (which I assume to be really gross **anti-homeless** purposes)
- It also feels like a lot of the leisure venues revolve around **drinking** - which as a queer person of colour feels like a really difficult to feel welcomed.
- I'd say that I sometimes pass a lot of people near Grain Barge part of the harbour and that side of town can be a bit **rowdy** and at times make me feel a bit uncomfortable / **lots of drunk people**.
- The area along from the Watershed which is mostly **bars/clubs/restaurants** is an area I avoid especially in the evenings as it can be very crowded with **intoxicated people**. It is also an area that doesn't feel very queer or trans friendly (**apart from Watershed**).
- I've never really got into the stretch going east between Arncliffe and Temple Meads. Especially because the **big office buildings** take priority round there (particularly the stretch on the south side from the bridge at Redcliffe onwards, and then on both sides from castle park onwards. And the **office buildings are unwelcomingly ugly & imposing, and block the light**.

Key take aways:

- There needs to be a way to get round from Arncliffe to the Lloyds building without being surrounded by drunk people.
- Rest spaces need to feel actually restful and not intentionally anti homelessness.
- Watershed is one of the few places in the city people know they'll be safe. It's come up 6 times as somewhere people get respite from the city.





- Large corporate and 'clean' residential places feel unwelcoming - I think this is indicative of the wider problem that trans people experience more barriers to getting jobs in corporate places and homes in safe/expensive areas. Whilst homes and offices feel safe for a lot of people, systemic barriers prevent the majority of trans people from taking part in these everyday parts of life in the same way.
- Affluent areas feel safer for some people because they are better resourced, majority white and nice to look at. For others affluence can increase a sense of not belonging and more importantly, feelings of being unsafe.
- **How can we make the reporting of hate crime easier and more visibly signposted in the city?** When the police often feel like an unsafe option to turn to for trans people how can we make organisations like [SARI](#) more obvious?

Question 6 results:

What's a change to the Harbourside you would want to see from the council immediately?

- More **benches** would be lovely
- less "maintenance" of plants.
- I would like to see an exterior non-governmental body conduct public surveys in the most financially deprived areas of Bristol, asking members of the public what they want.
- implement **safety points** along the river front.
- **More spaces like watershed**, with the way they have made their toilets, they have their own sinks and space to feel centred (maybe I'm just obsessed) also they have **free tampons**, this needs to be a thing everywhere!
- Spaces where people **can work and hang out where people aren't drunk**
- More **lighting**
- **a list of shops/venues etc. who have agreed to be safe spaces for trans people** to go into if they are feeling unsafe.
- **Comfy and covered places**
- Public **toilets**
- Keeping the water much cleaner especially down by the steps, really upsetting to see how much litter there is. **Maybe more bins** as well in light of this?
- **more bins** in the summer months
- **Better lighting** along all of the harbourside areas
- **benches** dotted around are not in the best condition so these could be fixed or replaced.
- let's go for better **lighting**



Key Takeaways for immediate action:

- Repairing current seating and providing more (that's comfy and welcoming)
- Safety points to get resources/support and a list of trans safe venues
- 4 people mentioned more lighting
- Toilets toilets toilets (gender neutral and providing sanitary products)
- More bins please!
- More/continued consultation with financially deprived areas.

Question 7 results:

What's a change to the harbourside you would want to see from the council in the next 5 years?

- Maybe more **infographics/signs about native plants** and their symbolism around the world. Or if they were introduced from other countries, info about that.
- General **creative projects centering the relationship marginalised identities have with green "natural" spaces.**
- Or maybe a **trans garden?** I'm hesitant to propose this as I have limited understanding on the collateral impact it would have on the harbour's ecosystem. But I imagine a garden with plants that have been used to historically represent diff lgbtqia+ identities e.g Lavender.
- create a **sober space for trans + non binary lovelies** to hang out on the water front (that's not arnolfini). With games and fun and warmth and support and kindness and understanding, so that the harbour feels like a destination rather than a commute. And meeting the requested needs.
- It would be lovely to have a **space or events for trans creatives to showcase their work** e.g. art galleries, comedy nights, bands.
- More spaces around the harbour being **rewilded!**
- Venues along the harbourside where you don't have to feel like you need to pay or drink to sit and relax OR like **affordable and accessible community spaces to hire or just exist in.**
- More **FREE covered spaces be that more trees or buildings.**
- **Spaces that invite play** - like an adult playground or playground in general: places to invite interaction that are not strictly tied to visuals.
- Infrastructure that regularly cleans/looks after the spaces across the harbourside/ some kind of **behavioural shift where individuals feel responsible to look after the spaces** and encouragement to do so **(that are not tied to fines)**



- **Deffo rewilding** and building up green spaces/keeping them looked after. More trees and water plants.
- **Commissioning local artists** to make beautiful art (ie. a sculpture) that is then kept clean and regularly tended to
- Would love to see more **meadows for pollinators**, that feels cheap and easy.
- Would love to see an emphasis on spaces you can be in and not have to buy anything.
- I think it would be cool to see some **queer street art/installations** that show support for the trans community.
- **Rewilding** of green spaces would also be nice.
- More **rewilding**, and especially trees please
- more places to **sit in the shade** for when the heatwaves come but we still need to get out and walk and meet each other.
- Somewhere to buy a **cheap cup of tea** towards the western end of the harbour on the south side.
- quick **ferryboat service** along the harbour between cumberland basin (or further downriver) along to temple meads, stopping near the city centre, so we can get to the train station on the water and reduce congestion/fumes on the roads.
- more made of the surviving boatyards and schemes to get involved with them (perhaps volunteering or apprenticeships), and **get out onto the water**.
- I have also had quite a few experiences where people have brought up decorations, campaigns and signs that are around the harbourside area e.g. **things on lampposts, bins, bunting**. Perhaps some more focussed campaigns and signs around transness could be good as people really do use them as conversation starters.

Key Take aways to action in the next 5 years:

- **My god, trans people love rewilding** (n.b if, and only if, it doesn't negatively impact the existing wildlife and protects the unique biodiversity that's already there).
- Not just rewilding (!) but more plants, gardens, meadows, a trans garden, nature projects for POC, more trees for shade, more more more please!
- Art by trans people commissioned by the council on the street and in venues led by trans people. And ensuring there are venues led by trans people.
- Decongesting road traffic by introducing more effective/accessible ferries
- Getting more people actually on the water/near the water/ sitting in it/ steering boats on it/ playing in water!
- Visibility in signage, decoration and celebration.
- A cheap cuppa pls!






Finally, Question 8 results:

What's a change to the Harbourside you would want to see from the council in the next 20 years?

- **Gender neutral toilets, relinquishing land ownership, sculpture garden, resources for people experiencing homelessness or addiction i.e flats or chemical purity test dispensers, food bank, skill trade hub- rather than monetary exchange for services people could swap a tattoo for a financial consultation, bike repair station, pop up medical services, public art wall or vegetable patches for food sovereignty-** perhaps paying this organisation: <https://www.instagram.com/landinournames/> for a consultation on it?
- **get rid of some of the train tracks** outside mshed all the way to ss Great Britain that are not in use. I have slipped on my bike there many times and have seen others do the same. I use my bike as a way of safely getting around at night, it would be good to be able to ride through there without falling off. Also, looking at the **institutions along the river, help them to be more sustainable and actively encouraging the education of Bristols Queer History and platforming trans and non binary voices.** (This second point can go in the 5 year and immediate section too)
- There needs to be more **queer and trans owned shops and restaurants** in the area.
- **Statues and benches celebrating trans people's lives** and achievements in the Bristol Area.
- There also needs to be a better understanding from the council that Pride is an all year round thing, not just for one day/week/month. **Just sticking trans flags around everywhere can feel performative without other more deep and meaningful actions, but alongside other changes can be something visible for new visitors to the harbourside area to demonstrate they are in a queer friendly environment.** Whenever I am in another city and see pride flags dotted around, I do feel a tiny bit safer.
- **A space/venue that is AFFORDABLE and ACCESSIBLE and run by trans people for trans and queer people in general.**
- **Bridges** or pathways across the River Avon so you don't have to go around ALL THE WAY around to reach where you want to go, or if you want to end a walk early.
- Perhaps a new building/boat that is somewhat similar to **a venue like Strange Brew in that it is a co-op/independent and hosts really beautiful art and music nights.** I think that side of town would really benefit from a space like this. A hub for artists / somewhere inspiring like Spike Island but for more event/social activities. It should be easily accessible too :)
- I would love to see some kind of **queer space/community hub** somewhere along the harbourside. I think that is something that's lacking in Bristol in general. There are some very queer friendly spaces nearby but having a hub dedicated to the trans community would be amazing. **Somewhere you could hang out, do work, be creative etc..**



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- **I'd like another bridge over the harbour please**, about halfway between brunel lock and the arnolfini (although there might already be a ferryboat service i've missed that i wouldn't want to be put out of business by a bridge). And this shouldn't take 20 years but **cleaner water with supervised space to swim** in and enjoy the feeling of floating around in our bodies 🦆

Key take aways to be actioned in 20 years:

- **Really large demand for trans led venues** (not just for drinking but for sharing art, co working, just existing, a space where you don't necessarily have to spend money).
- **Statues, artworks, flags, VISIBILITY!** Trans people don't feel safe right now but if they're city committed to publicly recognising and celebrating their identities and histories things might look different. The large caveat to this is that it can't be artwork and flags in isolation, the infrastructure and systemic change has to back it up first.
- People want to be able to get around the harbour easily, more bridges, more footpaths, safe cycle paths, more ferries.
- **Radical resourcing of vulnerable people!** Not just new trendy, pretty, buildings but genuine/authentic/visible support for homeless people, people with low/no income, people experiencing addiction, disabled/chronically ill people (^ see list in bullet point 1.) Services that indicate **a cultural shift** away from the harbourside being purely about income and aesthetics to becoming a genuinely useful space for all people to feel supported and safe.

Okay now for the really good bit



Part 2: Flags for a Trans Utopia (creative responses to the survey)

Why Flags, why should transness be visible in the city?

A key finding in the survey was that trans people want more spaces to 'just exist' safely, warmly, comfortably, in well lit environments. Being alone as a trans person in the city felt unsafe to numerous participants and I've been reflecting on (for times when you have to travel alone) what community and ally-ship could look like from the perspective of infrastructure and place-shaping.

With trans histories being absent from the curriculum, and trans knowledge being absent from healthcare there is a large mistrust in statutory services and state funded work. The council has an incredible opportunity to ensure that these histories become visible and celebrated so that trans people see themselves reflected in their cities and home. A white, cis, straight person in Bristol is likely to see themselves and their heritage in signage, in museum placards, in posters, on telly, at the theatre etc. If you're a trans young person whose identity is being questioned as existing at all by your government, family, friends and teachers, visibility in the city plays a crucial role in reminding you you're not alone.

Recent data recorded in the UK about trans people (Stonewall 2018):

- Almost half of trans people (46 per cent) have thought about taking their own life in the last year.
- Almost half (48 per cent) of trans people don't feel comfortable using public toilets through fear of discrimination or harassment.
- A third of trans people (34 per cent) have been discriminated against because of their gender identity when visiting a café, restaurant, bar or nightclub in the last year.
- More than two in five trans people (44 per cent) avoid certain streets because they don't feel safe there as an LGBT person.
- One in four trans people (25 per cent) have experienced homelessness at some point in their lives.
- Two in five trans people (41 per cent) and three in ten non-binary people (31 per cent) have experienced a hate crime or incident because of their gender identity in the last 12 months.
- Two in five trans people (40 per cent) adjust the way they dress because they fear discrimination or harassment. This number increases significantly to half of non-binary people (52 per cent).

These statistics evidence the urgency with which we need to take the weight off of trans young people to educate us on their own identities and existence. Trans young people need and deserve to see themselves written into the fabric of their home. They're not new, or weird, or a product of Gen z political correctness gone mad. They've always been here and to celebrate that is pivotal to their wellbeing.

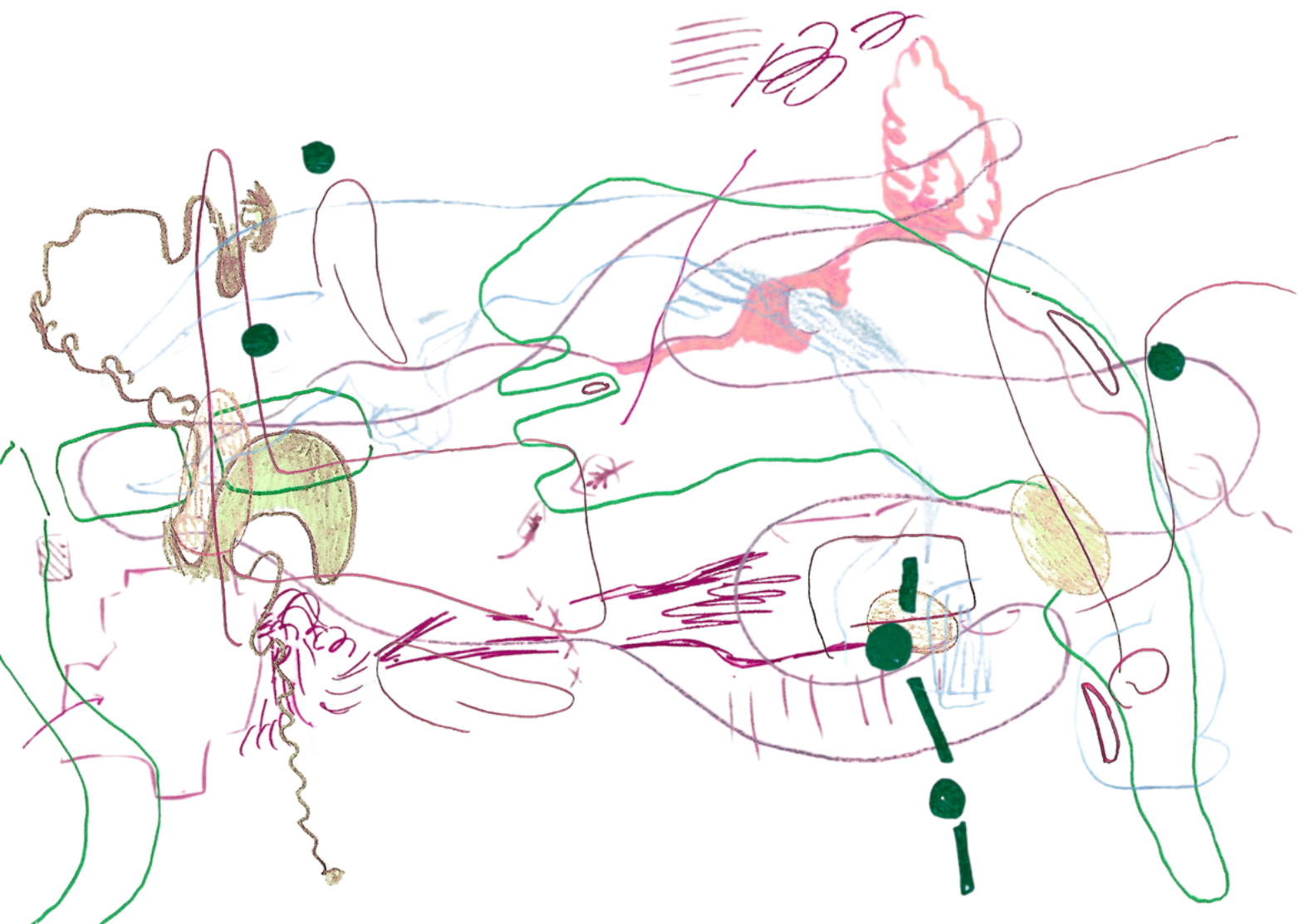
Flags are a declaration of unconditional pride and support. Myself and the participants designed flags that would be indicators to trans people that they're in a safe space. We created flags for trans dedicated gardens, trans led venues, safe spaces to rest, and spaces to 'just be'.

Part 2: Flags for a Trans Utopia (creative responses to the survey)

We began the workshop with 4 quick mark-making collaborative drawing exercises to loosen up. Reflecting on Question 2, where you feel yourself in the Harbourside we drew:

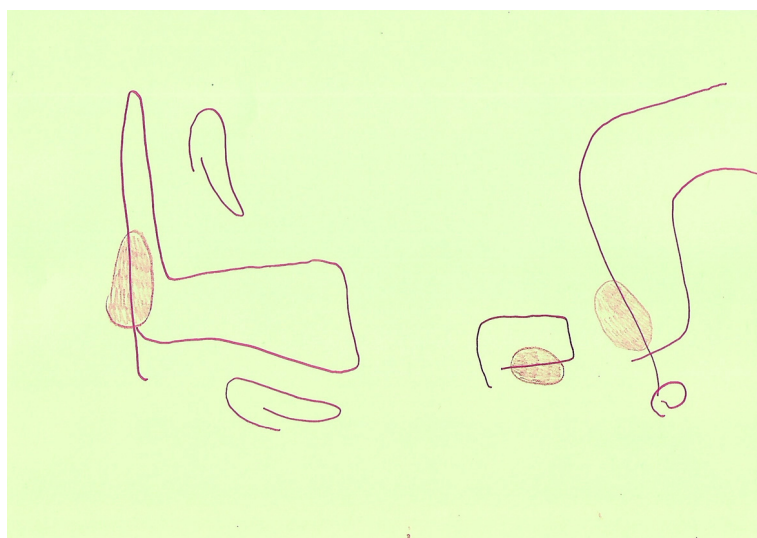
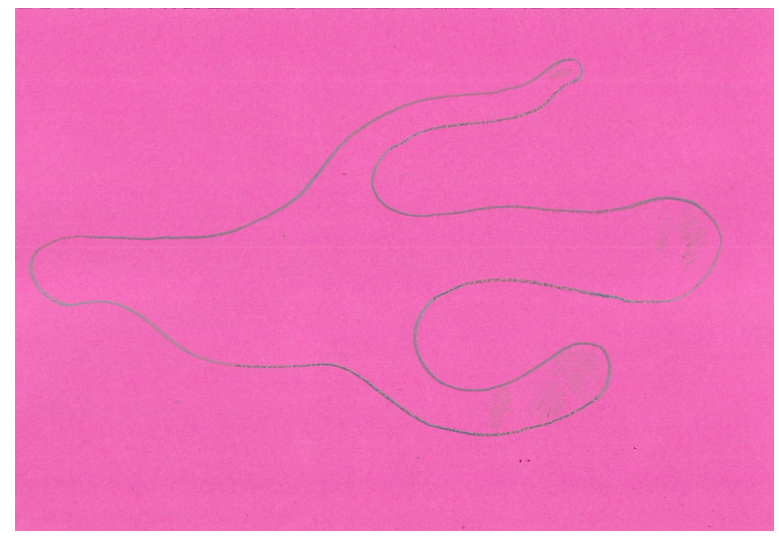
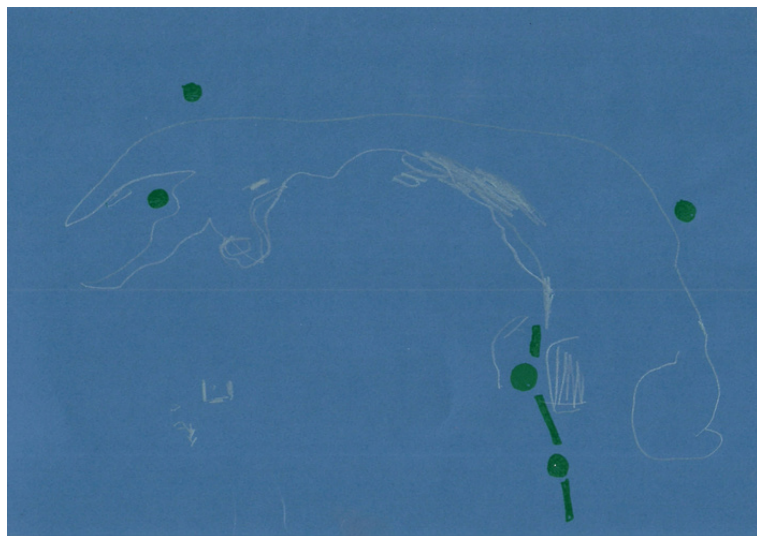
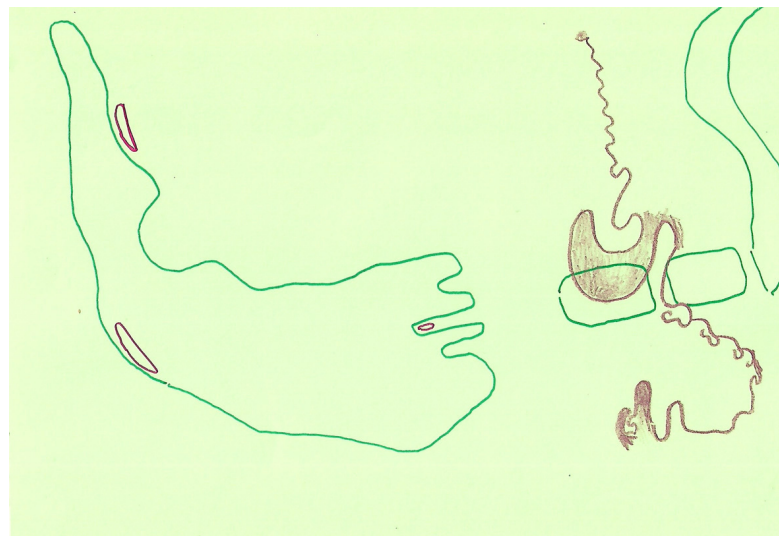
- A birds eye view map of the Harbourside from memory (1 minute)
- A birds eye view map of the Harbourside with your eyes shut (1 minute)
- A drawing of the Harbourside reflecting on how you personally move around it (1 minute)
- Locate yourself in the person to your left's map, colour in the parts of their map where you feel most yourself (1 minute)

I requested these exercises with the intention of layering each map over each other to get a collective sense of our shape of the Harbourside and where we feel best.



You may have noticed slithers of the collective map embedded in the headers throughout.

Collaborative Map- Making



Trans Safe Space Flags

Next we had a discussion about trans visibility, either through artwork, trans led venues, safety points, queer ecology signage or discreet indicators that a venue is a safe space for the community - we want to see transness reflected in Bristol!

I selected 6 key words/themes that emerged from the survey (some big some small) for the attendees to come up with their own trans symbols for and use in our flags.

We all designed trans safe space symbols through the lens of the 6 themes which were:

- Space to rest/ be comfy/play
- Space to just be/exist without spending money
- Well lit/ warm space
- Trans led venue
- Trans garden
- Wild nature

I then used a combination of the symbols, collages and maps we had made that day to create trans safe space flags for the city which I'll be printing out and hanging around the Harbourside in people's favourite places.

Here were some of peoples designs:



Trans Safe Space Flags



Trans Safe Space Flags



Sadly I was unable to get the flags printed on fabric in time to hang them around the city before the sharing. I've created the flags digitally and presented them over some of my photos of the places in the Harbourside people noted. I've accompanied each flag with discussions we had at the session, combined with themes and recommendations that emerged from the survey.



Flag 1. Trans Led Venue

This could be a co-working space, an exhibition/performance space, a studio space, preferably all of the above! Many of the participants wanted to see trans led spaces outside of bars/nightclubs so that their identities weren't tied to the nighttime economy.

We also discussed venues that aren't trans led to visually identify as 'trans safe'. Trans safe could mean that people can report hate crimes there, take refuge there for free and/or that the staff are trained in trans allyship.



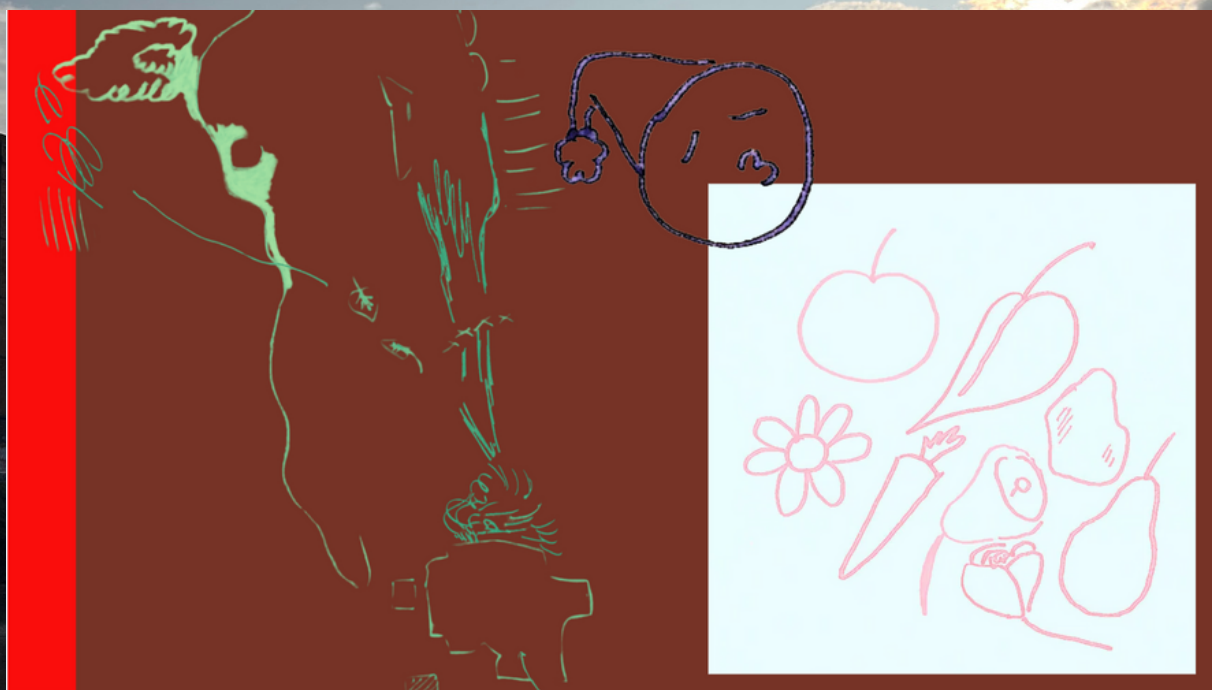
Flag 2. Nature connection and wellbeing

Re-wilding, space to be close to nature and water were all named numerous times as places where trans people felt more assured in their identity, calmer, 'less anxious', 'grounded' and safe. I would recommend creating dedicated quiet/ wellbeing / reflection space near the waters edge and wild nature for people to decompress and feel good in their brain and body.



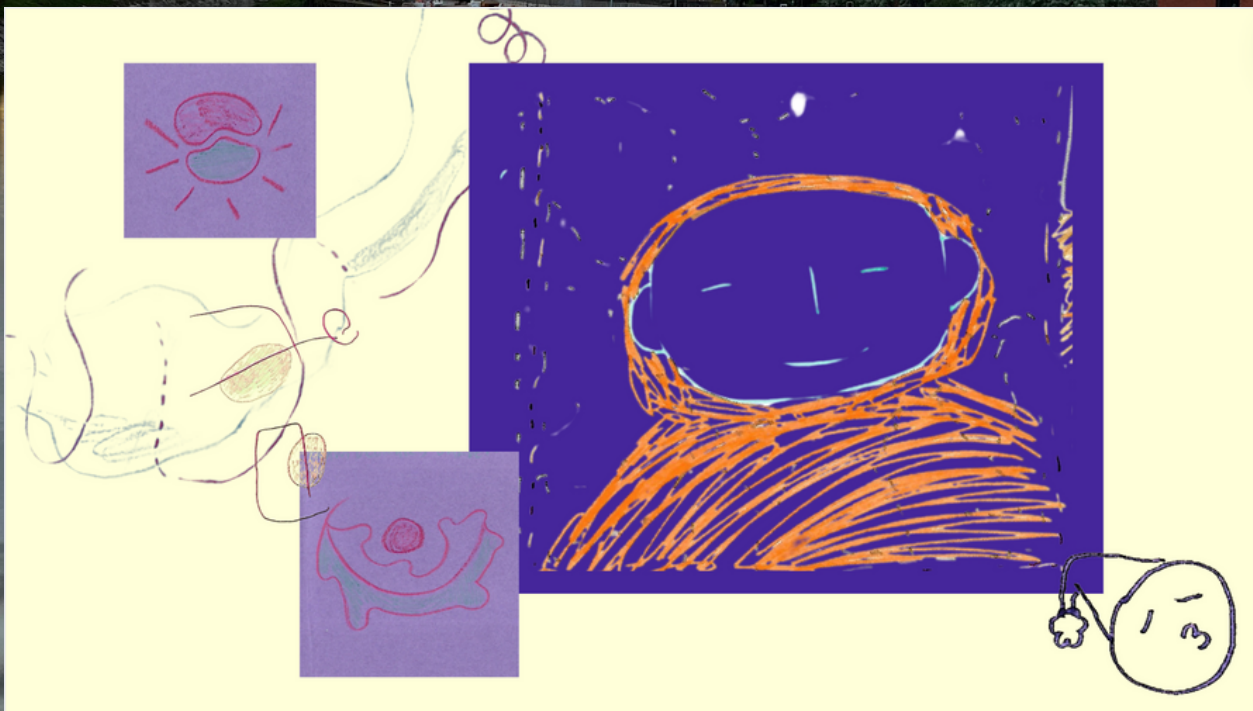
Flag 3. Trans Dedicated Garden

Museums felt like the wrong venue to share trans histories because of their colonial roots and infrastructure so we spoke about a trans dedicated garden. The garden could include plants that are important to queer history, be a source of fruit and veg for the trans community and use queer ecology to explore sex and gender educationally with young people and families.



Flag 4. Space to just be (third space)

There was a large call for third space, parks are great in the summer and the daytime, but where are the spaces you can be without spending money in the winter or at night. Everyone really wanted to see comfy, warm, sheltered space that was texturally soft and encouraged play. These spaces would be points to come together with friends, bring your own food and drink and just be together.



Thank you for taking the time to consider my recommendations and research. I'm excited to see the dreaming and care the participants took into responding, reflected in our home.

Love,

Sid

