

BRIEFING NOTE FOR PANEL DISCUSSION

Event

To support the National Saturday Club network of tutors and coordinators, we run a Tutors' Programme which brings the network together to exchange ideas and share best practice, with a particular focus on further developing approaches to creative pedagogy and widening participation. Across the Tutors' Programme events, the National Saturday Club team, Club tutors and external speakers share their expertise and insight, supporting tutors' continuing professional development and sparking new conversations about teaching for creativity and inclusivity.

The meeting on Thursday 2 May will be the final Tutors' Meeting of the 2023–24 academic year. The meeting will be focused on partnership, collaboration and inclusion in creative and cultural education. It will provide an opportunity for tutors to come together and share their learnings and experience.

Audience

National Saturday Club tutors and coordinators from universities, colleges and cultural institutions nationally from across all eight Club subjects: Art&Design, Craft&Making, Fashion&Business, Film&Screen, Performance&Theatre, Science&Engineering, Society&Change and Writing&Talking.

PANEL DISCUSSION, 11.15–12.00 (45 MINS)

The power of partnership:

Saturday Club as a local ecology approach and a model for civic engagement

By design, the National Saturday Club is a dynamic network of partners across education, industry and the cultural sector who share the collective goal of empowering young people to realise their full potential. In this panel discussion, we will explore the vital importance of civic engagement, the potential of cross-sector local partnership, and how Saturday Club tutors and coordinators can embed collaboration in their approach to programming and delivery.

CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

10.00–10.30

Arrival and breakfast

10.30–11.15

Welcome

11.15–12.00

Panel discussion: Local partnership and collaboration at the Saturday Club.

Speakers:

Professor Nona McDuff OBE (Chair)

Alex Bird – Relationship Manager, National Saturday Club

Urvi Nandha – Alumni member

Amanda Spruyt – Head of Learning, Nottingham Contemporary

Dr Rhiannon Jones – Associate Professor (Civic), University of Derby

12.00–13.00

Networking and artist led gallery visit

[Click here](#) for current exhibitions

13.00–14.00

Lunch

14.00–15.00

Guest talk: Race, equality and inclusion in education in the context of the [Visualise Report](#).

Speaker:

Shabna Begum

CEO, Runnymede Trust

15.00–16.30

Workshops: Creating a Saturday Club environment

Topics:

Teaching and learning

Youth voice

Co-creation

16.30–17.30

Drinks reception

PROMPTS FOR PANEL DISCUSSION

Format of discussion

- Introductions from the panel (5 mins per panel member)
Prompt: Please provide a short introduction to yourself and your work including your experience of partnership building and how it has made a difference
- Nona to chair discussion around a series of talking points before opening to the audience for any additional questions or contributions.

Potential talking points

1. There are many examples across the National Saturday Club network of Saturday Clubs instigating powerful local partnerships through their programmes and activities. Within this context, what role can a Saturday Club play in increasing access to opportunity for young people locally and nationally?
2. We know that there is inequity of access to high-quality extracurricular, cultural and creative activity for young people. How might we think differently about broadening our networks and activities to identify the gaps and engage young people with effective interventions, in order to support their academic, personal and social development?
3. We know that partnership and collaboration is key to unlocking funding and delivering on access and participation plan requirements. How can we continue to drive momentum and communicate the intrinsic value of collaboration against a challenging economic and social backdrop?
4. What impact might working at a 'hyper-local' level – building networks between businesses, cultural partners and educational have on the educational and cultural opportunities available to young people for the long term?
5. Quickfire final question: In education and the world of work, what are the top three qualities of an effective 'partnership'?

PANELLIST BIOGRAPHIES

Professor Nona McDuff (Chair)

Nona is London Met's Pro Vice-Chancellor for Student Success. She was awarded an OBE for her services to higher education and is a National Teaching Fellow and a Principal Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Throughout her career in both further and higher education, Nona has been driven by her commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion in her teaching, leadership and research. She is passionate about widening access and is dedicated to ensuring inclusion in higher education is recognised as an essential measure of quality in teaching and professional services.

Nona is currently a Trustee of the National Saturday Club, a member of the British Council's Education Advisory Group and a member of the Advance HE Peer Review Quality Committee. She has been a panel member of the Teaching Excellence Framework, a member of the UUK's Racial Harassment Advisory Group and a member of the ministerial Social Mobility Advisory Group which has prioritised the challenges and barriers students face in Higher Education. Nona was invited to address the All Party Parliamentary Group on Higher Education on diversity in academia where she challenged the ministers to take active steps to promote social justice through education.

Nona's work on the degree awarding gap and the Inclusive Curriculum Framework gained sector recognition, was awarded the Guardian Teaching Excellence prize (2017) and has been disseminated across five other institutions as part of the Office for Students' catalyst programme on student success. Nona's research interests include inclusive curricula and differential attainment and she is regularly invited to speak on disability and widening participation nationally and internationally.

Alex Bird

Alex Bird is currently the Relationship Manager for the North of England and North Wales at National Saturday Club and prior to this role worked in the museum and gallery sector for almost 20 years. Previously, roles with ACE funded Museum Development have seen him work alongside over 180 museums across the UK and he has been both a Trustee of the Museums Association and was until recently a Council Member of the National Trust. In addition to his role at the National Saturday Club, Alex is currently the Co-Chair of the Greater Manchester chapter of What Next, which convenes spaces to bring together leadership from across the arts and culture sectors.

Rhiannon Jones

Dr Rhiannon Jones (FRSA) is Associate Professor (Civic Practice), University of Derby. She leads CivicLAB an Institution-wide centre on participatory culture, creative dialogue, and civic practice. 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, a ground-breaking, award-winning and internationally recognised Gallery. She regularly works with Council for Higher Education in Art and Design, British Academy and Design Council UK.

Her research into placemaking is a case study for the National Centre for Academic and Cultural Exchange and 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).

PANELLIST BIOGRAPHIES CONT.**Urvi Nandha**

Urvi Nandha, is a former Nottingham Trent University Art&Design Saturday Club member. She is currently pursuing a Master's degree at Manchester School of Architecture. Urvi is passionate about people, learning and design. As an individual, she is driven to connect with people from different cultures and disciplines so to continue her learning journey. Urvi takes pride in being a student and has experience of working in architectural practices across London and Prague, being part of a number of exciting architectural initiatives. Currently, Urvi is deeply interested in radical pedagogy and the evolving nature of architecture and the arts as a profession and practice.

Amanda Spruyt

Amanda is Head of Learning at Nottingham Contemporary. With her team of programmers and artists she works with schools, families, youth and community groups across the city. Their approach focuses on partnerships and growing projects together. Before that Amanda worked in schools developing creative programmes for students and families and in neighbourhoods supporting children's voices in local decision-making.