



Programme Outline

Spring – Autumn 2021

Overview

'Come Together' is an exciting new Knowle West Media Centre programme of public events, training, professional development, co-creation & commissions.

It is designed to support artists and communities to develop new skills in socially engaged 'hybrid' (digital plus physical) arts practices in order to collectively re-occupy and re-create the shared spaces and experiences we desperately need now, to connect and 'Come Together'.

The programme will result in new: artforms and networks, greater diversity in arts leadership, nationally transferrable hybrid work, and tool-kits for best practice around making and sharing hybrid artwork and cultural experiences.

Context

2020 has highlighted that blended, or 'hybrid' (physical plus digital), approaches to making and sharing art and culture are increasingly necessary and important, enabling those most isolated to benefit and participate. However, many artists, creatives and communities are not equipped with the right tools and resources to navigate this new context. Many communities are being left behind by both the digital divide and the inaccessible design of many platforms and tools.

Through 2020 KWMC applied a range of blended, hybrid (physical plus virtual) approaches to continue co-creating with artists and communities. This included using a mix of digital and physical tools and approaches to co-design and build outcomes such as ['Block West'](#), a temporary pavilion now outside KWMC.

Through the 'Come Together' programme KWMC will share learnings, tips and tools developed through lockdown and through 24 years of experience in supporting creatives and communities to co-create the spaces, artwork and tools they want and need.

Programme

The Come Together programme is designed to support and enable artists and communities to practically explore new ways of connecting, through a mix of digital and physical approaches and tools. It acknowledges that even when we move out of lockdown, we shouldn't leave all we have learnt behind. We need to find new viable and inclusive hybrid ways of working, making and staying connected. The project gives an opportunity for communities and artists, representative of varied lived experiences, to explore re-imagine and co-create together.

The programme will ask:

- What inspiring hybrid approaches and tools are people already using to 'Come Together'? For example; combining online content with tangible objects posted to homes, mixing food deliveries with live cooking tutorials, audio experiences to connect strangers in their houses.
- What are the barriers and challenges we face in finding safe hybrid ways to 'Come Together'?
- What could more inclusive, accessible hybrid tools, spaces and experiences through which to 'Come Together' look like?
- What might we make to 'Come Together' differently and how could we share this through hybrid means?

These questions and more will be explored through:

- **Public talks and training workshops (Summer 2021)**
Led by KWMC, international artists, project partners and community organisations providing hybrid (physical plus digital) tools and methods for staying connected, making and sharing art / cultural experiences in and with communities.
- **Co-creation commissions (Summer 2021)**
Four commissioned creatives from across the South West to work with communities in Knowle West to co-create new hybrid experiences, spaces or tools around the themes of 'Come Together'
- **Content creation commissions (Summer 2021)**
Two digital storytellers to tell the story of the project by being embedded in the programme
- **Showcase event (Autumn 2021)**
Sharing outcomes at a hybrid festival in Autumn 2021
- **The creation of a new hybrid-connection tool-kit**
Sharing methods, learnings and best practice

The programme will be supported by:

- **A cohort of artists and digital storytellers with** different lived experience, expertise and stages of their careers
- **A new network of national co-creation partners** who will test and give feedback on new work created
- **Inclusion partners / critical friends** supporting the development and delivery of activity
- **KWMC** creative facilitators and fabricators
- **Business development consultants** who will support the business potential of newly created work and toolkits

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