

Creative processes; how do we strike a balance between collaboration, facilitation and enabling?

Creative Case NORTH Seeing Event – NEWCASTLE

Session 1- Question 6

Present:

Chris Howlett – Chris Howlett Creative Education Consultancy

Andy Warrington – Crossings

Ali McCaw – Prism Arts

Emma House – Bowes Museum

Alison Cleland – National Glass Centre

Caroline Pearce – Luxi

Esan Kaya – The Customs House

Nelly Stavropoulou – Bridge + Tunnel

Paul Stone – Vane

What has brought you to the conversation?

The group articulated a range of interests and starting points which we shared and fed into the four headings. Themes started to emerge and converge in the initial sharing and are highlighted here in **bold**.

- A desire to “raise the bar”, to engage and challenge participatory contributions/transactions/offers
- Internalising process/ethos of processes within an organisation
- What is the **Value** for all parties? economic / experiential
- process and outcome** – what is the **value**?
- Language** – in how we use it within and about processes
- Value** – what does it mean?
- Collaboration – participants/artists/organisations – what is the **value to all**?
- Process Vs Product / Process and Product** – **Values** of these?
- Audience development – how can this benefit from the creative process?
- Participation and partnership – what does this mean?

The below is a factual and summarised record of the discussion that took place. Whilst no conclusions or action points were made, there were a series of “ahah” or breakthrough moments that seemed to happen during our time together where either an individual moment of clarity transpired or a convergence of energy happened within the group. The very conceptual and very practical notions of **language** and **value** were always present in the discussion and the group seemed encouraged to further investigate these within their own practice.

<p>Situations (listed in order they arose in discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Difficulty of challenging aspirations (especially in specific geographical areas) • Outsourcing of expertise can often leave a deficit within an organisation • The debate and delicacy of the value placed on professionals and participants as artists • The perception of art as a value in society. • The use of language of intention and instruction – both how we use language in describing activity and within the activity itself. • Lack of resources can impede visibility of the work. • Human resource pressures and staffing levels • Ensuring quality, integrity and meaning of the process and the product. • Who is it for? • The judgement of value – who decides the criteria? • How can we best match-make and make the best partnerships? • The different interpretations of sustainability. 	<p>Possible Solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being aware and honest in our intentions in all cultural transactions. • Involvement and engagement of artists, participants, organisations and the wider public in being open about the value of the art. • Honest and critical debate • Allow for recognition of the process throughout. • Be committed to the values we believe. • Be transparent in all processes about the process. • Encourage the right to fail as part of the process and the product. • Value the process. • Find a common language that can be used for all parties – artists, participants, organisations, funders. • Encourage practitioner and participator input on funding panels. • Honest and open feedback/networking. • Open statements of the ethos of the artist’s approach and process. • Mentoring good and best practice to ensure sharing. • Sharing language with each other.
<p>Concerns</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The value and status of the arts in society as a whole was an ongoing concern throughout the discussion. • How do we recognise the value of the arts? • Can our care over language trip us up? • Economic constraints. • Sustainability. 	<p>Data/Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Language and terminology means different things to different people.
<p>Closing In the final moments we shared some words to summarise the journey of discussion: sharing, expertise, knowledge, skills and experience. If I were able to add a word to this it would interrogation as the vigour of the discussion felt like a really good start into further questioning of the situations listed above, both as individuals and a united force.</p>	

Creative Case NORTH Seeing Event - SALFORD

Session 1- Question 5

Present: Sharon Gill Bryan Biggs Sue Willams Sara Domuille Amanda Sutton Kathryn MacDonald Tony Bowling Caroline Bradley	
Situations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open door v Capacity• Quality v reputation	Possible Solutions <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A resource• Empowerment• Collaboration / Initiative beyond expected
Concerns <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are the 'WE'• Why need balance• Politics of terminology	Data/Facts <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Art forms – different models / needs