Arts Network Sutton 2023 AGM and Celebration Table Conversation Notes

Mass celebration of cultural diversity and creativity. Mass spectacle about a possible sustainable living in 7 generations from now! No climate crisis – just hope!

Borough based projects, grants, and initiatives for artists with autism.

ANS sponsored live music events – gig and activity.

Focus groups for specific ideas/genres, film, local radio, and industry people. Connecting to industry professional networks = work opportunities.

50 people 1 room – 2 groups opposed – both groups have set lines – they walk toward each other and mingle, aim being to find comfort, agreement, understanding.

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Criticisms:

Developing Your Creative Practice (DYCP) funding etc – lack of coaching previously

Publicity – we’re not known to local creatives

Opportunities:

DYCP coaching for 5 people

Networking – invite a creative friend – non-Member

Membership tiers

Support – sponsor an artist

Young people – people overlooked – over 26 – over 75

ANS showcases – open mic/dance/drama

Fundraising events – consistent.

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ANS:

Too daunting an organisation to start/initiate an idea with – a headline commissioner?

Dedicated single point of contact for information.

Is Membership good enough value? What do you realistically get?

Gateway to other funding.

How do you collaborate with artists?

Regular communication/newsletter. Clear communication to: reach out to non-artists, clubs, friends, resident associations, community groups.

Filmmakers don’t know you exist.

Gains – more embedded in local communities.

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Support/Initiate

Finding out about local opportunities

Get to know local artists and be part of a network

Enabling collaborations

Unexpected collaborations

Goals

Dedicated schools/learning liaison to help create connections and manage relationships

Make it clear to schools that there is an immense pool of local artists who can work with them.

Contact list for Members to be able to reach out to local schools and other organisations.

Working with local museums

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Responding to issues such as mental health in young people

Where else can artists apply for funding, to support practice where, e.g. wellbeing and creativity intersect?

Existing Members promoting ANS to other artists to bring in diversity

Socially engaged/community practice

Bring different networks including schools and education network to ANS

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ANS supports local artists to thrive within the immediate community. The difference it makes, is that it allows artists to continue with their practices <3

More affordable studio space for Sutton artists

Drop-in creative sessions facilitated by artists

Support to be the best they can be – to pass on to other artists

Art as communication and appreciation

Professional identity and worth – realising the true value of ANS

Artist Members update their profiles so those looking for arts engagement – activities – artwork – know where to go.

Database of easily accessible low cost/free art engagement activities

Finding out what our specialist skills are and developing them

Help for artists to know how best to promote themselves

Artists feel valued by their local community and have opportunities to share their knowledge and encourage creativity in the community (if they want to).

Learning to gain confidence in activities such as running workshops by joining/shadowing those more experienced.

Identifying areas where art is in deficit? Schools/young people…

Being paid for what they do – professional rates, as artists and creatives have invested much already in developing their careers.

Links with charities who would benefit from arts input.

Support with using social media to help creatives broaden their reach.

Having mentors available to offer encouragement with things get tough – like a drop-in arts surgery.

Database of organisations that support artists, as well as local.