



Co-Creating Change: What we're doing next (Feb 2019 onwards)

Plans and ideas growing out of the first meeting of the Co-Creating Change network on 13th September 2018, and a discussion with the Co-Creating Change Core Group in December 2018. See also [Where we're at right now](#).

What is Co-Creating Change funded to do over the coming three years, and how will we go about doing these things?

Co-Creating Change is funded to deliver the following activity over the next three years, as listed in the [user guide](#):

- To host workshops with, by and for network members to share skills and knowledge in co-created practice
- To support the development of new or existing co-created methodologies with a pot of commissioning money
- To support a number of co-created methodologies to “tour” nationally and/or internationally with multiple partners, with a pot of commissioning money
- To host local, national and international marketplaces of co-created practice to grow opportunities for “touring” and sharing co-created methodologies
- To advocate for better understanding, appreciation and support for co-created practice, especially in the arts sector but also beyond

We are still shaping how some of these elements of Co-Creating Change will be delivered, and both the Core Group and the wider network's feed-in to the development of these plans will be key. The following approaches to this activity have grown out of the network meeting in September 2018 and the Core Group meeting in December 2018:

Redistributing power

You can see the structure that sits behind the Co-Creating Change network in the [user guide](#). We aim to work with as much honesty and transparency as possible to enable members to lead areas of work, pitch new ideas and challenge our direction of travel. We will strive to ensure that the way the network operates reflects the principle of our co-created practice and encourage distribution of leadership.

Sharing practice

Network members will find opportunities to share our processes and the details of how we work with each other. We will find creative, practical, unusual, digital, intimate and face-to-face ways of trying to open up and give others access to the entire multi-layered process of creation which sits behind our work.

These sharing opportunities will encourage learning from each other, will help us to better articulate how we do things, and will help us to continue to reflect, question, and think critically about our work. These opportunities will also help us to be honest in our failures, fears and anxieties.

As well as in-person sharing, there will be opportunities for sharing not only best practice and showcasing brilliant models on the dedicated Co-Creating Change website (launching in March 2019), but also for publishing blogs and having conversations about all the learning that comes out of our work, including things that have gone wrong, that we've found challenging, or that we'd do differently next time.

Money is available for ideas for other ways of sharing and disseminating practice within the network – speak to Liz (lizm@bac.org.uk) if you have ideas.

Ideas that have been suggested so far include:

- A third-party archivist (could this be of the role of the Co-Creating Change project evaluator?) who travels the country, visiting examples of brilliant practice and helping to record and format it in a consistent, shareable way – and/or providing a template and guidelines for practitioners to record and format what they are doing themselves.
- Making sure that a section of every network meeting is dedicated to talking in person about some of the practice that network members have been sharing online.
- A secondment programme in which network members can visit and work with other network members whose methodologies particularly interest them, to get an in-depth understanding of what they do.

Showcasing methodologies

We will develop an infrastructure for better sharing, commissioning, showcasing and distributing our methodologies across the country.

We will explore how we can better codify and share our practices and methods so others can adopt and adapt them. We will do this whilst ensuring the ethos, insight, spirit and experience which underpin our different kinds of work aren't lost in the process.

We recognise that sharing insight and learning openly and freely can sit alongside sustainable models which ensure we are credited and financially recompensed for our work and intellectual property.

Co-Creating Change is funded to deliver marketplace events for showcasing and distributing co-created methodologies. We are currently exploring the best ways to do this! Suggestions we have had so far include a mixture of both local and regional events which work towards a bigger national and international event.

For example:

- 2019–2020: small, on-the-road touring marketplace, addressing different needs in different places it visits
- 2021: a national tour of a scaled-up marketplace, appealing to international delegates



Developing and growing methodologies

We will launch the first Co-Creating Change commissioning round in spring 2019. Further details on the planned process will be shared with the network very soon for feedback before we go live. Plans so far have been developed with the invaluable assistance of Co-Creating Change network members [Feast](#), who commission and fund community- and artist-led projects in Cornwall, as well as with the Co-Creating Change Core Group.

We will make sure that applications are open and accessible not only to established practitioners and organisations, but also to community partners who might lead an application process, and to practitioners who may not have worked in this territory before but are keen to explore co-created practice.

We will take particular care to ensure that successful commissions have a wide geographic spread across the UK, and that the same applies to the people making the decisions about which projects receive funding.

Evaluation

We will harness the creativity that informs so much of our work in order to evaluate that work in clear, useful, and interesting ways. An evaluative approach will be embedded into the work we do, rather than feeling like a dry add-on task. We will listen to feedback and adapt what we do as we go along, as well as evaluating projects after they are over, and find ways to document and learn from these moments of ongoing micro-evaluation.

We will ensure that the people we are co-creating work with are also able to embed reflection and evaluation into the process of their work with us – so that the learning sits with everyone involved in the co-creation process, and not just the artist or cultural organisation.

Advocacy and making our work visible

In order to 'mainstream' this way of working, we will aim to increase awareness and understanding of co-created practice within the arts and cultural sector, within other sectors with common social purposes, with funders and policy makers, and, most importantly, with the general public who we co-create with. One of the key ways we will do this through getting better at telling stories of transformation. We will use simple language which is widely understood.