

Knowledge Transfer Partnership at the Southbank Centre: Creating collaborative design practice



www.arts.ac.uk/business/ktp.htm

As the dust settled on one of the largest and most ambitious refurbishment projects in its 57-year history, the Southbank Centre began a Knowledge Transfer Partnership (KTP) project with University of the Arts London to develop interactive environments that encourage participation and re-engage audiences.

"KTP is a really powerful way for the Southbank Centre to further its own ambitions and ideas through collaboration," says Shan Maclennan, Creative Director of Learning and Participation at Royal Festival Hall.

The Southbank KTP project is led by KTP Associate and University of the Arts London alumna Kelsey Snook. One of Kelsey's projects through KTP has been the development of an area created during the refurbishment, the Spirit Level at Royal Festival Hall. Creative events in this area include music, dance, visual arts, literature and rehearsals of all kinds, but this wasn't being communicated. Kelsey organised workshops with the Southbank's Learning and Participation team and MA students to investigate how the space felt and how to inhabit in the future. Some of the ideas presented during this process are currently being developed further and are transforming the Spirit Level into a new and colourful narrative environment. This is just one element of this KTP project that has brought fresh ideas and created engaging narrative environments that will attract new visitors and increase participation.

This Partnership received financial support from the Knowledge Transfer Partnerships programme (KTP). KTP aims to help businesses to improve their competitiveness and productivity through the better use of knowledge, technology and skills that reside within the UK Knowledge Base. KTP is funded by the Technology Strategy Board along with the other government funding organisations."