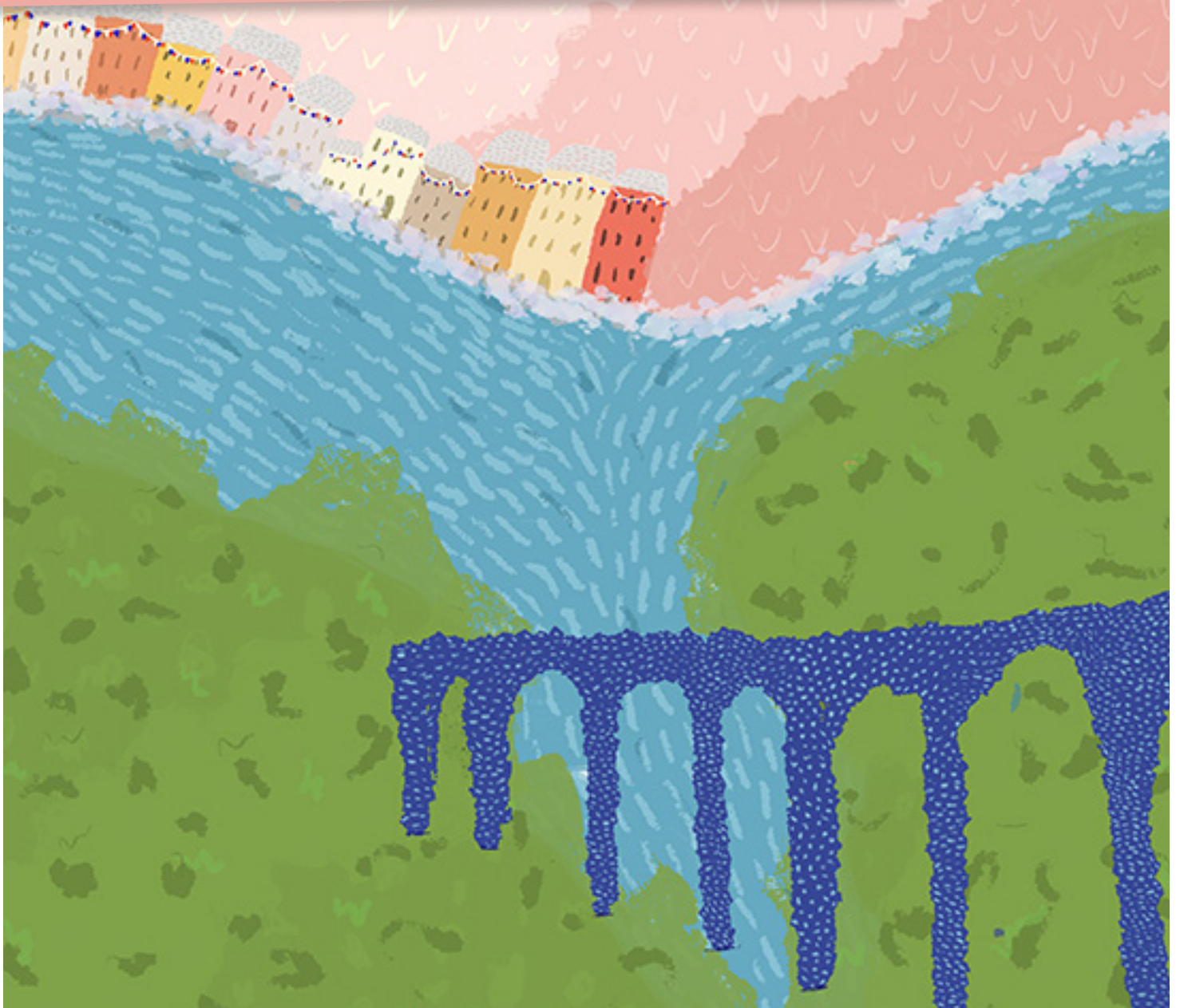


Arts, Communities, Place

Discussion Notes

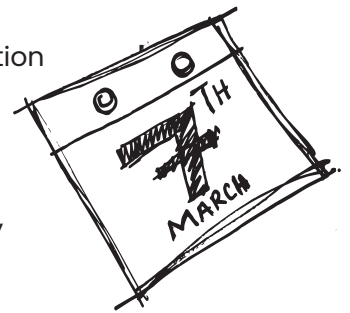
7th March 2023 at MacArts, Galashiels





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:

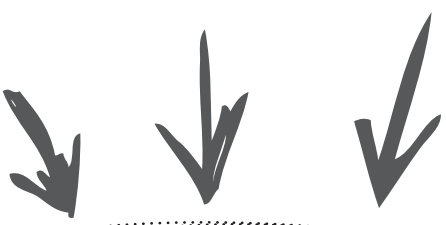
-  What have we learned from our work we would like to share?
 -  What would we like to hear more of and learn from and with others?
 -  How could this be supported to happen?
 -  What areas do we really need to make sure there is more understanding of?
-
- **Events** like this – making connections. 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

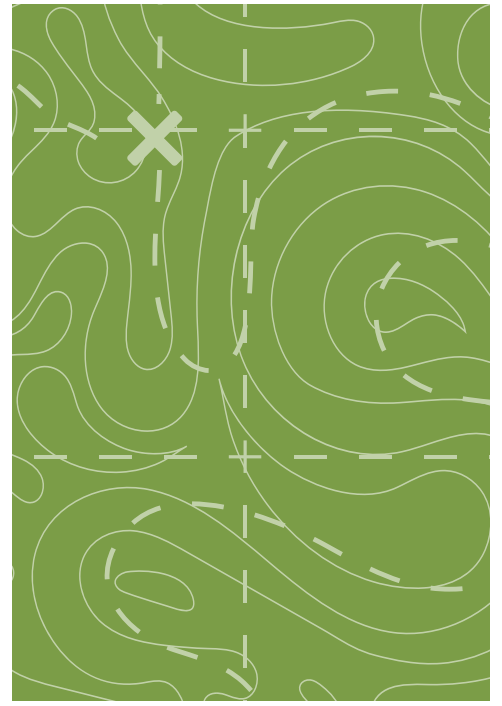




How to work with artists

- 
- 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 share 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?

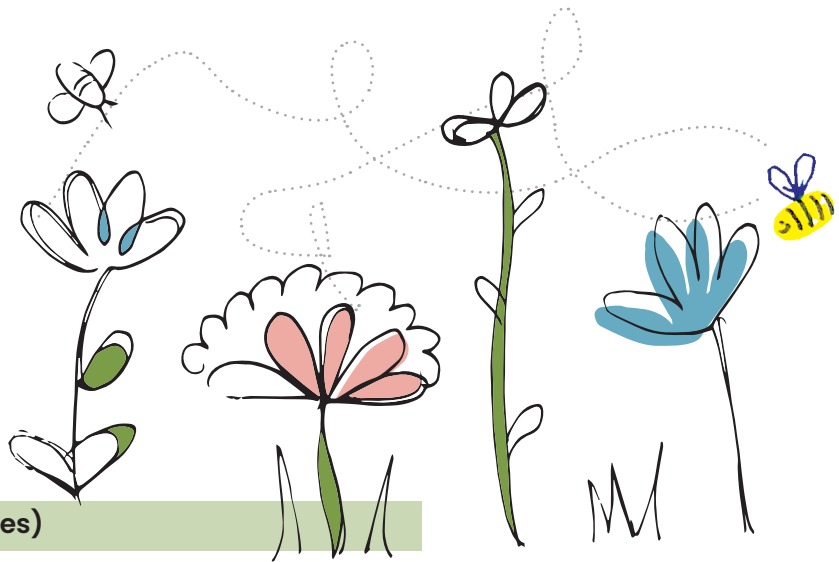
🕒 **What cross sector collaboration have we found useful in this work?**

🕒 **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



- | | |
|--|--|
| • The rich symposium | • Production and marketing |
| • Small towns have to work together | • Integration of freelancers into development |
| • Funding infrastructure & geography in the borders | • Creative industries & other |
| • Organisations talking to each other | • Case studies |
| • Central hub | • Quality research |
| • Isolation – disparate | • Statements of value |
| • Advocacy over competition | • Shared outcomes – increase power by working together |
| • Collaboration with sector | • Be the change you want to see |
| • Bringing artists in interdisciplinary sectors together in a strong framework | • Capacity |
| | • Communication |
| | • Rental policies |

Discussion Three

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

- ⑥ What is needed to support more collaborative work between creative freelancers and community groups in placemaking and regeneration projects?
- ⑥ What do creative freelancers need who are working in this way?
- ⑥ What do community groups need who are working in this way?

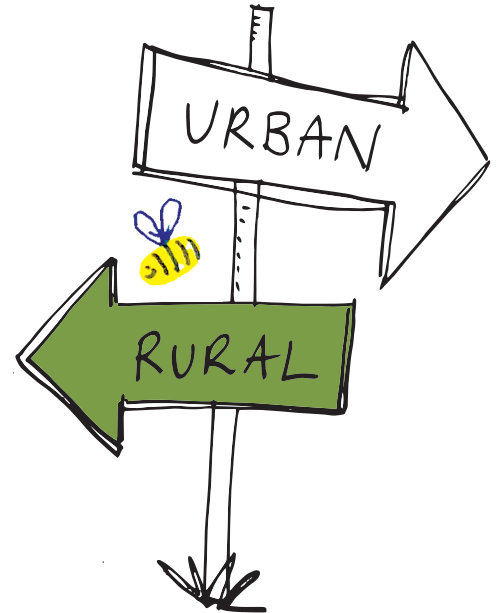
Organisational role for making spaces for freelancers and matching up

- 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



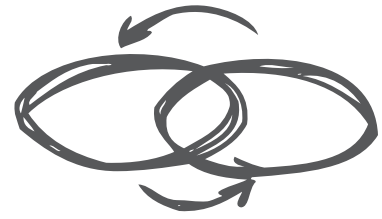
Building space

- 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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