

# FUTURES | on the needs of emerging theatre-makers in the Highlands

## Event Notes

These event notes are in accompaniment of the FUTURES Report 2023, written by Laura Walker on behalf of Vivid Roots Collective.

You can read the full report here: [www.vividrootscollective.co.uk/futures](http://www.vividrootscollective.co.uk/futures)



## Tell us about...

Enjoyed hearing artists live

Thank you for an inspiring day x

Where the industry currently feels isolating, building connections is a radical action

Change needs to be instigated from the top down (value the arts at gov/funding levels)

Bring the belt here next time / Trav + Tron + NTS + others / Shoot 4 the stars!

## What's next? ...

More opps for emerging artists in the Highlands pls

Small but similar events

Big change in the industry from top down, Highland should be a beacon of this

Education about arts funding

## ACTIVITY 1: Your FUTURES > Group FUTURES

■ Spider diagram (most connect): Theatre > charity / venues / rural communities / transportation / education, primary and secondary / touring / artists, theatre makers / school leavers and HE / funding

■ **Open / enriching / creative** Open to all who wish to pursue a role, inclusive / open to diverse audience members in different situations / ability to showcase issues in positive thought-provoking ways / pushing boundaries, blue sky thinking

■ Future of Highland theatre: **Vibrant / accessible / diverse / supporting new talent / innovative / open-for-all / developing new talent / reflects culture and customs / providing employment / all age, all ability**

■ Highland area theatre future > intergenerational / variety stakeholders / acting / mobile / all abilities front house behind scenes / multicultural / accessible / music / historical, modern

■ Touring / money / connection / collaboration

■ Future of theatre in the Highlands & Islands > well connected / innovative & entrepreneurial . Commercial and income generating / fundable

■ Independent / collaborative / high-quality / responsive / supportive / challenging / joyful / accessible to makers and audience / place-based / fleet of foot

■ Community coming together; especially yp in small local areas / more opportunities for drama in smaller schools / workshops to give everyone the opportunity to enjoy theatre

■ Accommodation for work / cultural interconnectivity / cultural self-reliance



- Connect more artists with venues / support the creation of more theatre companies + commercial venues aiming to support new (local) work / research how marketing differs in the Highlands and how we can encourage more audience members / outreach further north, more rural areas to provide more theatre opportunities, engagement, through drama / create theatre ABOUT the Highlands WITH people in the Highlands
- **Group:** bridge the geographical divide, less centred on location, 'I'm a Scottish artist' / connectivity to combat the isolation - in spite of the funding climate / sustainable - climate and future proofing the sector / responsive to political and social landscape
- **Group:** fix touring in Scotland, central belt can bring shows up here / standard of marketing for smaller rural productions / people who don't usually see theatre need to be involved in marketing / more or continue outreach to rural communities / more opportunities for production roles / having the opportunity to focus on a specialist subject rather than being a 'jack of all trades' (if you want), more commercial production funding
- **Group:** open and accessible (audiences to watch process) / innovative / sustainability / reflects culture and customs / intergenerational / geographically challenging - mobility - transportation / education

## ACTIVITY 2: Where are we now / barriers to our futures

- Barriers: perception and changing mindsets / separated - social, wellbeing, health is theatre does not stand on its own, supports wellbeing of the individual and community, society. / Structure of the industry including demographic and geography, reliant on freelancers / Lack of advocacy inc economic arguments and changing policies / Now: stereotyping the industry / not enough affordable safe spaces for creating / geographical divide / **advocacy - structure - perception**
- Barriers: we don't know / can't find / can't get what's out there / we don't know how to fund out what's coming up / expensive / short-term contracts / Infrastructure isn't supportive - Highlands isn't one-size-fits-all / needs flexible approaches / **need to explore new unconventional vies to challenge the status quo / interconnectivity**
- Barriers: Lack of connectivity / things in isolation / no platform for sharing knowledge, experiences / lack of funding, divisive understanding of 'value' / Covid impact on cultural confidence / unpaid opportunities / responding to cost of living crisis / accessibility and infrastructure

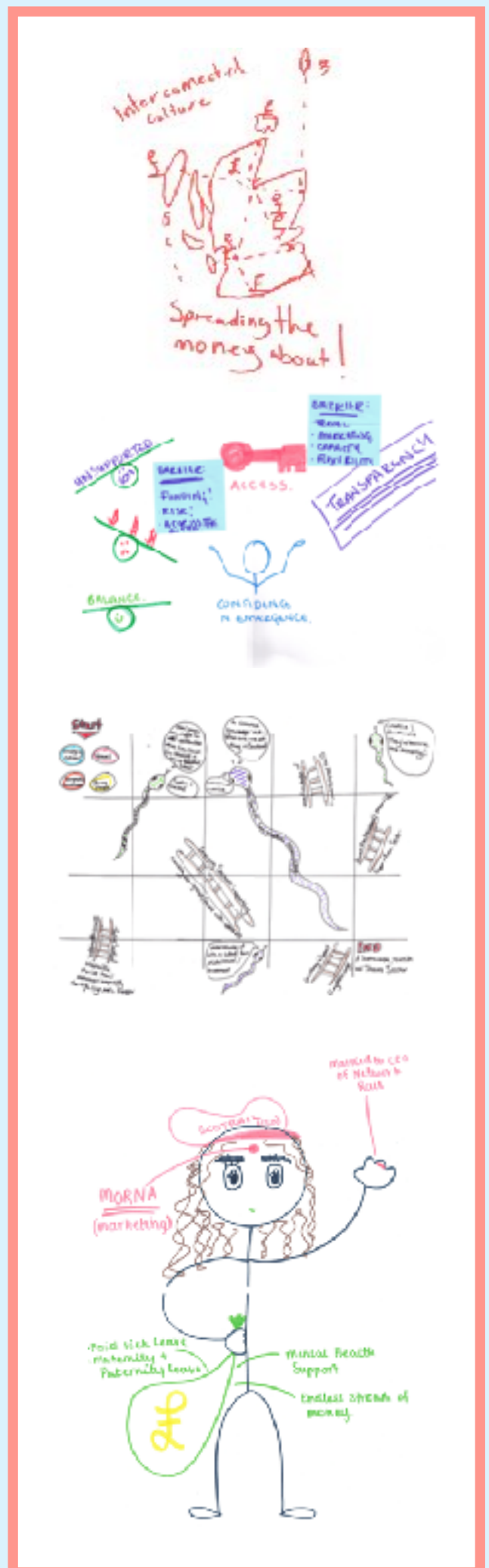




- Barriers: lack of funding and investment / lack of leisure spending / family circumstances / infrastructure / lack of cultural confidence / impact of covid / undervaluing the arts and culture from a. Government and council level (UK / Scotland / Highland) / Creative Scotland broken

### ACTIVITY 3: What you have to offer > Group offering > Ideal person to fill those gaps

- Life experience and connections in different industries / personal skills and qualities (e.g. patience) / enjoy working with others
- Funding expertise / entrepreneurial and commercial perspective and advice / dancing, singing, acting training >> Could connect more artists and funds, funders / imposter syndrome 'watching' and busting / offer fundraising classes, lectures at colleges and universities / building a budget
- Industry connections / knowledge sharing across the sector / facilitating new connections / support emerging artists across Scotland / skill sharing
- Practical: funding knowledge / networks / directing and choreography / touring / contracting, licensing, PRS / Less practical: passion for theatre and knowledge sharing / advocating / supporting new work
- DYWICH can raise awareness of opps to young people ins schools / inspire yp by connecting them with the industry / organise work experience to develop skills / make connections /
- Current role / networking / personal experience / perception / right place right time
- Venue: multi-purpose arts space, in a position to have impact in a new venture that is for the community / partner up with next generation of theatre-makers who can join us / Personal: life experience in education and theatre / performer and facilitator / personal skills
- Connections with education / policy / theatre-makers / research (funding) / critical thinking as a sound board - research and social application / cross sector partnership working / mentoring / problem solving / soft skills: communication / partnerships / projects
- Stories / history / mythology / willing participant / Shakespearean experience / adaptable / diversity / actor / local history
- SECN signposting opportunities / networks / resources sharing for emerging companies / network with professionals to fill gaps in knowledge / Freelance connections / link to UHI



- Venue: transportation / drama classes / performing space / workshops / volunteer experience / unique opportunities / new connections / community / safe, inclusive space for everyone / performances = help people know what's out there
- MLitt on accessibility based on disability, geography, and finances (film and digitalisation) / accessibility brought by Covid without the sickness / word of mouth / professional connections / opening up the digital world of events
- Venue: conversations / living wage / transparency + honesty / listening + learning + figuring out what we can offer / workshops to support knowledge / CRP / consistent opportunities / supporting funding bids / creating opportunities for work / setting expectations
- **Ideal:** the champion in the room who knows people who makes decisions / brilliant connector, knows lots of people and can introduce them / outstanding fundraiser, never turned down / understand the creative industry
- **Ideal:** a visionary with leadership skills, sector knowledge, a facilitator-implementer, a tenacious pusher, diplomat and relationship-builder > **never one person, has to be a group**
- **Ideal:** access to £££, local government knowledge, not a gatekeeper, large comprehensive network