



The Art of the Possible

Achieving Change Through Creative Practice

A pictorial reminder of a conference held at
The King's Centre, Oxford
on Wednesday 28th June 2006


Creative Partnerships

ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND

THAMES VALLEY
PARTNERSHIP 
Working for safer communities

Introduction

The original aim of our conference was:

“To promote and celebrate achieving change through creative practice.”

I am convinced we fulfilled our aim!

Over 100 delegates attended the day: a mix of artists and creative practitioners, youth offending team workers, venue managers, local authority workers, teachers and students, representatives from voluntary organisations as well as national bodies such as the Arts Council England South East, Youth Music, South East Dance and the Anne Peaker Centre.

And everyone had fun and celebrated!

This was our opportunity to:

- get down on our hands and knees and ‘get stuck in’
- have time out and have fun, creatively.
- try something risky and succeed in a safe environment
- discover that element of creativity we thought we didn’t have
- talk to others in similar situations
- become inspired to approach things in a new way

We have had a lot of valuable comments – on the graffiti wall, on the comment cards and on the evaluation forms. Some of these remarks are captured in the words that follow, but much of this document is visual – the pictures really do tell the story – not only of how much fun we had on the day but also how much we learned and shared.

A big thank you to all involved in making the day so successful.

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'...perhaps we did something out of our comfort zone. Different, scary but fresh!'



'I really appreciated the opportunity to participate and have input from an event rather than being involved in running it. I also appreciated the way the day was organised, planned and delivered so that it felt totally safe to take part and explore your own creativity. Thank you.'

'...a brilliant opportunity to look at different art forms as I do tend to stick to the one I know best... participation is key to any activity, but this also showed me some feelings not only about fears and anxieties young people might experience, but also excitement and passion.'



'Creativity is finding your own voice and learning to trust it.'

'Thoroughly enjoyed the day. The format was very good - formal in the morning and practical in the afternoon.'



'Really enjoyable. Great speakers, examples and excellent opportunity to participate. A shame we were preaching to the converted - we should do more of this aimed at the non-converted.'



'I am still buzzing from the brilliant examples of creative art that promises exciting times ahead...and very much looking forward to networking with some of the groups and individuals from the event.'



'In the world our minds are the most powerful creators. No technology has more imagination.'



'It was great. The whole day felt very warm and friendly and I think some important thinking went on and positive connections were made.'



'Loved it! I felt so much encouragement and freedom to express myself verbally and through dance. I felt very supported. This was evident in the spontaneous clapping and dancing during the drumming.'

'Thanks for a brilliant day, I thoroughly enjoyed myself and met with a number of very interesting people which will hopefully develop into some very interesting projects. I don't think I've ever been to such a well-run conference which is so jam-packed full of fun.'



**'More of the same please!
Many thanks for a
fantabulous day!'**

'A great way to spend the day. Valuable experience. Gained knowledge and renewed enthusiasm. A good way to meet different people of all ages, experiences and areas of work...thank you'

'A day like this would enable you to come out of your usual professional role!'



'Creativity is in us all. Some of us just don't know it yet!'



'Use your five senses to the best of your ability'

'An excellent insight into creativity and education in non-formal alternative environments. Inspiring!'



'Thanks for a fun day...It was well organised, relaxed and lovely, with loads of good folk there who will spread the word.'

'Post lunch tea or coffee? We needed some creative caffeine!'

'Excellent day. Thank you. Met up with lots of people who have previously only been names, so lots of new networks and a chance to share ideas.'





'The day encouraged me to stop and think about the way we sometimes get so bogged down in evaluation...that the magic is lost. I hope schools will become less bound by procedures and that they will be more inclined to take risks if the climate is changing.'

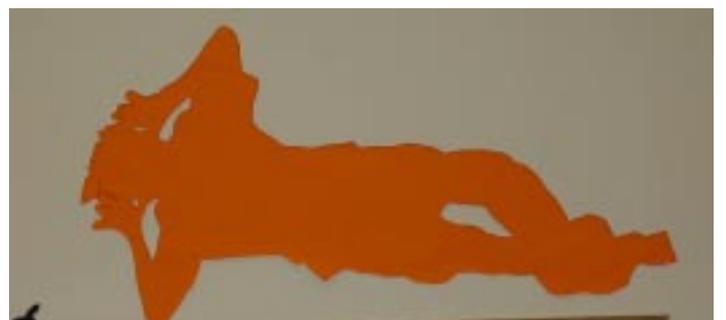


'One of the best conferences I've attended. Well done!'

'...I found it very inspiring. Thanks for inviting us...'

'It was a great opportunity to meet other facilitators and lunch was fab!'

'Working in a group can enable or inhibit creativity.'



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