

THE ENGAGEMENT PARTY

FESTIVAL CONNECT & CREATE SYMPOSIUM



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IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Venue: The Halls, St Andrew's Plain, Norwich, NR3 1AU

Time: Wednesday 13 May, 10.30 – 16:30

Tickets: £15.00

Book at: nnfestival.org.uk/whats-on/the-engagement-party

Subsidised tickets available. Please see below for more information.

Ticket Bursary: If the cost of the ticket is a barrier for you to attend the event, we have a small pot of money to cover ticket costs. If you require this, please email fcc@nnfestival.org.uk

WHO IS IT FOR?

If you are an artist, facilitator, educator, or just interested in socially engaged work with children, young people, and their communities, this event is for you! It's a fantastic CPD opportunity, offering the chance to hear from leading practitioners, and network with creative peers and cultural organisations.

SCHEDULE OF THE DAY

10.30–11pm: Hot drinks and arrival networking

11–11.20am: Introductions and opening talk by MC and Hannah talks about Festival Connect & Create

11.25–11.50am: **CREATIVE PLACES TALKS** (run simultaneously)
Hunt & Darton in the Main Space and Robin Deacon in the Crypt

11.55am–12.20pm: **CREATIVE SCHOOLS TALKS** (run simultaneously)
Poppy Stevens in the Main Space and Johann DonDaniel in the Crypt

12.25–12.50pm: **CREATIVE LEADERS TALKS** (run simultaneously)
Kaitlin Ferguson in the Main Space and Katie Evans in the Crypt

12.50–1.35pm: Lunch & Network

1.35–2.35pm: **PANEL 1**
Have a Little Faith: Trust building with communities and partners, the challenges and considerations.

2.40–3.40pm: **PANEL 2**
Beyond the Numbers: How do we measure success and the impact of our work?

3.45–4pm: Closing statements

4–4.30pm: Networking

Please note: Some talks will happen concurrently, talks will be randomly assigned

ABOUT FESTIVAL CONNECT & CREATE

Festival Connect & Create is our programme of participation and engagement taking place across East Anglia: Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

In three interlinked strands, we work with educators, artists, and young people in our Creative Leaders programme to improve the cultural offer for children and young people; we bring vital creative opportunities direct to some of the schools most in need of provision in our Creative Schools residency programme; and we take a very local approach – supporting artists and communities to work together in our Creative Places programme.

An element of this work is platformed each May as part of Norfolk & Norwich Festival, giving voice to local children, young people and their communities.

NORFOLK & NORWICH FESTIVAL

Norfolk & Norwich Festival is a one of the country's longest running arts festivals and hosts a region-wide programme of creative engagement that particularly focuses on improving the cultural offer for children and young people.

For 17 days each May, the Festival transforms our public spaces, city streets, performance venues, parks, forests and beaches, bringing people together to experience the same brilliant and inspirational events. The flagship arts festival for the East of England, our world-class programme spans music, theatre, literature, visual arts, circus, dance and free outdoor events.



MC: AMY NOMVULA

Amy Nomvula is the founder of innate creates, a production project based in Norfolk that creates and curates events, radio shows and podcasts. innate creates exists to amplify underrepresented stories. Amy has years of experience in community building, broadcasting and production. There's every chance you'll catch her DJ'ing too.



TALKS

In the morning, we'll hear a series of talks from industry professionals on best practice in socially-engaged work. Each speaker will talk about their work, the projects they've worked on with Festival Connect & Create, and what they've got planned for the future.

OUR SPEAKERS

HUNT & DARTON



Hunt & Darton are a live art collaboration between artists Jenny Hunt and Holly Darton. They are known for creating performance-based installations and works that often involve a sensory, sculptural approach to performance, such as the interactive "pop-up café" art installation and the touring "Radio Local" project. They will be presenting Kid's Business in Swaffham as part of Norfolk & Norwich Festival 2026.

POPPY STEVENS



Poppy Stevens is a community arts practitioner and poet based in Norfolk, with nearly a decade of experience in community arts engagement. Inclusivity is at the heart of her practice; drawing on her experience as a neurodivergent artist, she creates supportive, non-judgemental spaces that celebrate imagination, storytelling and individual voice.

KAITLIN FERGUSON



Kaitlin is an environmental artist whose interdisciplinary practice explores our relationship with the natural world during a time of climate breakdown. She has been commissioned by organisations including the Barbican Centre, Kettle's Yard, the Fitzwilliam Museum, GroundWork Gallery, Natural England and the University of Cambridge.

ROBIN DEACON



Robin is an interdisciplinary artist, educator and curator. His performance and video work has been presented at Tate Britain, the Barbican and the Whitney Museum and his writings published by Routledge and New York University Press. He is currently Artistic Director of SPILL, an arts organisation in Ipswich, Suffolk and Chair of Trustees for the Live Art Development Agency.

JOHANN DONDANIEL



Johann is a sound artist whose practice explores sonic sculpture, materiality and ecology through interactive installations, performance and sound. Combining handmade instruments, electronic components and sculptural forms, he creates immersive sound experiences shaped by collaboration. He is an associate artist with the Sainsbury Centre and GroundWork Gallery, and is a drummer and engineer with the band LAPAN.

KATIE EVANS



Katie is an artist and researcher based in Suffolk whose socially engaged practice creates spaces for dialogue and new ideas. She is a director at CHIp in Ipswich and has led projects including The Ipswich Docks Art Project through the Norfolk & Norwich Festival's Young Creatives Bursary. She is currently developing an oral history project on deep time and local stories as an Associate for SPILL Festival 2026.

PANELS

In the afternoon, we'll have two panel discussions. The first hosted by JMC Anderson, *Have A Little Faith*, will look at building trust with communities and partners, the challenges and considerations. Mark Robinson will host the second panel, *Beyond the Numbers*, which delves into the question of how we measure success and the impact of our work.

PANEL ONE: HAVE A LITTLE FAITH

HOST:
JMC ANDERSON



JMC Anderson is an artist, curator, facilitator and community engagement professional exploring identity, place, belonging and creative activism. She's worked with Norwich University of the Arts, University of East Anglia, Collusion, The Art Station and Museum of Norwich at the Bridewell.

PANELLIST 1:
SUZANNE CHUNG



Suzanne is a socially-engaged artist, creative producer, community facilitator, and youth worker based in Ipswich. She has been a Co-Director at Community Hub Ipswich, Young Producer at Dance East and is currently a Facilitator for Future Female Society as well as a FLOCK Co-Director and Young Creative Bursary Recipient with Norfolk & Norwich Festival.

PANELLIST 2:
CHARLEY GENEVER



Charlie is a former Peterborough Poet Laureate, vice chair of the Syntax Poetry collective, and co-host of the We, The Poets podcast. She has 11 years' experience producing socially engaged work and has worked with a variety of organisations across the country including Tate Britain, The Poetry Society, Apples and Snakes, The Mighty Creatives, and she's currently a Community Producer for Peterborough Presents.

PANELLIST 3:
COLIN STOTT



Colin Stott has 25 years' experience in heritage education and is currently the County Museums Learning Manager for Norfolk Museums Service. He leads teams delivering busy year-round learning programs for visitors of all ages at 7 museums across Norfolk. Colin has also been chairing the Enjoy-Great Yarmouth LCEP since 2012, working with partner organisations to run creative and cultural projects for schools and colleges in Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft.

PANEL TWO: BEYOND THE NUMBERS

HOST:
MARK ROBINSON



Mark is the founder of Thinking Practice, established in 2010, working across the cultural sector as a writer, facilitator and evaluator. He is the author of *Tactics for the Tightrope: Creative Resilience for Creative Communities*. He is also a widely anthologised poet, with collections including *How I Learned to Sing* and *The Infinite Town*.

PANELLIST 1:
SOFIJA TARASEVIC



Sofija is a creative practitioner working across arts, horticulture and community engagement. As Creative Landscape Officer at Nene Park Trust, she leads inclusive, nature-based programmes connecting people to culture, place and identity. She has delivered National Lottery-funded projects and currently leads *Collection Connects*, funded by Arts Council England. She is a recipient of the Norfolk & Norwich Festival Young Creatives Bursary.

PANELLIST 2:
DANIEL HAY-GORDON



Daniel is co-director, with El Perry, of Thick & Tight, a UK-based dance theatre company blending dance, theatre and satire through a queer lens. Their work has been presented widely, including at Sadler's Wells, Tate, Barbican and the V&A, and created for companies such as BalletBoyz and Scottish Ballet. Thick & Tight are Associate Artists at The Lowry and Artists in Residence with the Philharmonia Orchestra.

PANELLIST 3:
ANGIE BUAL



Angie Bual is the Creative Director & Joint CEO of Trigger. Angie leads on all of Trigger's work and concepts. She directed *PoliNations* (Unboxed/ Birmingham 2022/ Glastonbury); *Each Tiny Drop*, MIF's 2023 opening ceremony; *TEABREAK* (Without Walls Commission); *Ground* (Brighton International Festival), and was the Creative Director for *The Hatchling* (Plymouth/ Wakefield/ Queens Platinum Jubilee). Angie is the lead artist for *The Big One Hundred* (Ashdown Forest, Wealden District Council) and *TreeKin* (commissioned by Norfolk & Norwich Festival).

Creative Schools Partner



Creative Leaders Partner



Festival Connect & Create is a year-round programme bringing creative opportunities to children, young people and their communities