

2025

benchspace
IMPACT
REPORT

A Message from Fergus

FERGUS SOMERS | BENCHSPACE CO-FOUNDER & BOARD CHAIR

Since our founding in 2017, we have dedicated our efforts to creating opportunities for makers, artisans, and designers to thrive. As Ireland's first open-access wood-work shop for early-career makers, we have laid a foundation for innovation and craftsmanship that has steadily grown over the years. Building on that success, we have expanded to include a dedicated jewellery workshop and digital fabrication tools such as laser cutters and 3D printers, opening new avenues for creativity and design. Our training programmes have provided hundreds of people with essential hand skills and machinery expertise, while our access and exchange initiatives, developed in collaboration with local and international partners, have made it easier for new makers to explore craft and build sustainable careers in making. None of this would have been possible without the support and dedication of our board, staff, and members, whose commitment to our mission has driven this success and growth.

Impact and Momentum - Our Progress Over the Past Year

This impact report reflects a year of steady, meaningful progress and highlights the tangible ways we have made a difference in the lives of makers and the creative community. Through our open-access model, we have supported emerging talent, contributing directly to local livelihoods, the creative economy, and the circular economy. From small startups to individuals honing their craft, the makers we serve are

shaping a stronger, more sustainable community. Their successes are our greatest achievements, and as we continue to evolve, we remain committed to amplifying this impact by fostering creativity, collaboration, and innovation within Cork City's vibrant cultural fabric.

Looking Forward - Building a Vision for the Future

We are excited about what lies ahead. Our expansion plans will bring new opportunities for creative entrepreneurs, with larger and enhanced woodworking facilities, expanded training spaces, and the introduction of a dedicated textiles workshop. We envision a space that not only provides access to industry grade tools but also offers room for small businesses to grow and flourish within a supportive, collaborative environment. By expanding our services, we aim to increase accessibility, foster sustainability through circular practices, and drive meaningful contributions to the creative economy.

We warmly invite our community, supporters, and partners to join us in bringing this vision to life, ensuring that our open-access facility remains a hub of innovation, creativity, and opportunity for years to come.



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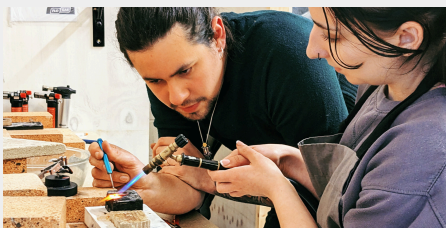
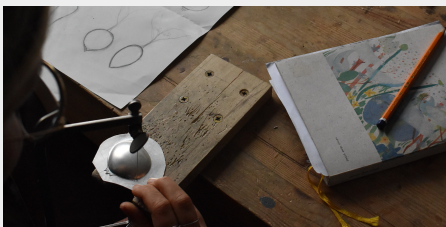


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Introduction

This report, compiled with the support of our partners at Rethink Ireland, assesses the impact of our work to date. It serves as both a reflection of our achievements and a valuable tool to communicate our ongoing efforts. By evaluating our successes and challenges, we aim to not only demonstrate the value we bring to the community but also use these insights to guide our future decisions and ensure continued growth and impact.





OPEN ACCESS FACTORY

Benchspace Cork is Ireland's first shared creative manufacturing facility, located in the Marina business area of Cork City.

With a mission to "Make Creative Livelihoods Possible," Benchspace was founded as a social enterprise in 2017 to address a critical gap in support for graduates and creative startups.

Our 14,100 sqft multidisciplinary manufacturing facility includes workshops equipped for woodwork, fine metalwork, digital design and fabrication, alongside modular open-plan studios, product photography facilities and customer meeting spaces. An ecosystem where professional designers and makers can thrive.

By providing studio space, professional equipment, and a collaborative environment, Benchspace helps individuals launch and sustain creative careers, preventing the loss of talent from the sector and strengthening Ireland's creative and sustainable economy.

We promote local making, resource sharing, and knowledge exchange, directly supporting the principles of the circular economy, encouraging makers to create durable, desirable, and sustainable products while reducing waste.

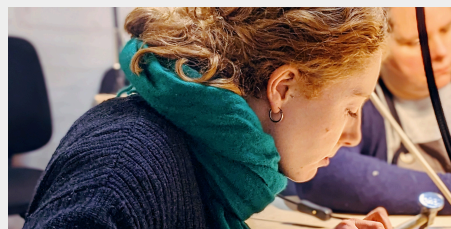
MAKING FOR ALL

Benchspace Cork offers a range of public workshops and skills training designed to support individuals in developing practical and creative abilities.

These workshops cover disciplines such as woodworking, jewellery making, digital fabrication (including laser cutting), and product photography. Open to all skill levels, the training is focused on hands-on learning in professional-grade facilities.

In addition to technical skills, these classes and workshops provide participants with the opportunity to explore innovative techniques and creative problem-solving, helping them gain the tools needed to enhance their personal projects and grow in their chosen field.

Our ambition is that these classes can also unlock new possibilities for participants, sparking new interests and inspiring individuals to pursue creative career paths they may not have considered before.





PATHS TO CREATIVE CAREERS

Benchspace supports the early development of creative careers through several funded programmes targeted at both aspiring and newly established creative entrepreneurs. These include the EMERGE Programme, Rising Sparks, New Sparks, and the Dearcán Bursary.

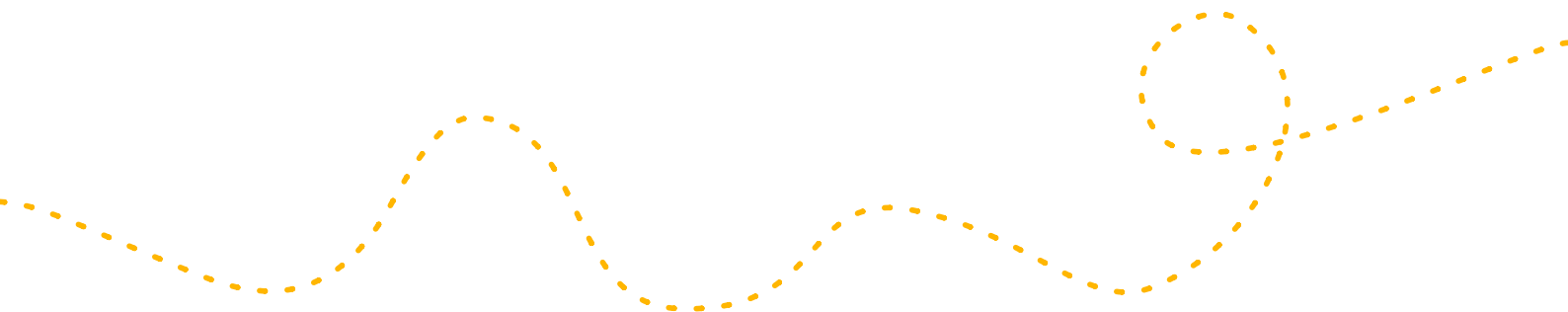
Each of these programmes is tailored to specific stages of professional development and they are designed to provide emerging makers and entrepreneurs with the vital resources, mentorship, and community connections they need.

Through access to professional studio space, expert guidance, and valuable networking opportunities, these programmes enable participants to hone both their creative and business skills, helping them start and build sustainable careers in the creative industries.



RISING Sparks The Rising Sparks Programme supports individuals from marginalized or economically disadvantaged communities, helping them transition into long-term creative careers. Participants gain free access to Benchspace's facilities, exploring disciplines such as woodworking, jewellery making, and laser cutting. The programme provides hands-on learning, skills development and mentorship, empowering participants to access new opportunities within the creative industries.

(Supported by Community Foundation Ireland)



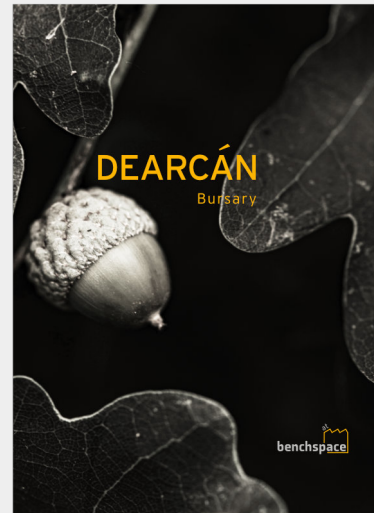
NEW Sparks The New Sparks Programme builds on the success of Rising Sparks, continuing its mission to support individuals from marginalized or economically disadvantaged communities. This initiative is dedicated to expanding creative career pathways by equipping individuals with essential skills in making, personal development, and creative community engagement. The programme also provides mentorship and financial resources, guiding participants towards long-term creative careers.

(Supported by Community Foundation Ireland)



EMERGE The EMERGE programme was established to support recent creative graduates. The winner is provided with free access to Benchspace's professional studio spaces, state-of-the-art workshops, and essential tools at a pivotal point in their career. The programme aims to bridge the gap between creative talent and professional success, helping emerging graduates turn their ideas into reality.

(Supported by Friends of the Crawford)



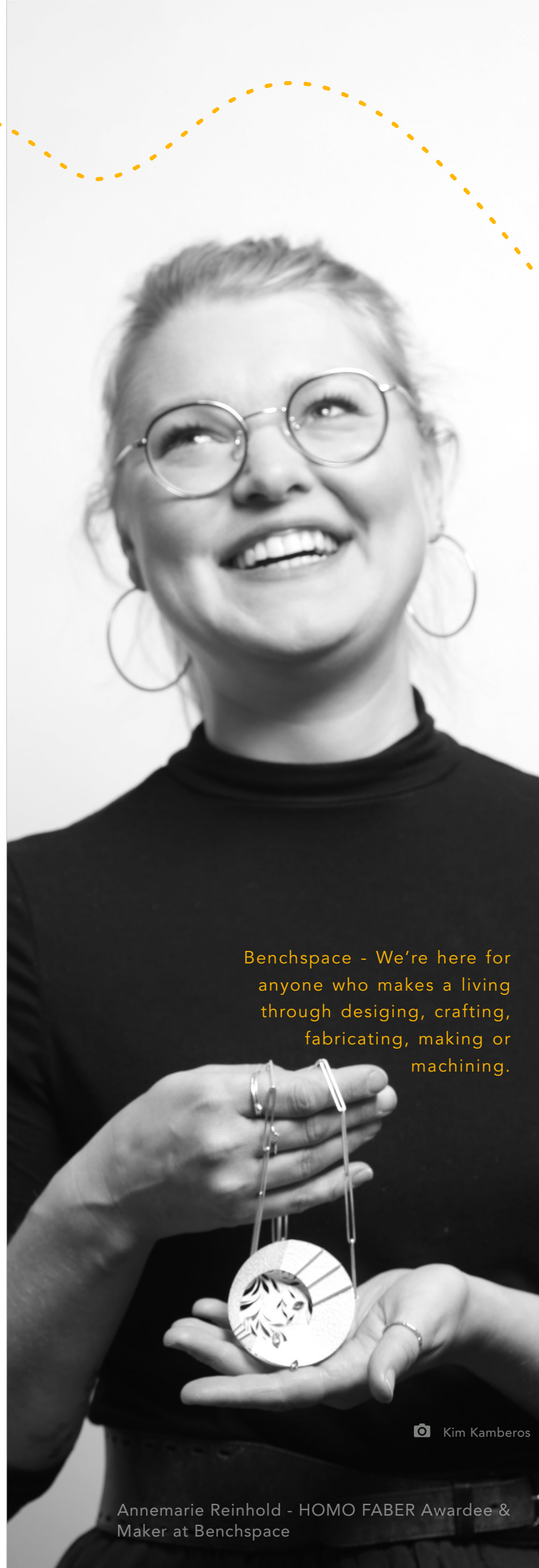
DEARCÁN Bursary This annual award is tailored to support early-career makers and product designers. Recipients receive a 12-month Benchspace membership, along with a monthly stipend. The programme also offers peer networking, mentorship, and industry engagement opportunities, helping participants navigate product design, production, branding, and promotion. This comprehensive support enables them to develop both the creative and commercial aspects of their work.

(Supported by Cork County Council Arts Service and South Cork Local Enterprise Office)



designer residence This residency programme invites successful national and international creatives to Cork, to share their experience & knowledge. Through hands-on workshops, public engagements, and collaborative product design, the residency enriches the local creative community, providing invaluable learning opportunities and inspiring new approaches to craft and enterprise.

(Supported by Cork City Council Arts Office)



Benchspace - We're here for anyone who makes a living through designing, crafting, fabricating, making or machining.

Kim Kamberos

Annemarie Reinhold - HOMO FABER Awardee & Maker at Benchspace

CREATING ENTERPRISE SUCCESS

Enterprise Programmes

Benchspace Cork's professional enterprise programmes support the growth of makers and creative enterprises by offering essential skills, expert guidance, and networking opportunities. Focused on developing both creative and business abilities, these initiatives help enhance brand identity, improve production workflows, and foster valuable public and industry connections, driving the commercial success of makers and creative entrepreneurs.

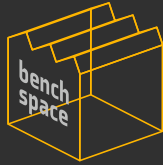


Benchspace's **VISUAL** programme teaches the fundamentals of visual branding and product photography, helping makers build a strong brand identity. It equips them with skills to enhance their professional content with consistent personal branding.



Our **Professional Seminar Series** provides valuable career insights and opportunities to learn from real-world success stories. These talks encourage Makers and Startup Enterprises to mingle with fellow creatives, opening doors to new opportunities and partnerships on the Irish retail landscape.

DIGITAL SKILLS FELLOWSHIP



CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

We offer training in **Digital Manufacturing Skills** (e.g., laser cutting) to enhance production workflows. This helps makers create intricate designs quickly, reduce waste, and scale production. Digital tools bridge modern technology with traditional craftsmanship, fostering innovation and expanding creative possibilities.



Benchspace partners with local creative organizations to organise festivals, exhibitions and workshops, providing valuable **Exposure and Networking Opportunities**. By showcasing local talent and fostering community engagement, these events play a pivotal role in advancing the commercial success of Makers in the region.

Benchspace -
Making space
for Makers



Benchspace -
We're here to
make creative
livelihoods
possible

Awards & Recognition

Professional awards are an important stepping stone on the path to developing a successful creative career.

Benchspace actively supports our makers in applying for these awards and many of our current and past members have received both national and international recognition for their crafts and creative enterprise.

6  **Future Makers**

2 **HOMO FABER**

2  **SHOWCASE IRELAND**

1  **CRAFT AWARD**

Sara Leslie - DCCI Future Maker at Benchspace

IMPACT IN THEIR OWN WORDS

Jade Hogan - Mr Kite Designs

I joined Benchspace a year ago. I was a long time admirer of the facility and ethos and was delighted when a studio became available. Being a member gives me a dedicated space in which to make and store my work but also allows me to pursue my creative business within a community of like minded people. We share knowledge and ideas and plan collaborations.

The support and encouragement of the staff at Benchspace helps to push us all further. The access to equipment and facilities allows me to experiment with new product lines without huge outlay.

As makers, we can often spend most of our time working solo which can be very isolating. Benchspace is a warm community which nurtures new and growing creative businesses. I would love to see more spaces like this.



Paul Murphy - Mindful Maker Furniture Maker & Father of Three

Benchspace has made my dream of creating my own sustainable craft business a reality. The mentorship, comradery, facilities and equipment have transformed my life and what I do. Previously I had relied on the kindness of others for workshop space to make small chopping boards by hand, a long and laboursome process that was never going to become a sustainable business. The set-up costs for a professional workshop were far out of my reach.


Benchspace has been a game changer for me, leading to innovations, new designs, and allowing me to batch produce which hitherto was not possible. But Benchspace is so much more than an affordable work space. Their branding, social media and photography courses have been vital to my craft business and through the community there I have received so much making advice and have been connected with suppliers, business-leads and craft networks.

In 2023 I was selected for SHOWCASE Ireland and I believe being located at Benchspace was a huge factor in both this and the subsequent orders I received from exclusive craft retailers like Irish Design Shop, Forest & Flock, Joyce's Connemara & Goldens Kells. My Mindful Maker business and brand continues to grow, it has been selected for the New Frontiers entrepreneur programme at MTU Rubicon and I am looking forward to SHOWCASE 25 where I will be taking orders from Irish and international buyers to further grow my business.

Most satisfyingly though, is being able to show my three Boys what is possible with hard work, the right facilities and a community like Benchspace. We are so lucky to have Benchspace here in Cork - we are the envy of every county and many countries.



Paul Murphy - Furniture Maker at Benchspace

 Maeve Murphy



Róisín McCabe - Goldsmith

Róisín McCabe Goldsmith

Benchspace has been essential for the development of my practice in the last year. Having affordable access to equipment and space has allowed me to complete commissions, experiment with new ideas and bring to life a full collection from start to finish.

However, for me, the real value in Benchspace is the community I've become a part of. Having the opportunity to meet other craftspeople and simply talk and share ideas as well as seeking and giving advice is a really enjoyable circle to be in.

I've made more work in the last 9 months at Benchspace than I had since graduating in 2021 from Kilkenny Jewellery & Goldsmithing. I've also made friends and found a lot of motivation just knowing I have access to all the equipment I may need.

10/10 would recommend.



Owen Kelly - Luthier

Owen Kelly - Kelly Guitars Luthier

I knew I wanted to build guitars, and that would need me to upskill. So I signed up for the Machine Making course at Benchspace to understand how to use professional machinery - the thickness planer, surface planer, and router table. The course was very social, very enjoyable, with emphasis on detailed knowledge of the machines and how to get the best from them. I also completed a Laser Cutting course to bring the benefits of digital fabrication into my workflow.

Armed with enough skills to design and construct my own workbench and quickly afterwards my first guitar. It's inspired me to equip my own wood working workshop at home. I've since taken it a step further setting up a brand for my guitars - all with the comfort of knowing when I do need to upskill again, the Benchspace community will be there.

IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

This evaluation of Benchspace’s impact used a mixed methods approach capturing both qualitative and quantitative data from Makers and Creative Enterprises who worked with Benchspace Cork within the past year. The views of participants in our courses and training activities were also sought. In total, 41 respondents completed the survey between December 2024 to January 2025.

The Theory of Change model and the research tool we designed to measure outcomes in this study can be found in the Appendices.

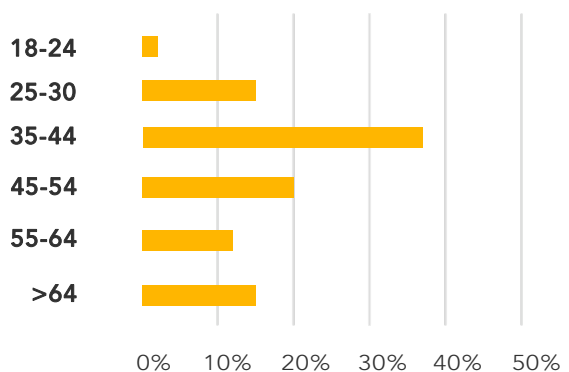
Profile of Survey Respondents

There were 41 respondents to the online survey, of which 22 were Makers or Creative Enterprises. The remaining survey respondents include 18 Participants in Benchspace’s courses and workshops, and one attendee of an event at Benchspace.

There was an even spread of respondents by gender: 46% female (n=19), 51% male (n=21). The vast majority of respondents live in either Cork City (49%, n=20) or the surrounding Co. Cork (44%, n=18); only 2% of respondents lived elsewhere in Ireland (n=1) and 5% lived internationally (n=2).

More than a third of respondents were between 35 to 44 years old (n=15), which was the largest age category. A breakdown of all remaining age groups is presented in the figure below.

Respondents by Age Category



N = 41

Makers & Creative Enterprises

85% of respondents are currently using our facilities at Benchspace (n=17), and 15% were former service users (n=3). A key finding is that the number of respondents who used the facilities for 0-3 months (27%, n=6) was the same as the number of respondents who used the facilities for 2-5 years (27%, n=6). Of the remaining answers, findings show:

- 23% using our facilities for 1-2 years.
- 18% using our facilities for 7-12 months.
- 5% using our facilities for 4-6 months.

Among our Makers & Creative Enterprises, 52% are members of the Design and Craft Council of Ireland (n=11) and 48% were involved with the Local Enterprise Office (n=10). Only a small number of respondents were affiliated with the Arts Council (n=2) or the Department of Social Protection (n=1). A key finding was 48% of respondents indicated no affiliation (n=10).

Course & Training Participants

33 respondents indicated they had attended Benchspace’s courses. The highest attended course was the once-off Woodworking Workshop (42%, n=14).

Craft or Design Practice

Craft	45%
Woodworking	41%
Jewellery Design	23%
Product Design	18%
Fine / Visual Art	18%
Engineering	14%
Other	14%
Textiles / Textile Design	9%
Photography	5%
N = 22	

Respondents were allowed to indicate multiple practice areas

Courses Attended

Woodworking (1 Day)	42%
Laser Cutting (Multi-Day)	27%
Woodworking (Multi-Day)	27%
Jewellery Design (1 Day)	21%
Laser Cutting (1 Day)	18%
Jewellery Design (Multi-Day)	9%
Textiles Design (1 Day)	3%
Other / Unsure	6%
N = 33	



IMPACT BY THE NUMBERS

Outcomes - Makers and Creative Enterprises

Makers and Creative Enterprises at Benchspace were asked to complete a series of questions to understand the extent of benefit experienced since moving to Benchspace.

Skills & Connections

Our findings show that a majority of respondents had increased social connections with other makers and designers and just over half felt they had increased their ability to promote and/or showcase their business or craft.

An interesting finding was that only one quarter of respondents reported an improvement in their maker and design skills. This finding suggests there is more Benchspace can do to support our Makers & Creative Enterprises in these areas.

	Positive Change	No Change	Negative Change
Increased maker and design skills .	27%	68%	5%
Increased promotion of business or craft.	55%	41%	5%
Increased social connections with makers and designers.	77%	18%	5%

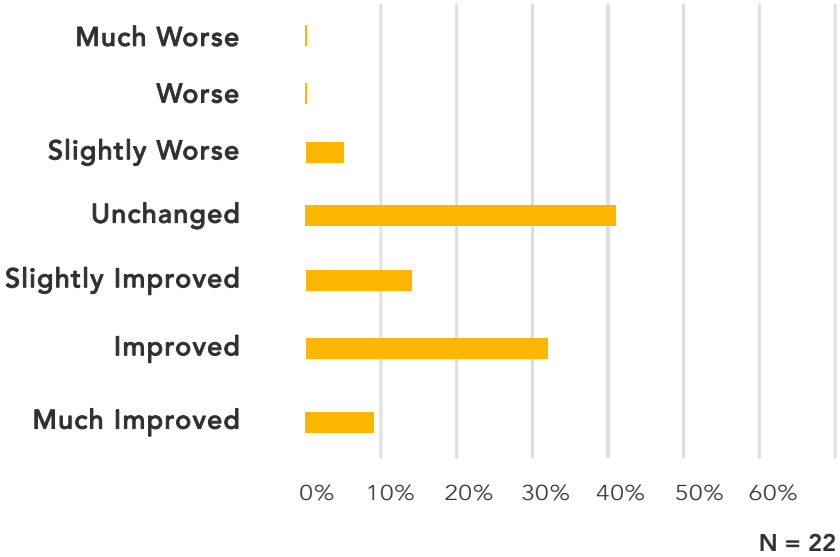
N = 22

Income Generation

To understand if Makers & Creative Enterprises using our spaces gained increased income from their business or craft, the figure below shows responses from Makers who were asked if their income changed since working with Benchspace.

Our findings show 55% of respondents experienced an improvement in their income. Meanwhile, 41% did not experience any change in their income and one respondent reported it was slightly worse for them.

Change in **income** from maker, design, craft or business (%).



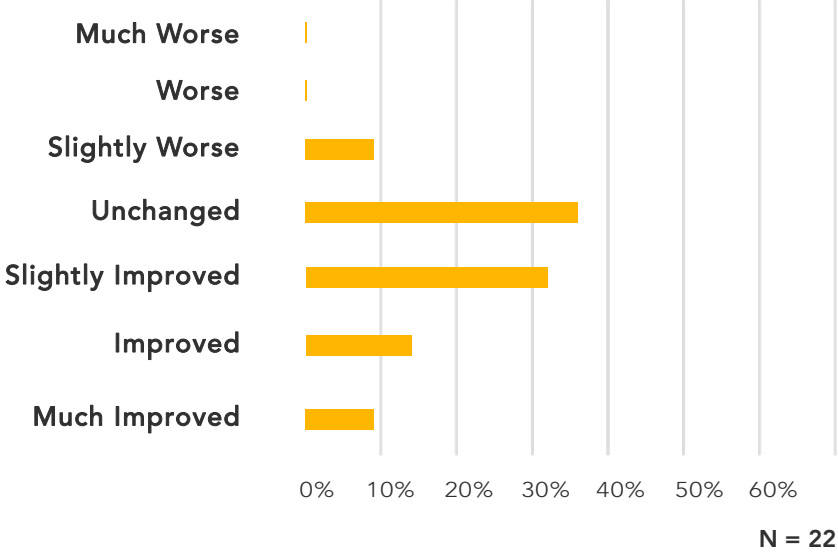
Sinead Goldsmith - Jeweller at Benchspace

© Maeve Murphy

As a follow-up question, Residents and Makers were asked if the percentage (%) of overall income, derived from their maker, design or craft practice or business had changed. Similar to the previous ques-

tion, 55% of respondents answered that the percentage of their overall income from their craft or business had improved. The figure below shows a breakdown of these answers.

Change in overall income due to maker, design, craft or business



Alex Thiel - Goldsmith at Benchspace

Darragh Mc Sweeney

Business Sustainability - Indicators

Another important outcome for Benchspace is whether our Makers & Creative Enterprises are supported in improving the sustainability of their business. Given the short timeframe of this evaluation, we were unable to measure if our community were more sustainable, but we did ask our Residents and Makers if they experienced common indicators of scaling

or growth of their business. Our findings show that more than half of Makers & Creative Enterprises have developed new products or crafts and sold their products at more craft fairs, markets or exhibitions, as well as had more opportunities to showcase or exhibit their work since joining Benchspace.

Indicators of **enterprise growth** or scaling.

N = 22

I have developed new products or crafts for sale.	77%
I have attended new craft fairs, markets and/or exhibitions.	68%
I have showcased or exhibited my work.	59%
My craft or business has made more money or generated more income.	45%
I have worked on promoting or advertising my craft or business.	41%
I have developed my business skills (i.e., finance, planning, strategy, sales	36%
I have worked on growing the scale of my business	36%
My craft or business has more vendors or buyers	27%
My craft or business has more contracts	27%
My craft or business has stocked/sold products in Irish shops	27%
I have hired more part-time / casual employees	9%
My craft or business has stocked/sold products internationally	5%
None of the above	5%
I have hired more full-time employees	0%

Business Sustainability

Outcome Ranking

We were interested in understanding which outcomes were more (or less) important to our Makers & Creative Enterprises. Importance tells us which outcomes are most meaningful, which is helpful in better understanding the social value of Benchspace. When respondents were asked to rank various outcomes, our findings show the most important outcomes were 'increased maker, design, and/or craft skills' followed by 'greater social connections'. The full ranking is as follows:

- 1** Increased maker, design and/or craft skills.
- 2** Greater social connection with other makers, designers, or crafts people.
- 3** Increased development of maker, design, or crafts practice / growth of businesses.
- 4** Increased professional collaboration with other makers, designers, or crafts people.
- 5** Increased income generated from maker, design, and/or craft skills.
- 6** Increased ability to promote or showcase your maker, design, or craft practice.
- 7** Increased sustainability (i.e. the ability to afford your own premises, hire staff)



Outcomes - Course & Training Participants

Course Participants were asked if they experienced changes in several important outcomes since attending our courses and events.

The table below summarises the key findings for each outcome included for Participants. A key finding is most respondents did not experience any change from our activities, but some respondents did experience positive change in all four outcomes. For instance, 38% of respondents

reported increased maker and design skills from our courses. These findings indicate how Benchspace can work on further developing our courses and activities by focussing on how these are making an impact for participants.

	Positive Change	No Change	Negative Change
Increased maker and design skills.	38%	63%	0%
Increased positive encounters with craft and design.	35%	61%	3%
Increased interest in making, design or craft activities.	22%	75%	3%
Increased time spent in making, design or craft activities.	31%	69%	0%

N = 32



PERSPECTIVES ON QUALITY

Perspectives on Quality at Benchspace

This section explores findings about the views and experiences of people at Benchspace. To help us understand if people feel Benchspace is delivering high-quality services, we asked respondents to rate various aspects of our facilities and work (scale 1-10).

Service & Staff

First, all respondents were asked to rate the quality of our service and our staff. 93% of respondents gave an answer of seven or higher, which suggests that the vast majority of people feel Benchspace is an organisation offering good quality services.

Scored 7 or higher

93%

Facilities

When our Residents and Makers were asked the quality of the facilities available at Benchspace, 86% of respondents gave an answer of seven or higher (n=19). Only 14% of respondents gave an answer of 5 or 6 (n=3). This finding suggests that people feel Benchspace offers good to very good facilities.

86%

Specialised Equipment

100% of our Residents and Maker rated our specialised equipment and shared resources as seven or higher (n=21). This finding indicates that our product photography suite, digital fabrication equipment, fine metalwork and woodworking machinery are considered to be very high quality.

100%

Courses & Training

In the online survey, participants were asked to rate the quality of courses and training. Findings show 95% of participants gave a high rating of seven or more (n=17). Only one respondent gave a rating of 4 (out of 10). This finding suggests that people feel Benchspace offers high-quality courses and workshops.

95%

Net Promoter Score

As a follow-up question, respondents were asked how likely they were (scale 1-10) to recommend Benchspace to a friend or colleague. From these responses a net promoter score (NPS) for Benchspace was calculated. The NPS is a commonly used metric for understanding customer sentiment. The NPS scores for Benchspace are presented below:

Promoter

A score of 9-10

Defined as people who are enthusiasts, who refer others and share positive commentary or testimony about a service.

81%

Passives

A score of 7-8

Defined as people who are satisfied but unenthusiastic and unlikely to refer others.

16%

Detractors

A score lower than 7

Defined as people who are unhappy or might have poor commentary.

3%

The NPS score for Benchspace is 78*, which suggests respondents are highly satisfied and very likely to share positive feedback about our organisation.

+ 78

* The NPS score (Range -100 to +100), is calculated by subtracting the percentage detractors from the percentage promoters. In general terms, a positive score (i.e. >0) indicates there are more individuals who are satisfied and likely to share positive feedback. A negative score indicates there are more individuals who are detractors compared to promoters, which signals dissatisfaction among respondents and need for improvement.



THE FUTURE OF MAKING

Recommendations

To continue driving creative innovation, sustainable local production, and equitable access to making, Benchspace presents the following key recommendations to our funders and partners. These targeted areas of support will help us achieve long-term growth, enhance our impact, and further develop Cork's creative and circular economies:

- 1. Multi-annual operational support for programme delivery and outreach:** Provide flexible, multi-year funding to ensure operational stability, enabling us to expand our core team. Dedicated staff are essential to delivering impactful programmes, building strong networks to support makers, and ensuring we can reach and engage with those who will benefit most from our services. Investing in this capacity will allow us to provide deeper support to makers and creative entrepreneurs, helping them build sustainable careers.
- 2. Capital support for fit-out and expansion:** Invest in the fit-out of our new facilities, including expanded wood, textiles, and training spaces, and modular studios to accommodate growing creative businesses and collaborative projects.

3. Support for digital infrastructure and innovation in an open-access environment: Fund the upgrading of digital tools, including CNC machines, laser cutters, and design software, ensuring makers have access to cutting-edge fabrication technologies. As an open-access facility, Benchspace welcomes a diverse community of designers, artists, and entrepreneurs, fostering shared knowledge and cross-disciplinary innovation. Investing in our digital infrastructure will empower makers to explore new techniques, develop sustainable products, and drive creative enterprise.

4. Enterprise development programmes for maker viability: Provide targeted programmatic funding to help makers transition from creative practice to viable enterprise. Our fellowships and bursaries are designed not just to provide access to space and equipment

but to support makers in growing sustainable businesses. We recognise that while this support is impactful, it must evolve to better equip creatives with the tools, mentorship, and market access needed to achieve long-term viability.

5. Commitment to sustainable making and circular economy practices: Benchspace is committed to embedding sustainability and circular economy principles into its operations and its community of makers. We seek support to implement initiatives such as material reuse programmes, energy-efficient processes, and education on sustainable design. By integrating these practices, Benchspace can become a leader in responsible making, ensuring that creativity and sustainability go hand in hand in shaping the future of craft and design in Ireland.

These recommendations reflect our commitment to fostering sustainable livelihoods, local enterprise, and community inclusion while aligning with broader sustainability and economic goals. We welcome continued collaboration with our funders and partners to drive forward this vision.

Clive Salter & Eileen O'Brien - Blue Shoe Gallery at Benchspace



Conclusions

The findings of our impact report highlight the significant and positive outcomes that our members have experienced by being part of Benchspace Cork’s creative hub. Access to professional workshops, training, and peer networks has opened new doors for makers and creative entrepreneurs, providing them with opportunities to grow their careers, develop new skills, and collaborate within a supportive community. The feedback from members underscores the value of shared resources, mentorship, and cross-disciplinary collaboration in fostering innovation and creative enterprise.

The findings also indicate some ways in which Benchspace can improve our services. For example, we would like to support more of our Makers to develop their craft/design skills. We would also like to provide more opportunities to showcase their work, which could contribute to raising the income generated from their enterprise. Currently these goals are limited by constraints on space and operational capacity.

As we reflect on this progress, we recognise that our role in supporting sustainable livelihoods and local production is more important than ever. The achievements documented in this report demonstrate our impact not only on individual makers but also on the broader creative and circular economies within Cork City. With this momentum, we remain committed to expanding access, improving resources, and strengthening our programmes to ensure continued positive outcomes.

We look forward to building on these successes and invite our funders, partners, and community members to join us in delivering our vision for a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable creative hub that will continue to benefit Cork for years to come.





THE TEAM AT BENCHSPACE

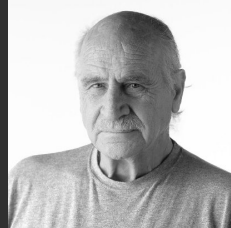
Board of Directors



Fergus Somers
Chairperson



Alice Dooley
Company Secretary



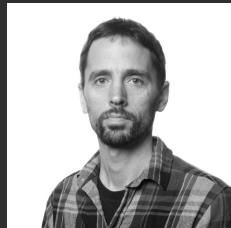
Tony Farrell
Treasurer



Christine Byrne



Peter Johnson



Sam Russell



Lara Diez



Adrienne Rodgers

Staff



Hilda DeLacy
General Manager



Tim Worth
Partnerships &
Funding



Kathriona Murphy
Operations Assistant



Pierrick Morriseau
Facilities Technician
& Tutor



Nadine Lawton
Jewellery Technician
& Tutor

Training & Tutors

Rod Allen
Machine &
Woodwork Tutor

Martin Horgan
Woodwork Tutor

Aidan Killeen
Laser &
Digital Tutor

Elaine McFerran
Woodwork Tutor

Liam Murray
Woodwork Tutor

Fabio Oliveira
Jewellery Tutor

David Scannell
Woodwork Tutor

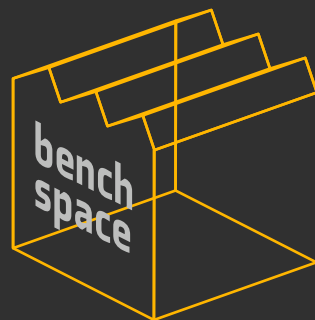
Tom Sheehan
Woodcarving Tutor

Jade Hogan
Textiles Tutor

Rita Murphy
Woodturning Tutor

Thanks & Acknowledgements

We extend our sincere thanks to all our funders and partners who have supported us on this journey. Special thanks to Rethink Ireland for making this impact report possible and for their continued funding support, to Enterprise Ireland for their ongoing funding, and to LEO Cork City for their invaluable advice and guidance. We are deeply grateful to those who helped us reach this stage, including Community Foundation Ireland, Pobal, and the Arts Council, whose support has been essential to our growth. We thank our programmatic funders LEO South Cork, Cork County Council, Cork City Council, the Arts Council, and Tomar for their continued assistance in driving forward our mission. We also thank Frank Clark Ltd for their valuable support. Your contributions have made it possible for us to empower creative livelihoods and expand opportunities for makers across Cork.



Benchspace is supported by



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
Cork City Council
Arts Ealaíona



An Roinn Forbartha
Tuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Comhairle Cathrach Chorcaí
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Foundation
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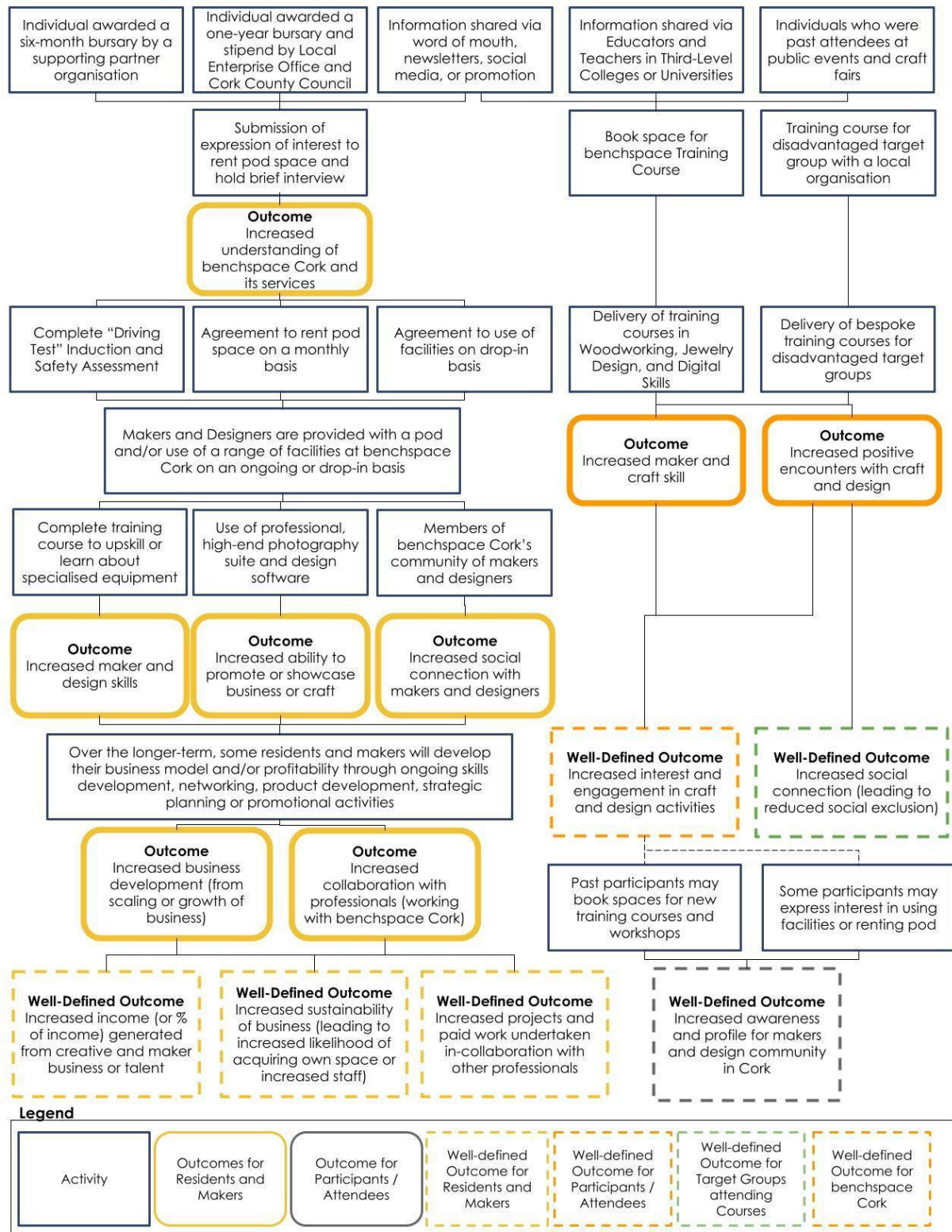
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Theory of Change Model

The diagram below is a Theory of Change for Benchspace Cork. It illustrates how activities delivered by Benchspace can generate outcomes for the various groups using our spaces or who participate in our courses and events. At the end of every chain are “well-defined outcomes”; these are the most significant changes created by our activities and outcomes we can reasonably attribute to our work.



Outcome Measurement Tool

Survey Introduction

We are undertaking an evaluation of Benchspace Cork to measure the impact of our activities, and we would welcome your feedback. We are inviting you to complete an online survey about your experience at Benchspace Cork and how our work has made an impact on you.

Your answers will be used to produce an Impact Report for Benchspace Cork and shared with funders who support our organisation. The survey is open to any person (aged 18 years or older) who has used our facilities or attended an activity or event in the past two years.

The survey will take 10 minutes to complete. The survey is completely voluntary, so you can decide to participate or not. We encourage you to be honest about your experience. The survey is completely anonymous, you will not be asked to provide your name or any personally identifiable information - no one will be able to identify you by your answers!

Thank you for completing this survey. We greatly appreciate your time and honesty. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact us.

About the Person

7. What is your relationship with Benchspace Cork? (Select the best answer)

- a. Resident – rent/ed a pod on monthly basis
- b. Maker – use the facilities on drop-in basis
- c. Participant – participated in any of our courses and workshops hosted at Benchspace
- d. Attendee – attended an event at Benchspace, like Culture Night, Craft Fair, Festival, Tour, etc.

2. What is your age category? (Select an answer)

- a. 18 to 24 years old
- b. 25 to 34 years old
- c. 35 to 44 years old
- d. 45 to 54 years old
- e. 55 to 64 years old
- f. 65 years or older
- g. Prefer not to say

3. What is your gender? (Select an answer)

- a. Male
- b. Female
- c. Transgender
- d. Non-Binary
- e. Prefer not to say

4. Do you live in Cork City or County? (Select the best answer)

- a. Cork City
- b. Cork County
- c. Rest of Ireland
- d. Outside of Ireland / Internationally
- e. Prefer not to say

5. [If 'Resident / Maker'] What would best describe your craft or design practice? (Tick all that apply)

- a. Craft
- b. Jewellery Design
- c. Engineering
- d. Fine / Visual Art
- e. Photography
- f. Product Design
- g. Textiles / Textile Design
- h. Woodworking
- i. Other (Please specify): _____

6. [If 'Resident / Maker'] Are you currently using the facilities at Benchspace cork?

- a. Yes, I am currently using the facilities
- b. No, I used the facilities in the past

7. [If 'Resident / Maker'] For how many months have you used or accessed the facilities at Benchspace? (Select an answer)

- a. 0 to 3 months
- b. 4 to 6 months
- c. 7 to 12 months
- d. 1 to 2 years
- e. 2 to 5 years
- f. 5 years or more

8. [If 'Resident / Maker'] Have you attended any of the training workshops or courses delivered at Benchspace (like woodworking, jewellery design, digital skills)? (Select an answer)

- a. Yes, I have attended workshops and courses
- b. No, I have not attended any workshops or courses

7. [If 'Resident / Maker'] Are you affiliated with any of the following Irish organisations? (Tick all that apply)

- Arts Council
- Creative Ireland
- Design and Craft Council of Ireland
- Local Enterprise Office
- Department of Social Protection (i.e., Back to Work scheme)
- Other (please specify): _____

Rating the Quality of Benchspace Cork

10. On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (very good), how would you rate Benchspace Cork overall?

11. [If 'Resident / Maker'] On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (very good), how would you rate the quality of the facilities at Benchspace? (Select an answer)

12. [If 'Resident / Maker'] On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (very good), how would you rate the quality of the specialised equipment and shared resources at Benchspace? (Select an answer)

13. On a scale of 1 (very poor) to 10 (very good), how would you rate the quality of workshops and courses overall? (Select an answer)

Outcomes for Residents & Makers

14. To understand if you have experienced any changes since working at Benchspace, please answer each of the following statements. Each statement can be answered on a scale of 1 (very poor) to 5 (very good).

For each statement, please indicate your level of agreement BEFORE you worked at or used Benchspace facilities and AFTER you worked at or used Benchspace facilities.

Question	Before attending Benchspace					After attending Benchspace				
Your skill with craft, design and/or making (i.e., wood working, jewellery design, digital skills or textiles)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Your attention to promotion, advertising, or showcasing of your craft, design, or making practice	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
Your time spent socialising and connecting with other makers, designers, or crafts people	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

15. Since you started working with Benchspace, have you experienced any of the following? (Tick all that apply)

- I have developed new products or crafts for sale
- I have developed my business skills (i.e., finance, planning, strategy, sales, etc.)
- I have worked on growing the scale of my business
- I have worked on promoting or advertising my craft or business
- I have showcased or exhibited my work
- I have attended new craft fairs, markets and/or exhibitions
- My craft or business has made more money or generated more income
- My craft or business has more vendors or buyers
- My craft or business has more contracts
- My craft or business has stocked / sold products in Irish shops
- My craft or business has stocked / sold products internationally
- I have hired more full-time employee(s)
- I have hire more part-time / casual employee(s)
- None of the above

16. [If Q16 is answered A-I] If Benchspace had some part in your success, how much might be attributed to their work or from using their facilities? (Select an answer)

- Not at all (0% due to Benchspace)
- A little (25% due to Benchspace)
- Somewhat (50% due to Benchspace)
- A lot (75% due to Benchspace)
- Completely (100% due to Benchspace)

17. In your opinion, has your income from your maker, design, or craft practice (or business) changed since working with Benchspace? (Select an answer)

- Much worse
- Worse
- Slightly worse
- Unchanged
- Slightly improved
- Improved
- Much improved

18. [If Q18 is answered anything but D] Based on the previous question, how much has your income changed (+/-) since working with Benchspace? (Write an answer)

- Income amount: _____

19. Overall, has the percentage of your personal income from your maker, design, or craft practice (or business) changed since working with Benchspace? (Select an answer)

- a. Much worse
- b. Worse
- c. Slightly worse
- d. Unchanged
- e. Slightly improved
- f. Improved
- g. Much improved

20. [If Q18 is answered anything but D] What percentage of your income was created from your maker, design, or craft practice (or business) BEFORE and AFTER working with Benchspace? (Write an answer)

- a. Percentage before Benchspace: _____
- b. Percentage after Benchspace: _____

21. Please rank the following outcomes based on how valuable / important they are to you on a scale of 1 (most valuable or important) to 7 (least valuable or important).

- a. Improved maker, design, and/or craft skills
- b. Increased ability to promote or showcase your maker, design, or craft practice
- c. Greater social connection with other makers, designers, or crafts people
- d. Increased development of maker, design, or crafts practice / growth of businesses
- e. Increased professional collaboration with other makers, designers, or crafts people
- f. Increased income generated from maker, design, and/or craft skills
- g. Increased sustainability (i.e., you might afford your own premises, grow too large for Benchspace, hire more full-time / part-time staff or employees)

22. Based on the outcome you selected as '1 – Most valuable or important', how much of this change might be attributed to the work of Benchspace or from using their facilities? (Select an answer)

- a. Not at all (0% due to Benchspace)
- b. A little (25% due to Benchspace)
- c. Somewhat (50% due to Benchspace)
- d. A lot (75% due to Benchspace)
- e. Completely (100% due to Benchspace)

23. On a scale of 1 (not at all likely) to 10 (extremely likely), how likely are you to tell a friend or colleague about Benchspace Cork? (Select an answer)

Outcomes for Course Participants

24. Which of the following courses have you attended? (Tick all that apply)

- a. Woodworking Workshop (One-off)
- b. Woodworking Course (10 to 12 weeks)
- c. Jewellery Design Workshop (One-off)
- d. Jewellery Design Course (10 weeks)
- e. Digital / Laser Cutting Workshop (One-Off)
- f. Digital / Laser Cutting Course (Two-Day / Weekend)
- g. Textiles Workshop (One-Off)
- h. Don't know / I don't remember

25. To understand if you have experienced any changes from attending this course(s) at Benchspace, please answer each of the following statements. Each statement can be answered on a scale of 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree).

For each statement, please indicate your level of agreement BEFORE your course with Benchspace and AFTER your course at Benchspace.

Question	Before attending Benchspace					After attending Benchspace				
I have strong skills in craft, design and/or making (i.e., wood working, jewellery design, digital skills or textiles)	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
I often have positive experiences with learning new skills	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
I am very interested in craft and design	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5
I spend lots of time focused on craft and design activities	1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5

26. Please rank the following list of outcomes based on how valuable / important they are to you on a scale of 1 (most valuable or important) to 3 (least valuable or important).

- a. Improved maker, design, and/or craft skills
- b. Increased positive encounters with making, design, or crafts people
- c. Greater interest and engagement in making, design, or craft activities

27. On a scale of 1 (not at all likely) to 10 (extremely likely), how likely are you to tell a friend or colleague about Benchspace Cork? (Select an answer)