

STATEMENT A1 – Donna Speed

Dear Councillors

In the year before the pandemic, We The Curious welcomed 54,000 school children and 6,500 of Bristol's most marginalised residents through our doors. Not everyone realises we are an educational charity, with a mission to create an inclusive culture of curiosity

Arc could give us the resources to double those numbers. Arc has committed to reinvesting 10 per cent of its profits into free and subsidised tickets, and to working with us to make it as easy as possible for all communities to access and be inspired by Arc.

Arc's proposal for the guides to represent our communities and the makeup of the City, to tell their own stories of Bristol, helping celebrate the rich diversity of our city is consistent with our values.

The pandemic has been difficult for We The Curious. Being closed for a full year has had a major impact on us, with significant redundancies and a loss of £3.4 million revenue.

We need a really robust and sustainable way out of this difficult situation, and Arc is the ideal opportunity to that. It would attract an additional 250,000 paying visitors to Harbourside, who would spend an estimated £13.3 million each year.

The additional spending would also support staff working in the Harbourside bars, cafes and restaurants - many of whom are young people, who have been particularly hard-hit by the economic impact of the pandemic.

I fully agree with your education and economic regeneration officers who support Arc, which would bring huge benefits to the city, and an opportunity to get all Bristol residents engaged with science and engineering. So, please approve this application.

Yours faithfully

Donna Speed, chief executive, We The Curious