

A BRIEF HISTORY OF

REAL IDEAS

Find out the key moments for our organisation since Real Ideas started in 2007.

2007

Real Ideas takes on Devonport Guildhall in a community asset transfer from Plymouth City Council and secures £1.8million to refurbish it from the Community Assets Fund.
Real Ideas Organisation CIC is officially set up on 31st January 2007

2008

Chew TV is established
Took on the 'Create Your Future' programme to support 300 people into work

2009

Real Ideas established XtraVert – a social enterprise based in Newquay working with local skaters and training them in carpentry.
Led and produced the 'Sea Life' project
Delivered 'Silk Road' a programme of social enterprise learning in schools...in Mandarin!

2010

The newly refurbished Devonport Guildhall opened to the public (April 2010).
Delivered schools consultancy in the Maldives.

2011

First wedding held at Devonport Guildhall
Creative Partnerships – the programme that led to creation of Real Ideas – comes to an end

2010

Arts Council England appoints Real Ideas as Bridge Organisation for the south west, leading strategic work to deliver excellence in cultural education in schools
Real Ideas part of winning bid to deliver social enterprise start up support in Cornwall through the Engine Room programme
Real Ideas launches the SEQ – the world's first social enterprise qualification – at House of Commons February 2012
Real Ideas' 'Food for the Future' project at Windy Ridge farm in Penzance launches a veg box scheme

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2013

Real Ideas opens a social enterprise hub at No26 Fore Street, Liskeard
Real Ideas, as lead bidder, wins the Big Lottery Fund grant to deliver Talent Match Cornwall; a programme to help long term unemployed people aged 16-25 move closer and into work
May 13th 2013 – Devonport Column opens to the public after a Heritage Lottery Funded renovation
Real Ideas writes successful DFE bid for Sparkwell Free School
Column Bakehouse, Real Ideas' artisan bakery based in Devonport Guildhall, starts trading
Real Ideas announces plans to develop the Market Hall building in Devonport as a new space for Digital

2014

Creative Skills Initiative begins
Real Ideas part of successful partnership which champions Plymouth as the UK's first Social Enterprise city
Real Ideas designs its own Impact Framework using the TI (Transformational Index) process
Ballot Street Spice, a school-based social enterprise at Victoria Park Primary Academy in Smethwick, West Midlands, is launched by Real Ideas
Real Ideas develops 'Surplus for Purpose' – an innovative programme developed to help local authorities with their commercialisation agenda
The Department for Work and Pensions selects Real Ideas as delivery partner to engage local communities in the supply chain for Hinkley Point

2015

Real Ideas part of successful partnership that sees Cornwall designated as a Social Enterprise Zone
Real Ideas establishes a new group structure consisting of a CIC with two wholly owned subsidiaries: Real Ideas Trading Ltd and Real Ideas Assets CIC
First Funeral held at Devonport Guildhall
Arts Council England re-appoints Real Ideas as Bridge Organisation for the south west of England

2016

Real Ideas begins delivering 2nd round of the Engine Room social enterprise start up support programme in Cornwall
Chancellor Philip Hammond MP awards Real Ideas £1m in his Autumn Statement for the Market Hall redevelopment
Real Ideas selected as preferred bidder to assist Liskeard Town Council with the devolution of Liskeard Library
British Council selects Real Ideas as delivery partner for its international drive for social enterprise learning in schools around the world

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2017

Real Ideas celebrates its 10th birthday
Real Ideas takes on the running of Ocean Studios at Royal William Yard
Plymouth Planning permission is granted for Real Ideas' Market Hall development

Column Bakehouse Cafe and Stores open at Ocean Studios

Lindsey Hall is named the inaugural WISE100 (Women in Social Enterprise) by Natwest Bank SE100

Column Bakehouse wins Silver in the Tiptree awards for its White Bloomer and Spelt Tin loaf

Real Ideas' co-founders Matt and Lindsey are inducted into the Social Enterprise Hall of Fame by SEUK

The first wedding was held at Ocean Studios

2018

28,000 experienced great art with friends and family at Illuminate light festival

Real Ideas won the delivery of the Ambitions programme, a project that supports unemployed over 18s in Cornwall

Column Bakehouse shortlisted for the 2018 Food and Drink Devon awards

Real Ideas launched the new Bridge website

Lindsey Hall, Chief Executive of Real Ideas, was recognised for the The Annual NatWest WISE100

Internationally renowned designers Hemingway Design appointed by Real Ideas to join the design team to work on the Market Hall development

2019

50,000 attendees to Illuminate – the national launch of Mayflower 2020
Game Changer achieved sign up target of 900 young people on programme

Real Ideas supported a school to achieve the first in South West double platinum Artsmark

Real Ideas launched Future Make, a series of groundbreaking programmes and projects for children aged 7 – 11 years old

Construction work at C-Space started