

# Grand Union's Values & Commitments

\* Grand Union believes that art has the power to connect and transform. We foster art-making and support the growth of new cultures. We weave through the personal, political and intellectual. We love to share the work of artists and art-making. We care and centre people, enabling new dreams, imaginations and possibilities.

\* Grand Union values physical space to enable people to come together to make and to experience art. We are working to develop multiple, welcoming, artistic spaces that can function in response to the needs of different publics in our city and beyond.

\* Grand Union is human and vulnerable. We work with both people and land. We listen with all of our senses and we are attentive to different points of view, identities and experiences.

\* Grand Union cares: about people, about the environment, about futures, about histories, about art. We aim to work from a place of integrity, compassion, generosity and love.

\* We celebrate the people who have come before us, so often unrecognised for their work: women, people from LGBTQI+, Black and disabled communities, and all those who are marginalised and discriminated against. We support and collaborate with those who come after.

\* We are always learning. We take direct action. We are open to criticism. We are accountable to the communities and networks we work with. We are not neutral. We strive to challenge systems of injustice and oppression. We do not tolerate sexism, homophobia, transphobia, racism, ableism, or classism.

\* We wish to build lasting and reciprocal relationships beyond the organisation. We acknowledge that we are not independent, but interdependent and can only grow with mutual support.

In 2019 our staff team took some time to interrogate what we feel is at the core of Grand Union and the beliefs that tie us together as a group of people. We have jointly written this set of values and commitments to share this publicly and set out the values that drive the organisation.

In order to ensure these values and commitments really permeate our work, we have developed a series of policies and plans to set ourselves clear and practical targets, to measure our progress and identify positive and negative impacts. These are reviewed by both staff and trustees on a regular basis, many of which can be accessed on our [website](#).

We have been inspired by a number of people and organisations whom we would like to cite and thank here:

- \*Lucy Lopez, independent curator and writer, who facilitated sessions with us to help us step out of our everyday work and routine and make time to write down our thoughts and beliefs in different ways.
- \*Tereza Stejskalova of Feminist (Art) Institution.
- \*The Feminist Center for Creative Work, formerly The Women's Center for Creative Work: WCCW.
- \*Access Docs for Artists by Leah Clements, Alice Hattrick and Lizzy Rose.
- \*Máiréad Enright, Reader in Feminist Legal Studies at University of Birmingham.
- \*Sara Ahmed, in particular her work on The Politics of Citation.

Grand Union's staff team is currently:

- \*Hannah Adereti
- \*Jo Capper
- \*Kirsty Clarke
- \*Cheryl Jones
- \*Ros B.Z.Liebeskind
- \*Kim McAleese
- \*Laura Onions
- \*Adwoa Owusu-Barnieh
- \*Former team members Seán Elder and Alice O'Rourke are co-authors of this text.

For more information about please contact:  
[cheryl@grand-union.org.uk](mailto:cheryl@grand-union.org.uk)

