

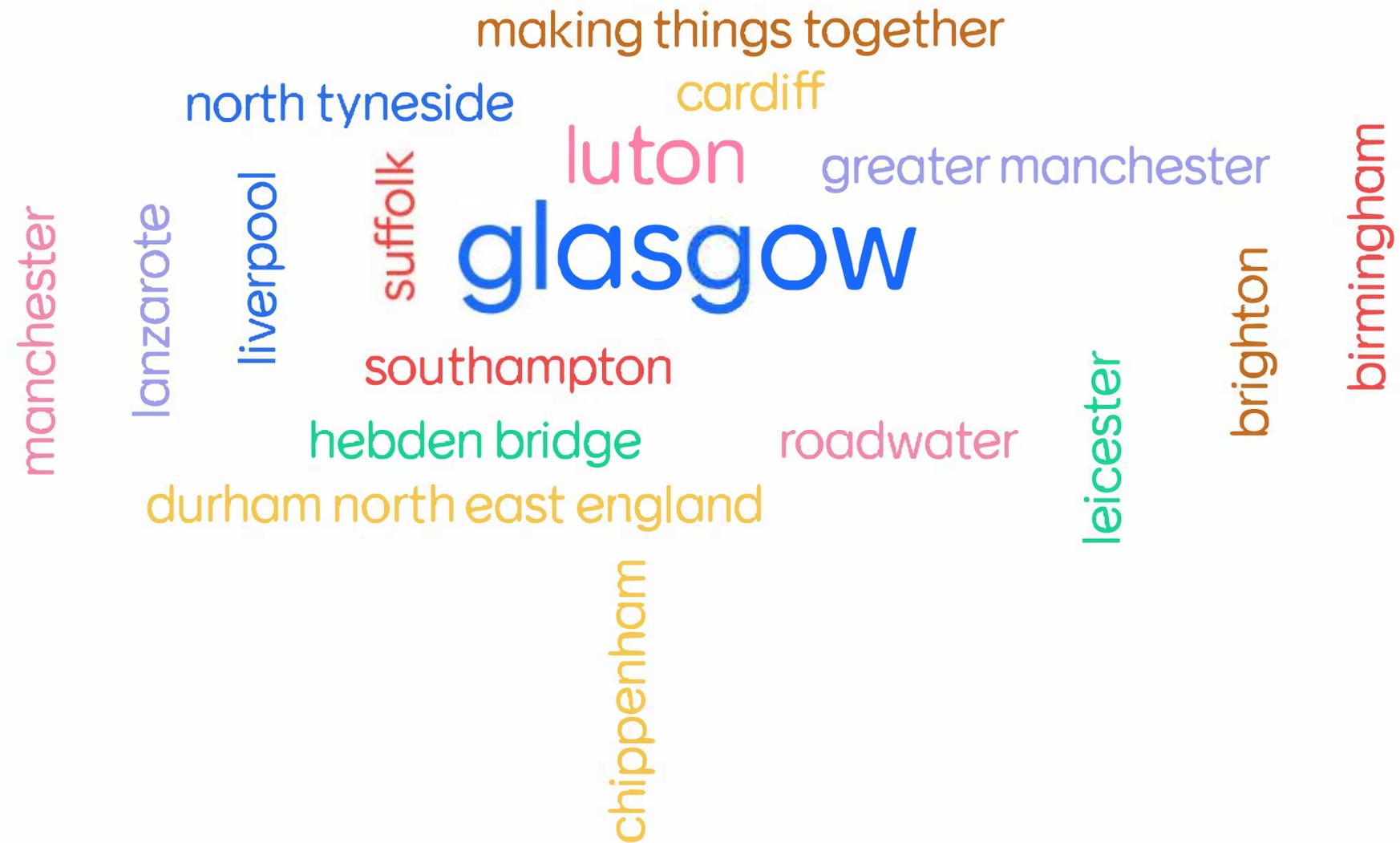
Co-Creation

Is co-creation and sharing power in participatory arts central for fostering meaningful collaboration between artists and communities?

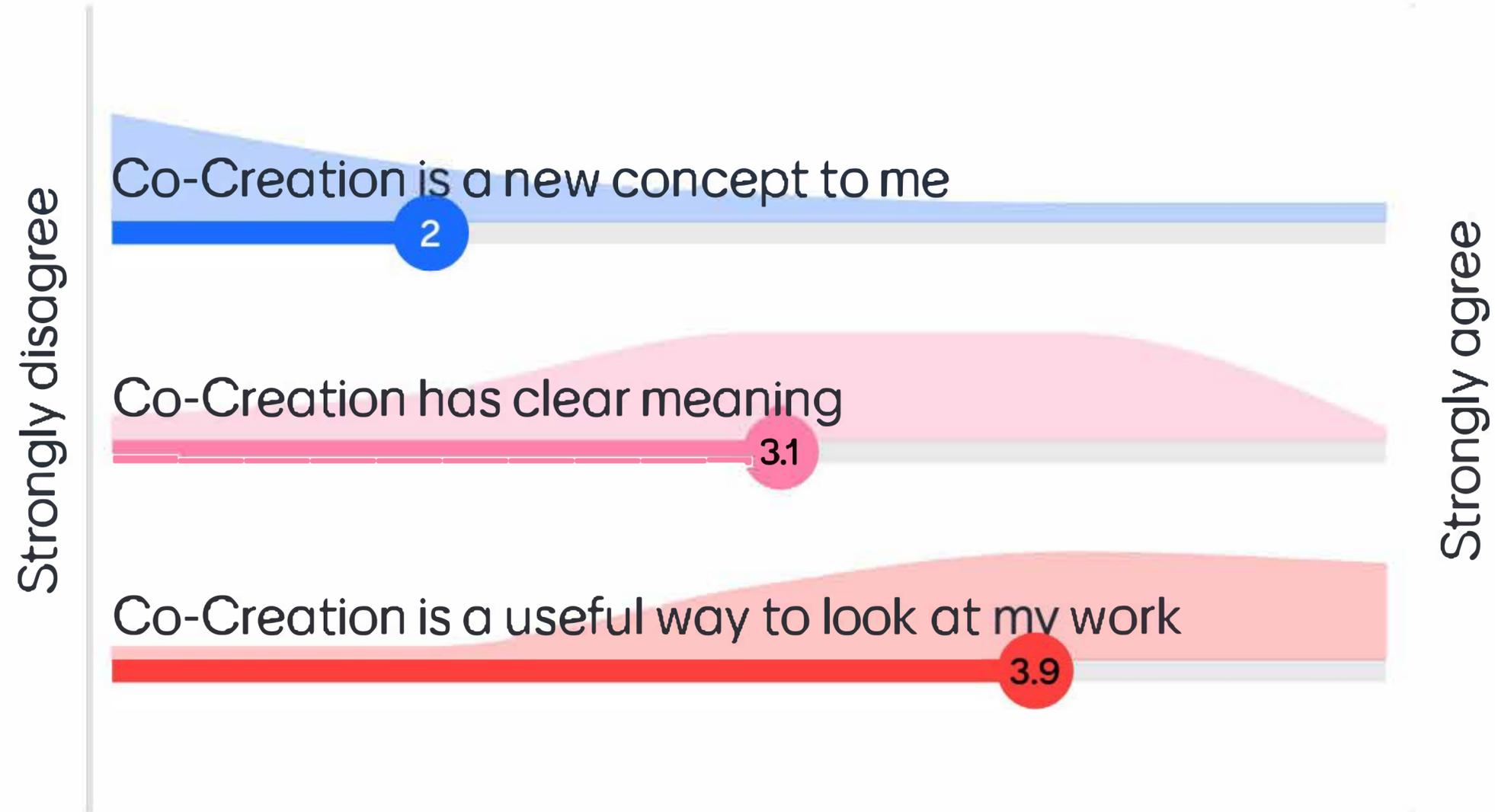


Where are you?

22 responses



Where are we with Co-Creation?



In 2013 Jansen & Peters argued that co-creation is often used as a buzz word. It is an attractive but uncertain innovation strategy.

Several prominent co-creation examples have failed...including Local Motors, Dell Idea Storm and My Starbucks Ideas

– *Wikipedia*

So what does it mean to us?

- Working in groups can you share examples of meaningful collaboration with communities?
- And maybe some examples of meaningless non-collaborations!
- From your own direct experience (or about things you know about)
- What's at the heart of the different examples?
- When is co-creation not co-creation? (Co-production, co-design, co-whatever)
- 20 minutes to discuss—key learning points to share with the whole group



Community involvement

13 responses



Co-creation at all levels

Time and resources. Co-creation needs to be an original idea that comes from the community

What is necessary for the process of co-creation that keeps the process effective as it progresses?

Co-creation is not right for every project, but we have to think about the 'scale' of co-creation that is right for different projects and different types of activities

Volunteer-led based on the expression of a need which is realised and supported by the organisation

Who has the 'invitation' to make a contribution - is this structured around place, local dynamics, what we put in or take out

Real co-creation requires a long-haul mindset, from all levels of an organisation that support co-creation and co-decision making through the entire organisation

True co-creation involves the community (contestable term) originating the idea for the work, in practice it can be hard to achieve due to existing inequality in society, economics and the arts

Often, co-creation doesn't necessarily reflect the sense of community.

Expectations of co-creation are different in different places and across the different countries

Time, resources, trust, involvement, reputation, listening, creating something new. Idea originating from community. Breathing down barriers to participation. Power dynamic.

The meaning of words, to define co-production and collaboration

Can co-creation be elements of a project rather than defining the whole project?



Funding challenges

10 responses



Difficult to access funding without predetermined outcome but that means project is not co created from start.

Time it takes underestimated by funders

Idea and need for a project 'end' that is determined by funding and organisations, and how can co-creation remain processed-led?

Funders have to get up to speed with co-creation and the way it is evaluated

Which funders are responding to the co-creation approach that should be celebrated and recognised as an indication of faith in the process

funders need to get up to speed about what co creation means for projects

Trusted relationships, skills in enabling co-creation as a practice in its own right. How can we use the term when we often have to pre-determine our projects to get funding.

How do we balance the open with the determination of an end point? How do we balance agency, recognition of contributions?

How to plan when you don't know where things will go

Framework/container/parameters are necessary for a starting point



Artistic expression

7 responses



The art form involved in co-creation is a key factor

Professional expertise in holding the space and enabling and empowering. Others bring their lived experience, their creativity.

Do different art forms reflect different processes of co-creation, and how do these change over time?

Planting a seed and letting it grow

Safety – for experimentation to happen, in order for them to be creative and take risks.

Container space that gives safety for people to open up and take risks

It creates something new & that can be an unexpected hybrid



Power dynamics

5 responses



This opens a power dynamic between the participants and the providers

It's about feeding back, its about listening. It's about recognising the different power dynamics

What is the power dynamic between professionals, and participants, paid and unpaid? Are we equal? Is it still co-creation if there are parameters?

Who is using these terms, and how useful it is, in different contexts.

Who creates the parameters?



Skill development

6 responses

How do we build up skills to enable and support people to find their voice?

Concern about labels, the need to define a mutual learning process

Meaningfulness is essential for success

Longevity and time are necessary for building up trust

How far can we stick out neck out as practitioners?

Can we give ourselves the freedom to work towards an aim that allows us to not know what the outcome is going to be?



Resource sharing

5 responses



Awareness of process that depends on sharing of resources and trust that is shared

Resources have to be pooled, all participants should practice being generous.

Hw do we consider/ensure shared ownership of any outputs?

Co creation needs a flattened hierarchy within the group eg. equal pay for all, equity of access, meet everyone where they are etc

Co-creation is not 'one-hat' that fits all



Process and outcomes

2 responses

Don't assume an outcome

How do value judgements get in the way, and how mindful should we be of start-points and endpoints. It's the journey, not the destination





Ungrouped

7 responses



Cocreation as a process :
facilitator(s) and
participants know how
they are paddling a boat
along a river but neither
knows what lies round the
next corner

Keep walking in
development

To be more open minded
about how funders may
respond to go creative
proposals

keep ask questions

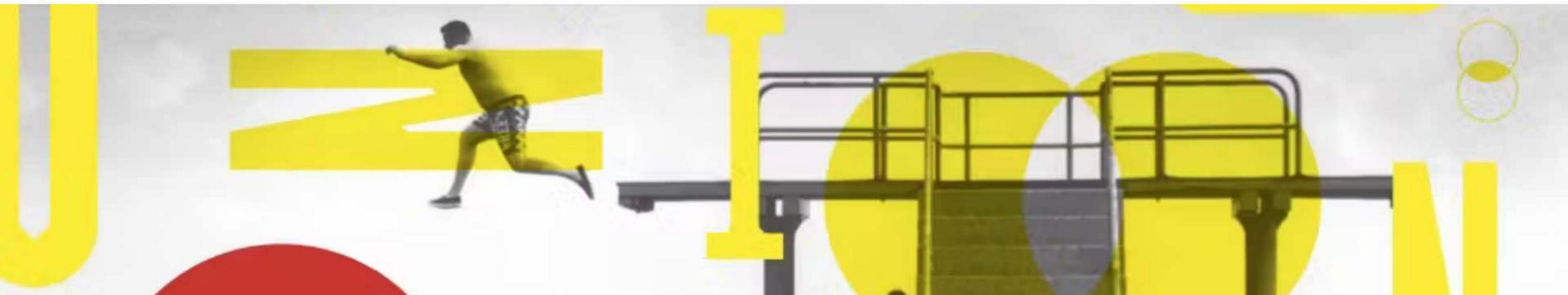
Pushing others forward in
ways that make sense to
them

Pushing others forward in
ways that make sense to
thrm

Constantly work towards
more genuine co-creation
- we're not all the way
there yet!

Can we model Co-Creation?

- Working in groups can you come up with some kind of model of the co-creation process
- Venn diagram, X-Y graph, X-Y-Z graph, wordcloud, poem, ladder of hierarchy, game, recipe, interpretative dance...
- 15 minutes to discuss—share with group
- Drawings,



One size doesn't fit all.

Loads of different strands,
Weaving together
Into a rich tapestry
Of participation.

Try to balance
Appropriate space,
Safe places.

Sustained
Reliable
Trust built.

Support, upskill.
Ever evolving.

Bespoke
Yet time bound constraints.
Tailor made.

Room to move,
Spin-off.
Create.

Accountability
Brutal honesty.

Framework in place with space to -
Change and develop,
to play to make
evolving.

A Recipe for Co-Creation

Nourishes as many people as needed

Gather as many cooks as required.

Do your preparation work beforehand

MIX TOGETHER:

A cupful of willingness

A handful of attention

A large quantity of trust

A bucket-load of respect

A bunch of time

A sprinkle of spice

A jug-full of togetherness

Plenty of Love

Give it a taste test

Season with flexibility as required

Slow cook for a long time until delicious.

Share.

Co-Creating Change Network

Co-creation is a co-operative process in which people with diverse experiences, skills and knowledge come together and work in non-hierarchical ways to address a common issue, and which enables people and communities to be actively involved in shaping the things which impact their lives. It shifts power, resource and ownership towards the people the work is intended to benefit, as opposed to the traditional 'top down' approach. It encourages every individual to activate their creative potential and realise their own ability to make change.

<https://www.cocreatingchange.org.uk>



Principles

1. Time
2. Care
3. Trust
4. Respect
5. Process
6. Risk
7. Reflection
8. Generosity

Time... Care... Trust... Respect... Process... Risk... Reflection... Generosity...

Initiating conversations and creating space for dialogue. Accepting my limitations and exploring our co-creation can lead to expanded horizons.

co-creation travels at the speed of trust, and in a world of little trust, we have to take it steady by demonstrating that there is care and respect baked-in to the process...

We need to manage the risks, but also embrace a sense of adventure, and we can do this by being reflexive and always generous to all the contributions that are made

To explore and understand the resistance to co-creation



Embracing flexibility

13 responses



To be open to leaning and change

Challenge the status quo

Enjoy the twists and turns of the process - worry less!

Build in time for evaluation as you go.

the role depends on the project, flexibility is key, but allied to values/principles

Keep finding the space to evolve and try new things

Use creative methods of evaluation

Letting go

Relinquishing control of outputs

Focus on 'with' and not 'for'

Working to strengths

Being prepared to not know and open that things may change and that is not just 'okay' but a great, useful, important thing

Remember it's a spectrum



Trusting collaboration

8 responses

Trusting myself and others

Involve others as early in process as possible

Keep Co-creation & its values as key part of individual practice and collaborations

Seek solutions
TOGETHER! Don't take it all on.

Empower others to take risks

Enjoy the fact that I love cocreating with people...

My role as a facilitator is to ask a question to build trust, to offer ideas and space to play and explore.

Co-creation is not the ultimate way of working, it's a way of working





Funding considerations

6 responses



To not over promise and to be realistic inside funding constraints

Be more open minded about how funders may view co-creative proposals

Talk to funders about their role on supporting co-creation

Time and commitment

Apply for funding in a speculative way instead of defined outcomes

Don't default to the barriers (there's not enough time, money, people, materials)



Listening and adapting

3 responses

To listen and adapt, to change to be open

Listen more than speak

learn from making the stew, even if it tastes shit first time



Open communication

3 responses

Fearless about communicating when we do and DON'T use co-creation

To ask what people want and need and no impose

Going into a community with an open and listening approach rather than a predetermined outcome. A plant has many roots feeding its central stem. Let the roots influence the bloom





Creating shared space

2 responses

create the space for shared experience

Safe space



Community engagement

2 responses

Ways of embedding / working with other community businesses and providers so that my interventions are even more accessible!

Share case studies and resources that encourage



Inclusive language

1 response

use language that everyone involved in co creation understands



Experimental mindset

1 response

Enjoy experimenting



Ungrouped

1 response

A renewed confidence to be co-creative :-)

Thank you

- Adrian Sinclair
- UNION: The Northern School for Creativity and Activism
- adrian@unionarts.org.uk
- unionarts.org.uk/

