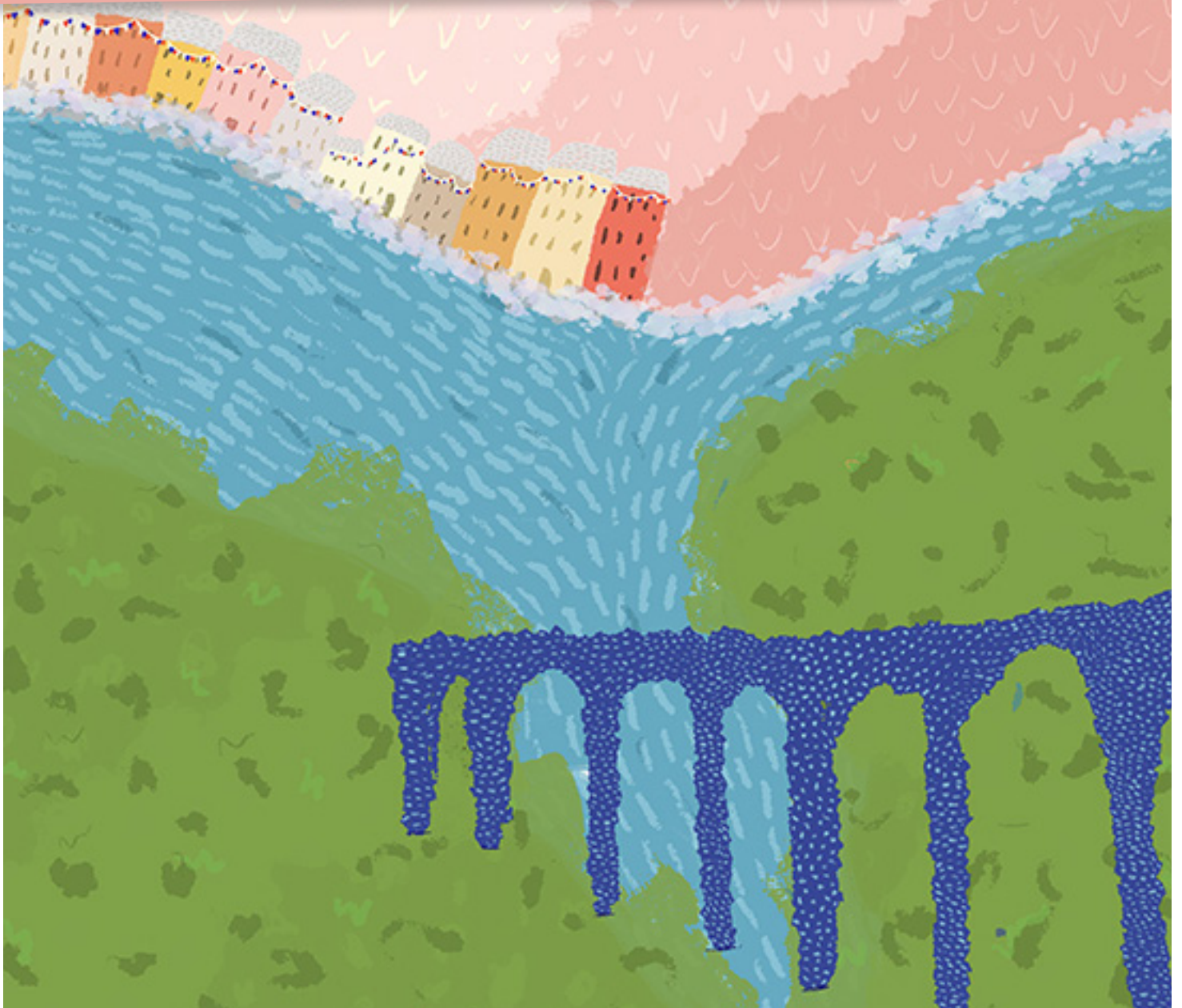


Arts, Communities, Place

Discussion Notes

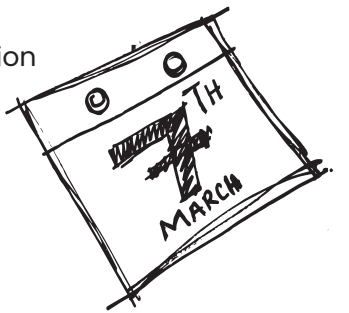
7th March 2023 at MacArts, Galashiels








Arts, Communities + Place Discussion Note

Arts, Communities + Place took place on the 7th March 2023 and was an introductory event to discuss art and culture's important contribution to place-development, regeneration and how we can better support creative freelancers. The event was co-hosted by The Stove Network and Connecting Threads with support from Creative Coathanger, Creative Arts Business Network, Alchemy Film & Arts and Outpost Arts, and brought together artists, groups and organisations, agency and local authority representatives to get a greater understanding of the support needs for this work.



Discussions were shaped around three main questions, following a series of Pecha Kucha presentations by hosting organisations on their activity in this area.

These conversations were:

-  **How can we all share learning about creative, collaborative work with communities as part of place development / regeneration?**
-  **How could more cross-sector working, and collaboration be supported / facilitated?**
-  **What support is needed for those involved (Community groups, Creative Freelancers, Organisations) to help this work happen?**



Discussion One

▶ How can we all share learning about creative, collaborative work with communities as part of place development / regeneration?

Prompts:

- 🕒 What have we learned from our work we would like to share?
 - 🕒 What would we like to hear more of and learn from and with others?
 - 🕒 How could this be supported to happen?
 - 🕒 What areas do we really need to make sure there is more understanding of?
- Events like this – making connections. Connecting East-West
 - Having community development workers here – opportunity to make connections personally – opportunities with disconnect between grassroots
 - Communication is important
 - NOW is the time
 - Need people with knowledge of history
 - Look at Ireland mapping creative industries
 - Is easy to be unaware of what's happening in other areas – e.g. healthcare
 - Place agenda – not just culture, it can be the Scottish Government. What happens to people falling between the cracks?
 - Worry about some folks not understanding how connections and partnerships could be worked – also where changes can ripple into other areas
 - How do we create cross-heritage sectors
 - Problems with festivals – due to low funding and volunteer burnout

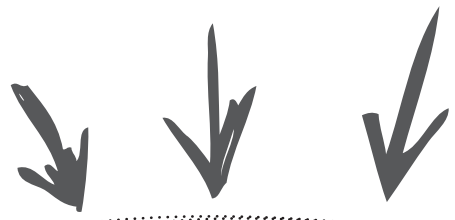
- **Promoting:** New folk, less entrenched, age – Edinburgh / Glasgow
- Hard to engage with people not already engaged
- Seminars / challenge communications
- Community hubs – creative circles – share creative practice
- Creative wellbeing- working on new participative learning
- Like this event today, clear structure – interesting things work and connect

- **Meet people** – good example of how we can do it
- Creative conversation
- Marginalised voices
- 'We are talking to you' doesn't feel collaborative
- In person
- Selling limited resources
- Availability of funding
- Funding / quality of communication



- Who could offer this mapping – CABN?
- Who is doing what at any one time
- How we know what is going on
- Talking & connecting to other
- How we get to places
- What people need to get to something
- Success – what is it and how to we measure it
- Tenacity – exhausting and isolating
- Ageing workforce – in crafts & textiles
- New narrative & connection ongoing thread
- Accessible – Neurodiversity
- Not separate
- Walking the road with road





How to work with artists

- There is creativity in lots of people - not just artists - unleash this!
 - Where do we find artists - directory?
 - Exchange / reciprocity as support before funding is available
 - Community anchor groups as centres of gravity for communities - more arts organisations could be anchors
- arts and culture makes places liveable and encourages young people to stay
 - how can we shared learning
 - passing places, more opportunities to come together, with consistency - so we're not always starting from scratch but able to build
 - resources and infrastructure for clear efficient exchange - so skills audit providing capacity to easily access knowledge exchange skills - supported mentorship.
 - need funding for events like this



Discussion Two

▶ How could more cross-sector working, and collaboration be supported / facilitated?

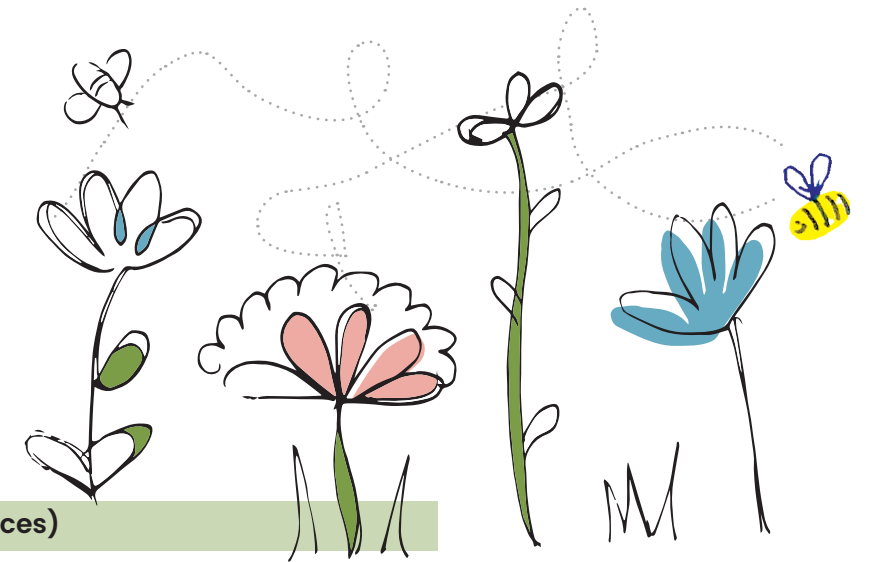
🕒 **What cross sector collaboration have we found useful in this work?**

🕒 **What have the barriers been to this?**

🕒 **What would we like to see more of?**

🕒 **What is needed to make that happen?**

- Speed Dating
- Working together – organisations holding space but open to all
- Consistent + evidence-based arguments
- Skills / Knowledge resources
- Comparisons to sport
- Tension to place – but they are also anchor points
- How decisions are made
- Series of deep-dive conversations (25 people over 3 days) > Could we make this happen?
- How can Live Borders help – example of dance collaboration with historical and museums
- Footballers in residence? Artist in residence at council – a writer, interviewed staff, how it was presented
- Scottish Mental Health Festival – how to get health professionals and the clients
- What are the shared interests of the private / public sector?
- Museums Scotland Heritage Network – projects
- Look at the Heritage Network across Scotland – how are they working? Demonstrating (the arts) the positive impacts it can have.
- Some people are closer to private houses than museums. How can private houses benefit – working together private and public
- Community buy-outs
- Perceptions of artists
- Hard to be heard



✿ 1. Artists as pollinators (in spaces)

- need support of anchors to resource artists to do this
- Funding from different sector drives cross-sector working
- Permanent base – to host conversation and support
- Rural to Rural – not just in this country
- Diversity as shared agenda across sector
- Area partnerships (SBC) get culture onto this

✿ 2. Regarding cross sector working

- we need access and exchange with towns regeneration projects, local businesses, councils, enterprises, each other
- we need a consistent evidence argument on wider benefits of creative projects and cross-sector support as a skilled workforce in participation



- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The rich symposium • Small towns have to work together • Funding infrastructure & geography in the borders • Organisations talking to each other • Central hub • Isolation – disparate • Advocacy over competition • Collaboration with sector • Bringing artists in interdisciplinary sectors together in a strong framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production and marketing • Integration of freelancers into development • Creative industries & other • Case studies • Quality research • Statements of value • Shared outcomes – increase power by working together • Be the change you want to see • Capacity • Communication • Rental policies |
|--|--|

Discussion Three

▶ What support is needed for those involved (Community groups, Creative Freelancers, Organisations) to help this work happen?

- 🕒 What is needed to support more collaborative work between creative freelancers and community groups in placemaking and regeneration projects?
- 🕒 What do creative freelancers need who are working in this way?
- 🕒 What do community groups need who are working in this way?

Organisational role for making spaces for freelancers and matching up

- Financial barriers and account issue
- Need to know where to find support
- Lack of child support
- Capacity & the means
- Where is the advice
- Creative Scotland – access to creative coaches
- It's extremely complicated to know what you are entitled to
- What is there for supporting local creatives?
- Communities "know what they need"
- Not every practitioner is schooled in presentation and communication
- How can we "welcome" people to arriving "Making Place" – for new arrivals from other countries

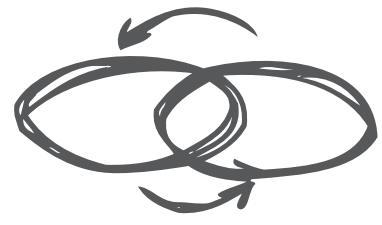


Building space

- Rural vs Urban
- Lovely to have conversations
- Voluntary – who takes responsibility for decision making, freelancers can have busy lives, barriers to access
- Limited opportunity for discussions, format felt a bit us / them at beginning, was great to have time to chat – needs to be more
- Unexpected feeling of moving back to the borders – more happening than expected
- Entrenchment in lack of what is Borders – often based on how long you've lived in a place, new scots, new identities. Not always feeling welcome in spaces, perspectives, e.g. what an artist is – cross-discipline also connects to sports, business.

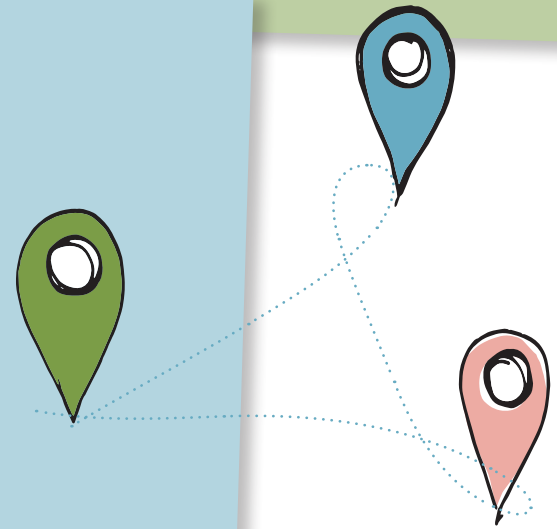


- Arts and cultural workers – paid
- Wasps studios
- Focal point e.g. wasps
- Hawick – very diverse / upcoming
- Ecosystem of creativity
- Connecting us new way
- Nature based
- How does that manifest
- Beautiful expression
- Sooo much happening!
- Micro/independent recognising what we have
- Barriers: geography, travel / over 26
- Everyone is precarious
- All breaking how we can work together
- Needs to be thought of in a joined up way
- Housing – living conditions
- All comes down to material conditions
- More support in money – social housing, artists to operate sometimes need this
- Effect of housing on people's power
- Eternal – the why of what we do.
- Skills – production, collaboration, safeguarding
- Resources of higher education
- Physical support – proximity to knowledge
- No substitute for in-person contact with knowledge



- ✦ **1. How can we share learning** – passing places, more opportunities to come together with consistency, so we are not always starting from scratch
- 2. Resources and infrastructure for clear efficient exchange** – so skills audits providing capacity to easily access knowledge exchange skills, supported mentoring,
- 3. Need funding for events and things like this**

- Enterprise
- Sponsorship
- Businesses supermarket
- Art as method
- Cross-sector
- Moving images
- Gardens
- Council
- Arts
- Charity
- Business
- Working with non-arts groups
- Partnership working & chambers of commerce, space
- Pressures on resources seen as additional



- ✦ There is a risk that place making takes a homogenising approach rather than recognising that **what makes a place unique or special is its particular mix of diversity.**
- **Placemaking** as a term has hijacked place for economic purposes and is influenced by structures of ownership.
- **We discussed whether or not we need to redefine the term placemaking** – are we using it to please funders or does it have genuine meaning for us?
- On the other hand, we argued that it can be a helpful term, as long as we are clear about what we are trying to achieve. **Economics does not have to be the only factor.**
- **By attaching the word ‘creative’ to placemaking, we add flexibility and an allowance for change** – communities/places are not fixed in time, they constantly evolve.
- **We also talked about what we mean by place** – this concept has different meanings for different people – it does not necessarily equate with ‘home’.
- **Does creative placemaking imply that some placemaking is not creative?** We need to bring people into the placemaking process, and we need to recognise the non-human.

To support creative placemaking we need to:

- ① be able to make connections
- ① share practice
- ① dismantle assumptions
- ① be able to participate in exchange visits
- ① look and listen

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