BIG CONVERSATION SUMMARY 2023

MONEY
- Grants
- Lack Gov Support
- Difficult to get
- Funding
- Box ticking
- Low interest loans
- Sponsors/ local businesses
- If 2050 focuses on creativity why not more money

PRESENTATION/ PROMOTION/ PERCEPTION
- demonstrate benefits of collab
- physical signage
- change narratives as essential not 'nice to have' (France)
- culture not elitist
- wide variety all valid
- how to share this
- not just visual art
- video games + scifi underrep
- open minded
- cultural equality is linked to health inequality
- time for creative expression
- Free access for low income
- audit of creatives
- platform for recognition
- unpaid labour
- encourage collabs

WELLBEING
- Is Southend safe?
- connection is important
- cost of living
- universal basic income

POTENTIAL PARTNERSHIPS
- Southend BID
- Local Businesses
- Airport
- C2C
- Cross platform
- Internatio nal collabs
- Eastbourne
- Other cities
- Other Orgs
- Basildon CPP
- Creative Estuary
- Margate
- link city from shoebury to leigh
- representation so important
- networking
- culture offer not promoted
- use ad boards?
- banners
- not everyone uses visit southend
- yearly city showcase?

RELATIONSHIP WITH COUNCIL
- Admin processes are hard
- Council Venues
- Penalties for unused buildings
- What is council doing already
- culture events eg luminocity
- How does it highlight social impact of culture?
- how was this decided
- How does it measure benefit of culture on people?
- What does the council want? What is innovation? What partnerships?
- Personal views create barriers
- Flexible reactions needed
- Unlikely to approach if feel unsafe
- Personal politics shouldn't be in local art
- Economy
- city of culture bid
- not enough culture venues to do it
- need to research current offer
- Creative industries encourage high paying jobs
- add creativity into planning regs (106 rules)
- Put artists within council
- stop outsourcing
- Lack of trust both ways
- involve in 2050 as creativity is key feature
- Incorporate creative industries into commissioning of new services
- consult on culture
- no more external creative consultations please!
- lack of understanding of creative industries
- Council attend workshops to gain experience what artists offer
- Council learn how art is commissioned + funded (106)
- Council learn re vulnerability of artists eg zero hours/ unpaid work

SPACES
- jazz centre move to suitable location
- working conditions in general
- think outside of buildings
- not enough fit for purpose
- Experimental space vital
- Pier
- Kursaal
- Comet way
- Existing spaces underused
- Highstreet
- several venues linked
- patchwork arts centre
- vacant retail spaces directory
- a creative hub
- beecroft? 2 unused floors
- Give people a reason to come to Southend
- Heritage spaces
- meet
- showcase
- economy of scale if channelled into one site
- Commercial unobtainable
- some not owned by council
- protect for future
- collection centre for museums
- Council venues
- directory of landlords

EDUCATION/YOUNG PEOPLE
- Focus
- Youth clubs
- Uni
- transition from education to work
- provision
- teach how to use websites/ socials
- cast study: New Diorama Theatre
- Upskilling
- career routes
- after school clubs
- start at bottom + develop creativity in schools
- mentoring
- skill shares
- sharing knowledge
- support new business
- free trips
- exposure to arts
- so starting out isn't so scary
- commercialise talents
- fulfil creative potential