

*****The Tees Valley*****

PRINCIPLES OF PRACTICE

for

*****CREATIVE COMMUNITIES*****

These principles were developed by the Great Place Tees Valley Steering Group, to reflect learning from the work and evaluations. We work with these shared principles, approaches, understandings and ambitions, applying each in our own ways and our own contexts.

+++ THE PRINCIPLES: +++

Long-term processes

It takes time and commitment – ongoing processes and sets of relationships – to work as well as we aspire to, not one-offs or time-limited projects.

Trust and partnership

Trust is central to everything that works well, and takes time and effort to build. Working with communities means acknowledging local ownership and involving community advocates.

Social and creative solutions

We bring people together by designing the invitation and connection to address social barriers as well as creative and cultural ones. What works for some can exclude others, so variety matters.

Properly resourced and planned

We invest properly in creative processes and practices, and the people and practicalities involved, to build trust and help co-production, and we give work the greatest possible visibility.

Open minds and agility

Flexibility and agility lead to better impact, as we can respond to what we learn from conversations and work on the ground, and shape our effort better, rather than having set ideas and rigid plans.

Cross-scale collaboration

Collaboration and shared learning between organisations of all scales, individual freelancers and communities creates new networks of participants and practitioners so that all can play their part.

Beyond authorised narratives

Seeing or hearing yourself in cultural works can build confidence, self-esteem and self-understanding so we must be representative beyond 'authorised' or traditional narratives about the area.

Repetition and longevity

We do most things more than once so we can learn, get better and make what works well a habit, while empowering others so we become dispensable as communities gain momentum.

Quality of the whole – everything

The quality of experience, process, engagement, ambition, access and any creative product cannot be separated: they all matter.

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Managed by Tees Valley Combined Authority and ARC
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Great Place Tees Valley was made possible with
Lottery Funding from National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England