

What Factors Contribute to an Effective Studio Space?

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Abstract

The purpose of this study is to understand which elements and features in an artisan studio are the most effective. Artists need environments that have been effectively researched and designed to in aid in the process of creating and collaborate. Studio spaces contribute to the passion, support, and understanding of the artistic community and help to aid in the success and values in the surrounding environment. Studios include an array of features that play an important role in the daily life of an artist within their community. The research method conducted was a quantitative survey observing the preferences of the artisan studio environments. Participants were provided with an online twelve-question survey that includes multiple choice and Likert scale questions. The concluding results exemplified multiple key elements that were preferred within a studio setting. Although the study was limited to the Fargo-Moorhead region the results defined essential features necessary in the built environment.

Purpose

The purpose of our research project was to gain a greater understanding of the preferred design features within the built environment of artisan studio spaces.

"Artists that create community-based work do therefore have to consider what kind of settings allow participants to reconstruct a world of enhance and improved social relations" (Jónsdóttir, 2019, p. 3).

Review of Literature

Community: "A healthy community protects and improves the quality of life for its citizens, promotes healthy behaviors and minimizes hazards for its residents, and preserves the natural environment" (Dannenberg et. al., 2003, p. 1500).

Solidarity: "Arts-based initiatives can provide a means of communication and appeals to local pride and solidarity. Such programs can also have more material benefits, creating educational and employment opportunities." (Strom, 2020, p. 477- 478).

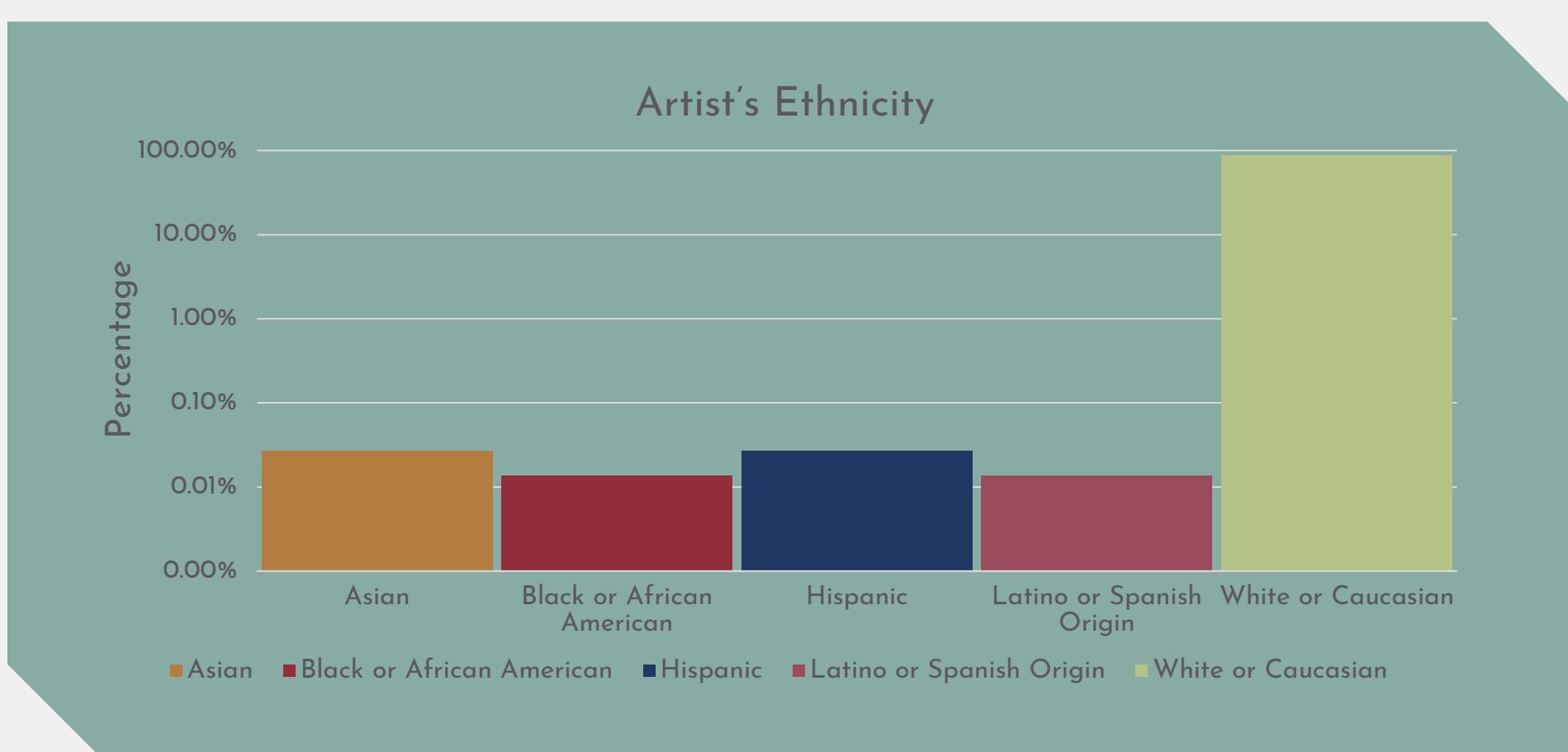
Inclusivity: "Human diversity is the key to the creation of richer patterns of interactivity, leading, for example, to enhanced creativity and innovation" (Dossena & Francesconi, 2015, p. 714).

Adaptability: "The image of budding artist working in a disused industrial warehouse has become synonymous with artists creativity but looking beyond the cliché can reveal insights into how the type of workspace and its location has influenced not only artistic practice spawning whole art movements, but also help explain how some cities have evolved over time" (DM-Architects, 2017, para. 2).

Methodology

The survey was distributed to members of the local/regional artistic community email list serve, personal communication methods of all team members, and North Dakota State University (NDSU) art students. An age restriction of 18 years old to 65+ years old was applied for relevance.

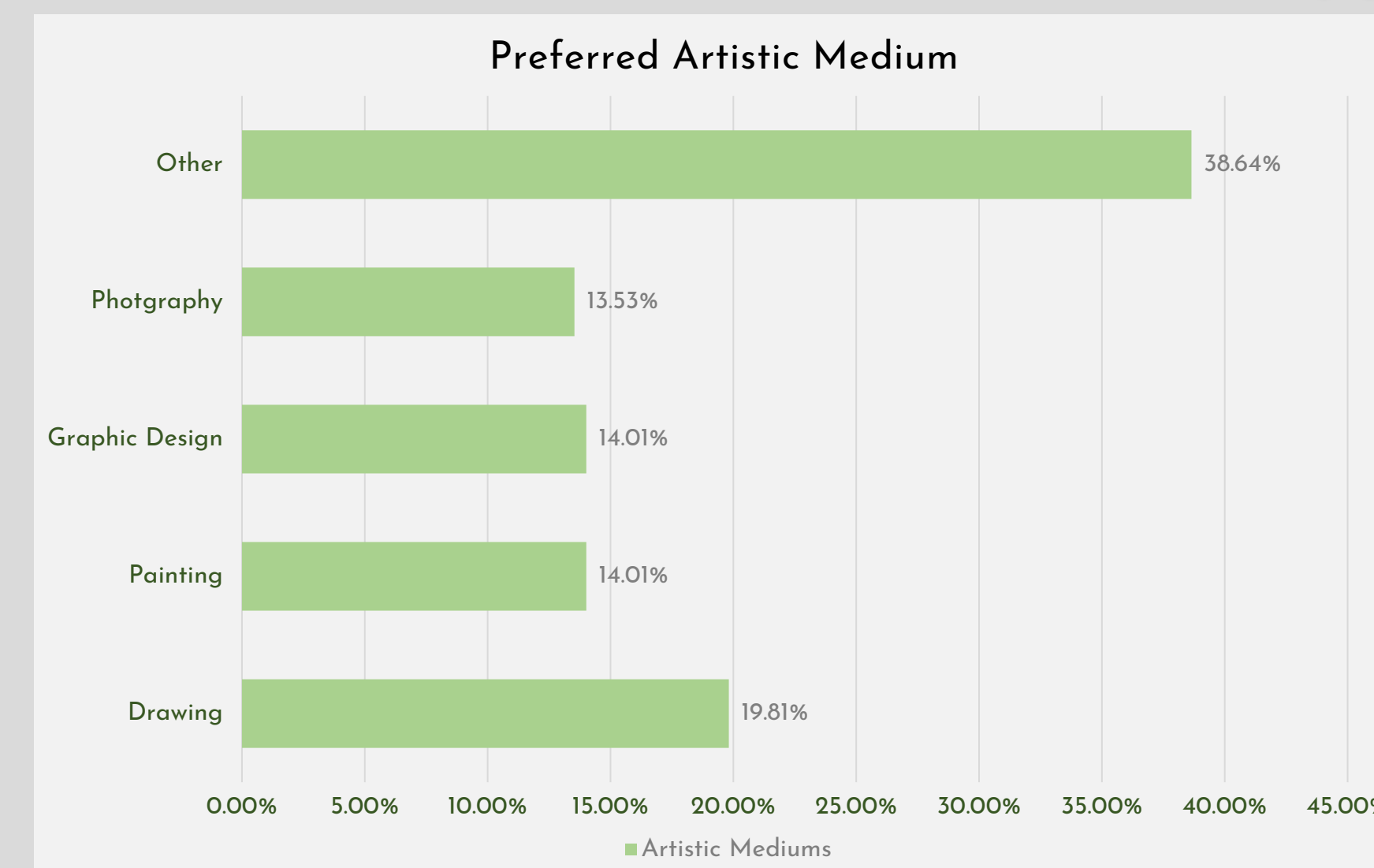
Participants/Ethnicity



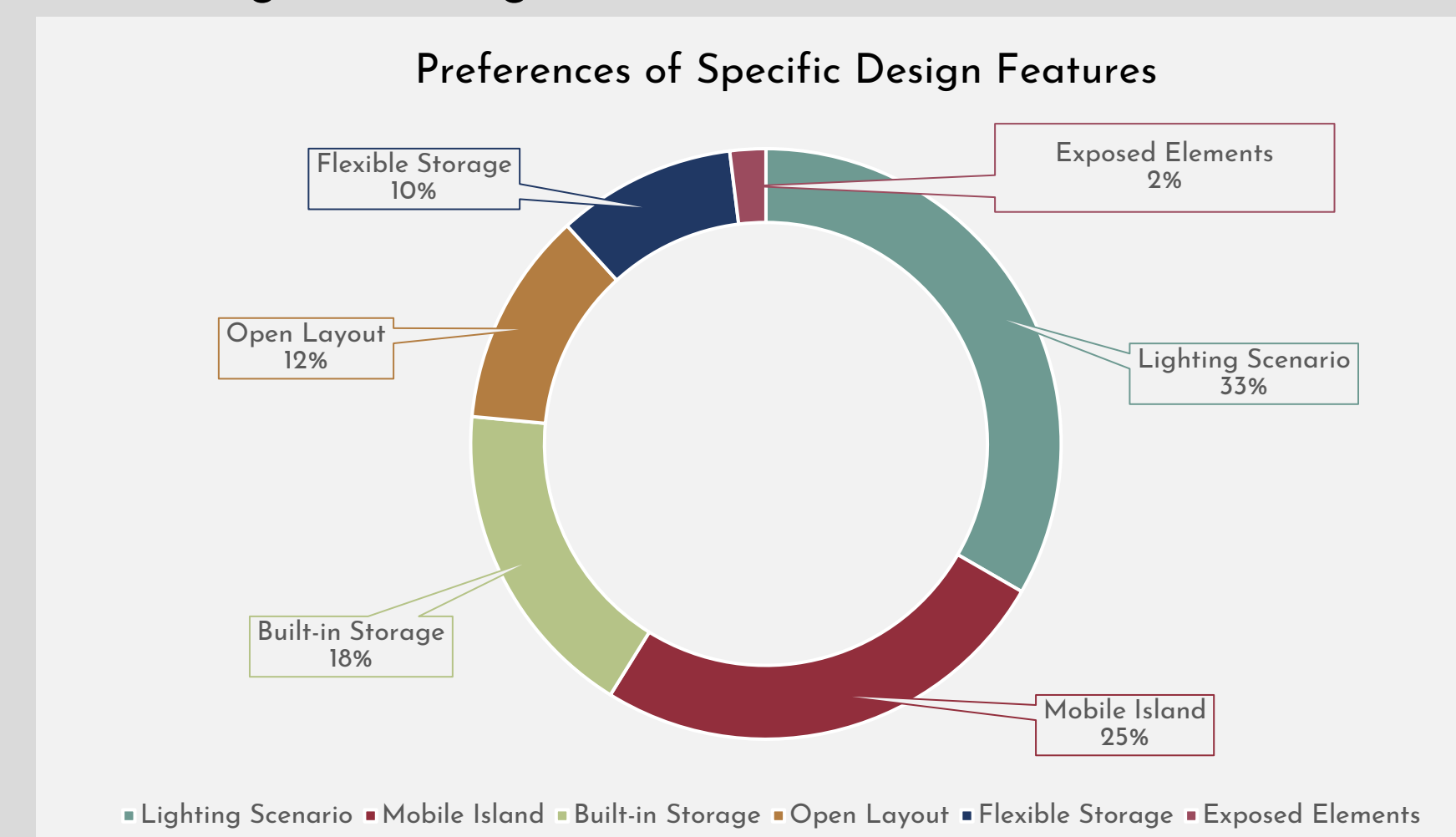
Survey

The online survey was implemented to yield responses to aid in greater understanding in how to better design for collaboration and creative/cultural innovation within the studio environment. Survey participants included an array of demographics including but not limited to gender, ethnicity, age group, number of years within the artistic community, and preferred medium. The research methods used in data collection was quantitative. This survey incorporated Likert scale and multiple-choice questions. Participants concluding responses served as a representation of the artistic community's universal perception of their desired studio environment.

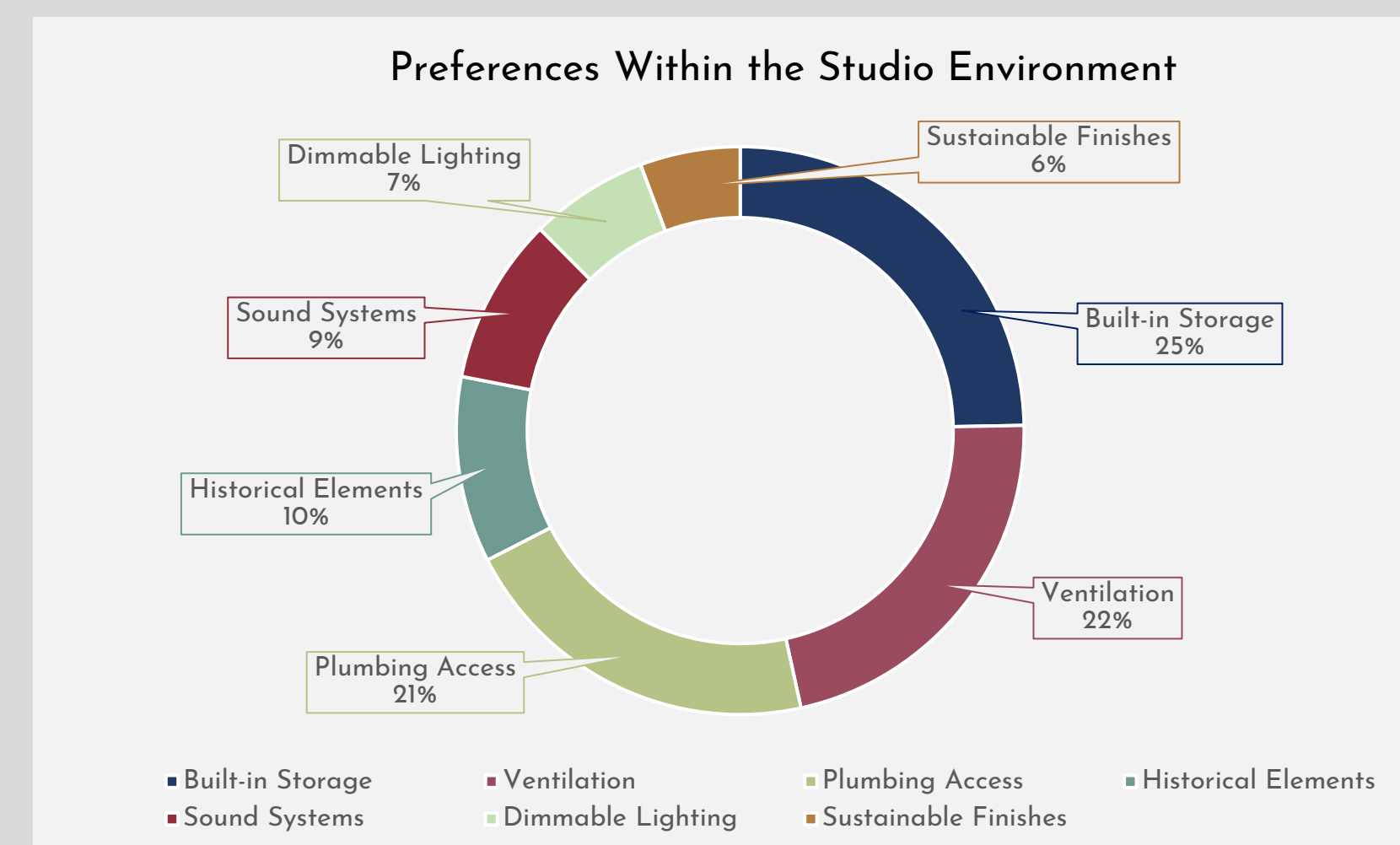
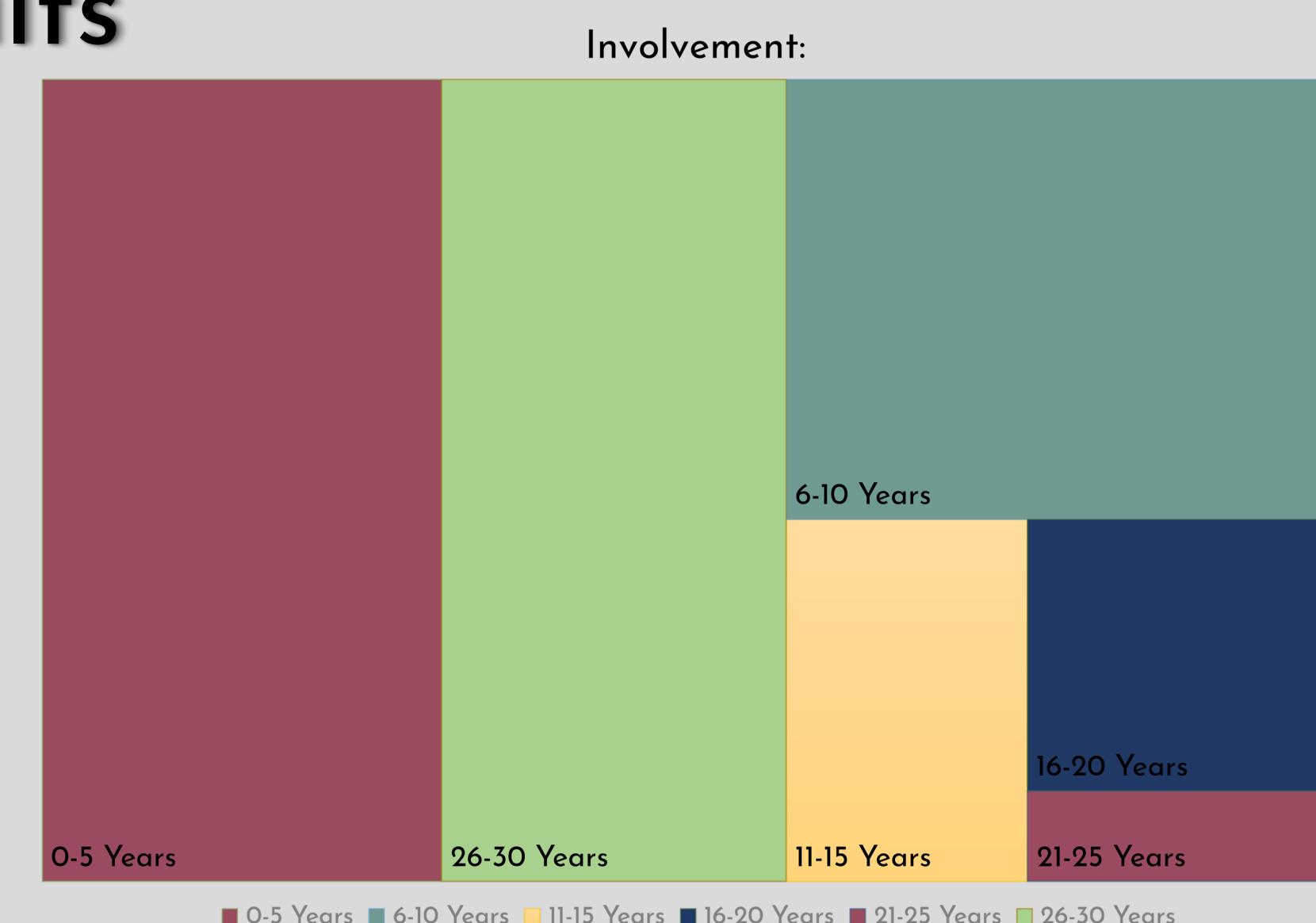
Results



The findings indicate that drawing (19.81%) was the leading medium used by participants. Following drawing is painting (14.01%), graphic design (14.01%), and photography (13.53%). The remainder of the results (other) included mixed media (13.04%), textiles (6.28%), ceramics (4.35%), printmaking (3.86%), sculpture (2.90%), and non-listed mediums (8.21%). Within the category of non-listed mediums, there are several mediums such as music, modeling, writing, stained glass, etc.



The results show that the two highest ranking desired studio design features included lighting (33%) and a large mobile island image (25%). The remaining ranked features were built-in storage (18%), open layout (12%), flexible storage (10%), and lastly historic and exposed elements (2%).



The two elements that were selected most important were built in storage (25%), and ventilation (22%) followed by plumbing access (sink) (21%), historical elements (10%), sound systems (9%), dimmable lighting (7%), and sustainable finishes (6%).

Conclusion

Overall, the discoveries of this study have become highly beneficial in the identification of essential interior elements of the studio environment that promote community, solidarity, inclusivity, adaptability, and contribute to artistic success. As individual artists, each one does not specifically utilize their studio space in a similar manner but rather tailors their space to benefit themselves as efficiently as possible.

- The distinct, built environment of an artisan studio is extremely important to an increase in not only creativity but also to build collaborative and supportive relationships (Wong, 2019).
- This research study has proven the direct design focus of functionality and biophilic elements are of increased importance to the users of studio spaces. "It is tough to single out one element...it has to be a combination of somethings that has interesting elements but not overly complex" (Kaplinger, 2020).
- The integration of functional storage, expansive exterior views, and security are now understood to not be the only essential features in the development of a creative studio environment.

Citations

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