

## Short:

*one day : Day One - Resilience*: a participatory artwork connecting resilient-thinking, globally. Because we better bounce back together.

A participatory artwork connecting resilient-thinking, globally. Our world will change one day. What if today Day One?

## Medium:

*one day : Day One - Resilience* is a participatory artwork that connects with cities around the world that are committed to becoming more resilient in their approach to the future. Our world will change one day. What if today were Day One?

*one day* our world will change. Our cities, communities, our organisations and the people we know and love will all be affected by changes to the climate, to business, the economy, technology and society. How can we be more resilient and bounce back quickly from these coming shocks and stresses to our day-to-day lives?

What if today were *Day One*? What if we could see what the future has in store for us, and learn to bounce back more effectively? How might we act if that future were now? How can we share this resilient-thinking around the world, and learn from each other's ways of bouncing back to our best?

*one day : Day One - Resilience* asks these questions by looking at particular resilience challenges faced by different cities, and finds a way to connect and showcase the work being done by individual and organisations to face those challenges. The project creates feedback loops of resilient-thinking - online, at events, and in public spaces - to empower people and organisations to become resilience strategists, for themselves and for the global community.

*one day : Day One - Resilience* has been created by Sara Zaltash in partnership with the Schumacher Institute in Bristol, UK. The project is currently supported by Quartet Community Foundation, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Bristol City Council, Knowle West Media Centre and the Festival of Ideas.

## Long:

### project background

*one day : Day One* began life in 2012 as a performance artwork in Leeds. Back then, theatre makers, friends and long-time collaborators [Sara Zaltash](#) (Reading-native, Bristol-adoptee, Leeds-postgraduate) and [Jenny Duffy](#) (Bristol-native, Leeds-undergraduate) worked together to explore human aspiration, projected futures, and why humans keep their dreams always slightly out of reach. The pair created intimate pop-up participatory environments in festivals and exhibitions, in which the public could offer their *one days*, their dreams and aspirations, in either audio or video format. These contributions then formed the basis of theatre performances that the pair devised called *Day One*. After some well-received showings in Leeds, Newcastle and Stockholm, the project lay dormant while Sara toured in an electro-pop band and Jenny studied for a PhD.

In the early summer of 2014, the pair were living together in Bristol. Sara caught whiff of [Bristol's European Green Capital](#) award, and began attending public meetings to see if there was anything she could do as an artist to support the work of the [Bristol Green Capital Partnership](#). While Jenny was intensively researching the role of participation in contemporary performance for her doctorate studies, Sara had increasingly begun to feel that her live art and performance practice could be doing more to affect change to the current political systems that damage human integrity and the global environment, and that she wanted to point her skills as an artist in the same direction as her conscience as a human being. Of the different [Action Groups](#) that BGCP had set up to help

organise what would actually happen in Bristol's Green Capital year, the ideas of the Resilience Action Group sparked Sara's imagination.

Led by [The Schumacher Institute](#), an independent think-and-do tank working towards a fair share for all within planetary limits, the [Resilience Action Group's](#) aim is to encourage and facilitate projects, activities and relationships that protect Bristol and its people from shocks and stresses like extreme weather events, resource shortages, food supply problems or power cuts. With an emphasis on proactivity in response to these threats, the Resilience Action Group were seeking ways not only to encourage "bounce-back-ability"; they also sought to improve existing social, economic and environmental injustices. Sara realised that in order to be able to bounce back from the coming shocks and stresses, people needed to be able to envisage what those impending challenges are, and to understand what they would personally do if - and when - that situation occurred. Often, the ways that the climate crisis is communicated can be full of scaremongering, or can imply that a solution to the problems that we are facing will come from the scientific community or governmental organisations, without the input of everyday people. And yet, when times of crisis overwhelm us, we often realise that we could have predicted what was happening if we hadn't ignored the signs, and that as individuals our families, our neighbours and our communities are the people who really help us cope with problems on the ground.

Sara contacted Ian Roderick, head of the BGCP's Resilience Action Group and also Director of the Schumacher Institute, in June 2014 to suggest a version of *one day : Day One* that focussed on encouraging resilient thinking. The idea was, very simply, to create a light-footed and roving pop-up structure where the people of Bristol could enter and imagine their own Green Bristol as if that were today's Bristol. Their visions for the future-now could be documented in audio and video, collected and represented online and in public spaces, while the structure itself could move daily and weekly around the greater Bristol area. Ian encouraged the idea, and Sara developed the concept for proposal with the support of the Schumacher Institute. After submitting an application for funding to the [Quartet Community Foundation](#), Bristol 2015's funding partner, *one day : Day One - Resilience* was awarded a Small Grant in December 2014.

## **resilience**

While researching ideas around resilience - how global organisations had begun to realise that sustainability was not going to reverse the tides of change, and that we had to brace ourselves for the reality of what was to come - Sara discovered that Bristol had been selected by the [Rockefeller Foundation](#) to be a flagship member of its [100 Resilient Cities Network](#). The *100RC* was set up by the Rockefeller Foundation, one of the oldest and wealthiest philanthropic organisations in the world, to help cities become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century. From the *100RC* website, Sara learned of [Bristol's resilience aims and challenges](#):

- Bristol is the United Kingdom's fastest growing city.
- To support this growth, the city is investing more than \$2.7 billion in new and renewed infrastructure, particularly in transport, energy, housing, and business.
- Bristol has plans to create resilient systems—more decentralized, less prone to cascade failure—and will future-proof investment decisions.
- Bristol is already the most energy and waste-efficient major UK city, and plans to meet future needs by managing resources even more efficiently.
- The city aims to empower individuals and communities to help themselves, support capacity building and local-decision making, and protect local amenities.
- Much of the building stock is old, but the city is working to enable owners to future-proof buildings to support and protect life and enable commerce.
- The city is using a systems-led approach to build in capacity, flexibility, safe failure, and constant learning.
- Bristol aims to be future-proofed by 2020.

In the UK, [Glasgow](#) and [London](#) are also part of the *100RC* network. From a global and systemic perspective, each city in the *100RC* faces naturally different and simultaneously inherently

connected resilience challenges. The strength of the *100RC* network is in its connectivity as each of the cities learn from each other how best to cope with new and old stresses to their current systems - from ageing infrastructures to chronic water shortages, from a lack of affordable housing to an increase in cyber terrorism. One of the biggest challenges faced by all the cities, and indeed all leaders and organisations around the world, is how to encourage behaviour change within populations and businesses to meet the coming shocks and stresses proactively, rather than reactively. How can city councils, local governments and community leaders raise awareness with their wards and members to bring about the changes that are essential for future survival and prosperity?

Taking these ideas on board while developing *one day : Day One - Resilience* for Bristol Green Capital 2015, Sara has begun to reach out to other of the *100 Resilient Cities* in the UK and globally to find ways to showcase their work towards resilience and to find ways that the project can work with as many of the cities as possible. *one day : Day One - Resilience* has the potential to become a participatory point of convergence for the creative, scientific and humanitarian drivers that must be addressed by cities, and their populations, all over the world in the coming years.

### **Bristol project description**

In the summer of 2015, a pop-up geodesic dome will visit 16 locations in the greater Bristol area so that members of the public can enter and collectively imagine a resilient, sustainable and Green Bristol, as if that were today's Bristol, imagining all of the things that they want for a their city *one day*, as if today were *Day One*.

The exterior of the *one day : Day One - Resilience* dome is richly illustrated with a version of Bristol that has been affected by the environmental, technological, commercial and social changes that are coming in our lifetimes. Following research undertaken by Sara with numerous organisations around the city to envisage the forecasted changes, the Bristol-based artist Babs Behan has been commissioned depict a version of future-Bristol that has been affected by them. Babs has a background in surface design, decorative arts, illustration and ethical textiles. Philosophically and creatively up-to-date with the ideas surrounding resilience, sustainability and the environment, Babs will use natural pigment paints and naturally occurring visual motifs to draw on current scientific research and Bristol 2015's Objectives and Criteria and Sustainability Principles to imagine and represent a changing, resilient Bristol.

In balance, the light and neutral interior space of the *one day : Day One - Resilience* dome will provide prompts and strategies for the public to proactively create their own visions of a resilient city that has adapted to these shocks and stresses. An intimate space of mindfulness and clarity, the interior of the dome will be furnished with floor mats and two folding chairs for less able visitors. In the centre of the dome, a simple digital tablet interface will enable visitors to record a short film of their own visions and strategies for resilience. The vision generating activity can be undertaken in solitude or shared with friends and family.

Two of the *one day : Day One - Resilience* team will be present at every location that the dome visits. They will facilitate and collect these publicly contributed visions and strategies. The videos will be presented them back to Bristol, weekly online and also monthly in public exhibition spaces such as BBC Big Screen in Millennium Square, and the Bristol 2015 Lab, creating a feedback loop of hopes, reflections and strategies. The public gallery exhibitions will encourage resilient thinking and strategy exchange across the communities of Bristol, diversifying the sources and applications of sustainability expertise. The online gallery will present a legacy of Bristol's efforts towards resilient thinking to the international community.

From June to September 2015, the structure will visit Bristol's urban centres and suburban hubs, natural wildlife reserves and shared public spaces, the city's sites of commerce, faith, communion, struggle and sociability, giving the widest possible range of people in Bristol a space to imagine a legacy of sustainable, resilient change. Dreaming together inside the dome the people of Bristol

will create a legacy of hope for a resilient Bristol one day, a space for them to believe that this is Day One of a bright and optimistic future.

In late 2015, the legacy of research resulting from the project will be analysed and shared with colleagues in *Bristol Green Capital Partnership*, at the Local Resilience Forum Conference and at *Festival of the Future City* in drawing out the key findings and stimulating discussion to direct the continuing efforts to build resilient cities and communities.

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Following consultations with Bristol-based designers, the most cost- and energy-efficient structure has been sourced from the *Garden Igloo* company (DE). The *one day : Day One - Resilience* dome will be 2.2m tall and 3.2m in diameter, is made from 100% recyclable materials including weatherproof and canvas coverings, and weighs less than 25kg. Three to five visitors can occupy the dome at any one time. Easily assembled without any tools and with a low-impact on nature, the *one day : Day One - Resilience* dome will be transported by foot or bike to sixteen different locations across the greater Bristol area. In choosing these locations, the *one day : Day One - Resilience* team will favour areas where sustainability activity will have the greatest impact, selecting one site from each of the city's *Neighbourhood Partnerships*. Natural and cultural heritage sites and some city centre locations will also be selected.

The core *one day : Day One - Resilience* team are all based in Bristol, and will be comprised of *The Schumacher Institute*, lead artist Sara Zaltash with support from Jennifer Duffy, marketing consultants Shipshape Marketing, and a team of six competitively selected volunteers. Sara Zaltash is a Bristol resident and live artist working in performance, installation and events, and a member of Bristol's acclaimed performance collective, *Residence*. She has worked internationally in San Francisco, Berlin, Aurillac, Bucharest and Tehran and numerous urban and rural centres across the UK. Sara has a strong mind for ideas, project planning and working with people. Since 2005, Sara has been responsible for producing and programming venues, festivals and platforms in Bristol, London and Leeds. Jennifer Duffy is an artist and PhD candidate at the University of Northumbria researching the role of public participation in performance. She is a member of performance collective *Interval*, contemporary theatre company *Massive Owl* and co-director of *Gateshead International Festival of Theatre*. A team of six green-thinking volunteers with skills in web and graphic design, social media, marketing and events management will be recruited to support and deliver the sixteen week activity period of the project. Furthermore, a small team of freelance professionals will be recruited to fulfil web design, graphic design and technology development roles.