

Vital signs

These are just some of the indicators that we believe signal a flourishing cultural ecosystem.

Use these to reflect on your work.



Our gratitude to Jonathan Gross and Nick Wilson for their work on ecological approaches to culture which we have taken as inspiration.

An ecological approach

Ecological approach to cultural sector stewardship including practices that encourage connection across cultural programmes, resource streams, and diverse cultural practices.

Experiment and design

An explicit valuing of experimentation and iterative design approaches to create space for the evolution of project ideas.

Artist to non-arts collaborations

New artist to non-arts collaborator relationships (e.g. librarians, teachers, wardens, council officers) that are critical to quality social practice and wider cultural participation.

Greater cultural capability focus

Greater cultural capability focus means communities across the borough have increased freedom and opportunity to co-create culture in a diversity of forms.

Shared learning in the open

People in the ecosystem learning together and making what they discover available widely. Celebrating cultural activity and opportunities as a way to make the ecosystem visible to itself.

Recognise potential

Be explicit in paying attention to the plurality and interconnectedness of existing and potential cultural activity and opportunities in the borough.

Trusted connections

New trusted connections woven between local artists and creative communities resulting in greater community and artist cultural co-production activity and cultural capability.

Non arts spaces as arts spaces

Non arts spaces as places of cultural production and local assets 'reframed' as valuable cultural resources.

Place based focus

Place based practice building trusting relationships with local collaborators and communities, convening informed by local knowledges, stories, cultural spaces, cultural artefacts, histories and futures.

Artist to artist collaborations

New artist to artist collaborations resulting in sharing of skills, knowledge, and co-creation of new creative initiatives and enterprises.

How might I support or pay attention to these vital signs in my work?

