

# EXPLORERS NETWORK MEETING 27.09.23

## NOTES FROM THE MEETING

### Agenda

- 10.45 – 11.00      Waiting Room Open
- 11.00 – 11.05      **PAW** - Welcome and Introduction to new members, Housekeeping
- 11.05 – 11.15      **PAW** - Actions and updates from the previous meeting:
- Steering Group and Studio/ Artist/ Research groups updates
  - Making meetings more accessible
  - Baltic exhibition update

*Martin Swan and Jessica Courtney Bennett from PAW Explorers directory update, and sharing of templates, Baltic exhibition update*

- 11.15 – 11.30      **Network Steering Group** First Meeting Feedback
- Roles and Responsibilities
  - Network Questionnaire
  - Website Platform

*Becky Waite from Blue Room and Ashok Mistry updated us on the steering group meeting – accessibility (i.e. Jamboards), safeguarding and data content, roles within the steering group such as sharing the hosting (or chairing) meetings, in person meetings. Patience is needed in order to build something meaningful*

- 11.30 – 11.45      Discussion started by **Art Riot** - Working with artists and their circles of support (especially around contracts and payments)

*General discussion from the group about fees and contracts – a starting point for discussion around the challenges rather than any specific agreements made, especially payments to artists. Ceri-Ann Barrow from Plus Tate updated the group on the progress of the Plus Tate Toolkit – Plus Tate are waiting on one last piece of content. The toolkit has been designed and they hoping to get the first iteration out before the end of October. Hamja Ahsan mentioned the Lumbung Gallery [an artist representation and payment model going forward from documenta 15] that has stalled.*

- 11.45 – 12.00      Discussion started by **Photoworks** - Recruiting Neurodivergent Artists through Open Calls and other approaches

*Danit Ariel from Photoworks contributed and discussed the journey the organisation has been on. General discussion around different approaches to recruiting artists. She talked about personalising open call processes and/or outreach and artist recruitment. Ashok Mistry talked about the focus (within mainstream art) on individual artists rather than group shows, and the application process being excluding through the design of the process,*

*impacting further on disabled artists. He also mentioned that artists want investment in these processes.*

***Ceri-Ann Barrow** talked about the Plus Tate toolkit suggesting the use of a wide variety of formats for application forms and Q&A sessions, as well as extending application processes. Becky Waite talked about the extra layers of complexity and about organisations allowing applications on behalf of artists, and saying that Easy Read application forms still wouldn't be accessible for some artists.*

***Stephanie Tyrrell** from Sense introduced the Sense Arts National Programme and talked about their application process and use of Easy Read documentation.*

***Chris Miller** from Submit to Love Studios talked about enabling neurodiverse communities to be part of the mainstream art world.*

***Alan van Wijgerden** talked about how we repeating some of the same conversations from the early 2000s.*

**12.00 – 12.15** Discussion started by **Ashok Mistry** - mutual understanding between different groups - understanding, allyship and motivation.

***Ashok Mistry** presented this issue and explained that some of the areas had been covered in previous conversations in the meeting, and about the importance of supporting one another in conversations such as this because disabled artists are seen in particular ways.*

***Sophie Mackreth** from High Peak Arts introduced their programme.*

***Chris Miller** talked about the lack of coverage of Support Studios across the art world.*

***Jessica Courtney Bennett** talked about the plans to have deeper discussion opportunities during the EXPLORERS Event.*

**12.15 – 12.25** Sharing: Other networks and national projects – **Sense Arts**, Carousel Creative Minds Network, CVAN SE Artists Network.

*We did not have time to cover this subject further.*

**12.25 – 12.30** **PAW** - Summary and thanks and plans for next meeting as part of In Process - EXPLORERS 2023 Event, 28-29 November 2023

*We reiterated the plan to hold a 'live plus Zoom' meeting at Baltic as part of the EXPLORER event 2023 on 28 November.*