



Make:Shift:Do 2019/20

Co-Creation Project Brief

The Crafts Council seeks to engage three partner organisations to deliver co-creation projects with communities, focussing on craft innovation.

Introduction

A celebration of craft innovation, Make:Shift:Do offers communities, families, children, and young people hands-on experiences of emerging craft technologies, new materials and digital making.

We're interested in how innovative craft practices can create opportunities for communities, artists and organisations to co-create work. We think that, when projects are led by the passions, interests, and concerns of the communities involved, exciting applications for new craft technologies will emerge. We're interested in learning from the process of delivering these projects in order to share co-creation models with the makerspace sector.

Make:Shift:Do 2019/20 will support three mini-action research projects that bring together an organisation with craft innovation expertise and a community group, to co-create a project. These projects will build on the three we delivered in 2018/19, contributing to a growing bank of resources about co-creation in makerspace settings.

Objectives

Make:Shift:Do 2019/20 will aim to:

- Encourage the development of makerspaces as community hubs and spaces for collaborative problem-solving. Problems should be relevant to, and defined by, those communities
- Develop models for co-creation projects that have making at their heart— and particularly relate to craft innovation. Share these models with the wider craft and makerspace sector
- Challenge perceptions of 'craft' and illuminate the science and technology inherent in new craft processes; give people from our priority audiences (BAME people; young people; people with disabilities; people from areas of socio-economic deprivation) the chance to gain hands-on experience of innovative craft techniques

Background: how did we get here?

From 2014- 2017, Make:Shift:Do was delivered as an annual festival weekend in October. Working with makerspaces and fab labs, but also in community settings, Make:Shift:Do Festival actively involved a diverse audience with cutting-edge approaches to making, changing perceptions of the meaning of 'craft' and revealing its real world potential. Events across the UK introduced new audiences to 3D printing, laser-cutting, CNC milling, open-source making,

electronic textiles, smart materials, digital printing, digital embroidery, robot building, creative coding, and bio design.

Make:Shift:Do is informed by the Crafts Council's [Innovation](#) programme, and aims to introduce families and young people to the pioneering approaches to craft highlighted here. It sits within a broader framework of 'Everyday Making' programmes, which aim to support and develop making in community settings.

Make:Shift:Do 2017—Developing new audiences

Make:Shift:Do 2017 saw a focus on audience development— we introduced a new 'Partnership Workshop' category, which asked venues to work with a partner organisation in order to reach one of our priority audiences.

Introducing the Partnership Workshop bursary raised the profile of priority audiences across the whole festival, helped venues to develop new links with community organisations, and challenged them to take risks. However, events were generally programmed *for* community groups, who were invited along to participate. We are now keen to build on lessons learned in order to develop a more collaborative approach, in which participants take an active role in shaping activity.

Make:Shift:Do 2018—Co-Creation Projects

The Make:Shift:Do 2018/19 programme supported the following action-research projects:

- Little Sandbox, a makerspace based in Norris Green, Liverpool, developed 'Techstyles', a new community group exploring new textiles technologies
- Harris Museum, Preston, developed a new collaborative partnership with the FX Service, a day service for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in Lancashire
- Barnstaple Fablab developed a Young Consultants programme

Each organisation produced a case study, sharing the successes and challenges from their project. You can read these [here](#).

Make:Shift:Do 2019/20

Who can apply?

The lead partner be either the community group, or the organisation with craft innovation expertise. These groups could include:

- Makerspaces and fablabs
- Libraries with a makerspace
- Youth groups
- Community groups
- Maker or artist collectives

Your organisation might have lots of experience delivering co-creation projects, or it might be something you are just beginning to explore. We'd like to see in your application that your project will develop your experience of co-creating projects.

Organisations will:

- Attend a planning workshop exploring the principles of co-creation and developing their project plan— to be held in London in October 2019
- Plan and deliver a craft innovation project in collaboration with another organisation (partnerships should constitute an organisation with craft innovation expertise and one community organisation)
- Manage the budget for the project and submit receipts and documentation demonstrating how the funding has been spent, as requested
- Take part in regular mentoring conversations with the Crafts Council team
- Develop an evaluative case study at the end of the project, working with the Crafts Council team and being open and honest about achievements and things that went wrong.
- Present their case study at a sharing event in June 2020.

The Crafts Council will:

- Provide a budget of £2000 to support project costs, including artist and materials fees, participant costs (e.g. refreshments and travel expenses where applicable), and other staffing costs
- Help to broker relationships between craft and community organisations where possible
- Deliver planning and development workshop
- Provide mentoring discussions throughout the project delivery period
- Work with organisations to identify and articulate useful case study insights
- Design and disseminate case studies
- Host a sharing event in June 2020

Timescales

- Expressions of interest should be submitted by 15/9/19
- Co-creation and planning workshop— October 2019
- Project delivery— November 2019- March 2020
- Evaluative case study submitted by April 2020
- Sharing event— June 2020

Process for Submitting and Expression of Interest

To propose a project, please complete this short Survey Monkey questionnaire:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/CPVQMWD>.

Successful organisations will co-create their project plan during the Make:Shift:Do project, so we don't ask you to submit a project plan at this stage. We would like to know about your existing experience of co-creation, why you'd like to develop expertise in this area, and the desired outcomes of your project for both your organisation and your partner organisation.

The deadline for submissions is 15/9/19.

Further Information

What do we mean by 'Craft Innovation'?

Make:Shift:Do projects take cutting-edge craft and make it accessible to a broad audience. Projects might include techniques such as 3D printing, laser-cutting, CNC milling, open-source making, electronic textiles, smart materials, digital printing, digital embroidery, robot building,

creative coding, and bio design. Above all, Make:Shift:Do projects have a multi-disciplinary, playful approach to making with new technologies.

More details of last year's Make:Shift:Do festival projects are included in the project evaluation.

What do we mean by 'Co-Creation'?

We see co-created projects as partnership projects where agency and power over the development of the project is shared by all partners from its inception. Here are some resources that might be helpful in exploring this approach:

- [How can cultural centres also be community centres?](#)
- [Update: Co-Creating Change](#)

David Jubb, Artistic Director of Battersea Arts Centre

- [OFBYFORALL](#), Santa Cruz Museum of Art and History
- [Creative People and Places](#)

To discuss the brief please contact Zoe Dennington, Learning and Participation Manager, at z_dennington@craftscouncil.org.uk