



CREATIVE PENINSULA REPORT EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Creative Peninsula is an AHRC-funded knowledge exchange project on the theme of place, exploring collaborative approaches to culture-led development in Devon and Cornwall, in the far South West of England. The project focuses on increasing access and exchange between urban, rural and coastal communities, celebrating the region's distinctive landscape and Atlantic coastline, whilst investigating its complex social histories, through community-engaged arts programming and cultural enquiry. It builds on previous research into outdoor performance delivered by the Outside the Box project, and on the cultural partnership model explored by Creative Arc, a collaboration between the University of Exeter, Exeter City Council and the Royal Albert Memorial Museum. Creative Peninsula extends these models more widely to Devon and Cornwall, developing relationships between academic researchers, arts organisations, creative practitioners and local authorities across the region.

The Creative Peninsula report sets out what we've done so far:

- The project demonstrated a model for commissioning new creative work in collaboration with local communities, co-creating a platform for re-telling the 'stories of place' and working to help overcome barriers to social inclusion, wellbeing, and environmental sustainability.
- We held a successful two-day Summit at the Eden Project, Cornwall, bringing together researchers, creative practitioners, arts organisations and local authorities, to investigate placemaking and culture-led regeneration. The conference focused on emerging thematic strands of the Creative Peninsula programme; e.g., Outdoor Cultures, Queer Peninsula, the Black Atlantic, Ruralities, a Parliament of Waters; as well as the role of arts institutions, community groups and independent practitioners in place-based cultural development.
- Drawing on interview and survey data, the report also outlines a set of proposals for further activities to support these ends in the future. Our key findings are as follows:
- There is appetite from artists and arts organisations to work with academic researchers – through further commissions enabling artists to respond to a brief in an open way, through two-way exchanges and co-created projects.
- The arts and culture scene in Devon and Cornwall is vibrant and distinctive, but dispersed. Networking and knowledge exchange events are wanted and needed. These could include skill-sharing and peer learning, particularly in areas such as community engagement.
- There is scope for Creative Peninsula to provide cultural policy support to local authorities, by helping with evaluation and demonstrating impact.

- A programme of place-based artistic commissions could build on our existing commissions. Any future programme must be:
 - Co-created with arts and community organisations to respond to local needs;
 - Locally focused, and including perspectives from beyond the region;
 - Geared towards development and networking opportunities for local artists;
 - Inclusive and accessible, delivering cultural activities in areas that don't currently have easy access to these, with a particular emphasis on outdoor, public spaces.

Our full report reflects on existing models to deliver such place-based cultural programming, and on the **next steps** to ensure that partnerships are effective, inclusive, and of mutual benefit. Further mapping exercises could identify new partners, including community partners who would extend our reach and ensure diverse representation. We'll also map existing arts and cultural sector support in the region.

The full report is available on our website: www.creativepeninsula.org



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