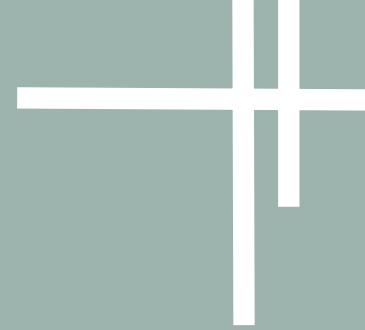


chichester
festival
theatre



The Nest Appeal

Incubating, hatching and nurturing
the creative talent of the future



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and our local ambassadors

'I think this is a most exciting project and I am privileged to be associated with its potential success. Chichester Festival Theatre has been a significant part of my working life and to continue my support gives me enormous satisfaction.'

Dame Patricia Routledge CBE

We're about to start something wonderful and we need your help.

As a key cultural, social and economic partner within the city of Chichester, the South of England and a national cultural leader and change maker, CFT want to do more to fuel the future national creative workforce both locally and nationally. With Justin and Kathy at the helm, we have a clear vision for the future.

There's an increasingly urgent need for more space to develop creative projects and support emerging artists. So, we're planning to open a new and exciting venue here on the CFT site to nurture the theatre makers of tomorrow. Nestled in the trees beside the Festival Theatre, with sustainability at its heart, what better name for this space to incubate creativity in our community, hatch new work in progress and nurture growing artists, than The Nest.

For us to create The Nest and have it ready for Festival 2025, we need to raise at least £1.5million by March 2025. We've set aside £250,000 from our own reserves to kickstart the Fundraising Appeal and all of our Board have made pledges.

Now we need your help!

We hope you will want to support this exciting project. Your donations will ensure that we support future generations of artists to create and inspire, by providing space for them to experiment and develop innovative practices.



A stylized, handwritten signature of Mark Foster in black ink.

Mark Foster
Chairman



A handwritten signature of Justin Audibert in black ink.

Justin Audibert
Artistic Director



A handwritten signature of Kathy Bourne in black ink.

Kathy Bourne
Executive Director

Our challenge

CFT urgently needs a third space to:

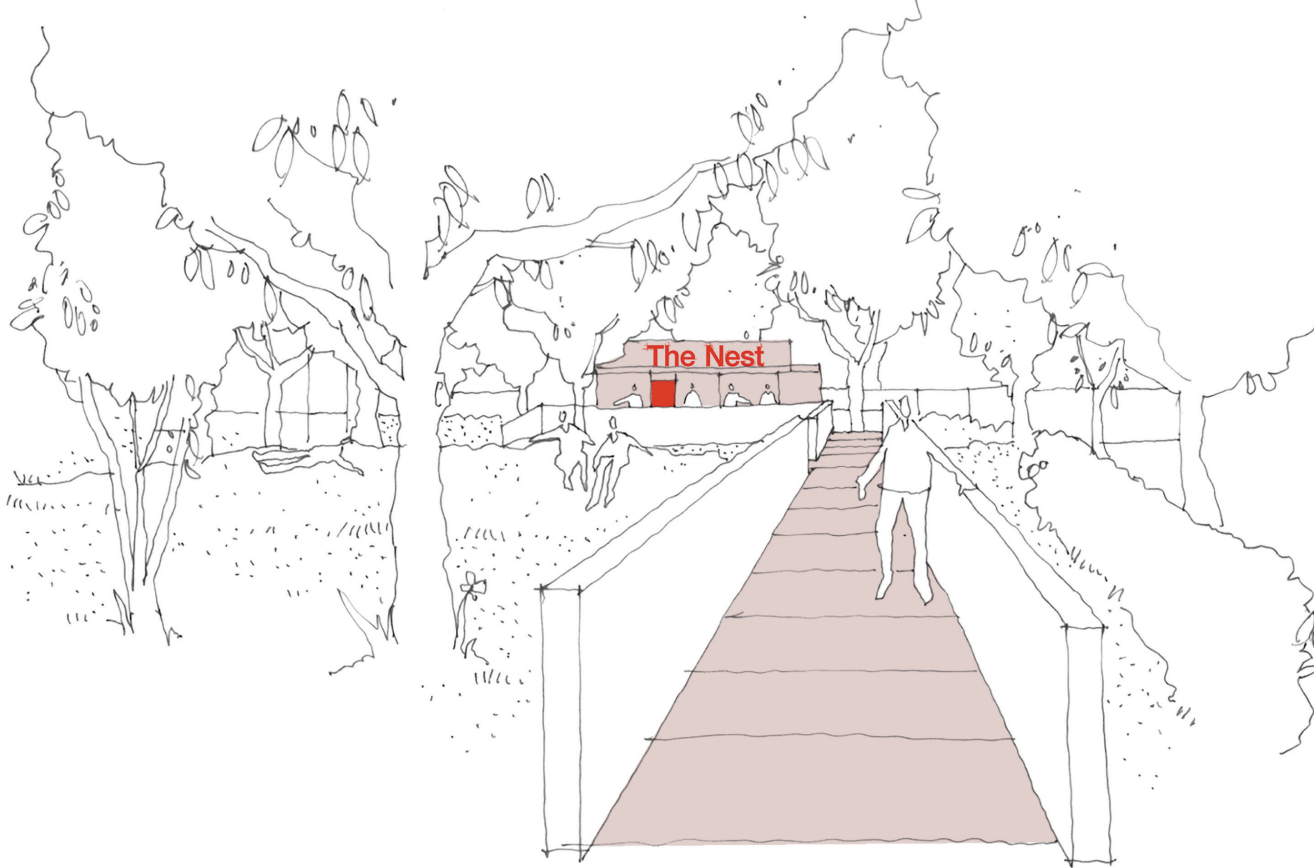
- test projects and productions at their early stages and develop short courses and workshops
- be the home of our Emerging Artists Development Programme
- offer 'breakout' rehearsal spaces (the Steven Pimlott Building is at capacity)
- work with more families and small children
- give our key community partners a safe space to meet

Our solution

To solve these challenges, we plan to open a new venue and it is a big part of Justin's vision for the future of CFT. He sees CFT fuelling the future national creative workforce; this is a robust offering locally, but we also confidently stand our ground as a national cultural leader and change maker.

With sustainability at its heart, we have found an ideal structure previously located at the Pleasance Theatre in London and used at the Edinburgh Festival. Usable year-round and fully wheelchair accessible, this 119-seater studio will have a thrust-stage to match our sister theatres and removeable stacked seating giving us plenty of flexibility.

Repurposed and fitted out with existing kit, it will be used by the community and for family classes, late night events, fringe-style performances, a rehearsal room for students and a base for our new Artists Development Programme.

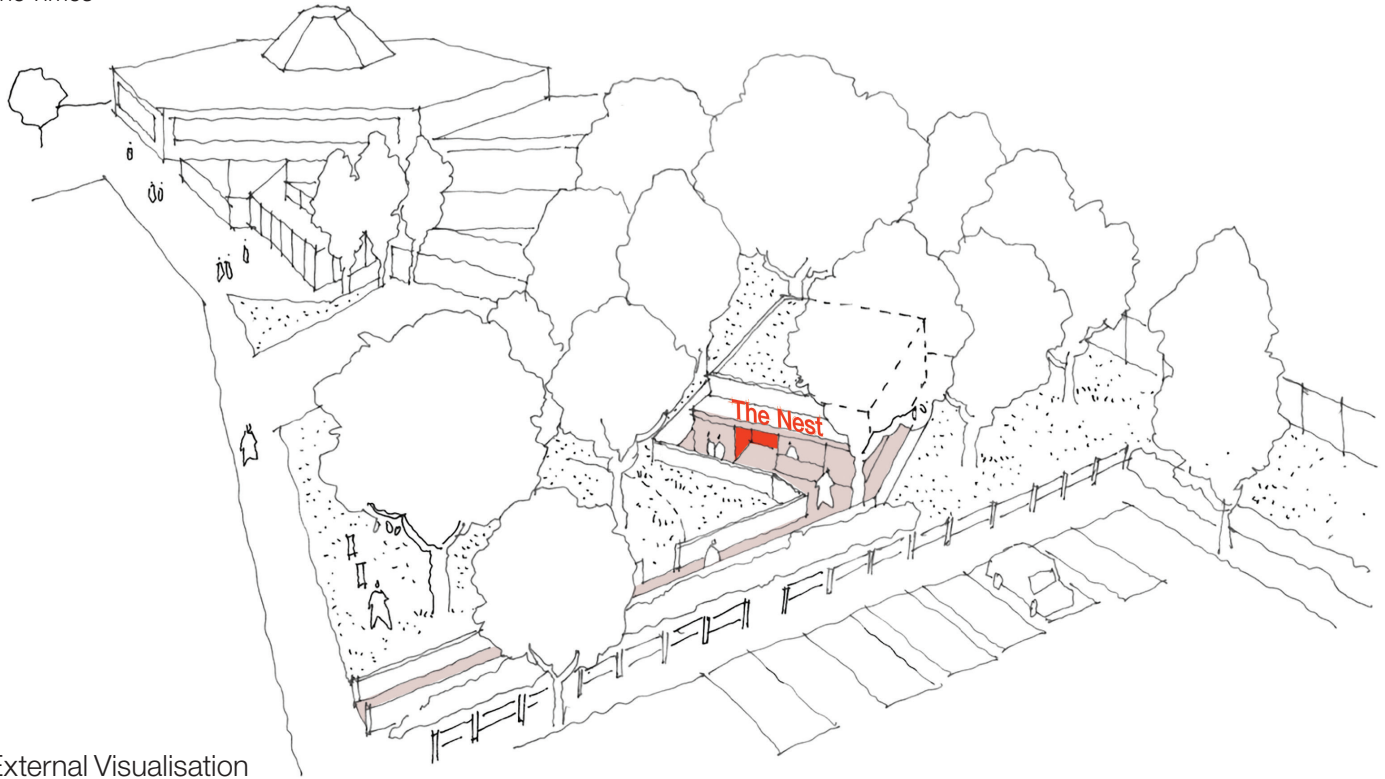


'It is really exciting to see CFT leading the way in supporting emerging artists and giving the local community the opportunity to benefit from the space and the talent of CFT creatives.'

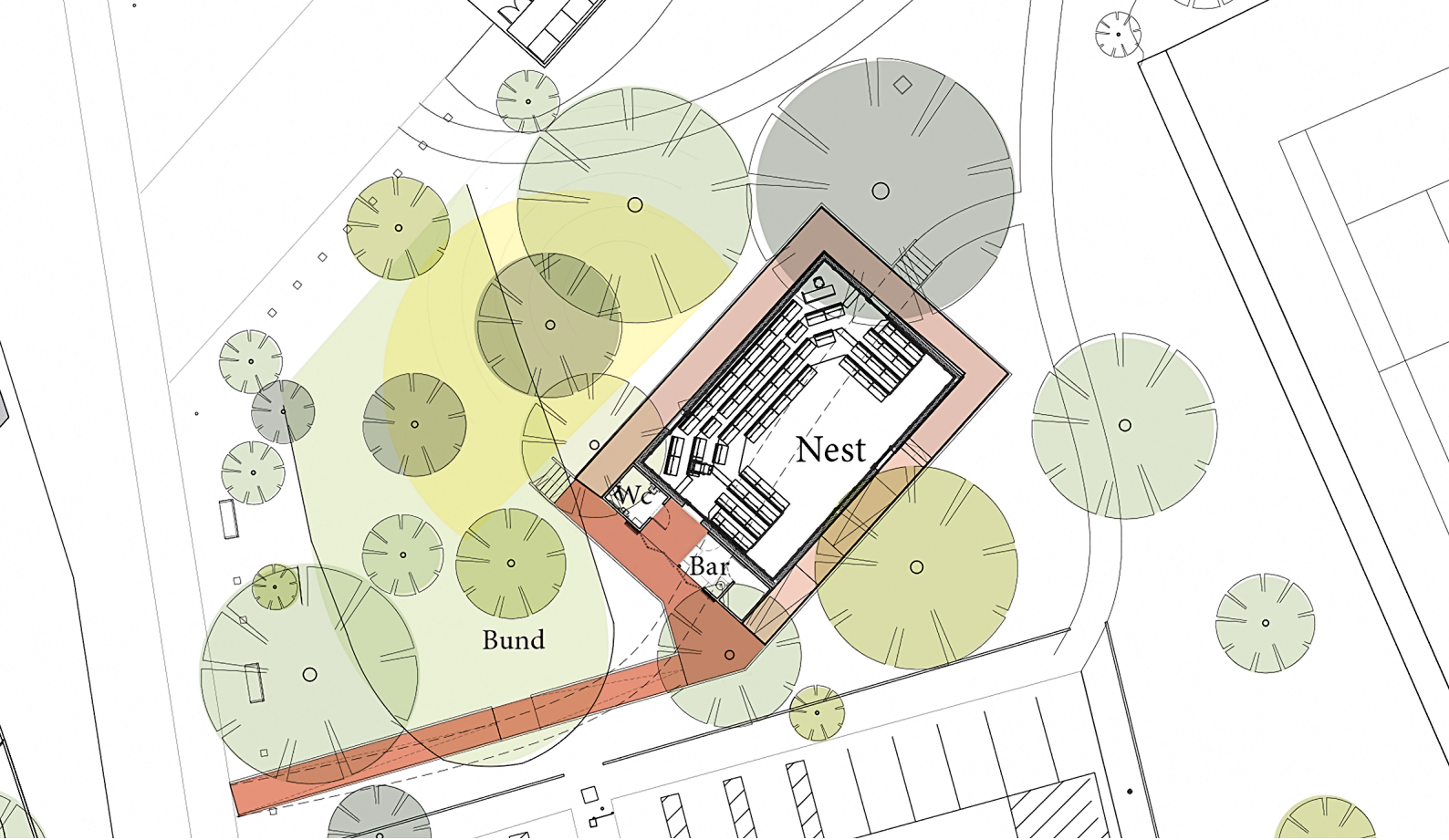
Samantha Spiro

*'The city is a goldmine of activities with the Festival Theatre
one of the best in the country.'*

The Times



External Visualisation



Internal Visualisation

This sketch shows the three-sided seating layout. It is very adaptable and can be re-arranged as a 'front on' proscenium space.

Emerging Artists Development Programme - 2024 cohort



From left to right: Sophie Hobson, Shani Kantor, Ben Grant, Alice O'Hanlon, Phoebe Hyder

From left to right: Justin Audibert, OnTheNose productions (Maddie Bell, Hollie Jameson-Clarke, Esther Dracott and Emily Benucci)

'We can fuel the future national creative workforce with this project. The Nest offers an amazing opportunity on a local level and also, really importantly, stands CFT confidently as a national cultural leader and change maker.'

Justin Audibert, CFT Artistic Director

Project costs

The project is going to cost at least £1,500,000 and a more detailed breakdown of the budget is available on request.

Timeline

2024

February	Launch the NEST Appeal
February – March	RIBA Stage 3
April	Submit planning application
June – July	Planning result
July – August	RIBA Stage 4
October	Construction starts on site

2025

January – February	Fit out
March	Work completed, ready in time for Festival 2025



'Keep up with the great family events and theatre productions - we are very lucky to live in an area with such a fantastic theatre!'

Visitor to Fold Our City 2023



'Youth Theatre is the sole reason I have been able to get professional theatre work. Working with and learning from professionals in the industry on the Youth Theatre shows, is honestly better than any training you will find on a course in education. It's been life-changing!'

Technical Youth Theatre member



'A really magical experience, that our child hasn't stop talking about! Thank you Chichester Festival Theatre. We will definitely be back next year!'

Visitor to Santa's Grotto 2023

Please support The Nest

All donations of £5,000 and above will be recognised on The NEST Appeal Donor Board in the Festival Theatre foyer and our website, reflecting four levels of support: Bronze £5,000+, Silver £25,000+, Gold £50,000+, Platinum £100,000+. Donors may of course remain anonymous if they prefer.

If you are eligible for Gift Aid, this adds an additional 25% to your donation at no extra cost to you.

Please help make our dream a reality. Your support, at whatever level, is greatly appreciated by us all.

Thank you



‘The great artists, performers, writers and curators of 2040 and 2050 need to be nurtured now: our investment in them is, at heart, an investment in a future that we believe can be brighter and better with culture and creativity at its core.’

Let’s Create Strategy, Arts Council England, 2020

If you would like to see our plans, or discuss the project in more detail, please contact:

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