

K:ART

In 2021 Elev8arts C.I.C was awarded Creative Funding to research, develop and fabricate fully adaptable outdoor mobile exhibition unit(s) as a method of display to pop-up in spaces in different formations or groupings around the city. These units would function as innovative outdoor art spaces allowing artists to create installations, transport, display, sell their work, and create an arts hub outside for the public to visit.

We initially conceived of K:ART when thinking of inventive ways to get around the difficulties faced by artists during the pandemic and a reliance on traditional show formats in indoor spaces. Whilst digital shows helped in some ways, we thought the activation of outdoor areas was something not being capitalised on. This seemed key in providing the much missed element of social interaction not provided by digital platforms. As was proven by outdoor markets and adapted outdoor spaces by cafes and bars, public confidence in the safety of outdoor spaces was high even when restrictions were in place for indoor venues. We believe the applications for such a model of display and engagement are endless and continue to be relevant. We are excited at the potential for K:ARTs to provide opportunities for artistic freedom and alternative methods of interaction for artists and their community.

We started by designing a multi-functional K:ART base unit which was subject to various revisions after discussion and consultation with the core focus group involved. Display, versatility and practicality of function, materials, size, weight, storage and manoeuvrability were all key elements in producing the final design. This base unit has the ability to be modified further, producing other variations eg. Larger 2-person units, mini units, or those with specific tailored purposes.

As there are so many possible uses, we decided to simplify the process and focus on the base unit design keeping it as adaptable as possible. The core principles of the design were founded on the following questions -What can we do to make this as light & versatile as possible? Who might use it and how might they choose to display their work? Where would they take it? What would it need to carry? Would a single person be able to transport it by themselves?

Please take a look at the design and let us know what you think!







