



Conference
for Festivals

22 - 23 November 2022,
Gloucester Guildhall

*The Place to
Connect*

Programme

Tuesday 22 November

1pm: Welcome

1.15pm - 2.30pm: *This is the Place*

Nick Green from Arts Council England, Ali Mawle from Cheltenham Festivals, Philip Walker from Gloucester City Council, Nick Morgan from We are the Fair and Jack Whitewood, Ventnor Fringe will discuss the impact of the priority places and levelling up agendas, and how festivals contribute to place-making, chaired by Erica Smith, PortsFest

2.30pm - 3pm: break

3pm - 3.15pm: *Provocation: How do you move away from Artistic Director led programming if you're an Artistic Director?* Emma-Jane Benning, Co Artistic Director & Halima Malek, Community Producer Strike A Light

3.15pm - 4.15pm: *How was it for you? What 2022 tells us about the future*

We'll be talking about the key themes and trends from this year, how festivals are adapting to meet these and what they tell us for the future, with speakers including James McVeigh from Festivals Edinburgh and David Brownlee from Data Culture Change, chaired by Alison Giles, Presteigne Festival

4.15pm - 6pm: Venue tour and wine reception: Jolt/The Music Works

7.30pm: optional evening meal at Côte, Quayside

Wednesday 23 November

9am: Registration and tea/coffee

9.30am: Welcome followed by creative provocation by Marc Yeats: *Drawing Music*

Start your day as a composer with this open, creative, expressive and surprising six-minute guided experience that unleashes your ability to instantly transform listening into a graphic score.

9.40am - 10.40am: *We need to talk: making the case for festivals*

As BAFA launches its four year PhD on arts festivals at a time of crisis, our panel looks at the value of research and explores how festivals can use data to help festival recovery and development. Speakers include Naomi Taylor, BCU/Chiltern Arts, Jonathan Todd of BOP Consulting and chair Professor Nicholas Gebhardt, BCU

10.40am - 10.55am: break

10.55am - 11.05: Provocation by Mark Pemberton: *That's no way to run a business!*

11.05am - 12.05pm: *Failing Fast*: Sonia Stevenson of Music Patron and Sarah Gee of Spitalfields

Festival lead a session to help festivals navigate new ways of creative practice, including MPV solutions and agile working

12.05pm - 12.45pm: *Roundtables* - breakout sessions to look at different topics including *Research and data*; *New ticketing models*; *Introducing the European Festival Fund for Emerging Artists (EFFEA)*; *Burnout and recovery*; *Working with Composers - times of changes for contemporary music* with chairs including Gert Naessens of European Festivals Association and Sonia Stevenson of Music Patron

12.45pm - 1.40pm: lunch

1.40pm - 1.45pm: Creative provocation by Supriya Nagarajan *Sound & Silence*

An interaction of silence and sound within a melody. Using South Indian vocals, Supriya embellishes and glides across notes to create moments of reflection and joy.

1.45pm - 2.30pm: *Taking the lead: new takes on governance and leadership*

Jonathan Mayes of Clore Leadership/Cultural Governance Alliance, Nick Green of Arts Council England, Naomi Belshaw and Alexis Paterson of Three Choirs Festival discuss trends in governance and explore how festivals can refresh and revitalise their organisations

2.30pm - 3.30pm: Breakouts: closed sessions for boards/chairs and executive - a chance for delegates to discuss issues in a safe, facilitated space under Chatham House rules

3.30pm - 3.45pm: break

3.45pm - 4.45pm: *Fast forward: future festivals* - James McVeigh of Festivals Edinburgh chairs a panel presenting new developments in the sector, including Emma Whittle of Cheltenham Festivals' VOICEBOX, Gert Naessens of European Festivals Association and Emma-Jane Benning and Halima Malek of Strike a Light

4.45pm - 5pm: close

Please note that the conference programme and speakers remain subject to change