



FOURTH ANNUAL
CONFERENCE
2024

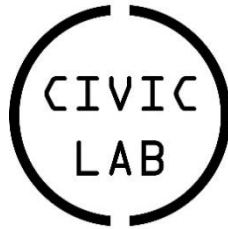
Thursday, 4 July 2024

at

ArtCore



Fourth Annual Conference 2024



Supporting academics, creative and cultural industry professionals to share their insights on research and practice through a place-based approach to knowledge generation.

Thursday, 4 July 2024

9.30 – 16.00

at



8 Albert Street, Derby, DE1 2DS

Food for Thought

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” – Desmond Tutu

“We can each define ambition and progress for ourselves. The goal is to work toward a world where expectations are not set by the stereotypes that hold us back, but by our personal passion, talents, and interests.” – Sheryl Sandberg

“If you continue to think the way you have always thought, you’ll continue to get what you’ve always got. Is it enough?” – Paul Meyer

“The power of one, if fearless and focused, is formidable, but the power of many working together is better.” – Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

“Without leaps of imagination, or dreaming, we lose the excitement of possibilities. Dreaming, after all, is a form of planning.” – Gloria Steinem

“It always seems impossible until it’s done.” – Nelson Mandela

“One of my beliefs about leadership is it’s not how many followers you have, but how many people you have with different opinions that you can bring together and try to be a good listener.” – Robert Kraft

Letter from the Chair

Welcome, and thank you for joining us at this year's CivicLAB Conference. Whether this is your first time or if you are returning, thank you for being that vital part of our continuing conversation.

CivicLAB has come to have a special place in my practice. Over the years I have been coming, it's never failed to teach me something or change something in what I do and how I do it.

It has introduced me to incredible practitioners and the team's welcome has made Derby – as both a city and a university – a home from home. I am sure it will come to mean the same to you.

This year's CivicLAB Conference importantly foregrounds that vital and fecund – and civic – space where people, place, the academic and professional practice mingle.

Over the course of the conference, we will form our own community of practice and engage in networking, critical dialogue and conversation, across a rich portfolio of projects.

Understanding our individual and collective agency in the civic realm has never been more critical, globally and locally, and all of us gathered here have been given the gift by CivicLAB of a day to think about our own civic agency.

I know that many questions will be raised by the insights and provocations of our speakers, and our break time conversations, and there is one key question I want us all to hold as we move through proceedings – what does the civic mean to you?



**Dr Cara Courage
Conference Chair**

Cara is a globally renowned placemaking consultant, practitioner, researcher and writer, praised as being a 'strategy angel' for the arts sector. Her most recent project is *Trauma-Informed Placemaking*, with Dr Anita McKeown, a research platform and textbook (Routledge, 2024). Cara is Editor and Convenor of *The Routledge Handbook of Placemaking* (Routledge, 2021); Co-Editor of *Creative Placemaking and Beyond* (Routledge, 2018); and author of *Arts in Place: The Arts, the Urban and Social Practice* (Routledge, 2017).

Welcome to CivicLAB

CivicLAB is based at the University of Derby, has been designed to support academics and professionals from different sectors to share their insights on research and practice through a place-based approach to knowledge generation.

We have a core team of made up of 16 staff from departments across the institution, and a further 70 members of staff who are part of the University's wider CivicLAB community. The impact of this way of working has seen CivicLAB noted as an example of best practice by both industry and H.E. This is something we are very proud of and keen to continue to strive maintain and develop further in the coming years.

In 2021, I convened the first CivicLAB event, inviting University staff, industry and the public to reflect on what being a civic institution meant – and how we could share ideas, collaborate and work together for the benefit of society. Fast forward three years, and CivicLAB is now a core part of the University of Derby's offering. We have engaged with over 7,000 staff and members of the public through a varied programme of events.

The annual conference is a highlight in the CivicLAB diary. It is when we can come together to reflect and learn from the wide-ranging projects that are attending to many of today's challenges economically, socially and politically. Artcore, our venue for the conference, is a fantastic site for us to have these conversations, which will be facilitated by the incredible Dr Cara Courage who we love working closely with on our civic work and thank her for her commitment to CivicLAB.

Our 2024 Conference themes are: securing our future; driving ambition to bring positive change; making a positive environmental impact; supporting health and wellbeing; and investing in culture as a driver for change.

As a Civic University, we are committed to supporting Derby and Derbyshire, our place, our people and its rich and diverse community by enacting and enabling imaginative communities to flourish and support creative cultural ecosystems and strategies to grow. We look forward to talking with you and are thrilled to welcome you to the CivicLAB community. We trust that you will find it a fun, inspiring and informative day.

**Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor Civic Practice, Head of Civic
Lead of CivicLAB**



Past CivicLAB Conferences

The CivicLAB is led by Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic) at the University of Derby. CivicLAB is located centrally to the University's core business, within the Provost of Learning and Teaching. The work of CivicLAB supports the six academic themes, with close alignment to Cultural and Creative Industries. It is an interdisciplinary group that cuts across research and innovation, and teaching and learning. Find out more at derby.ac.uk/civic/civic-lab/

CivicLAB Symposium 2021

The online Symposium presented the work of researchers, artists and creative industry colleagues from across the UK, including international colleagues from Venice, Finland and USA. Each speaker focused on participatory culture, creative dialogue and experiential design for social impact. Questions asked included how we build communities and how can we create the conditions in which those communities can sustainably develop, innovate and thrive within the social, economic, environmental and cultural challenges of the 21st century.

CivicLAB Symposium 2022

The second CivicLAB Symposium called for participation from practitioners and academics who centred their research and teaching practice on participatory culture, creative dialogue and experiential design for social impact. CivicLAB Symposium 2022 explored, discussed and reimagined the value of creative practice to the public sphere with a special theme on 'Designing for Civility and Cultural Impact'. The Symposium explored how we build civic communities and how practitioners and academics create the conditions in which those communities can sustainably develop, innovate and thrive.

CivicLAB Conference 2023

This event was the third CivicLAB Conference, hosted by the University of Derby in partnership with Derby County Community Trust and Artcore. The conference explored this through a series of presentations, keynotes, workshops, networking sessions and a community meal. The conference setting provided a thinking space to bring together participants from academia, creative and cultural industry, third sector and freelance practitioners. Together, discussions took place in relation to approaches to building civic practice, research and community capacity as a means of addressing long-standing social issues.



Conference Programme 2024

09.30am–10.00am

- Registration

10.00am–10.30am

- Welcome from Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby
- Welcome to Artcore from Ruchita Shaikh DL, CEO of Artcore
- Opening address by Professor Keith McLay, Provost Learning and Teaching, University of Derby
- Introduction and opening of proceedings by Dr Cara Courage, Guest Chair of CivicLAB Conference 2024

10.30am–10.50am

- ***Respect / Society and Change: Collaboration of Schools with Inclusion Charter DCCT and NSC Programme*** – Peter Beynon, SEMH and Inclusion Advisor and Will Broderick, Head of Teaching and Learning for the Respect Collaboration of Schools

10.55am–11.15am

- ***Make/Shift: Mobilising the Creative Power of Communities*** – Rachel Smith, Director, Make/Shift

11.15am–12.30pm

- ***Shedding Light on Long Covid: A Public Realm Sci-Art Research Project*** – Chaired by Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby

12.30pm–1.00pm

- ***Culture and placemaking: Exploring new research and policy recommendations with the Centre for Cultural Value*** – Anna Kime - Policy Officer, Centre for Cultural Value

1.00pm–1.10pm

- Reflections with Dr Cara Courage

1.10pm–2.00pm (Lunch)

1.30pm–1.45pm: Special conference address by Professor Kathryn Mitchell, CBE DL Vice Chancellor and Chief Executive University of Derby

1.45pm–2.00pm: *Performance Intervention: Whispers from the Woods* – Dan Webber, poet, promoter and producer

2.00pm–2.10pm

- Welcome to the afternoon proceedings by Dr Cara Courage, Guest Chair of CivicLAB Conference 2024

2.15pm–2.30pm

- *People, Place, Practice: UK New Artists in Derby* – Michelle Bowen, Director of UK New Artists

2.30pm–2.45pm

- *Dark Skies: Exploring People’s Connection to the Natural World at Night* – Dr Christopher Barnes, Chartered Psychologist, Dark Sky Advocate

2.45pm–3.00pm

UNESCO Learning Cities Presents: How do we create a learning territory? What factors come into play? – Merveille Tawab Maduma, Architectural Research Laboratory, Toulouse School of Architecture

3.00pm–3.10pm (Refreshment break)

3.15–3.55pm

- Attendee group conversation chaired by Dr Cara Courage, Guest Chair of CivicLAB Conference 2024

3.55pm–4.00pm

Closing remarks from Dr Rhiannon Jones, Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby

Speaker Abstracts and Biographies



Professor Keith McLay is the Provost (Learning & Teaching) at the University of Derby. He previously held the position of PVC Dean of the College of Arts, Humanities & Education for three years. Keith's academic journey includes time at Canterbury Christ Church University as Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Humanities and prior roles at the University of Chester, where he progressed from Lecturer to Head of the Department of History & Archaeology. An early modern military and naval historian, Keith has published on war and warfare from the 17th to the 20th centuries.

Ruchika Shaikh DL is the CEO of Artcore, an international centre for contemporary art delivering a vibrant programme of cultural and creative activities for Artists and the community. She holds a range of leadership roles, shaping diversity and impact in the art, health and community sectors and works with community leaders, practitioners and individuals in under-represented communities enabling access, involvement and participation in arts and local development agenda. She is an appointed Deputy Lieutenant of Derbyshire.



Respect / Society and Change: Collaboration of Schools with Inclusion Charter DCCT and NSC Programme

Abstract: This talk will share the learnings and impacts of the inaugural All That Matters expert panel event, *The Home and School Partnership: Speaking Each Other's Language*. It will promote the importance of networking, dialogue and conversation in innovative and progressive professional practice in education, with a link to the promotion of community of practice activities within schools.

Biographies:



Peter Benyon is the SEMH and Inclusion Advisor for Derby City and is employed by the Respect Collaboration of Schools in collaboration with Derby City Local Authority. He has over 20 years' experience of working in education and advises primary and secondary school staff on leading, teaching, supporting and engaging children through the understanding of neurodiversity and promotion of positive behaviour.

Will Broderick is the Head of Teaching and Learning for the Respect Collaboration of Schools and is responsible for ensuring that pupils, with a range of needs, have access to high-quality education through an ambitious curriculum and high-quality teaching. Will has a passion for pedagogical approaches to learning and embraces research to suggest new and innovative ways to support students.



Mobilising the Creative Power of Communities

Abstract: Join Rachel Smith from Make/Shift to find out about their new Creative Agents programme, a nine-month 'Peer Learning Adventure' hosted with local collaborators PlatformThirty1 that brings six Creative Agents together to share, learn & spark creativity where they live. What might become possible if every neighbourhood or village had a Creative Agent – artists, facilitators, connectors and craftivists, trained in the art of invitation to support, enable and activate ideas and where they live?

Biography:



Rachel Smith is Director of Make/Shift, a growing collective of people, groups and organisations who believe in the creative power of communities to make positive change in the places they live. Rooted in Amber Valley, Derbyshire with networks reaching out beyond, much of the work is focused on testing new ways of working and learning together, which shift more power and resources to communities to make decisions, take action, and make change together on their doorstep. Make/Shift is part of Arts Council England's Creative People and Places programme.

Shedding Light on Long Covid – A Public Realm Sci-Art Research Project: Learning to Live Equitably with Long Covid



SHEDDING LIGHT ON LONG COVID



Abstract: *Shedding Light on Long Covid* is a Sci-Art Public Realm Research Project, designed to place clinical research data into the public realm through artistic practice and place-based socially engaged intervention.

The project directly engaged with over 20,000 people in 18 months and was featured as an exhibition at the Museum of Making and Derby Cathedral (September – October 2023), supported by S.H.E.D, The Royal Society of Arts and University of Derby. The research project was in partnership with Long Covid SOS, Giliad Science, Long Covid Kids, Long Covid Physio, Adare to Dance, Mprez Enterprise, Derby Book Festival, Derby County Community Trust, Derby Cathedral, Derby Theatre and CivicLAB.

This expert panel will discuss place-based research that operates on the intersections of Creative and Cultural Industry, Public Health and Policy, and H.E. It will also highlight the role of the arts as protagonist, to improve community health and wellbeing through interdisciplinary practice, and share how this successful project continues to work nationally and internationally with stakeholders and funders to further raise awareness through civic pedagogic practice in the public realm.

Biographies:



Dr Rhiannon Jones (FRSA) is Associate Professor (Civic Practice) and Head of Civic at the University of Derby. She chairs Cumulus Global Contemporary Working Art Group, is a member of the National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement and Trustee of New Art Exchange, an award-winning and internationally recognised Gallery. She is on the consortium for Make/Shift, Creative People and Places ACE and on the steering group for D2 Create Growth DCMS funded project. She regularly works with Council for Higher Education in Art and Design (CHEAD), Royal Society of Arts, National Saturday Club, British Academy and Design Council UK.

Her research into placemaking is a case study for the National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange and has been presented at the All-Party Parliamentary Design and Innovation Group. She co-founded InDialogue, curating international conferences and residencies, supporting over 600 artists from over 15 countries since its inception. She founded the company S.H.E.D, a pop-up public arts space. Accolades include: finalist for Universities Alliance Award (2022), Shed of the year finalist (2020), UK Green Gown Awards: Benefiting Community (2021). She has been selected as a social regenerative entrepreneur and Social Impact and Catalyst Grant holder from, the Royal Society of Arts (2023-4).

She is a published academic with Intellect, Taylor & Francis and Palgrave and Routledge. She works closely with SOCTIM on their Towards Connect Place: Insights into Actions as invited participant at St Georges House, Windsor Castle (2024) and is a guest speaker at SOCTIM Presidents Conference, June (2024). She was a speaker for H.E Women in Leadership: Compassionate Leadership & Eco-stewardship with CHEAD and co-published a working paper with CHEAD and University of Huddersfield (2024). She is leading on Public Engagement strategy and policy through the work of S.H.E.D with Barnet Local Authority (2024), Timber Festival (2024), UKNA (2024-5) and Derbyshire County Council Local Nature Recovery Strategy (2024).

Callum Bate is the Central England Area Manager for the RSA and supports local social change projects and creative initiatives with the aim of improving people, place and planet. Callum is a creative at heart, having previously facilitated writing and performance workshops in Birmingham and supported, through hosting and performing, spoken word events across the city. He is an advocate for community-based arts activity so people have spaces in which they can express themselves.



Dr Alice Marshall is a performer, choreographer and academic known for her innovative work with her company Adaire to Dance; showcasing her choreography that seamlessly merges diverse art forms with movement for accessible, cross-generational performances. As a Change Champion at UoD and a Trustee for Arts Derbyshire, Alice's dedication to the arts is further underscored by accolades such as Derbyshire's Inspiration Woman of the Year and short-listed for One Dance UK's Lecturer of the Year.

Rebecca Owen began a PhD in Clinical Exercise Science at the University of Derby after completing an undergraduate and postgraduate degree in Sport and Exercise Science (Physiology). Her research focus lies in clinical exercise physiology, aiming to cultivate patient-centred screening tools and support pathways to improve recovery, quality of life and functional status following a long COVID diagnosis. She works within a research team that fosters interdisciplinary collaboration and prioritises patient voice to understand lived experience.





Dr Gemma Marmalade is a British artist and academic in the transformative potential of creative performativity. Gemma is a senior academic and leader in photography at the University of Derby, UK, and Visiting Professor for the Creative Industries in Las Vegas, Nevada, USA. With extensive experience in Higher Education and research, inter- and trans-disciplinary practices, management, curatorship, and writing within the arts globally, Gemma is a powerhouse of cultural contribution and social change-making.



Sarah Barley-McMullen, former University Diversity and Inclusion Lead, and Senior Lecturer, retired in March 2022 due to Long COVID. Founder of 'Be Longing for Change,' her inclusion consultancy, Sarah now works when she is well to bring greater intentional inclusion awareness to charities and communities. Living with Long COVID, Sarah navigates challenges with a solution focused attitude, advocating fiercely for others in her charity and trustee roles. Stonewall Role Model, and founder of the award-winning Pride in Belper, Sarah, along with her wife Helen are huge advocates for real community inclusion and celebration of identity.

Professor Michael Pinchbeck is a writer and theatre-maker based in Nottingham. He is Professor of Theatre and the Senior Research Lead for the Department of Art & Performance at Manchester Metropolitan University. His ongoing research explores one-to-one performance, immersive adaptation, the dramaturgy of scores and theatre as commemoration. He recently finished devising *The Berger & Mohr Trilogy*, comprising *A Fortunate Man* (2018), *A Seventh Man* (2020) and *Another Way of Telling* (2022). His recent work includes making immersive audio experiences at Nottingham Lakeside Arts, for a lake and a botanical garden, and *Breathturn for Shedding Light on Long Covid* at Derby Cathedral.



Our Partners:



Culture and placemaking: Exploring new research and policy recommendations with the Centre for Cultural Value

Abstract: On behalf of her research colleagues, Ava Podgorski, Kyla Tully and John Wright, Anna Kime invites CivicLAB to explore the findings and recommendations for policymakers from the latest research digest by the Centre for Cultural Value at the University of Leeds. What is the relationship between culture and placemaking? The Centre's latest digest brings together research that examines how and why arts and culture play a part in placemaking and what that means for organisations, practitioners, policymakers and funders.

Placemaking has been defined in many ways and from multiple perspectives, often depending on differing agendas from diverse stakeholders. For example, the way residents view making a place where they want to live may be quite different from how a property developer or town planning department thinks about it. In this digest, the Centre offers a holistic view of these perspectives, while also acknowledging that ideas of "placemaking" and "community" are contested and mean different things to different people.

Biography:



Anna Kime builds relationships with external partners and policymakers on behalf of the Centre. Working with the research and communications teams, she engages stakeholders, academics and practitioners in the Centre's work, articulating its impact to a wide range of audiences. Anna has been a long-time champion of applied research and development. She has worked in senior Lottery funding positions, leading strategies for film culture in Greater London and the North of England. Her work includes growing new audiences for cinema through Film Hub North, co-founding industry conference This Way Up and co-designing Beyond the Multiplex, a research project exploring the formation of screen audiences.

Performance Intervention: Whispers From the Woods

Abstract: *Whispers From the Woods* is a poetry and nature project documenting how young people from Derby and South Derbyshire connected with nature during the Coronavirus pandemic. Their stories formed the basis of a poem called *Everlong/Evergreen* written by Dan Webber, which will be performed during the lunch section of the conference. The poem was painted onto locally and ethically sourced wooden slices by young ambassadors involved in the project, and can currently be found at Whistlewood Common, Melbourne.



Biography: **Dan Webber** is an award-winning LGBTQ+ poet, promoter and producer based in Derby. He has appeared at numerous festivals across the country including Glastonbury Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe, Wreestival and Timber Festival. On National Poetry Day 2016, he was named the BBC Local Poet for Derby. Dan is currently Events Programmer for Derby Museums, Dracula Events Specialist for 'Dracula Returns to Derby', Outreach Coordinator for the Nottingham Queer Arts Collective and Co-Director of Derby Poetry Festival.



People, Place, Practice – UK New Artists in Derby



Abstract: UK New Artists is a nomadic organisation which supports collaboration, intercultural dialogue and developing artists' practice through cross-artform collaboration opportunities. Its current programme, *Taking Place: Derby (People, Place and Practice)*, is a six-month creative programme that engages artists, communities and young people. This short talk will explore its People, Place and Practice programme and UKNA's aspirations within Derby.

Biography: **Michelle Bowen** has worked within the creative industry for over 20 years, working across the public and private sector including as Director of Oxford Gallery and in posts at Crafts Council and Arts Council England. Her recent work has included Hayward Touring, London to launch the British Art Show 7 in Nottingham and retail development for the heritage sector. She is currently the Director of UK New Artists.



Dark Skies – Exploring People’s Connection to the Natural World at Night

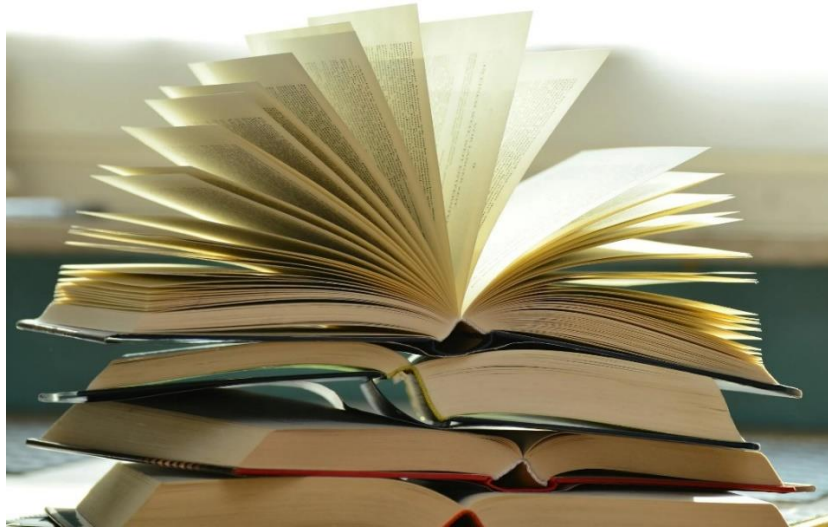


Abstract: While there exists a strong link between our relationships with nature, pro-conservation behaviour and mental well-being, additional action is necessary to mitigate the impact of human activities on biodiversity and natural systems. This research project has shown that a greater connection to the night sky is significantly and positively related to a person’s mental health and happiness, and indicates that those who live in more light-polluted areas are less connected to the night sky. This research expertise is currently being embedded through academic partnerships with Wildlife Trusts, astronomical societies, and educational providers to contribute to the university’s civic agenda.

Biography: Dr Christopher Barnes is a Chartered Psychologist, Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, and Senior Lecturer at the University of Derby. He has published in the field of nature connectedness and has a specialist interest in light pollution, connection to the natural environment at night and pro-nature conservation. He is also a dark and quiet skies advocate, amateur astronomer and astrophotographer, and lover of bats, badgers and moths.



UNESCO Learning Cities Presents: How do we create a learning territory? What factors come into play?



Abstract: This presentation constitutes the initial results of Merveille Tawab Maduma's ongoing thesis. It offers a proposal to answer the following questions: How do we create a learning territory? What factors come into play? It will begin with elements of definitions and differentiation between a Learning Territory and a Learning City. Then, it will ask, what are the components of a Learning Territory? Authors Laurent Rieutort and Truong Giang Pham each enumerate several components associated with resources, actors, spaces, tools, dynamics, and challenges. This thesis is being carried out with CIFRE funding, involving a period of immersion in the city of Thiers, located in Auvergne, France.

Biography:



Merveille Tawab Maduma is a PhD candidate in geography, specializing in territorial development. She is affiliated with the Research Laboratory in Architecture of Toulouse and the Joint Research Unit "Territoires" in Clermont-Ferrand, France. Since 2022, she has started her dissertation on the theme "Learning Territories," examining the modalities of dialogue and interactions between the active forces of the territory. Her dissertation focuses on the processes and tools that territorial actors use to create Learning Territories.



Artcore is a visual arts charity encompassing an art gallery, artistic studios, a shop, and a cafe. The gallery is a vibrant hub for contemporary art nationwide, hosting group exhibitions and private events year-round. Artists have the opportunity to participate in local and international residencies. Our new studios are open for hire at affordable rates, aiming to retain talent from Derby and Derbyshire.

But Artcore is more than just a gallery! It is a lively community hub dedicated to supporting and collaborating with local communities. Our commitment is reflected in our tailor-made training workshops, catering to diverse groups, including senior citizens, recent immigrants facing language barriers, schoolchildren, youth, unemployed adults, individuals with physical disabilities, those with borderline mental health issues, and members of BME and LGBTQI+ communities. This inclusive approach ensures that Artcore is a welcoming space for everyone, nurturing creativity and connection within a diverse range of individuals.

At Artcore, we are passionate about the power of creativity. We believe in art's potential to enrich lives.



<https://artcoreuk.com/>

Read our Civic University Agreement:



Fourth Annual Conference for CivicLAB Research Group, DMARC

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4 July, Artcore

Website: <https://www.derby.ac.uk/events/latest-events/the-4th-civiclab-annual-conference-2024/>

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