

# ROOM 1: Nothing about us without us - creating a participatory theatre funding structure

## What actions will you take?

## What golden nuggets will you take away from today?

## What are your training and support needs?

That arts funding is political, not neutral. We have to use all democratic structures to reimagine the system of distributing public funding - in solidarity with the VCS.

Go round not through? Ask the DCMS?

Using the strength or our convictions -

Power to participatory arts!

holding up the Lets Create strategy to our advantage - holding them to account on questions of quality and meaning

Use existing structures (Arts Work Alliance?) to galvanise the participatory sector and to make concrete proposals to funding orgs that work for the whole sector

Research alternative funding models in other places as examples.

Radical reform of arts funding is needed

The Arts Council doesn't have to have monopoly power over public funding for the arts

A demand to end the endlessly transactional nature of the work - invest in artists for community health as a given - the argument is made and the evidence is there

Current funding structure prioritises competition, the transactional etc as motives - and that leaves people who work for change, inclusion and relationships' sake at a disadvantage.

Sometimes you can go around and not through - DCMS?

I will engage in this nationally and talk about it locally

Take the conversation back to Arts Chain who are building a potential trial run of a decentralised funding system that is owned by the sector - share our conversations and Jennie's provocation

need to take control of public funding for participatory arts connects to greater need to take control back over public sector and purse

Funders don't get participatory arts

Solidarity, not Charity!

move away from a one-size fits all model

Look to other sectors for inspiration to non-centralised, sector led funding structures and decision making

learn from examples of exemplary funding practice - in particular highlight that where funding really works, the funders genuinely understand the work and trust organisations

I need regular income !

Feed the conversation into Artswork Alliance network members

Arts WorkAlliance might be the place to start

## ROOM 2 Hybrid/blended working

What golden nuggets will you take away from today?

What actions will you take?

You often work in a more intense way when working face to face, and this is diluted if participants are on Zoom at the same time.

Hybrid working has allowed more of a parity of participation - some have thrived online!

Workshop leaders naturally prioritise in the room participants

There are some people who find the online space safer, however we need to be mindful that outcomes such as 'confidence building' may be diluted when working in an online space

Democracy and equity is more possible in the online space

Embedding a range of in person & online activities into each programme we plan

Working to ensure both face to face and digital participatory engagement is accessible for all!

Project can be blended but workshop practice is limited if you have zoom and room participants

We can embrace the benefits of online working without ignoring the benefits of in person work. Having both is a better offer than only one.

What are your training and support needs?

Theatres have NOT been closed over the last year and the participatory sector has been busier than ever

Providing choice for the individual participant in how they engage is a strength

It might not always be best safeguarding practice to integrate both online and face to face sessions.

Spaces to share best practice and understand learning orgs have gained

Continued Collaborations and connections with wider participatory theatre organisations

We need to utilise alternative media to raise the profile of participatory practice - Twitch, Discord, Tik Tok and move away from trying to engage those mainstream media outlets