

EXPLORERS NETWORK MEETING 24.05.23

NOTES

The Following notes on the agenda items give some context for Project Art Works thinking around the Network, its role and how it works. The proposals and questions below are starting points for discussion rather than set in stone:

Context

EXPLORERS is a project initiated in 2017 by Project Art Works as a way to create dialogue between galleries and the social care sector, and increase the visibility of neurodivergent people in cultural life. The network is something Project Art Works proposed as part of the EXPLORERS project funding application in spring 2021

What the Network is (and is not)

PROPOSALS:

The network is specifically focused on the lived experiences of neurominorities, not people with disabilities more generally

The network will be organised and run by its members, not Project Art Works

The network is Informal (i.e. no formal application process) but with a recognized structure, including a steering group

The network is not a critique or promotional platform for artists or studios to share their work (but this can happen more broadly/informally by building connections)

The network is not a platform for dealing with individual complaints against specific institutions or organisations

Its purpose or goal

PROPOSALS:

To advocate for neurodivergent people within the arts, as contributors and consumers

To help organisations and institutions to understand neurodivergent people

To be a hub for sharing best practice and resolving problems encountered by artists, supported studios and institutions

To be a powerful voice for rights and representation within and beyond the cultural sector

To build connections between the social care sector and the art sector

To make connections between artists and organisations easier

To help increase opportunities for artists

Who should be part of it?

PROPOSALS:

Membership is open but focused on neurodivergent artists and their allies among arts professionals, in arts institutions, social care organisations and supported studios.

QUESTIONS:

Should members sign up to a set of values set and agreed by a steering group

Should it just be for the visual arts, or include all artforms?

How does the network deal with disagreements and grievances?

Agreeing a Steering Group to make the Network something that can work most effectively for its members

PROPOSALS:

The Steering group will consist of up to 12 members, chosen by members nominating themselves and if necessary, conduct a ballot, managed by Project Art Works

The steering group would be able to meet more frequently (i.e. monthly?) to agree direction, policy and agenda items for the full meeting

The group would have a 50/50 split between artists/care-givers and arts professionals

How should future meetings take place: how frequently and in what format – online, in person, etc.

PROPOSALS:

The meetings take place online, every 2 months until the end of the project – July, September, November, January

November meeting could alternatively be an in-person meeting as part of the EXPLORERS final event at Baltic, Gateshead 28-29 November

QUESTION:

Would members find physical get-togethers in different parts of the country useful? I.e. similar to ENGAGE, CVAN meetings by region