

## **The Citizens for Culture Panel convenes for the first time**

The inaugural Citizens for Culture Panel meeting set out to turn the Citizens' Cultural Plan for the West of England into action.

The panel, made up of 16 members of the West of England Citizens' Assembly for Culture, will meet every two months for three years to help support delivery of the plan. It will work alongside organisations in the cultural sector and local authorities.

The first meeting, held in Bristol in July, examined evidence from 20 regional roadshows with the cultural sector to identify initial focus areas for the panel and to agree how the panel will work over the next three years.

Insights collected from the roadshows have been used to create a Share/Grow/Build Matrix, a structured way of turning what people said during the cultural roadshows into evidence the panel can use.

In the matrix, each piece of evidence is linked to a theme and one of the 13 priorities in the Citizens' Cultural Plan. It also categorises each piece of evidence as a strength to share, something that needs to grow or a new idea or resource to build. The aim of the matrix is to help panel members see what partners and stakeholders across the region are saying, identify recurring themes and consider where action may be needed to deliver on the plan.

Members selected six priorities to focus on in the coming 12 months. They are:

- **Creating shared creative resource hubs**
- **Making access needs clear and ensuring cultural spaces and activities are open physically, financially, and emotionally**
- **Creating a local and regional cultural directory**
- **Providing shared, affordable access to creative spaces, equipment, and resources**
- **Making cultural funding open, fair, and transparent**
- **Making funding fairer for smaller and underrepresented groups.**

The panel also discussed ways of working with the data, including taking a place-based approach when working with the priorities, as well as ways of working and communicating as a team.