



The Power of Community

An event for participants and creatives to build connections across the wider Creative People and Places network

Saturday 2 March 2019, 10.30 – 16.30

Alexon Building, School of Arts and Design, University of Bedfordshire
40-48 Guildford Street, Luton LU1 2PA

Event description

Building creative communities is the key to meaningful and long-term arts engagement. This one-day symposium hosted by Creative People and Places (CPP) network will highlight new and emerging voices and provide a platform for participants and artists to come together and share learning as well as build and strengthen connections across the different CPP communities.

The day will include talks, presentations and workshops, as well as an adapted version of the [Long Table Debate](#), a platform for interactive and participatory dialogue with a mix of provocations, performances and discussion.

This event is being co-produced and programmed by Imrana Mahmood, a participant and creative who has been involved with Revoluton, the CPP project for Luton. She has developed the programme after conversations with participants from across different CPP Places.

The symposium programme will explore the following:

- Overcoming barriers between artists and communities and exploring non-hierarchical models of engagement
- Gaining a deeper understanding of collaboration
- Sharing strategic models and processes for funding and commissioning work
- Understanding and embedding effective language for long-term arts engagement
- Exploring the definition of what is quality art
- Innovative and unconventional approaches to growing and widening audiences
- Exploring the difference between enabling work and making work
- Strengthening authentic diversity within the arts

The programme will draw on expertise from creatives from the CPP network as well as experienced practitioners, with a particular focus on ideas inspired by conversations during the event.

This event will provide a platform to exchange ideas, forge new connections and strengthen skills.

This event is for participants and creatives who have played an active part in their CPP programme, including volunteers, commissioned artists and members of the creative teams. This event is not suitable for those working outside of the CPP programme.

Draft schedule

10.30 – 10.55 Registration with tea and coffee

10.55 – 11.00 Welcome

11.00 – 11.20 Amerah Saleh – Lightning Talk: Grassroots Activism

This talk will explore methods of increasing arts engagement by overcoming barriers between artists and audiences and explore the meaning of social responsibility within the arts. It will ask how we can challenge existing power structures between cultural organisations and the public and how we could do something 'with' a community instead of 'to' a community?

11.20 – 11.40 Tobi Kyeremateng – Lightning Talk: The Audience Development Gap

This talk will look at the importance of representation and increased accessibility within the arts. It will explore strategies to minimise the communication gap between artists and audiences and explain how art can be made with and for audiences to develop meaningful and sustainable relationships.

11.40 – 12.00 Michaela Nutt – Lightning Talk: Funding and Commissioning

This talk will look at how community creatives can access funding streams and create work using collaborative approaches, in order to develop more autonomous and sustainable projects. It will explore the role of funding in producing and managing a community project and delivering a high-quality event.

12.00 – 12.30 Q&A with the speakers of the lightning talks

12.30 – 12.50 A series of short provocations

This series of short provocations will challenge current thinking and raise important questions in relation to the topics of the day.

Provocation speakers:

- Kyra Cross, Ideas Test
- Uzma Raziq, Super Slow Way
- Glenn Jenkins, Revoluton
- Laura Dicken, Creative Black Country

12.50 – 13.45 Networking lunch

13.45 – 15.15 Long Table Debate

The Long Table Debate is designed to be an open and dynamic conversation in which everyone can take part. It will also feature opening and closing performances by Amerah Saleh and artist duo Shifa Choudhury and Oz Zumah, as well as a couple of short provocation questions to start off the discussions.

15.15 – 16.05 An option of the three following sessions:

Workshop: Tobi Kyeremateng – Growing and Diversifying Audiences

- Outline the principles of audience development and how they can be applied to support different CPP networks
- Qualitative and quantitative research tips
- Exploring how we can overcome barriers for audiences to take part in culture

Workshop: Samir Malik – The Art of Active Listening

- Exploring the connections between communication, personal development and psychotherapy
- Develop listening skills and improve the understanding of leadership potential
- Explore the art of persuasive language
- Raise self-awareness

Unconference session

- Participants are invited to lead this session and set their own agenda

16.05 – 16.20 Summation of discussions

16.20 – 16.30 Closing and thank you