

CREATIVE POWYS: Powys Arts Forum Response

SOME SPECIFIC ACTION POINTS

Set out below are what seems to be the key actions proposed, together with our own ideas for development.

- **Powys Arts Partnership.**
 - o We would advocate this is made up in equal thirds of:
 - Venues, galleries, companies receiving revenue grants from Powys
 - County Council officers (e.g. Arts Service, Community Department, Glasu)
 - Powys Arts Forum members with specific specialisms
 - o In addition advisors and specialists would attend its meetings for specific items or for general advice.
 - o Its roles might include
 - Development of communities of interest which the Forum could undertake if commissioned
 - Maximise opportunities offered through future development projects to enhance the public realm.
 - Advise on best practice (see below)
 - o Advise on cross-border working
- **Marketing of the Arts/Data Gathering.** We would expect this to be a further development of Arts Engine with additional connections to Info Engine and Powys Arts Forum's own website as well as others. An integration of information-gathering and information output is clearly needed and needs to be developed around IT systems. We recommend this as an area of study and development on a partnership basis.
- **Supporting touring,** outreach, and Night Out seem to belong together. We suggest:
 - o Host venues should be encouraged to develop their own artistic vision and policy
 - o That schemes remain simple to use – Night Out is exemplary in this way, though Community Enablement is not far behind it.
- **Disseminating best practice**
 - o Concessionary ticket schemes developed by bi-lateral discussions within agreed framework

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- o A periodic review of venues, galleries etc. to be designed in a way that is creative and enjoyable rather than bureaucratic. Meeting the public and discussing with them what the vision is, plus being confronted with people's aspirations could be invigorating, not a tedious monitoring chore. Detailed administrative discussions and business approaches should be structured in a supportive way.
 - o Work placement and similar could be progressed bi-laterally within a framework document that potential employers sign up to. Recognition of their willingness to do that could be recognised through a 'charter mark' of some kind.
 - o It would be desirable to adopt similar practices with non-revenue clients. We suggest exploring a voluntary review process that would include a charter mark – similar to the *Investors in People*, perhaps.
 - o Encouragement of high quality crafts and art venues prioritizing exhibition and sales of the work of Powys artists and craftspeople.
"Made in Powys" kitemark? This also implies training of curators etc.
- **Strategic Funding.** We would recommend that funding be found for the following:
 - o Son or Daughter of *Chance to Create* grant scheme needed.
 - o Mentoring scheme needed
 - o Conference
 - o Incubation units needed. Network of them?
 - o Night Out Scheme
 - o Revenue funding the Forum
 - **Tourism.** Developing cultural tourism with partners in the tourism industry would seem to be needed. Work on this could be progressed via the Sustainable Tourism strand of RDP.
 - **Data gathering.** Following the work by Wavehill, gathering and analysing data is needs to be continued.
 - o Can this be undertaken by the Powys Data Observatory?
 - o We seem to be suggesting the arts is a cross-cutting theme. Can this be explored with the thematic partnerships?

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Many of the issues regarding art for Children and Young People are very similar so we haven't made a detailed response to that document. We were also labouring under time restraints. There are, however, a number of specific points we would like to make regarding the ideas outlined in Creative Futures.

- 1 We welcome the attempt to canvas the views of young people but think the data gathered from taster sessions and inevitably unrepresentative sessions should be treated with caution.
- 2 This leads to the need to establish reliable baseline data as a strategic priority so that we can speak with more confidence about what young people want, and be able to start to measure how effective we have been in addressing that.
- 3 We would place particular emphasis on the training of artists to work with young people as outlined in Priority 4.
- 4 The consultation and involvement of young people is extremely important, but care needs to be taken that the methods used ensure response from a diversity of young people. We wouldn't want to place undue emphasis on the views of 13 year olds who enjoy long committee meetings.
- 5 There is such a long journey from pre-school to young professional that it is unlikely that the same system can encompass all. We would like to see some thought given to overlapping systems that provides continuity of provision into adulthood. That might for example mean a Youth Arts Partnership that focuses on education, a Training Partnership that enables acquisition of skills and experience, and a mentoring system allied to work placement that gets them started in life. Each of these should be in touch with each other. *(Regarding the question of a Youth Arts Partnership, I understand that this is now not on the cards. I would, however, urge that consideration is given to making the discussion of the arts a distinct area of the work of the Youth Council, drawing on both those with aspirations but no experience, and also young people who*

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have experience to bring to the discussions. GG)

- 6 Transport is a perennial problem for everything in Powys, but for young people it is even worse as they are dependant on others. While this is identified as an issue by the children themselves (p12) it doesn't seem to be addressed in the document. The problem may be intractable, but that shouldn't prevent us from trying to address it. We suggest that the document recommends a cross-cutting approach from Powys, and maybe something that can be raised with the LSB (through the CYPP) and the Programme Regeneration Board. It is also an issue that the PRP has identified, though not specifically regarding young people.
- 7 We recommend that schools be asked to develop an arts policy, and that part of the requirement would be that they consult at least three artists. This might involve using an agreed database (drawn from PAF members?). We wouldn't want this to be too onerous. Just one afternoon's discussion with head and senior staff and artists plus an action plan would suffice.