

Conversation for Change Transcript

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Hello and welcome. You're listening to a conversation for change with we can make and onion collective. As part of Knowle West Media Center's come together project, exploring how we can connect your mix of digital and physical or hybrid spaces. I'm Martha King, Arts Programme Manager at Knowle West Media Centre. Thrilled to be here today on this sunny autumn day hosting a conversation between we can make in Bristol and the onion collective in watch it. Would you like to say hi, and introduce yourselves from watch it first. Hello, hi. Yeah, so I'm Jess, and one of the directors of uninflexed. There are five of us. And I'm joined by Georgie who's another lie another one of us. And we're coming to you from a pod, a small pod on the top of our new building. So that's quite exciting. And we've just been chatting about this cargo now that was installed yesterday. So we're pleased about our space slightly bouncy. That's amazing. So you're sitting on a net suspended in one of your pods. Wow. And I'm here in Bristol with Melissa.

1:09

Yeah. Hi, I'm Melissa. And I'm the director of we can make, which is our citizen led housing initiative. And we're in our little recording studio at Knowle West Media Centre, which has got a lovely, calm, hushed feeling around it.

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Nice. And We Can Make and Onion Collective are both amazing examples of initiatives or organisations who are making the seemingly impossible possible. Can you just tell us a bit about what you're working on right now and what you've recently been making happen?

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Wow, we are six weeks into the opening of our brand new... So it's galleries and 11 artist studios and accommodation pods and education space, and restaurant and courtyard and Papermill and geology workshop and essentially a whole village of creativity and things to do and visit and see in kind of really extraordinary contemporary architecture that is a base of pink concrete, got a pink building, and then on top all of these kinds of crazy buildings like this pod, and two of which are on stilts. So it's just kind of bubbly bubbly mixture of creativity and architecture and thinking and democracy and community and culture and all the good things.

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Amazing, like I came to visit a couple of weeks ago, and I was absolutely blown away by how amazing it is. So everybody should go and visit for sure. And Melissa, would you let's say that that we can make

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Yeah, so we can make is all around unlocking microsites for community led affordable homes. And I've actually just come from being on site today with one of our first homes that's being built. So I was watching. So we're using modern methods of construction, which

kind of digital fabrication and design tools. And so we've got these kind of wooden timber sets that fit together a bit like Lego. So I was there with Tony, or one of our first future residents live on site, watching the wall cassettes that she made in our factory being assembled and put up. And a lovely moment, which actually had the doorframe for her door and stepped through into her house for the very first time. It was like oh, this is like proper magic. So it was very, very, very nice. And that's kind of like you know, that little microsite we kind of talk about it in terms of kind of like being like urban acupuncture. So it kind of pinprick of that little house, that little Microsoft and that home for Tony and her daughter, Amanda here. But then you start you know, what's the other kind of like bits of value that start kind of like, emerging from that. So you know, creating local jobs and building social infrastructure from that and connecting people which is that's the kind of like the exciting thing that we're trying to deal with, we can make that it's not just, you know, delivering units, is about kind of creating homes and kind of trying to create that really engaged and thriving neighbourhood but starting with microsites and see what else we can kind of create from that

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understanding as an ecosystem. Yeah. It's interesting, isn't it? Because we, we've been talking a lot recently about this building like Stephen, people come, all these journalists turn up want to talk to us about the building, or that's what we think they want to talk to us about. And then as soon as they get here, even though it's crazy building very, very quickly, it turns into a conversation about all the other stuff and like all the other stuff that happens because of the building. And the building is good and fun. And it seems like the big thing, but actually it's like the things that are possible as a consequence of the building. But that matter, really, they don't tell the architects that.

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I mean, totally Yeah, like Yeah, we can make as a housing project. But really, that's just actually just the beginning of something. So absolutely all the wider relationships, kind of unlocks and builds from it is that's where the magic is. It's

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like the buildings are just the physical manifestations of all of the other conversations that you've had, and all of the benefits and all that activity inside. So it's it's that when that's where the magic is, and then the buildings hold it.

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Can you say a little bit more about that? That magic, like in terms of your sort of approaches to making change in a way that's really community led, and how you work with communities?

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We were talking about this the other day, as well. So there's magic that happens in conversation. So I've, my current favourite thing is that community is really just conversation. And it's different conversations that happens in different ways, whether that's on the doorstep, or whether it's out in the street, or the pub, or in the supermarket, or in a room where you're having an organised conversation. But when you can bounce ideas off

each other, it sparks ideas, and that and then the magic happens, and then it energises people. So when people have been feeling like, oh, world is burning, I can't do anything about it. I don't know what to do. You need to be in a conversation with people who are saying, well, what about this? And then then the energy goes, go, go go and everyone gets excited. And then it's like, oh, actually, we can do that. Because if we are oh, so and so's power tool, and we use the materials that are over there, and we got Elena together who's really good at that. And then before you know it, you've got you've got whole projects. And that's sort of how he came about really. In lockdown.

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I think we struggled as an organisation to continue to do and be connected to people. And we knew that was partly because we weren't able to do you know, big meeting or events with these things. But actually, it was also just the like, stop and chat conversations like it was the people we bumped into crossing the railway bridge, or whose dorky pets. And were in those little conversations. People say, Well, what's going on? easkey? Oh, I heard this. Is it true. And because all of that disappeared, and then stand at the bar disappeared? You know, we lost all of this connection, didn't we? And it was quite difficult during lockdown here is not more fear, more anxiety, people got worried again about what was happening. Really not because yeah, we didn't do posh formal workshop, but because we weren't just stopping and chatting. So that in lots of ways, that's all communities, isn't it? It's like the stopping chain. But to all these people, you would never really, they're not your friends in any meaningful sense. They're not going to come to your wedding, but you stop and chat to them. And that's the sort of web of it, or I think

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we sometimes talk about kind of deep hanging out, you know, is hanging out at the chicken shop and the tattoo parlour and the hairdressers and the community. It's all of those kind of, you know, that's where the kind of the ideas kind of kind of bubble up from, isn't it? Yeah, I think, you know, when we're trying to be just beginning with we can make that conversation is really important. So we actually, you know, okay, we want to do housing differently. How do we do that? And so we actually did it as a chat show. So ideas across the world and then hosted by to local residents, you know, almost interview the ideas. And then we used a game of snog, marry and avoid to test those ideas. So you know, get grab labour ideas from Singapore or Amsterdam housing there, and then all right, would we try out and Knowle West though, definitely would not smoke that idea. But I'd definitely avoid that other one.

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And that's a really good point as well about fun that we learned early on, if only councils got a grip of this. But the reason why nobody comes to the poster that says have you is because it just it's so boring, like everyone wants to go to a quiz show that's not very avoid that sounds brilliant. I want to come. And it's just that sense of fun. And it's just it's the same thing about different perspectives and different voices. It's fun, you get the different voices. If it's not fun, you get retired, bored, middle aged white people, because

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they think they've always should be

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what they used to them with your head. It's normal. It's like well, of course you want to hear my voice because my voice is. So it's so if you want to turn that on its head and hear the voices that you don't normally hear. You've got to give people a reason to want to come to the thing and it's fun and it's food and it's warm. Welcome. That's that's what brings people

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and you mentioned there about the some of the struggles around staying connected through lockdown. Do you feel that there are any that digital tools can play a role in increasing participation? And I don't know if maybe Melissa would say about that we can make how you kind of managed or juggled some of that balancing between finding or finding ways still to connect maybe through different ways.

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Or yeah, I mean, we felt There's really sharply like on the eve of lockdown, we were just about to start a new project called making together. Because I think, you know, part of things being fun and kind of participation being meaningful, it's about kind of making stuff together, isn't it? So, you know, we had a project, actually called Making together, like trying to put digital construction tools and enhance for community members. And we had a really great crew of local people recruited, and we're ready to go. And literally, the day of lockdown was our first workshop that we were meant to be in the factory playing with all these tools. So we had to kind of pivot really rapidly, like a lot of people did during lockdown and think about how are we going to do this differently? And how do we still get these tools out into people's hands. So you know, that was very much kind of making sure we could get kitted out to people. And working out, I see one of the things working out what buildings near people's homes, people would go and get free Wi Fi for if they kind of sat outside it or outside our buildings to do it could definitely be sharp, and getting kind of a mix of digital tools in terms of computers, design app, but then also some physical tools as well. We made some like, you know, little models and kind of jigsaw pieces and Lego pieces that could get out kits to people. And I think then it became, we had kind of like, you know, a regular weekly check in. And that became really kind of powerful space for everyone. It became that kind of social support as much as designing something together. It had that kind of Yeah, you know, became kind of crew became family. And that was really important. So I think digital tools can help help do that, but need to have a mix of other real things as well. Or else I do feel a little bit

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abstract. Yeah, I mean, I think there's a couple of things we did here that I mean, it's actually thinking about totally outside of onion, but I happen to be the chair, because I'm one of those who gets involved in everything, can't say no, but I happen to be the chair of my daughter's swimming club like amateur swimming club. And when lockdown happened, we started doing club night was always Friday night, like everyone goes Friday night to the pool, it's quite a big deal, keeps them all feeling like a team. And we've replaced that with a zoom call with absurd games, actually always with absurd games, and ran it every Friday through the hole every time we got locked down. And actually, I thought it was a bit of a pointless waste of time to begin with. But it became really, really clear that it was quite integral to some of the not just to the friendships, like which was important. But the sense of kind of,

we're still all in it together, even though we're all not able to see each other. And for some of the kids like their mental health, it was really important. And when it didn't happen, or we couldn't get the internet working a couple of times I missed one because I was at a funeral. It was really bad. And this foot you know, this is 1011 12 year old kids who even just that simple act of having a couple of hours that they knew what happened on Friday with they could connect with these people who otherwise they didn't see but who really mattered was quite important. And then I think on you what we did, the most important thing we did digitally during lockdown with small imaginations, wasn't it, I was thinking that so we did this well, in fact, Phoebe is going to come and do a sessions and she will have done a session where the point is goes out this process of imagining a better future, which was a really intense week long workshop of basically asking people from all corners of corners of our community, like how they felt about economics, through the process of kind of meditation and imagination, and then creative writing, all of which sounds like the last thing you would ever do on Zoom. That was kind of brilliant. Because it wasn't zoom, I'm not even sure it would have worked.

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Interesting because we were really anxious before, like no one would come literally the idea of talking about economics and meditation in the same space like work. And most people that turned up didn't know what to expect, either. In lots of people. There's a guy, John, who's like, an old does manage fence, and there's an old union worker, and he was like, I'm coming because you asked me to but is it for kids? Do you want me to help set up like, what do you want in front of me? And I'm like, I just wanted to play John. So John, what that means either, but all right. Total classmates. And it was, well, when you meet Phoebe, you'll understand that is absolutely and it sounds really glib, but it was transformational during this thing where you allow meditation or storytelling or whatever it is to take you through a portal and you become different from the way that you think of yourself. So we were either ancestors, or we were future generations or we were animals or plants or the sky or things like that. And then And then we talked about the world from that perspective. And it was totally wonderful. But what happened so the four days was incredible and loved and we cried. And it was beautiful. And all this creativity was created. So we did collective writing, you do this journey, and then we'd all right on a Google sheet together, and then read out, like, wow. And then afterwards, there was a core group of people that had been particularly affected that were expressing real anxiety and grief about the idea of stopping. Because they've been so isolated before and during them and so deeply connected during this workshop, that the idea of not having that support network anymore was really actually quite frightening. So we agreed that we could continue this is March 2020. And that core group of people are now I would say, best friends. So they been meeting on Zoom, every week, as days and the time sometimes shift is people's lives have changed. But they now meet physically and one of the, one of the people with Agra phobic. And she particularly was interesting, because she said during lockdown her church, she got her life to live, her life started. Because suddenly everyone was online, you didn't have to leave your house. And she was able to organise all these online events and the kind of the best version of herself. So she particularly was like, I need this to continue because I can't, I can't leave my house, and I can't and what I'm really scared. But now, and obviously something with a credit, a lot other stuffs happened in her life. But she now comes to his key as long as she can see her car, that's her thing. As long as she's got an eyeline of her car, she can sit and have a coffee

with all of us. And it's so nice. And like her journey a lot. A lot of them have talking about this process of imagination actually being healing. Like, it's, it's a place where because you because it's playful, and anything's possible. And it's a kind of safe space of non judgement. You can talk about your memories, and you can talk about your hopes, and you can be a dragon. And it's fine and fun. And, and somehow that that's deeply healing in a way that none of us expected. We thought you were talking about economics, but it turns out, economics is just land, and it's just assumed in life, and its livelihoods, and lifestyles and in every single part of our life is connected to economics. So as being worried about people not wanting to talk about economics, we couldn't, could not shut them up. It was amazing. Like,

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lots of it was on I think that the fact that it was digital really helped, right? Because it gave me a sense in which you were like you didn't if a female in a room, we'd have been like, Okay, now pretend to be a great oak tree. That's how you feel like that's really Yeah, it's kind of like an idiot, right. But somehow, because we were behind the screen, there was this sort of barrier that just made it a bit safer. Like you didn't feel quite so embarrassed as you would do otherwise, this sort of gave a little bit of separation that somehow enabled people to be a bit freer, which I didn't expect

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at all, because also you could turn the video off. So it was so we had a young person, and they turn them turnover do of at some point. And then well with somebody else's, they have Tourette's and ADHD. So light heart really struggled with the kind of everybody else's emotion particularly. But then a few hours later came back and said, I'm really sorry for not being able to participate. But I've written a poem responding to what we just did. And I didn't want to read it out. But Can my friend reach out and we will never had anything like it was the most extraordinary powerful, raw moving piece of

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writing. And like that alpha digital.

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Yeah, I think a little bit of that kind of spirit with our making together because because we have our kind of core kind of cohort of local people coming together each week over four months. And having these bizarre tasks being said, you know, talking about things like you know, what works in the neighbourhood, what's missing from the neighbourhood, and then having some practical kind of tasks using kind of Lego bits or the design app to try out things you know, it's a kind of safe place to fail like some people really love the digital tools some people really love the really fiddly paper cardboard boxes we sent out to everyone but you know you were there present for you know, an hour at a time with other people and with your buddy but then you could also go away and do on your own terms as well and have a bit more time to it or think about it or do it how you kind of wanted to you know, John, one of the guys you know, he just like use the principles to make an entire huge garden set. And another woman did that new inspired her to completely remake the whole of her kind of decking. Outside of work, you know, so you can come online each week, and then suddenly, you know, not just a little design task completed to kind of like that what we were trying to learn about that week. But suddenly, all these other kinds of projects has come by, you

know, come off again. And, you know, people enlisting other members of their family, because they didn't like the fiddly bits of the app. So they get their daughter to come and do that instead for them. So all these other little kind of networks and kind of changes happen, because you had this thread going through through because you knew you're gonna come back each week and share what you've done through this thing. And I think then the kind of like the magic, after we've done that thing for four months, you know, being online, most of you have not met before physically, in real life at all. And then that magical moment, when we were actually on site, the first time with the design for a new pavilion that we designed together to actually build it. And that magical moment you go meeting in real life, which Yes, yes, lovely. Yeah, yeah, something very special, I think, going through that experience of being digital, and making all those mistakes, and whatever else and forming those new relation relationships in that other space, and then bringing that all so in real life. Yeah, definitely richer,

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definitely richer. It's so

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interesting to hear how you both been talking about actually the real value of kind of mixing or moving between online spaces and in real spaces? And how you kind of transition from those. And, and also, maybe the, it almost sounds a little bit like what you're both saying that maybe there's a level of freedom that people can find in the digital maybe or it's also interesting to think about how we create those spaces of care. Like you said that actually it can feel like really intense, intimate online, and then what's the after? How do you stay? How do we really think about that whole journey and stay stay connected in that in between? And how do you transition people or so into the in real life? And moving between those, it's really kind of throws up? Lots of interesting questions, I think, do you feel like this mix of using a way of connecting between digital and in real life feels like a good way? Do you feel it has a future? Do you feel like it can help more inclusive participation?

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Yeah, I think so. I mean, certainly, I think that we were able to reach people came from imagination sessions, that definitely would not have come to a physical thing, partly because they could just click a button and see what it was like and leave if they wanted to. And they can leave at any minute without anyone noticing, actually. So there's that freedom there.

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There's also simple physicality isn't there? I mean, let go about a quarter of the people in this town have got some form of mobility issue that limits their capabilities. So you know, that's, that's a huge number of people who wouldn't who aren't able or wouldn't necessarily be able to simply can't get from even just three streets away easily to somewhere. So, like that, I think that does really make a difference. But also, I do think, I think there is this real question around one of the artists actually on the on the, on the, in this project, Martha was talking about the kind of introvert extrovert engagement and how, actually maybe digital spaces and enable different kinds of people to be part of something, you know, easkey is amazing place, but it's policy and full of people. And there's music, and there's things going on, and there's always something, you know, we're quite conscious of that, like, maybe we

need to start having quiet mornings, we're actually there isn't loads of music in the cafe. And we will really control who goes in the gallery because some people really don't want that environment. Like, I think it's great because I'm an extrovert, right, I get all my energy from doing loads of crazy stuff. But that's terrifying, actually, hard work and terrifying for people who aren't like that. And that's half the population, even without even getting into the kind of non neurotypical questions or, you know, so think, think the possibility for enabling access to spaces which feels safer or less scary or a routine isn't for a much wider spectrum of people than we would traditionally have kind of tried to cater for is really

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important. Well, it also allows the conversation to be global. So the artists that was with us on our moral imaginations journey was in Mexico City. And she was gently making drawings as people were having a conversation every now and again. She'd say, I made a drawing draw to see it and we'd all go Yeah, we wouldn't have had her particular beauty if, if it was online, never been able to come. So there's a kind of geographic geographic and an emotional connection that you get online. That's, that's lovely and new, I think Have, you don't realise until we have something like a lockdown or you're forced,

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I think this is a challenge, ongoing challenge, though, isn't it to make it and sure, it still feels like a common experience, you can create those spaces online or in real life, but to make the kind of the role that somebody can feel that they can kind of step into that space and kind of, you know, perform or participate. I think the sense of, you know, equity is really kind of at the heart of that, that people feel they have got the kind of the tools and the means to do that, we kind of use a kind of phrase quite a lot about being kind of low floor, high ceiling. So making spaces or tools really easy to step in or pick up and start using, but then putting no limit on how sophisticated or what you might do with those kinds of tools. And I think there's, there's quite an art in holding that space. So it still feels like the same space. So it's not fragmenting off that, you know, some people that might still really struggling with the basics of zoom, you know, we're still holding those drop in sessions now with kind of community members to go through the basics of that. But then other people were doing really elaborate kind of stuff with, you know, using this stuff to really design and make things and do all sorts of things from music or film or coding. It's like, how do you still feel that like, it feels like a same space or common space, and building the bridges and holding that in a way that feels still kind of like a kind of common endeavour. And I think I'm really aware of how you, you know, as we're coming out of this kind of, you know, locked down kind of time, how you how you create those equitable spaces. Do you think it's a

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short term problem, though, I mean, it strikes me that we're all being all excited about this now semi virtual existence that we've got, but like, my kids, don't think this is interesting. They live half their life online. Like they basically interact online all the time, half of my nine year old friends are via Roblox until it's shut down, and then the whole world collapse, but like, they're already living this totally integrated virtual offer on offline existence that we can't imagine. Because we didn't Well, I certainly didn't quite grow up with that. But I wonder whether, you know, a generation or two from now, all these sort of how do we make

it work and feel like it's okay, questions will have just kind of, they'll be different ones. Right? There'll be new equity problems, or Yeah,

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I think there might be more his, you know, where we are, if you think about kind of community tech and infrastructure, it always feels like, you know, there's a lot of stuff that we're kind of like, you know, racing to kind of keep up where industry and commercial is, you know, the tools that we got our hands and nowhere near what kind of like, you know, the commercial sector has, so we're always going to be kind of chasing to kind of catch up, and then then we've got to redistribute those tools within our communities as well, you know, to kind of pull that kind of, you know, into community hands. So I think it's always going to be this challenge, there's always going to be this kind of evolving wave of more and more kind of automation, and VR and everything else that. So I think there's always going to be this, this kind of bridging kind of space that we're going to, you know,

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it was, I think maybe funny is the wrong word. But interesting when my daughter had COVID, and the NHS phone line called up to ask her who she'd been in contact with and trace them. So she listed out all the friends that she'd seen since X date, and then they were like, Wait, can I contact details, please. And she's like, I don't know, I just talked to him on Snapchat. She had that she has no concept of what her friend's phone numbers are. It's just old infrastructure.

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But organisation has list to list out a whole lot of people, it's just new from Minecraft. COVID.

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But I think bridges is a really interesting and important part of this in our kind of methodology for reaching out is understanding who the bridges are between the different groups of people. And so we have a tool that I don't know whether we've talked about called understory where, which is a mapping tool. So one of our kind of primary understandings of how you build community strengths. And better democracy is to is to properly understand who your community are and where they are and what they're doing and what they're working towards. And so this tool is about understanding who is connected to who, who's doing what, who works with who, it really, really helped us having that map when COVID hits, because we could see immediately, who needed to call the food bank who needed to who was dealing with shopping, who could who could organise the community car, it just in an instant, you've got that kind of information. But it's and then the job of any community organiser is to build and nurture and keep it keep it going.

My daughter had COVAX, the NHS phone line pooled up to ask her who she'd been in contact with and trace them. So she listed out all the friends that she'd seen since X days, and then there were like an eye contact case and she's like, I dunno, I just talk to them on Snapchat.

She has little she has no concept of what her friend's phone numbers are. It's just.

Yeah, all infrastructure.

India. But I thought you would essentially suddenly start a whole lot of people. It's just new for Minecraft.

So I don't know why.

And one of the thing that Bridges is a really interesting and important part and all kind of methodology for reaching out is understanding what the bridges are between the different groups of people. And so we have a tool and we run the story, which is a mapping tool.

So one of our kind of primary understandings of how you build community strength and democracy is to properly understand who your community are and where they are, what they're doing and what they're working towards. And so this tool is about understanding who is connected to who, who's doing what and who works with who.

It really, really helps us having that match when COVID hit, because we can see immediately who needed to go through that. You needed to know who was dealing with them and who could organize a community, call it just in an instant.

You got that kind of information. But it's and then the job of any community organizer is to build and nurture and keep it keep it going. But also what is also interesting is it just tells you how kind of sites and how power is distributed.

Because obviously, as we all know, networking is see like the people, you know, a really integral part of what your agency is like, how much power you have. And so you get a sense of what a community looks like and how well distributed that power is like, how spread out is.

And in some places that we've done it like so much power, so much connection is going through one person or two people that those people are just really overly influencing the makeup of a whole community and or at risk.

So like if anything happens to those people, the whole community kind of collapses in on itself because nothing's wiping everything together. So this is really interesting questions about kind of distribution of power, the networks and the connections and how they all fit together, but then also enable you to ask more interesting questions about your community and make

it a bit more resilient and challenge some of those things that otherwise you wouldn't even what he said. I see the unofficial picture of us.

Yeah, I think it's really it's a powerful thing, isn't it, to have a visual kind of representation of the constellation of community power networks we can recognize.

But it's tangible, isn't it?

Yeah, but making that tangible and visible is very powerful. Know we had a similar, you know, in, in the West we've got Northwest Alliance, which is the network of all the community organizations and residents. And in that COVID response from that network was amazing.

You know, people adapted and turned into the, you know, the the medicine drop off network or the food distribution network or set up a food clothing bank. So we just we see clothing just highlighted how much of clothing poverty came out of kind of COVID.

And so how the network of Northwest Alliance is how to flex and change was quite incredible. And I think that's why we kind of recognized the power of neighborhoods and the power of place was kind of almost rediscovered through COVID, wasn't it?

And it was community was neighbors who were able to adapt really quickly and redeploy and and rethink things. Hugely, hugely powerful.

And much more quickly than, you know, either the market, which was which is usually quite disconnected or the state which is most connected. But in fact, closing communities were quicker, better and faster, more efficient and more compassionate about adapting.

So I don't think it moves back to our earlier kind of conversation about kind of participation and being inclusive and the idea of power. Like it definitely needs to be fun to be like make sure that people want to participate in it.

But it also like you need to also redistribute power. There has to be an impact. You know, if if it's just if there's no redistribution of power, then it's pretty empty. Any participation in anything. So to make it meaningful and worth anyone being involved and it's got to kind of create an impact and change things, hasn't it

, how things.

Complement it, so I'm not looking but self-organized. So I would say so. The fun brings people in. The mapping tells you you need to be talking to, but it only becomes powerful and interesting as if whatever it is that you're doing is self-organized and not led by one organization.

So the understand, the way to get there is understanding people's passions and what they really, really care about. And and that's again, going back to where this magic happened. It happens when people talk about their own personal passions and loves and feelings and then that that spark the same with someone else.

And then they'll say, we should do that. We should get together and do that thing. And and then if an organization like us can help support that thing going on, then you've got and you start to get some power.

In easy flows, isn't it? It's kind of mapping and kind of like, you know, shaping energy flows and.

Understanding how the energy and get people to realize this is possible. And we had this meeting with Zoom meetings. Some of that is showing us looks like to students yesterday and we had this long conversation about like changing the world and the end of capitalism and all these things and then ended up with it ended up with

the revolution will be small scale and distributed. We students are very revolutionary but is true. That is.

Yeah. My new my favorite phrase. It's not my phrase, but I do love it, which is, you know, the next big thing will be lots of small things.

Yeah.

It's not totally there for that revolution.

And I love how actually people is at the heart of all of this and people's differences and people's individual needs and also the importance of the connectors as well and the people that labor and that resource and and kind of tailoring and listening and kind of doing that connecting work and that actually what it sounds like from

the way both of you talk is that, yeah, digital can be useful, but it's just another tool. It's like one of the tools that you can use when it's appropriate and when it's most useful to a specific group of people.

That might even be people who didn't think that that was the tool they wanted or would would like to join a Zoom meeting, etc.. But it's this that it sounds it's really interesting hearing you around that kind of attentiveness to people and community and how a tool can help.

A digital tool can help us map that. It can help us give us another way to connect differently. But it just feels like, yeah, maybe it's just sometimes there's all that narrative, like digital is like going to save us, and if we all enter the metaverse, everything will be better, different, but feels very much the way you're

talking is actually the tech itself. Doesn't need to be crazy revolutionary like you said you will going together in a google doc with like useful at one point. It's like, how creative can you be in a way? Maybe with what you've got.

It's just really another way of connecting we to everything we do really is having that we obviously we talk about attachment economics, but it's really just about these connections, isn't it, to people and to place and through time.

And this offers ways of doing that that didn't make this previously or brings in more people, but it's just this craft of connecting it as all is really well.

I think maybe that's a good place to kind of wrap up there and say thank you so much, all for really interesting conversation and I'm definitely going to take away community first and make your own rules. And maybe I don't know if you each want to say like a closing something that's really resonating with you or.

Maybe.

Melissa. Yeah. Then you go back to that favorite phrase more. You know, the next next big thing is going to be lots of small things. And I'm really excited about all the small things that are connected through through some of these digital tools and all the other small things that we're going.

Yeah, and I think for me mean, I think, I think the thing that was really important for us so it comes to me is what was talking about the beginning. These like things that happen in the spaces in between that like is that the community that happens in between all these things that we do these projects, but

really is everything else around them that happens as a consequence of those projects. That's really where that's where all the magic is really. Yeah. Yeah. And I'm going to pick up on this thing about. Well, I knowing each other and talking to each other more and building the movement, you feel the momentum, the perspective that what we

are doing is the normal. This is how the world should be. And we know that because of notes and because of course, in Liverpool and because of all of these different new guys. So yeah, we just have to shift our perspective to.

This is the this is the way.

The better future is already here.

Many things make it together. Yeah. Brilliant. Thank you so much.