



# WORDS

# TEN WORDS ON ENGAGING THE CREATIVE SPIRIT

A project by Engage Liverpool CIC in collaboration  
with Liverpool artists, designers and printmakers

## Introduction

*by Diana Heredia*

When it comes to the city we live in,  
we should be more than just bystanders,  
yes even more than consumers who take  
what is on offer.  
That is what makes us citizens.  
The city is ours.  
It is ours to see, to hear, to take in, ours to  
love, ours to hate and it is also ours to share.

This city is mine and yours.  
It is where we live, learn, work, wake up, eat,  
make and meet friends  
and where we go to sleep.  
This city is our home.

So when it comes to our home we should  
not only take care of it, but also be critical  
and see how to improve and shape it so it  
meets our needs.  
“Ten words” is a small manual  
of how to make more of our city.



## Absorb.

Take it all in.

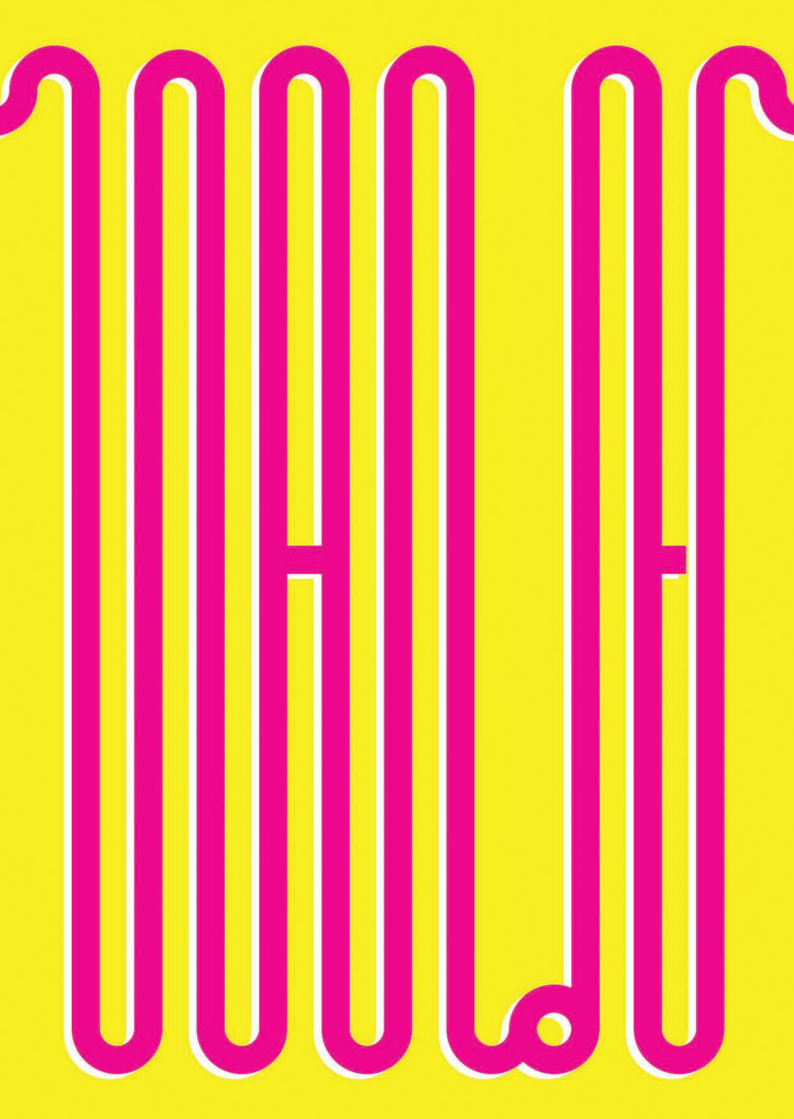
Get to know your city.

Enjoy all that it offers.

Look around and look up.

Listen to the heart-beat of the city.

*Becky Jones & Ricky Narito*



## Wander.

Mentally, physically.

Take a different journey -  
it gives you a different perspective

Search out places you've  
heard about but never seen.

Create the possibility of something  
new and unexpected happening.

*Jonny Biggs*



## Say Hello.

Be receptive to the people around you.

Make the first move.

Smile as you walk.

Start a conversation.

Offer help to read a map.

Show someone the way.

*Karen Edwards*



# CAPTURE GOOD IDEAS

## Capture good ideas.

Take photos on your phone.

Record things that amaze you.

Share them on social media.

Listen carefully to other people's ideas.

Write them down.

Make them happen.

*Alex Smith*





## Take risks.

Be adventurous.

Allow your imagination to run riot.

These times require new and bold thinking.

Everything is changing.

Trust your instincts and make a difference.

*Andy Jones*



## Join the dots.

People unlock problems.

“Who do I know that knows this?

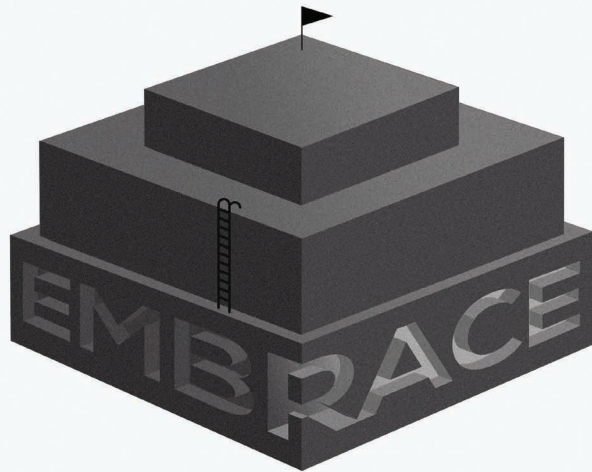
Who do I know that has done this?

Who do I know

that I need to connect with?”

*Christine Toh*





THE  
~ SPACES ~



## Embrace the spaces in-between.

Ideas often happen outside of the  
'places' and moments we intend them to.

Meeting new people can lead to  
unexpected alliances.

On a park bench.

In a queue.

On the bus.

Over a drink.

*Nick Booton*



# disrupt your routine

## Disrupt your routine.

Slow down.

Refuse to be predictable.

Listen to some live poetry or music in the city.

Read something different.

Visit an exhibition or museum.

Go to the theatre

Create a new space for new things to happen.

*Bernardo Codesido*



## Grumble.

Be disgruntled -

but only if you take action.

Moan about what isn't right -

but do something positive about it.

*Charlotte Backhouse*



## Get involved.

Don't sit on the side-lines.

Don't be a consumer only

be a creator too.

Be a part of the city's fabric -

take root and grow.

*Spudgun*

# About this project

*by Matt Fox & Diana Heredia*

When Simon Rhodes, director of Smiling Wolf, gave his keynote speech on Engaging the Creative Spirit to an audience on Liverpool's Waterfront in May 2013 he could not have anticipated just how long his words would resonate with us nor that they would inspire a grassroots art project.

We took Simon's ten suggestions for getting more involved in your city and gave them to local artists, illustrators and graphic designers. We asked them to give us their time and creativity: they gave us ten exceptional artworks in return.

The **Ten Words** in this little book are a guide to being curious about your own city. We are profoundly grateful to the gifted artists and illustrators who donated their time and craft to this project, producing striking, inspiring images for each of the Ten Words. The artists have done their bit: now we have to do ours.

Looking after our city means a kind of active citizenship: getting involved and working together to improve our quality of life.

**Absorb. Wander. Say Hello.  
Capture good ideas. Take risks.  
Join the dots. Embrace the spaces in-between.  
Disrupt your routine. Grumble. Get involved.**

These thought-provoking concepts are a modest manifesto for greater involvement in the life of our city. We hope that everyone who reads this booklet will find something new to do in Liverpool, or someone new to meet, or something you think that needs to change.





# About Engage Liverpool

*by Gerry Proctor MBE*

Engage is a resident-led social enterprise founded in 2007 to make Liverpool City Centre and Waterfront a place where people would want to live out their whole lives and not simply for a brief transitional moment during their youth. We are moved by the work of the New Economic Foundation and have adopted and adapted their ground-breaking Five Ways to Wellbeing which perfectly describe our work and ambition to create a sustainable and resilient city centre community:

**Engage connects residents with each other with stakeholders and with their neighbours. We encourage everyone to be active and to take notice within their urban world. We keep learning by promoting dialogue and debate and we give back in creative involvement to a city that inspires and motivates us.**

We constantly work against the values of a consumer-driven society to build a consensus as citizens where everyone plays their part and contributes to the common good. This small Arts Project is one small part of our work. Other elements include an annual three-part Seminar Series on topics of interest to urban dwellers which includes international and national speakers. We run an Annual Conference with a major keynote address. And there is our promotion and support of Neighbourhood Planning as an opportunity for place-shaping through the exercise of local democracy and partnership working.

Engage is committed to encouraging distinctive neighbourhoods in the city centre and to representing residents to stakeholders when required. We offer direct assistance to apartment residents to help improve the quality of management in their buildings. Connect with us!



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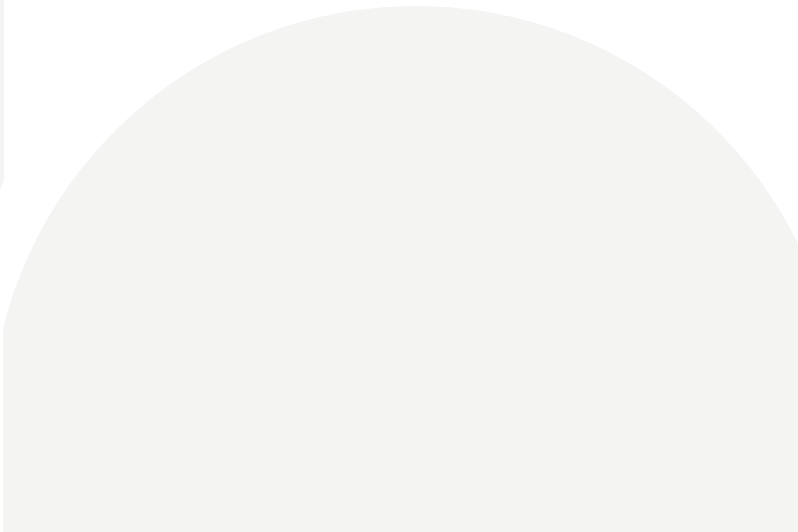
## With thanks to the artists:

Becky Jones & Ricky Narito  
Jonny Biggs  
Karen Edwards  
Alex Smith  
Nick Booton  
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**Your words:**





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