

ARTWORKS ALLIANCE IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE WHAT DO WE DO NOW NETWORK

Embers: Creative Placemaking

How do we work together in communities with others to provoke new ways of doing things?

What is our contribution to the foundations required for places to take work forward in the long-term?

Kathrine Wheeler is a Visual and Social Practice Artist who co-ordinates Partnerships and Project Development for ArtWorks Alliance member organisation, The Stove Network, in Dumfries.

*The first in a series of gatherings for ArtWorks Alliance in 2024 with the theme of **Crossing Boundaries**.*

What does Creative Placemaking mean to you?

7 groups found



Sense of belonging

12 responses

"Sense of community - sense of belonging - oppor..."



Connection through creativity

10 responses

"Nurturing connection between people and place..."



Community empowerment

8 responses

"community empowerment", "Enabling change th..."



Creative exploration

7 responses

"An exploration through a new perspective.", "Cre..."



Collaborative placemaking

6 responses

"Exploring, communities, through artistic practice..."



Identity and wellbeing

3 responses

"fostering a sense of identity. overall wellbeing in p..."



Positive social change

2 responses

"Long term social and physical change with geog..."





Sense of belonging

12 responses

Sense of community - sense of belonging - opportunities to grow and learn with others - feeling of belonging - connections

Community connected by meaningful things

create sense of pride in our community

Pride in the place you live, shared stories and experiences. Fun, colour, playfulness

It can support our sense of connection and belonging

strengthening sense of community and relationship to our area/home/environment

Finding connections, collaborating, reaching out, community conversations, moving together, identifying what is needed, belonging

being sensitive to members of communities whose boundaries are being challenged

A sense of community and belonging. Home/home away from home. Safety, fun, friendly

legacy having to go-to spaces that give you a sense of belonging and bring you joy

Who recognises a place? Who feels at home there?

Longterm commitment



Connection through creativity

10 responses

Nurturing connection between people and place through creative work

Connecting people with each other and their/our environment or neighbourhood through creativity and playfulness

A place of creative comfort

providing a creative platform for the voices in our community

Bringing communities closer through creativity

Creative access for everyone in the community. Creating connections and sparking conversations.

connecting ideas and people

Creativity in the community

Relating to your environment by creative activity

Connection



Community empowerment

8 responses

community empowerment

Amplifying the voice, mood, visions and identity of people in their place

Being an anchor in own community - adaptable to roles needed for other projects/communities

Enabling change that supports the needs of people in a place and uses the power of connection to a sense of belonging to create new ways of being

Bringing energy and visibility to places and people

Activator/adaptor

community confidence and skills learned

bringing together orgs and individuals who might find strength in unity to share their voice where boundary crossing = challenging authorities



Creative exploration

7 responses

An exploration through a new perspective.

I see it as helping carve out a place. For creative practice

Not quite sure thats why i am here 😊

Creative facilitator

accessible spaces for using arts based practice to explore how different people can engage with and be represented in the art world

Is creativity always a good thing?

focus on what we CAN control



Collaborative placemaking

6 responses

Exploring, communities, through artistic practices. Collaborating with others to create something unique about a place

understanding and celebrating community and place through creative intervention

Placemaking is a more problematic work than community

Co-creation with artists, communities, intersectional organisations and individuals to make change, empower and unite in a creative shared experience.

collaboration

Building a place where artists are valued - where communities are inspired and challenged.



Identity and wellbeing

3 responses

fostering a sense of identity. overall wellbeing in place

Promotion of positive Wellbeing, and feeling of being secure and inspired

The ultimate quality of everything and activities in the space where people can obtain life and quality of life



Positive social change

2 responses

Long term social and physical change with geographical communities

Change

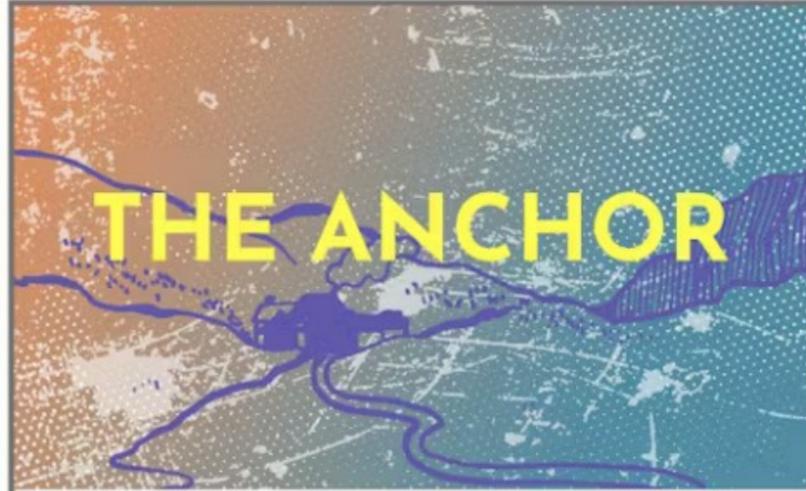
ROLE PLAY CARDS

What do you as an individual bring to Creative Placemaking, what role(s) can you play in this work?



THE ARTIST

Creates spaces, activities, experiences that help us to explore ideas



THE ANCHOR

Roots the work within a place and community



THE ADVOCATE

Tells the story and champions the long-term legacy of the work

THE AGENT/ACTIVATOR

Brings teams together to get things going



THE ACCOMPANIST

Holds space for others, supporting work to happen



THE ADAPTOR

Builds connections and translates ideas between groups



THE ACTIVIST

Provokes us to think about and see things differently



What do you as an individual bring to Creative Placemaking, what role(s) can you play in this work?

✦ 9 groups found

Role shifting >
 8 responses
 "Switching between diff..."

Connection fa... >
 7 responses
 "Listening, facilitating, n..."

Community sp... >
 6 responses
 "space for the communi..."

Creative appro... >
 4 responses
 "Connecting ideas and ..."

New responses

Power dynamics >
 2 responses
 "Attend to the power dy..."

Mentorship >
 2 responses
 "What I'm moving towar..."

Advocacy >
 1 response
 "Bringing people toget..."

Valuing contrib... >
 1 response
 "Valuer - overtly valuing..."

New responses >
 Uncategorized
 2 responses
 "My background in folkl..."



6 1 33
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What do you as an individual bring to Creative Placemaking, what role(s) can you play in this work?

33 of 52 responded • 33 responses

- All groups
- Role shifting
- Connection facilitation
- Community space
- Creative approaches
- Power dynamics
- Mentorship
- Valuing contributions
- Advocacy
- Uncategorized

Role shifting 8 responses

- Switching between different role's depending on what is needed
- Recognising the need to shift or change for own mental health
- I shift between all those roles like a tightrope walker according to what is happening
- I wear many interchangeable roles in this work - we also discussed the importance of leaving space for community members to bring valuable contributions to these roles
- Activator/adaptor - roles are often blurred and changing
- Many of the roles - really helpful way to articulate what role I might play in a given project, also for the group to balance needed roles with the desires of each
- Enable a safe space. Swing between the roles as needed. Being the person in the middle. Visiting communities. Sitting quietly.
- Letting things happen - or continue - things that were already happening. A gentle push for more.

Connection facilitation 7 responses

- Listening, facilitating, negotiation, championing
- connecting ideas and people
- Communicator and organisation
- listener and connector of ideas
- listener, conversation maker
- Conversation starter
- finding allies with shared beliefs

Community space 6 responses

- space for the community to use
- Space holder for co-design and collaboration - behind the scenes helping things happen
- Holding space and steering
- The rules can vary depending on the project and available resources
- Connect to collections & archives
- The ignorer of the community politics!

Creative approaches 4 responses

- Connecting ideas and people
- Activator- to create conversation and create spaces for these conversations to be had
- cut across several - connector, creative, hold space and advocate
- Sun visor or hard hat
- Artist- to have creative approaches to talking about potentially difficult topics/experiences

Power dynamics 2 responses

- Attend to the power dynamics.
- An observer of the dynamics and behaviours.

Mentorship 2 responses

- What I'm moving towards is the mentor and advocate and supporter for others to recognise their skills and talents to do more of these roles so I can step away from some of them !
- Advisor Participant

Valuing contributions 1 response

- Valuer - overtly valuing people's contributions and perspectives and stories

Advocacy 1 response

- Bringing people together and championing the work of others

Uncategorized 2 responses

- My background in folklore studies gives me some interesting ways to get into meaning making processes around place making.
- People who run the venue you're delivering in - usually very helpful!

What does *boundary crossing* intro new or unknown areas of work require from us, or others?

🌟 10 groups found



Setting bound...
9 responses
"Boundaries with the c..."

Accountability
8 responses
"Being accountable", "A..."

Patience
7 responses
"Patience", "patience a..."

Empathy
6 responses
"Empathy", "Emotional ..."

Active listening
4 responses
"Actively listen", "Listeni..."

Openness
3 responses
"Being open to change"...

Communication
2 responses
"Having tricky convers..."

Bravery
3 responses
"Having courage", "Bra..."

Sustainability
3 responses
"Sustainability of work ..."

New responses
Uncategorized
3 responses
"Being fun", "Inspiration"...

What does *boundary crossing* into new or unknown areas of work require from us, or others?

25 of 52 responded • 48 responses

- All groups
- Setting boundaries
- Accountability
- Patience
- Empathy
- Active listening
- Openness
- Bravery
- Sustainability
- Communication
- Uncategorized

Setting boundaries 9 responses

Boundaries with the community of what we can deliver and not letting them down

Holding neutral space

Clear statements of way we work and what we need

Understanding different rules

Challenging assumptions

Creating a new neutral & safe space

Not stepping on toes - being aware of what others can already do

NOT being neutral! Being assertive!

Being clear with the community from outset about what can be done with resources and funds available

Accountability 8 responses

Being accountable

Absolute reliability

Honest about failures

Valuing what we do

When we view our work through something lens of service and serving the community, we'll be better able to deliver work that benefits them

Changing the public narrative

Keeping our own wellbeing as staff when expectations are so high

What is being asked is sometimes vague and outcomes unknown - so you are asking for trust.

Openness 3 responses

Being open to change

Don't make assumptions, be open and willing to learn. You don't know everything

Embracing uncertainty

Bravery 3 responses

Having courage

Bravery and curiosity

BE BRAVE

Sustainability 3 responses

Sustainability of work and longevity of people working these roles

Sustainability of projects when people are in need

Plans need to be in place to ensure sustainability in terms of ongoing resources and personal capacity.

Patience 7 responses

Patience

patience and perseverance

A lot of Time and patience - "at the pace of trust"

Communication, patience, resilience, perseverance and clarity

New relationships/ new ways of working takes time

Keep showing up <3

Going together. Go slow go together. go fast - go alone!

Empathy 6 responses

Empathy

Emotional energy

Making the imaginative leap to understand how others might see us, and what needs and pressures they face

A complex, interconnected approach that requires a wide set of varied skills including vulnerability, active listening, patience, setting boundaries, challenging assumptions, being brave and resilient

Trying to be all things to everyone is so hard

Francois put it beautifully. It's my job to understand other people not theirs to understand me. I'm keeping that.

Active listening 4 responses

Actively listen

Listening

Listening well is a real imaginative skill, and we often think we're better at it than we are

Listening, openness, a sense check that the community we want to work with WANT to work with us...is there preparatory work to be done first? Co-create, not doing to...

Communication 2 responses

Having tricky conversations

Learning from previous work

Uncategorized 3 responses

Being fun

Inspiration

Self awareness

What does Creative Placemaking mean to you now?

24 responses

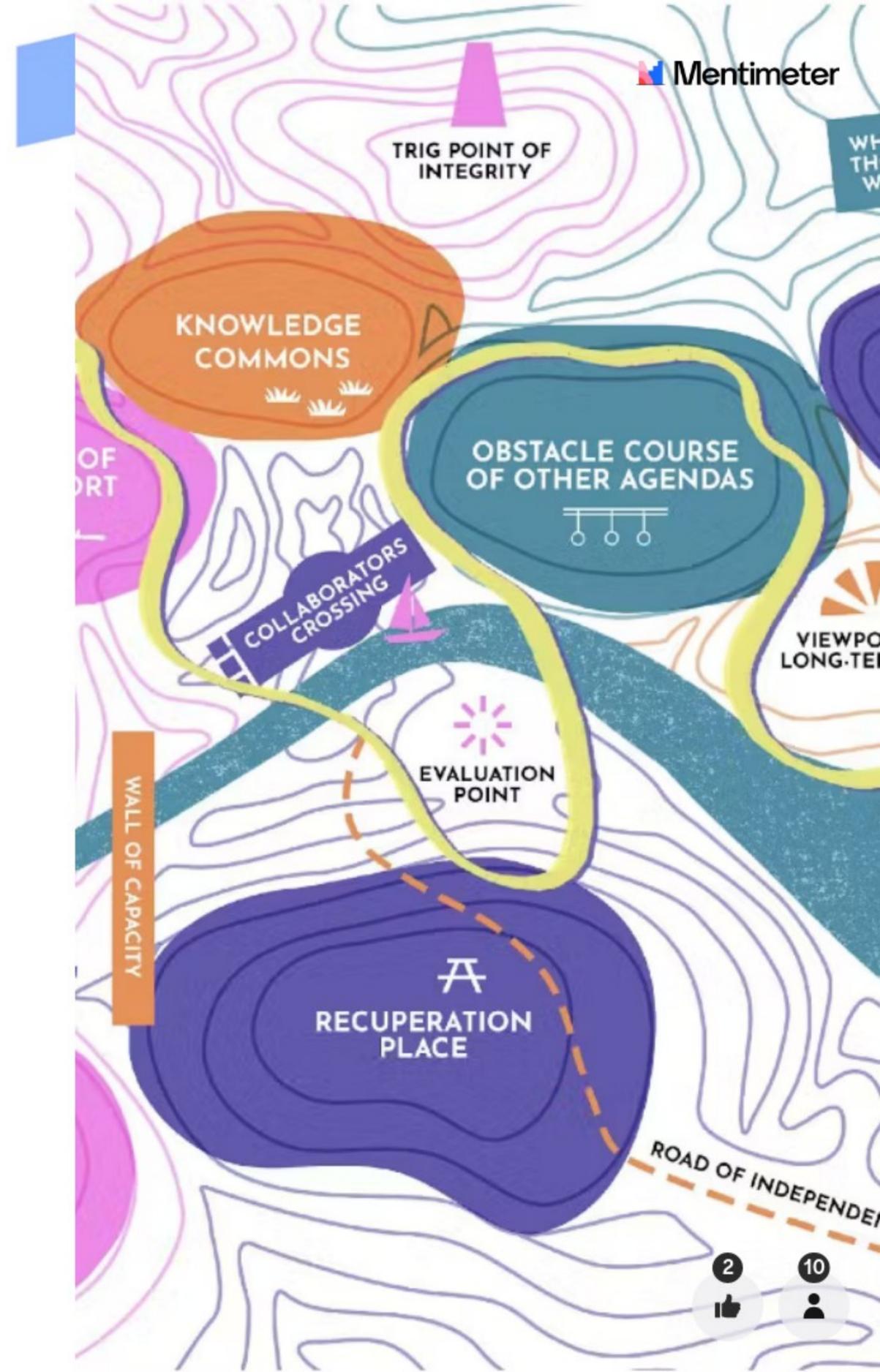
be the world you want
a way forwards
collaboration
improvisation
connectivity
care
openness
common ground
self awareness
a translocal connection

values

approaches

crossing boundaries
leaving space for others
mutual support
trust
work hopefully
longterm commitment
find allies around value
home

continuity



Some links...

- Katharine Wheeler – <http://www.katharinewheeler.com/>
- The Stove – <http://www.thestove.org/>
- What We Do Now creative placemaking network – <https://www.katharinewheeler.com/publications>
- The Embers Handbook – <https://www.katharinewheeler.com/publications>
- A Creative Placemaking Approach - <https://whatwedonow.scot/blog/a-creative-placemaking-approach/>
- Creative Placemaking: The Stove as an adaptor, Anthony Schrag - <https://whatwedonow.scot/placemaking/creative-placemaking-the-stove-as-adaptor/>
- Creative Placemaking and how it is being implemented in the South of Scotland—[link here](#)
- Field Journal: Exploring the Boundary-Crossing Nature of 'Creative Placemaking': The Stove as 'Adaptor/Converter'—[link here](#)
- The Stove and the town centre - <https://thestove.org/the-stove-and-the-town-centre/>
- The Midsteeple Quarter - www.midsteeplequarter.org