

Supporting Planning Statement: AWT Colonnade House Community Workshop Proposals (Requiring Change of Use)

Project Overview

The AWT Community Workshop project is a proposed extension of the **Colonnade House Creative Hub**. This project will establish a dedicated, street-level workshop space specifically designed for youth arts and local community use. Funding has been secured via a grant to facilitate essential repairs, fixture upgrades, and sustainable improvements for a 2026 summer launch.

Addressing Local Need

Current demand for creative space in the area is critical. **Colonnade House** currently faces waiting lists exceeding one year for accessible, public-facing facilities. This proposal directly responds to:

- **Proven Demand:** Public consultations in early 2025 and successful pilot workshops in Summer 2025 (in partnership with **Sussex Bay** and **The Steyning Arts Society**) confirmed a high demand for dedicated arts education space.
- **Filling the Gap:** As arts access diminishes in schools and public spaces, this will be the only dedicated facility of its kind in the local area.

Community Benefit & Inclusion

The workshop will provide a diverse, inclusive programme with a primary focus on **youth provision**. Key offerings will include:

- Affordable, high-quality arts education led by local professionals.
- After-school, half-term, and summer holiday arts programming.
- Dedicated resources for local community groups and creative enterprises.

Strategic Resilience

In response to reduced public partnership funding in 2024, this project represents a proactive shift toward sustainable, community-led growth. By expanding the existing **Colonnade House** model, AWT will ensure the long-term viability of cultural services in Worthing while meeting a vital social and educational need.

HoTs and Draft Lease - WBC (the owner of Shop 2) and AWT have agreed terms, which includes condition for the leaseholder to apply for and be granted planning permission for change of use to enable the community workshop proposals progress.