

North East Culture Social at ARC Stockton Attendee Access Arrangements

This info sheet has been prepared in January 2024. It will be updated in early March 2024.

Venue Access:

Please visit <https://arconline.co.uk/visit-arc/access-and-our-building/> for more information about the building and accessing ARC.

What to Expect:

North East Culture Social is a relaxed and friendly event that aims to highlight and discuss important topics, whilst creating connection and networking opportunities between cultural workers in the North East.

This event will discuss what is needed to make the North East the best place to be a disabled cultural worker.

When you arrive at ARC you should follow directions to The Point. The ARC Box Office team will happily direct you if needed. There will then be a registration point to check-in outside the entrance to The Point. There will be tea, coffee and water available upon arrival. When you enter The Point, you will have time to look around and familiarise yourself with the space. There will be tables and chairs set-up. You are welcome to take a seat wherever you feel most comfortable for the event.

The event will start with a welcome from Unfolding Theatre and ARC Stockton. There will then be three short speeches from artists and venue staff to get us thinking. After this we will breakaway into smaller groups for discussion. There will also be time for networking and informal conversation.

The event is hybrid, so some people will also attend via zoom.

Who will be there:

The event is organised by Unfolding Theatre and hosted by ARC Stockton. Unfolding Theatre's Artistic Director Annie Rigby will host and facilitate the event. Members of the team at ARC Stockton will also support the event. The talks will be from Vici Wreford-Sinnott, Lady Kitt and EJ Raymond.

Based on attendance at previous events, we estimate between 30 and 40 people will attend. This will include some people attending via zoom. The attendees will mostly be people working in the cultural sector as freelancers, or working at cultural organisations.

For d/Deaf and hard of hearing attendees:

- North East Culture Social will include BSL interpretation.
- Members of the ARC Front of House team will be available to advise of the most appropriate seating location.

- There will be no live captions at the event, but transcripts of the welcome and short speeches will be available. Attendees on Zoom can also use the closed captions generated automatically.
- A t-coil loop system is in place in The Point.

For blind or visually impaired attendees:

- We are able to provide entry to The Point ahead of the start of the event to enable you to explore and familiarise yourself with the space.

For wheelchair-using attendees and people with limited mobility:

- ARC is fully wheelchair accessible.
- After the welcome and short speeches, attendees will move around two breakout spaces. This will happen at a gentle pace in a step-free area, with support from the front of house team where needed. There will be seating available in all the breakout spaces.

Relaxed Event:

We understand that the term ‘relaxed’ can mean different things depending on the space you’re visiting. For North East Culture Social, a relaxed event means:

- You are welcome to enter and exit the space during the event.
- There will be low levels of lighting throughout the event and no moments of blackout/complete darkness.
- There will be no sudden loud noises during the event.
- There will be a breakout space available.
- There will be time to explore the space before the event begins.

Familiarisation Visits:

We are happy to provide a familiarisation tour ahead of your visit. We will also ensure that you are able to enter The Point a minimum of 15 minutes before the event starts to familiarise yourself with the space.

Other access information:

Tickets are free.

Assistance dogs are welcome.

PAs and carers are welcome to attend.