

Cultural Equity Forum

Notes from the session on Monday 27th February, 4-5pm

Susuana Amoah welcomed everyone and introduced the session. The premise of these session is for one or two people to present a project they are working on currently, to open up discussion and explore some of the relevant themes.

Participants can present and discuss upcoming/work-in-progress projects aimed at improving cultural equity in the contemporary visual arts sector. As well as helping you develop your work, the forum aims to enable everyone taking part to be aware of new initiatives, ideas, and directions developing within the contemporary visual arts sector.

Oliver Sumner, Manager, CVAN South East, shared a link to the new [Fair & Equitable Toolkits](#) produced by CVAN nationally. These toolkits are intended to act as a stimulus to encourage the development of further work toward a fairer, more equitable sector. Three of the toolkits are for organisations; the fourth is for artists and arts workers.

This first session of the forum included a contribution from **Dee Haughney**, Head of Learning & Participation at De La Warr Pavilion in East Sussex. Dee introduced their [Creative Development Network](#) with seven local primary schools, which aims to develop new approaches to equality, diversity and anti-racist practice through creativity.



Visit to De La Warr Pavilion from All Saints School



Christina Peake and Reem Acason

The project was funded by Artsworld and ran from September 2022 – February 2023 in association with an exhibition at De La Warr Pavilion by the artist [Zineb Sedira](#).

Schools received payment from Artsworld to enable them to participate. The project was led by Christina Peake and Reem Acason. Across the seven schools, 20 teachers took part

alongside 350 Students from Years 4-6. The virtue of the network was that the schools were able to share resources and develop their approach together.

The themes covered during the project were:

- Environment and Identity
- Narrative and Storytelling
- Temporal Spaces (Past and Present)
- The Empathetic Imaginary

After the project the schools were required to submit a plan of the steps they would take going forward.

Dee reflected that she would like to have been able to extend the Creative Development Network to with more cultural partners as well as schools.

Dee took a number of questions after the presentation, which opened out into a discussion. These included:

- How do you establish your objectives at the point of developing an application for funding support.
- How do you benchmark and make the case for what you want to change, and how you will do it?

It helps if you can point to a track-record of previous work. De La Warr Pavilion conducted their own evaluation of the project. Teachers talked of how they noticed students were now talking about topics raised in the project, in a way they hadn't previously.

In the course of the project, De La Warr Pavilion decided to present an exhibition in the north stairwell of teacher and student's work that had been produced. It was hoped that this would cement the connection with student's families.

The project sat in the context of De La Warr Pavilion's ongoing drive towards being an anti-racist organisation and decolonizing its programme, including by diversifying its board of trustees or though the diversity of its exhibitions.



Boat creation as part of Art School Days