

Explorers Meeting Chat
May 2023

11:33:06 From Kate Adams : Ali's point is important and can we come back to it in a mo please?

11:35:58 From Ali Robinson-Rowe : who else here today is from a participatory arts org?

11:37:33 From Hamja Ahsan : 2nd Question: about lumbung continues? What is your ongoing relationship with lumbung?

11:39:39 From Kate Adams : We're doing a publication and also

11:40:09 From Jessica - Project Art Works : Hi Ali, I can see Venture Arts, Action Space and Art Riot in the room but there may be others.

11:40:41 From Kate Adams : Sorry pressed return there. We're working on a couple of publications with people we met as part of the lumbung

11:41:34 From Louise Brett : I am here from Shallal Studios in Cornwall. Also setting up a new user-led CIC for neurodivergent artists.

11:41:52 From Alex Casey (Suffolk Artlink) : Suffolk Artlink is a participatory arts organisation and we have a long term creative programme that we are looking at developing into more of a supported studio model - but want this to be co-produced with our participants so not sure what that will look like yet

11:42:06 From Martin Swan : Brilliant thanks Louise!

11:42:19 From Martin Swan : And thanks Alex

11:43:56 From Jonathan (he/him) / Photoworks : <https://documenta-fifteen.de/en/lumbung/>

11:45:06 From Jessica - Project Art Works To Ali Robinson-Rowe(privately) : Hi Ali, Please can you remind me of the name of your supported studio for my notes?

11:45:29 From Becky Waite - Blue Room (the Bluecoat) : Hi Ali, we are Blue Room which is a supported studio & inclusive arts programme by the Bluecoat arts centre in Liverpool - we do a bit of both - artist development support and collaborative sessions exploring our gallery programme. Both approaches interconnect
<https://www.thebluecoat.org.uk/projects/blue-room>

Hi we're CoActive Arts in Wakefield. We wouldn't describe ourselves as a supported studio but certainly we have things in common.

11:48:07 From Morven Macrae Garvald Artists : Garvald Artists in Edinburgh is one studio within a larger organisation Garvald Edinburgh, which has many specialised art, craft and making based workshops. We are classed/ perceived as a social care organisation due to funding structure. <https://www.garvaldmakers.com/artists>

11:48:37 From Anna Knowles : How did explorers enable you to stay connected? Was it the physical meet ups? Annual check in? What worked and how did this work for you?

11:52:14 From Christine Bithell : Replying to "How did explorers en..." they got us all together after the exhibition ended for a coffee and they we continued to meet at Tate Liverpool. We've continued with some projects together and also share what we are doing in our individual orgs too.

11:53:40 From Christine Bithell : Replying to "How did explorers en..."

I took it on as the lead if you like, and Options were really keen on collaboration, the pandemic was a thought time but we are still going and have a workshop planned for all the people we support next month.

11:54:13 From Hamja Ahsan : Trade Unions are beginning to recognise Neurodiversity, see Janine Booth. Does the network have a relationship with trade unions?

11:56:35 From Naoibh : I think it's important as Martin said for this group to be a force for change in regards to advocacy and legislation! There is power in the collective voice I have found

11:57:05 From jennifer gilbert : problem is i'm not in a good place to chat - sensory overload for some people as lots of noise here

11:57:16 From Jade French : Hi all, I am so sorry but I can only stay until 12. Just to introduce myself, I am an artist-facilitator and academic at the University of Leeds (school fine art). Currently working with supported studio Pyramid in Leeds on a project with 4 artists (Liam, Victor, Ria, Alfie). Super interested in connecting to new people and places. I spend most of my time doing research so really happy to connect with people about that in particular. j.french2@leeds.ac.uk

11:57:17 From jennifer gilbert : can i write something in the chat

11:57:53 From Hamja Ahsan : Also Artists Union England which I am a member of.

11:58:15 From Morven Macrae Garvald Artists : Neuk Collective are a group in Scotland have developed something along these lines

11:58:45 From Ali Robinson-Rowe : Replying to "Hi all, I am so sorr..."

Hi Jade - so pleased you're here. I read about your work at BlueCoat a while back and got very excited. We're CoActive Arts in Wakefield. We know Pyramid and feel similar. I'd love to be in contact with you so I'll email!

11:58:55 From jennifer gilbert : I have been working with the Plus Tate Network on a toolkit and with DANC (Disabled artists networking community) and a group of deaf, disabled and neurodivergent artists on a toolkit - which looks at ways the galleries and museums can better support and work with this group of artists... so Anna this addresses a lot of these things you mentioned...

12:00:18 From jennifer gilbert : When it launches it will just be the start and will be reviewed every 6 months and added to, so the start is an overview and then things with more in-depth knowledge will be added. Like these orgs working with artists with more complex needs and artists who may be non-verbal or non-communicative in some way

12:01:30 From Alex Casey (Suffolk Artlink) : apologies I need to go to another meeting - great to connect to this and look forward to future meetings. if anyone would like to follow up about Suffolk Artlink's work please do email me on alex@suffolkartlink.org.uk

12:01:39 From jennifer gilbert : It touches on callouts and things to include in callouts, it talks about language used and terminology, it talks about making sure you have the conversations with those you want to work with and seeing the best ways to communicate with them, it includes making exhibitions accessible and more inclusive and programming events that are inclusive and accessible to wider audiences - sorry to write such long text

12:02:20 From Morven Macrae Garvald Artists : <https://neukcollective.co.uk/> are a collective of neurodivergent artists who have developed resources for artists and organisations

12:03:02 From Venture Arts - Amanda Sutton & Sarah Boulter : In a cultural network we have in Manchester, larger organisations pool resources for freelancers to be paid to attend

12:04:02 From Ellie Page : Hugely agree with Ashok and with the idea for funding bid for a coordinator as otherwise it is likely that we will lose momentum not through intended neglect on anyones part but due to a lack of administrative oversight or clarity around different people's rules & responsibilities

12:04:37 From Ellie Page : Replying to "Hugely agree with As..."

And that bid would include payment for steering group etc

12:05:07 From Carlota Mir & Carlos Almela (Hablaartenarte/MNRS) : Yes please we'd love that Jennifer!

12:05:28 From jennifer gilbert : It is currently being signed off by the Tate Directors from all 4 sites

12:05:47 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : Hello all, Sophie and Rosie here from MK Gallery, Milton Keynes. Really interesting listening to all the different thoughts and angles people are coming at within the meeting. Our role within Explorers has been twofold: one in representing a Gallery and how as a cultural space it can be more inclusive and showcase work by diverse artists, and two in working with children and young people with complex needs and neurodivergence, and hopefully paving the way for future opportunities for them as adults within the arts.

12:05:53 From Jessica - Project Art Works : It looks like many of you would like to share contacts. If you are comfortable with sharing your name, email and website/ social media / organisation with me I can create a draft directory.
Please email me directly with these details at Jessica@projectartworks.org

12:07:14 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : To echo what Becky and Christine said, one of the best things about Explorers 2 for us has been the connections and partnerships it's facilitated, giving our young people the opportunity to work with artists from supported studios like Venture Arts and Art Riot Collective

12:11:29 From jennifer gilbert : to echo what gerald and morven said - this is a PDF document NEUK created, which its referenced in TATE document too:
<https://neukcollective.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/Working-With-Neurodivergent-Artists-Online-Version-17.11.21.pdf>

12:11:45 From Naoibh : Anna is spot on with this! It is very hard as an neurodivergent artist to have access to arts spaces /orgs who don't have provisions for neurodiverse people

12:11:48 From Anna Barzotti : I agree with Anna too, think the mentoring stuff is very powerful

12:14:55 From Anna Knowles : Also if people who were to put themselves forward for mentoring received training and the toolkit that would be a great way to embed best practise and education around neurodiversity back into the industry! Anna Knowles for Anna Farley

12:15:38 From Kate Adams : Amazing work Kyla. Wow so much gained in so little time!

12:16:16 From Anna Knowles : World Health Organisation Funding? ...Haha? Anna Knowles for Anna Farley

12:19:09 From jennifer gilbert : I think there should be a set of values that are mostly agreed upon - so that everyone is on the same page to move forwards together with solidarity

12:20:01 From Anna Knowles : Happy to have a manifesto, however it has to be accessible for all. AK for AF

12:20:25 From Ali Robinson-Rowe : i think a shared set of values is important - may need to acknowledge that they are aspirational

12:21:08 From Anna Farley : 'Boundaries'

12:21:10 From Jasmine Moreton : But we always have abled people advocating FOR not with us!

12:23:01 From Jessica - Project Art Works To Martin Swan(private) : Shall we give people the dates of the next Explorers Event and the location? It might be helpful.

12:23:51 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : 👍 agree with Jennifer's suggestion - we may all be coming from different places, backgrounds, and contexts, but ultimately want to work towards the same goals

12:24:36 From Kate Adams : We do not want to advocate for people who can advocate for themselves. But for those who might not be able to be included here because this format of meeting or forum is not acceptable to them but how however have much to offer art and society

12:24:58 From Ellie Page : Id like to volunteer to be on steering group as a neurodivergent artist as well s working for an org

12:25:37 From Naoibh : I'd love to join this too!

12:25:49 From Anna Knowles : Is there one steering group? Or will there be multiple steering groups depending on people's skills and passions?

12:26:02 From Tobias Rödl : martin put me on the list please

12:27:20 From Carlota Mir & Carlos Almela (Hablaarte/MNRS) : As international partners we feel that a research subgroup would be amazing and we'd love to be part of it

12:28:04 From Jasmine Moreton : I'd like to be on the steering group

12:28:46 From Anna Knowles : Anna F would be interested! If this is helpful!

12:28:52 From Ellie Page : Think it important that the steering group doesn't replace the idea of having a funded coordinator/administrator

12:29:31 From Ellie Page : Forgot to say I'm Ellie, North West Hub Manager for Outside In, who are a national charity supporting artists who face significant barriers to the arts world www.outsidein.org.uk

12:29:49 From Jasmine Moreton : Agree with Ellie

12:30:06 From Kate Adams : Totally agree Ellie. Think we should definitely head towards funding a coordinator of the network

- 12:31:12 From Louise Brett : Every 2 months sounds good
- 12:31:24 From Jonathan (he/him) / Photoworks : Apologies - it's not possible from to stay longer than 12:30. Thanks very much everyone for today. Good bye for now! 🙌
- 12:31:26 From Naoibh : I agree!
- 12:31:26 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : 2 months or quarterly would be good
- 12:31:30 From Ellie Page : 2 months, and the steering group can meet once a month to keep momentum
- 12:31:34 From Tobias Rödl : every 2 month
- 12:31:40 From Hamja Ahsan : Maybe an informal meeting too
- 12:32:01 From Hamja Ahsan : Like a hangout meeting as well as a formal business one
- 12:32:08 From Ellie Page : In person feels like a nice treat!
- 12:32:12 From Tobias Rödl : difficult for us from Germany
- 12:32:14 From Louise Brett : I'd love to meet in person but we're in Cornwall!
- 12:32:18 From Jasmine Moreton : Only if travel and accommodation are funded
- 12:32:24 From Naoibh : I think in person would be fun, maybe less regular than the zoom meetings though as logistically it could be hard for people
- 12:32:28 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : maybe once a year in person?
- 12:32:40 From Ricardo & Jo (Aspex Portsmouth) : Maybe occasionally, or regionally? Might be difficult with capacity, travel costs...
- 12:32:44 From Tobias Rödl : once in a year would be fine
- 12:32:49 From Andreia (they/them) : Thank you all, gotta leave now. Looking frwd to the next meeting ~ Warmest Andreia ✨
- 12:32:52 From Louise Brett : Once a year would be good - maybe some contribution to travel?
- 12:33:27 From Hamja Ahsan : It good to develop trust and friendship too. This developed informally with me and Martin and Ashok. This works informally
- 12:33:36 From Kyla Craig : Come to Coventry everyone!

12:33:51 From Anna Knowles : We're in Hull! Come and visit anytime!!

12:33:52 From Naoibh : Yes west midlands takeover

12:34:14 From Tobias Rödl : come to kassel Germany hometown of documenta

12:36:10 From Jessica - Project Art Works : Jessica@projectartworks.org

12:37:54 From Flora Bain : We want to let people know Abundance, our collaborative exhibition for Explorers by ActionSpace, Venture Arts and Project Ability will open in London (after touring Glasgow and Manchester). We are about to announce it will show at <https://www.vocurations.com/> in the first week of September. Official announcement so hope people can join.

12:38:03 From Louise Brett : Thanks Anna this is a great idea, I'm new to Explorers too

12:38:05 From jennifer gilbert : I have to leave, thank you. Have a wonderful afternoon wherever you are

12:38:44 From Naoibh : Brilliant idea Anna!

12:39:29 From Jemima Senior (Royal Academy of Arts) : Have to jump off, thanks everyone, looking forward to seeing how the network develops!

12:39:44 From Kate Adams : Thank you for coming

12:40:02 From Ali Robinson-Rowe : thanks all. Look forward to hearing more as things develop.

12:40:14 From Emma Dean : Thanks Martin, Kate and team

12:40:14 From Jessica - Project Art Works : https://www.instagram.com/explorers_project/

12:40:26 From Rosie and Sophie, MK Gallery : Really sorry but I need to go. Thanks Martin and PAW for organising this! Look forward to seeing whats next

12:40:48 From Louise Brett : Thank you so much, I've really enjoyed it and really value being involved

12:40:53 From Kyla Craig : Thank you!

12:40:55 From Tobias Rödl : thank you all

12:40:55 From Naoibh : Thank you for organising this!! I feel very proud to be a part of this network!

12:40:59 From Jessica - Project Art Works : @Explorers__project or #ExplorersProject

12:41:08 From Ricardo & Jo (Aspex Portsmouth) : Thank you all, great initial thoughts and exciting direction for the network 😊

12:41:18 From Becky Waite - Blue Room (the Bluecoat) : Thank you 😊 Lovely to see everyone!

12:41:28 From Anna Knowles : Thank you everyone!

12:41:31 From Jessica - Project Art Works : Lovely to see you

12:41:32 From Sarah Ballard : Thanks so much! Xx