

Report of a workshop held in partnership with the Community Arts Forum at their premises in Belfast on Tuesday 29 September 2009.

1. Attendance

Name	Organisation
Ryan Darragh	Community Arts Forum
Brenda Kent	Voluntary Arts Ireland
Louise Smith	Island Arts centre/Lisburn City Council
Caragh O' Donnell	Community Arts Forum
Conor Shields	New Belfast Community Arts
Therese McCann	Home Start NI
Marilyn Hyndman	Northern Visions
Katrina Newell	New Lodge Arts
Nigel McKinney	Community Foundation for Northern Ireland

2. Workshop outputs

The workshop was facilitated using the Consensus Workshop Method.

The focus question under consideration was

“What must my organisation do to ensure our community needs are better met now and into the future?”

Individuals listed answers to the question. They then worked in pairs to prioritise answers. Answers were then collectively grouped by consensus and the lists were given names by consensus. The answers agreed by the group to the question and names given to the lists are detailed in the table below.



CAPACITY BUILDING AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	ENHANCED ENGAGEMENT	PLANNING AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT	COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY	APPROPRIATE COLLABORATION	FUNDING AND SUSTAINABILITY	INNOVATION	MORE FOCUS ON EVIDENCE
Training 250 trustees in good governance	Deeper, more enhanced participation and engagement	Robust strategic planning	Dialogue with sector	Maximise synchronicity and avoid wasteful duplication	Fiscal sustainability incorporating reserves and enterprise	Efficient use of new technology to build change	Identifying gaps in research evidence
Sustainability (skills and small grants)		Long term joined up strategic planning	Inform sector of change and help adapt	Need to merge admin services	Ensuring efficiency in own resources	Development of new training and resource distribution methods	Better researched understanding of benefit for sector/funder and government
Keep informed on and address skills needs			Lister, monitor need and consult and agree responses	Change ways of working e.g. home based	Awareness of alternative fund raising and income strategies	Enable networks and collaboration for small groups	
Tailor information and training for small/volunteer led groups			Continued lobbying to ensure protection and increase of current funding	Support our projects/schemes to work together	Core funding and good infrastructure		
Support 25 projects in NI to have 900 volunteers			Raise profile of small groups' needs with influencers		Need to work with funders mainly DHSSPS		
			Promote arts to public and politicians				

Note

The vertical or horizontal organisation does not imply any priority

4. Evaluation of event

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Information	
Discussions	
Bigger picture of what is happening in NI	
Openness to engage	
Supportive comments	
Lack of confrontation and defensive reactions	