



Citizen Power Peterborough Strand Action Plan

Strand name
Peterborough Arts and Social Change
Strand point of contact:
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Description
<p>Peterborough Arts and Social Change will explore the role of the arts and imagination in building a sense of belonging in Peterborough and underpin engagement for the entire programme of Citizen Power. Artistic interventions and creative processes will enable and support citizens as well as those in key roles in Peterborough to develop better understandings of needs, build joint aspirations and share ideas and solutions. This will be done through a range of programmes that will help to shape a new creative and artistic hub in the city. This is not an arts project, nor a research project that uses the arts, but a practical re imagining of how social change and the arts can work together to help people help themselves.</p>
Aims and outcomes
<p>The aims of the strand are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ to deliver high quality creative experiences through the arts that build and extend community engagement ▪ to inspire and strengthen shared experiences through the arts, as valuable in and of themselves ▪ to inform the processes employed across all aspects of Citizen Power in order to understand how arts interventions impact upon attachment, participation and innovation ▪ to support and build a self sustaining network of locally based artists who can both contribute to the artistic aspirations of Peterborough and be an active part of the arts offer regionally. <p>The strand will deliver the following outcomes: <i>For locally based practitioners:</i> direct opportunities to work with the whole Arts & Social Change programme in order to bring creative approaches to the encouragement of civic participation in Peterborough; networking opportunities within the Creative Gatherings that support the development of a locally based artistic infrastructure; professional development opportunities through the Creative Gatherings that additionally link with opportunities presented by the commissions and residencies programmes; greater connectivity with other sectors in Peterborough as well as regionally leading to a greater capacity for future work <i>For residents of Peterborough:</i> opportunities to engage creatively with the Residencies and Commissions that will invite participation in an imaginative and personally engaging way; an increase in the quality, quantity and profile of the artistic offer in Peterborough <i>For Peterborough City Council and the Arts Council:</i> a new set of tools for community engagement through creativity, an increase in locally based artists equipped to broker community development, an increase in funding applications from Peterborough that are informed by the aims of the Citizen Power programme; the development of a creative and artistic centre in Peterborough that is valued by local professionals, attended to and</p>

participated in by local residents and is a high quality artistic offer.
For the RSA: the arts strand will contribute to the body of evidence that can articulate the role the arts play in affecting social change; join and contribute to a larger community addressing the same and begin to play a leading role in such work.

What does success look like?

A self sustaining network of locally based artists equipped to develop and broker change within their own communities that is also able to feed into a sustainable and high quality arts provision leading to an artistic hub based in the city.

Background

Why are we doing this? Why is it important?

The low levels of civic participation and 'attachment' to place in Peterborough identified in the scoping report can be directly addressed through the ability of the arts to build trust, empathy and well being. Peterborough has 'pockets' of community engagement and arts activity, however there is a lack of connectivity and a tendency for groups to remain isolated within their own domain. The Arts and Social Change programme directly targets the building of networks that encourage those of different perspectives and backgrounds to create shared experiences and values, built through imaginative meeting points. Creativity works through a common language of participation and self expression and is a fundamental part of building aspiration. It offers the necessary space for re-imagining what Peterborough can be; vital in a time of significant population growth and change in the city. The challenges for Peterborough are common for most medium sized cities in the UK; the Arts and Social Change programme offers the potential for transferable models of integrated creative engagement approaches, highlighting the crucial role for using the arts as a core aspect of place making. In times of austerity, the wealth of existing creative skills within our cities remains untapped; this is about using the arts to help retool the population as local citizens.

Activity

Arts and Social Change will be delivered through an integrated framework of strands where each strand will support and reinforce the other four. For example, integrating arts practice into the delivery of the programme will in turn strengthen the arts community in Peterborough as would the commission of high quality artistic interventions. The strands are:

1. Public Events (Creative Gatherings, Interdisciplinary events)
2. Local Creative Interventions for Place Making
3. Artists residencies
4. Commissions (Made in Peterborough)

A summary of each strand is as follows:

1. Public Events

Creative Gatherings

A facilitated space for creative practice for those who live and work in Peterborough. Seven Creative Gatherings will be held throughout the programme every 4 months, rotating in spaces that capture the imagination in and around Peterborough. The Creative Gatherings will support the development of other programmes that involve locally based artists such as Experiments in Place Making and Dialogue in Action.

Interdisciplinary Events

Three interdisciplinary events will offer a forum for how the arts address issues of community and environmental sustainability, bringing experts and inspirational interventions to encourage debate and filter the resulting dynamism into the strands of activity. They will link thematically with the aspirations of Citizen Power and relate to the rich offer of events across the programme.

2. Local Creative Interventions for Place Making

Experiments in Place Making

Locally Based Artists Partnering Within Local Neighbourhoods

There will be seven opportunities to explore and extend creative practice as a resource in developing new approaches to place-making and working within the Community Action Plan framework for each Neighbourhood Council.

Dialogue in Action

Ten partnerships of artists with professionals in Peterborough's public sector pertinent to the Citizen Power agenda

The programme will seek out potential partnerships, for example, a visual artist and a housing officer, a writer and a police officer - offering the public sector professionals insights around creative processes and for artists to gain a 'fly-on-the-wall' experience of an aspect of life in a sector that interests them. These partnerships, as with the Experiments in Place Making could lend themselves to future opportunities and funding bids.

3. Artists residencies

Two artists resident part time hosted within a community in Peterborough for 1 year
There will be two year long artist residencies with artists of differing arts disciplines, 'resident' within a community on a part time basis over the period of a year. (March 2011 – March 2012). Artists will be selected through a tendering process and community groups will develop briefs and bid for the programme with final selection of artists to go through community hosts.

4. Commissions (Made in Peterborough)

Two commissions for inspiring interventions in central Peterborough. Both commissions will be bespoke interventions based on core themes in Citizen Power. The first one will be focussed upon engagement itself and take place over the autumn of 2010. The lead artist for this commission will be Ruth Ben Tovim of ENCOUNTERS, their engagement will be over the period of 4 months.

It is our intention that creative interventions through the arts will weave through the entire programme and address the core aims of the project. All Citizen Power strands will, as a matter of course, be invited to engage with wider opportunities of arts engagement in the city, such as Platform Peterborough.

Partners

PCC: Julie Rivett (and Neighbourhood Managers)

Arts Council: Belinda Bryan

Co-deliverers:

Creative Gatherings and local interventions: Chris Higgins, Fiona Lesley, The Map Consortium

Residencies: Donna Lynas, Wysing Arts Centre

Made in Peterborough commissions: Michaela Crimmin

Interdisciplinary Events: Emma Ridgway, RSA

Key local and regional creative practitioners:

Open Studio: Sue Shields, Anita Bruce, Blok Collective: Stuart Payn, Keely Mills, Kate Hall
Eastern Angles, NIE

Seek to engage:

Broad range of locally based artistic organisations from professional bodies such as the Key Theatre to community bodies such as choirs, amateur theatre companies, arts teachers and ad hoc and isolated artists and in particular, seeking engagement from ethnically and culturally diverse traditions.

Story of strand development

All co deliverers will document the ideas and developmental processes in multi formats from photographic journals to reports with attention to starting points and the objectives of each strand.

Each of the core strands, Creative Gatherings, residencies and commissions will have a themed seminar and a summary report published on the RSA website that captures both the key learning of the innovative aspects of the strand as well as inviting further relevant

learning from other initiatives and will seek to provide thought leadership as a result. These seminars will contribute towards informing a pamphlet on *Arts in a Time of Austerity* on the role of arts and creativity in building the Big Society and helping public services and places meet the challenges of austerity.

In addition, Arts and Social Change will commission the animation of two selected pamphlets from across the Citizen Power Programme.

Contributing to this output will be the Creative Learning Sounding Board, an advisory group comprised of diverse and practice based specialists – those who have a strong background in applied arts, educational and community practice, with an understanding of the complex and varied sectors that are present within the Citizen Power agenda. This body would visit the work on the ground across the Arts and Social Change programme three times each year and subsequently convene to provide observations, critique and practical solutions. This sounding board would:

- Provide quality assurance (from an understanding of on the ground practice)
- Provide specialist advice and feedback and act as a 'critical friend'
- Link with external networks and similar programmes
- Ambassadorial role for the programme

A key factor in the composition of this Board is an arms length, external voice and therefore, it is essential that members would not be delivering on any aspects or seen as critical stakeholders. This is not a decision making process but an opportunity to consult with peers unrelated to the programme directly. This tier of governance also offers this programme robust credibility.

Timeframe

Key highlights on a month by month basis until July 2012
(Enclosed)