

HOPEFUL FUTURES PROGRAMME - TEXT ONLY VERSION

SATURDAY 28th SEPTEMBER:

From 12pm, GYM HALL: Set-up - bring your posters and enjoy a cup of tea or coffee

From 1pm - Welcome

1.30pm Panel Discussion - 'Making Change: Local Activism'

- Daniel Cullen, Skye - writer, actor, director and journalist. Daniel will be joined by Steven McKinnon for a performance from the play The Chariot the Flag and the Empty Empty Houses currently on tour across Scotland
- Raghnaid Sandilands, Farr - local activist, artist and map-maker
- Amy Clarkson, Applecross - Woodland Development Officer, Applecross Community Company
- Artemis Pana, Raasay - National Coordinator, Scottish Rural Action
- chaired by Mairi McFadyen

From 2.30pm, WORKSHOP SPACE:

- Learn how to make a zine with Cat Meighan and the HIGHLAND ZINE BOTHY
- Alice Prentice from ISLE OF RISO will be live printing our 'Hopeful Highlands Hack,' designed by Maddie Lennon
- Bind your own copy on the MAKING PUBLICS PRESS with Katharine Barrington from ATLAS Arts
- KIDICAL MASS NORTH smoothie bike

4pm Panel Discussion - 'Cultivating Community: what's in our power?'

- Mari Todd, Black Isle - Community coastal rowing
- Max Crawford-Cumming and Zander Millar Todd - Highland Board Brain, Inverness Skate Park
- Fairlie Kirkpatrick Baird - Feminist Bird Club, Inverness chapter
- Jon Dixon, Inverness - Incredible Edible and Holm Grown Garden
- Robin Wolessy, Skye - ATLAS Arts, alternative economies in Skye and Lochalsh
- chaired by Kirsten Body, Circus Artspace

From 6pm - ASSEMBLY HALL: Harvest Meal & Music

- Local food prepared by chef, land and food activist **Col Gordon, Invergordon**
- Performances from Fèis Rois Ceilidh Trail with Anndra Cumming, Anja MacLennan, Emma Racionzer, Lucy Robertson & Kitty Sykes
- DJ Meiggidh Fraser

SUNDAY 29th September

11am Solidarity Economy: Offers and Needs Market in the GYM HALL

A solidarity economy is all about coming together, sharing what we have, and creating a community that thrives on collaboration, fairness, and sustainability. It's less about profit and competition and more about supporting each other and the planet. Think fair trade, gift circles, time-banking, and local co-ops - amazing ways to exchange, create, and uplift our communities. In this session, we'll start building our own mini solidarity economy by sharing what we can offer and what we need. Let's get creative and see what we can grow together!

With **Mairi McFadyen** and **Rachel Skene**.

1pm - Soup lunch and farewell

Further Information

The day's events will begin around 1pm, but we welcome anyone who has a poster or flyer to share on our information wall to come along anytime from 12pm to set up, enjoy a cup of tea or coffee, and meet friends old and new. We are not able to provide lunch on Saturday, but there are plenty of lovely cafés nearby, including Velocity just next door.

You are, of course, welcome to dip in and out; we don't expect you to be there for the whole day - unless you want to!

Bursaries: A reminder that travel bursaries are available. We are keen to make this event as accessible as possible, so if you need help with travel, we can offer a number of small travel bursaries, no questions asked. Email Kirsten at hello@circus.scot.

Parking: Parking is limited at Inverness Creative Academy. Three disabled parking spaces are available outside the building off Midmills Road for visitors who require them. Nearby parking is available at [Crown Church](#), [The Raining Stairs](#) (although these are limited in terms of time) and [The Eastgate Centre](#). Inverness Creative Academy is within walking distance of Inverness Train Station and Inverness Bus Station, so we encourage you to take public transport where possible.

HIGHLAND Solidarity Economy: Offers and Needs Market

Why aren't we more open about what we can offer and what we need from one another? It's funny when you think about it - modern markets can ship us something from the other side of the world with a single click (at a massive environmental cost), yet we often don't even know what amazing resources exist in our own communities.

An Offers and Needs Market is a fun and easy way to tap into the hidden wealth of a group or movement. It's about discovering and sharing the knowledge, skills, and resources we all have, shifting the focus from what's lacking to what's abundant. These offers and needs become the building blocks of connection and collaboration.

We invite you to think about what you can OFFER others - whether for money or through an exchange. Your offers can be personal, professional, for an organisation or group. For example:

- **engaging around an interest/passion** - growing, fermenting, language, music, walking, maps...
- **abilities, services and skills** - craft, mending, photography, design, teaching, building...
- **specialist knowledge** - how to use technology, academic knowledge, advice on running social enterprise, forestry, ecology...
- **awareness around specific communities, cultures, religions, or spiritual/belief-systems** - awareness of LGBTQ+ issues, experience of working with refugees...
- **physical resources** - tools, audio-visual equipment, van, cinema screen, print-making
- **personal/professional connections** - connections with artists, graphic designers, film-makers, builders, growers, people with land...

We also invite you to reflect on your NEEDS. Think broadly - this might include, for example:

- knowledge and skills you are keen to learn

- connections you need to get a community project off the ground
- mentorship, creative collaboration or support
- practical skills like carpentry or design
- access to shared tools or spaces

The goal is to identify both tangible and intangible resources that can be exchanged, helping us collectively build a resilient, interconnected local Highland economy based on mutual care and support.

We hope that you see the value in Offers and Needs markets in your own local communities.