

Frozen Light | Spiral House event

SUMMARY

People with profound and multiple learning disabilities (“PMLD”) are often excluded from cultural events because venues are not designed around complex sensory, communication and care needs.

Spiral House responds directly to this by creating an immersive, sensory-led daytime nightclub experience built for people with PMLD and the carers, friends and family who support them.

OVERVIEW

Spiral House converted a mainstream arts centre, in Oxford, UK, into an accessible, sensory-led daytime nightclub for people with PMLD and those who support them. The programme combined interactive music, storytelling, art-making, one-to-one performance and a live band day-rave space, offering multiple modes of participation across the building.

Practical access measures were integrated throughout, including a fully accessible Mobiloo toilet, an outdoor picnic area where attendees could bring their own food and drink, and a dedicated indoor quiet space. These adjustments reduced barriers and enabled families to engage more comfortably and confidently.

OUTCOME

Spiral House enabled people with PMLD to participate in a high-quality cultural event tailored to their needs. By utilising a carefully-designed sensory environment, the project demonstrated that inclusive cultural experiences can be delivered with dignity, creativity and choice.

Participants and carers were able to share a positive social experience together, strengthening connection and reducing isolation, while modelling how mainstream cultural spaces can become genuinely accessible.



IMPACT

With the support of the Seneca Trust, Frozen Light managed to:

- Delivered Spiral House as a mainstream venue takeover, creating an immersive, sensory-led “daytime nightclub” experience for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) and their carers, friends and family.
- Sold out in advance and welcomed 87 attendees (people with PMLD, carers and companions).
- Provided a varied programme across the building, including interactive music, storytelling, art-making, one-to-one performance, and a live band “day-rave” space.
- Reduced barriers through practical access provision, including a fully accessible Mobiloo toilet, an outdoor picnic area, and an indoor chill-out space.
- Delivered a consistently positive experience, with 100% of survey respondents reporting the venue felt safe and welcoming and that they were treated with dignity and respect.
- Built momentum for the model to continue, with plans to re-stage Spiral House in June 2026.

Sustainable development goals:



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