

Event: Policy Makers Tour at Glasgow International organised by SCAN, Glasgow International and supported by Glasgow Life.

SCAN is supported by Creative Scotland

Attendees participated in a hosted tour of Glasgow International exhibitions followed by a facilitated workshop to explore what contemporary art offers the city, what our shared strategic aims are and what freedom and resources are needed to develop creative projects. Our hosts were Jan Bert van den Berg (Art Link Edinburgh & Lothians and SCAN Board Member), Claire Barclay (Artist), Jenny Crowe (Platform) and Kate V Robertson (Artist).

Attendees included representatives from; *Scottish Government, Glasgow Life, Creative Scotland Clyde Gateway, City of Glasgow College, Poverty Leadership Panel, Scottish Enterprise, DRS, Voluntary Health Scotland, Architecture and Design Scotland, Event Scotland, Southside Housing Association, Scottish Refugee Council, Community Safety Glasgow, NHS Greater Clyde & Glasgow and Hoskins Architects.*

Headlines from the group workshop

What does contemporary visual art offer society?

- Community and Civic Pride
- Potential
- Challenge and critique
- An enabler
- New surprising and exciting stories to tell
- Reputation, credibility and confidence
- Brings visitors and investment to (the) city
- Connects existing networks and builds capacity
- Connects physical spaces with social connections
- Shines a light on and opens up unexpected spaces and places; often the edges or easy to forget areas of a city
- Free open spaces/galleries and exhibitions to spend time in and experience art and ideas
- Provides a space for experimentation and risk, a recipe for success and a role model for other sectors

- Valuable creative experiences in lots of different settings that can build confidence, improve wellbeing and agency
- Inspirational figures and role models
- An important moment in time – growing audience engagement with contemporary art, Glasgow is a mecca for international artists who can respond to challenges and issues and help explore solutions

What are our shared goals and priorities? i.e. Can art fix our boilers?

- Civic pride
- Fairness
- A city that works for everyone
- A role for everyone in society
- A meaningful, good quality life
- Solutions and new ideas to societal problems
- Us – not us and them
- Citizens unite
- Active, engaged, imaginative, creative communities

What freedoms and resources do you need to work with the artistic community?

- Confidence to understand and articulate the potential of art within our communities
- A knowledge base between the sectors; support each other and across sectors to encourage collaboration
- Sharing knowledge on policy developments and opportunities (preventative spending, attainment etc)
- For (city) agencies to be better connected and collaborative
- Space and support to take risks (and sometimes fail!)
- Less bureaucracy and irrelevant reporting; remove rules and regulations
- Time and space to reflect, think and develop ideas, build connections and confidence
- Connections with and opportunities to meet the right kind of artists, find support/advice for developing art and creative projects (trusted intermediaries)
- Get an artist or curator on your board or steering groups!

Other final comments

There is a clear desire to find out about art and artists and there is a need for the artistic community to (perhaps better) articulate the value and potential of what we do. We need to help others build confidence in working with contemporary art, become our champions and advocates, which will then help fuel new opportunities and collaborations.

Art needs to be embedded within communities in a variety of settings where it is not something that is just for an intellectual elite but where more people are exposed to high quality art and arts experiences.

There is an ongoing need to understand specific societal situations and needs better and there was acknowledgment that art has the potential to infiltrate into other realms and help explore, reflect and advocate for potential or wider concerns.

And this is how art can fix our boilers.

Summary of participant feedback forms

Did you find this afternoon informative?

- Yes, a positive event with people in the room that can make decisions
- Yes, the workshop discussion was informative
- Yes, great art, new geography and good to see it with a mix of people
- Yes, it was great to connect with a wide range of people from a range of sectors but particularly the arts community, who I don't always get to engage with in my day job
- Useful to know Gi is looking to incorporate policy and be introduced to relevant organisations
- Very useful, a good opportunity to interface with other sectors – this needs to be imbedded!
- Enjoyed visiting the venues and the great intros by our 'hosts'
- Yes, super positive
- Yes, Yes, Very, Yes very much, Very informative, Extremely!

What will you take away from this afternoon?

- New conversations and ideas to progress work
- Connecting with non-arts orgs and thinking about how we talk about art clearly

- Initial awareness of a network that I wasn't aware of and possibilities for future collaboration
- That we need to work with others to move away from 'funding' to opening different doors
- The exciting and significant point that the city has to work together across sectors and harness the creativity and experimentation of artists connecting people and place
- Useful contacts, some imaginative thoughts and sense of a developing strategy
- Connectivity!
- New connections
- To engage with the cultural forum for Glasgow
- Art Can Fix Boilers! It can make a greater contribution/help better solve problems than would first appear
- Good networking
- Interesting discussions
- Confidence and inspiration
- That there is a will in the city to support visual arts

Who else would you like to be in touch with?

- Anyone who might be able to offer local communities inspiration and/or greater pride in place
- Other Glasgow Life officers & others within DRS city agencies
- The Cultural Forum, The Cultural Forum
- Arts and Health
- Non-usual suspects
- Anyone interested in place making, cities and creative approaches to improving our communities and places