

Potential Arts Space, Elgin Community Consultation Online Survey Results October 2021

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SUMMARY

Live Monday 4th October – Monday 18th October 2021

192 views – 125 starts – 50 completed responses (40% completion rate)

Average time spent: 16 minutes 53 seconds



Potential Arts Space, Elgin

M:ADE are currently looking to gain an insight into if and how a potential new contemporary arts space in Elgin, Moray, may service the local community.

We are keen hear your comments and reflections in relation to 6 key areas that we believe could shape such a potential space:

Exhibitions, Community Learning, Facilities, Membership/Practitioner Support, Commercial and Collaboration.

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts.

1. What type of exhibitions/related events would you like to access more locally and why?

All responses are below but in summary the following came out as priority areas (determined by frequency of mention): Contemporary art (fine, craft and design), multi-media variety, emphasis on local showcasing, quality work.

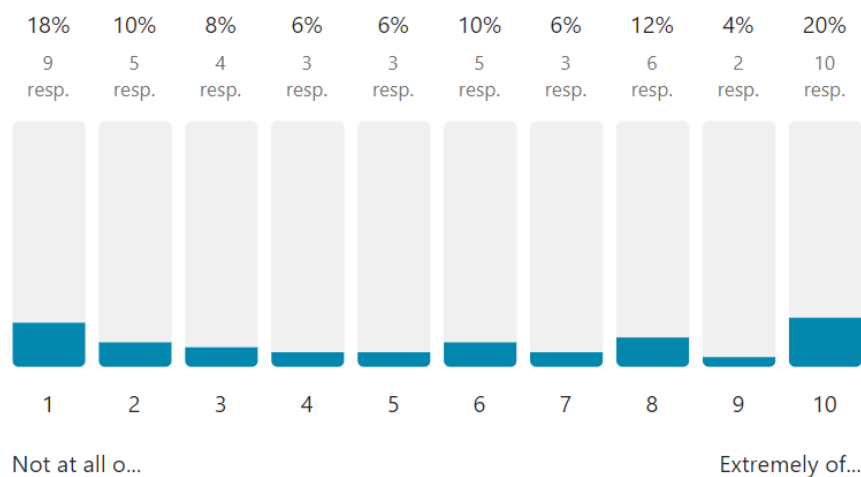
A theatre and performance space featured a number of times, but this provision is better placed within the refurbishment of Elgin Town Hall.

- Workshops/classes, networking, visual arts exhibitions - controversial ones!
- Art exhibitions of local artists so we could support their businesses
- A great contemporary performance/theatre space, workshop/making space, and community hub
- Modern art / abstract / sculpture Exhibitions and events promoting the local area
- Showcasing contemporary art, craft, and design from both Moray and much further afield. With a good balance between design-based practice and art-based practice.
- Contemporary Art other than 'traditional' pieces
- Art with substance, growing talent, real creativity. A quality Exhibition space with regular exhibitions showcasing local work beyond landscapes, boats and planes. Locally there isn't a good quality exhibition space
- Work by local artists because there is not much of a platform in the NE that I am aware of
- local and international art events - printmaking, film, sculpture, fine art, ceramics, interactive media
- Theatre because in general we have to travel to Inverness or Aberdeen
- I would love to see more workshops and open days at studios etc
- Art developed in collaboration with science to inspire young people that both are equally important
- Art exhibitions, especially of national interest rather than local, as there is so little of cultural interest in this area
- Art exhibitions, Dance, theatre events
- Painting galleries, indoors due to the bad weather
- High quality fine art and contemporary exhibitions which can extend a local audience. The non-artist local population may be intimidated by more conceptual approaches and need gentle and clever approaches to engagement, education and getting inside in order to increase development and support network for practitioners and grads.
- Quality contemporary art by local and other artists
- Any work by local people
- Broad spectrum local, regional & national exhibitions
- Art gallery combined with local history museum because Moray has such a rich culture of both, and we can't justify one of each; we have a small museum but something bigger and incorporating our natural history would be so interesting
- High quality, professionally curated exhibitions that provide the local population with an opportunity to engage with work that goes beyond the local, that clearly sits within the realms of fine art practice, both historical and contemporary

- Regular exhibitions of art and crafts by the many practitioners in the county of Moray. Since the demise of the Moray Art Group joint exhibitions of local work are few and far between
- Exhibitions and events which showcase local talent
- A broader variety of styles and media
- All sorts of exhibitions would be good for Elgin! I don't have a car right now so i can't go to the central belt to look at art. we need more art of all descriptions in the north anyway
- Any exhibitions at all would be great, but perhaps an exhibition space with a big variety of shows and some cross generational appeal. Pop Pop in Forres is great, but from responses I've heard, only the younger generation "get it"??? I enjoyed when Moray Art Centre used to have national touring exhibitions and high "quality" work, as well as local artists in other shows - inclusive i guess...
- Workshops, dance, art, literary. I think the arts help make life more than just a slog. It's important we make them available to everyone
- Art and crafts
- Contemporary, Conceptual; Photographic, multimedia and In International as well as local and Scottish art. Moray seems to have only the Elgin Library driven by clubs and societies and occasionally good quality art. There are no proper places to view High Quality Contemporary Art In Moray. The Moray Arts centre is Findhorn centric and fails to attract interest from the wider public. It is also limited. Moray needs to have a centre as Elgin is home of an art school and a movement bubbling under the surface to drive change in the arts scene in Moray
- Open art exhibitions, graduate shows as well as individual established artists. I'd like to see more painting
- More contemporary art such as you see in Glasgow and Edinburgh
- Contemporary Art. Lacking in Moray just now
- Arts and crafts
- Local and visiting artists who work in a variety of medium. Artists' lectures and demos perhaps. Workshops for beginners
- I would love to see all different types of art and craft exhibitions and events where we could learn and create our own work
- Photography/ unseen artists
- Art films, exhibitions, workshops, music, drama, dance anything so that local people can enjoy the arts without having to travel to Aberdeen or Glasgow or Edinburgh with all the resulting costs involved. For more equality of experience
- Established artists, open calls, emerging artists, industry talks
- Personally, I like art, craft, design, and interdisciplinary practices that involve tacit knowledge and hands-on making. I live in Speyside, so Elgin isn't 'local' but as a central point to offer a space that's accessible then it's a good location
- Higher end art and artists. ones with international recognition
- Contemporary art, artist talks, socially engaged events. Visit galleries is my favourite day out, art/chat/coffee&cake. Elgin has nothing like this and So I go out of town and spend my money elsewhere. A contemporary art space in Elgin would bring visitors to our town.
- Exhibitions of work by artists of local, national, and international standing - all equally important. A venue that can take touring exhibitions as well as mounting original exhibitions. Artists talking about their work, discussions on relevant issues, opportunities to try out new techniques, training in key skills, e.g. website design, photography, professional practice, funding applications. Artists in residence - different perspectives
- Contemporary and less "institutional"

- More contemporary art exhibitions. I would love to see a space which could accommodate exhibitions of a professional standard as well as space to showcase community generated work and related projects. Artists talks, workshops and projects people could get involved with would also be great. A programme for recent graduates and emerging artists to gain experience in curating and producing exhibitions would be great too
- Art, ceramics, textile, film, dance, music. While I enjoy going to Aberdeen, Dundee and Edinburgh for example to art galleries and museums etc, it would be nice to have something closer to home in Moray
- High end, current and historic works of fine art of all media types
- Contemporary art
- Anything that is free cause I am broke
- Student art and new graduates! Contemporary and abstract stuff

2. Generally, how often do you travel out with the region of Moray to utilise creative equipment or facilities?



5.5 average

3. What type of equipment/facilities would you like to access more locally and why?

All responses are below but in summary the following came out as priority areas (determined by frequency of mention): Exhibition/gallery space, printmaking facilities, digital equipment (printers, laser cutters), workshop area and studio space. Ceramic facilities, a dark room, and an art shop too, but to a lesser degree.

Again, a theatre and performance space featured a number of times but this provision is better placed within the refurbishment of Elgin Town Hall.

- Print making, digital printers, projectors
- Art classes singing classes
- Contemporary performance and theatre space along with studio facilities for creating and workshops
- Sculpture park - art in the natural environment
- A print studio (specifically photo silkscreen printing), large format digital printing - both paper and textiles based, a laser cutter
- Workshop spaces for making bigger pieces using clay, metal etc. Not readily available here
- Quality exhibition space
- Printmaking, ceramic facility, and digital fabrication - laser cutting, vinyl cutting, embroidery, etc
- Theatre
- Different printing facilities, such as are available in Inverness print studio
- Ceramics, glass, laser cutting, large scale 3d printing, workshop space by the afternoon. To make creating large scale items more accessible
- Exhibition facilities and studio spaces, as none in this area
- Studio space
- Gallery spaces, as I do paintings
- I'm in Highland but would travel to Elgin more to visit fine art shows of interest and be inclined to become more engaged in arts in Moray
- Gallery space, studio spaces, workshops
- Anywhere I could see local stuff
- Resource library (easels, projectors, screens, iPads, brushes etc)
- I have my own workshop so not looking for that (though who knows; if there was one...), rather I am someone who likes to visit galleries and natural history museums and I've travelled all over the world to visit them. When I lived in Glasgow (my younger days), it was how I spent my Sundays
- Printmaking, workshop, digital photographic/reproduction & gallery/exhibition space
- Exhibition space and facilities for group/ club/ education
- Large space with lighting and sound equipment to hold events as not many places in Elgin available are suitable for access or generally too expensive to make an event feasible
- Exhibition space/opportunities, life drawing drop ins.
- Printing studios would be really good, like the printmaking studio in Inverness. I love printmaking but I have to do it at home, which is pretty difficult
- I visit Highland Print Studio in Inverness at least once a week. A Moray Printmaking Workshop would be something I would be interested in helping take forward. People I was teaching today were also keen on community facilities for ceramics
- Workshop facilities where I can learn skills, venues to watch performances and see exhibitions. Why? To showcase the amazing talent, we have around us and to share skills and love of what we do
- Tuition of different crafts
- Dark room, printing facilities, studio space, photographic studio space, 3d printing and exhibition facilities. Inverness is the nearest but is limited and Edinburgh or Glasgow are highly impractical choices
- Printmaking facilities and tuition, and more studio spaces
- Space for small exhibitions so students and new artists can have exhibition experience

- Workshop space
- Arts and crafts
- Studio space to exhibit but also the opportunity to meet and work with likeminded budding artists
- I love lino printing and would like to learn more about this as well as jewellery making
- Photography studio space
- Workshops, dark rooms, printing for local artists and everyone to access. Music studio for hire. Small local theatre/cinema/dance/music venue like the Red Shoes
- Print studio
- In future I may like to exhibit wall hangings and offer workshops in a range of textile related art/craft/design skills. Mostly what I miss from the gallery where I previously worked was the range of people I met, and the fact that we exhibited work from a really broad range of art, craft and design disciplines, each had it's own networks, a space where these networks could connect and cross-pollinate through shared or joint thematic exhibitions (alongside a programme that also contained solo exhibitions or discipline specific exhibitions. We held professional yet also pretty messy workshops/masterclasses within the gallery space itself as it was big enough to cope. It had light through a large window onto the street, people could see what was going on. It was a really friendly gallery space
- Affordable LARGE studio space - possibly for short lets rather than signing up for months
- A makers shed, like a Men's shed, but for everyone who needs temporary space/tools/support to make things. Artists, Diy-ers, retirees. A print workshop (like Highland print/Peacock)
- Flexible project space that could be used for laying out/photographing work, collaborating with other artists or putting on events. Exhibition space. Artis in Residence living quarters/studio space?
- Quality gallery space
- Printmaking, digital print facilities studio or gallery space on occasion. There are very few affordable workspaces available in the area and the closest printing facilities are in Inverness.
- Pottery/ceramics generally classes to learn new skills and techniques from different studios and artists.
- Locally run/owned Fine art supplies store. Studio spaces.
- Print workshop and photographic darkroom.
- A more local hobbycraft/literally any art shop for basic things that are cheap
- Classes, exhibitions, studios

4. Please order the following in terms of interest/how likely you might be to engage with activity of this nature.

The below rates activity from averagely 'most rated' to 'least rated':

- i. ONE-OFF CREATIVE WORKSHOPS
- ii. EXHIBITION OPENINGS
- iii. SHORT VISUAL ART COURSES
- iv. ARTIST TALKS/Q&A'S
- v. COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

5. Please expand on what kind of activity you feel a new arts space should/could provide for the community and why?

All responses are below but in summary the following came out as priority areas (determined by frequency of mention): Overall direction should be underpinned by accessibility (in financial, environmental, and programming contexts), a physical space for experimentation, dialogue, and coming together, with an emphasis on sharing ideas, learning, and being exposed to creativity. A balance of quality and inclusivity.

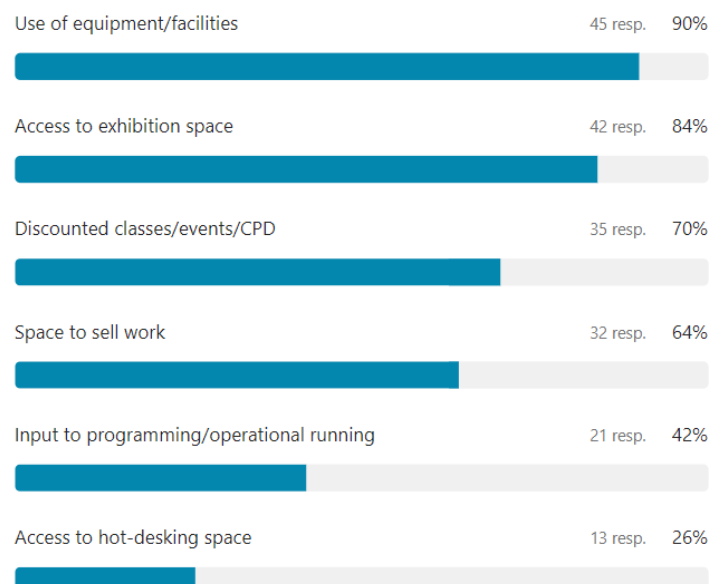
- A place where everyone feels welcome, a place to challenge perceptions and stimulate conversation
- An opportunity for people of all ages to access the opportunity to experience their creative capabilities
- We really lack a great theatre/performance space in Moray that hosts companies to make and perform new work. I would like to see more shows and see the local performance community better supported
- Inclusive environment and kids' activities
- A commercial space to sell locally made creative products. A hub for networking and building sportive connections. A space to both attend and offer creative workshops. Digital literacy for creatives - at various levels (which I could teach for you!)
- A flexible meeting place for making work and sharing ideas. Nothing like that here
- The community and town centre desperately needs life brought back to it. And an arts space, if delivered well and not hap-hazardously is the very thing. Everyone loves art and design, everyone needs it. Somewhere to buy decent materials locally, for one off workshops, a space to view interesting, contemporary work. Local and further afield
- An opportunity to try out new things. Learn more about yourself, build confidence, meet new people, prevent social isolation, help with mental wellbeing
- Centre for printmaking and visual arts - studio/gallery space, meeting place/cafe, etc.
- There is no theatre in Elgin
- Workshops and interactivity to get the community more involved and supportive of the arts
- It needs to be accessible to all without all the fluff and pomp that usually goes with art spaces. Small exhibitions that inspire along with space to explore creativity in new and accessible ways with and without guidance on a daily basis. More informal (drop in space) than scheduled classes and workshops but alongside those offerings
- It could be a hub for artists to meet and share their skills; also, a selling space, because opportunities for both are scarce
- Central Exhibition space (inside and out) for local artists/visiting artists that the local community could be encouraged to access
- Artists talks would engage more people into contemporary art scenes
- Extend welcome to broad audience. Challenge inclusion. Support Scottish culture and heritage
- Space for workshops/studios with gallery
- Free space for anybody to show their work
- Free/cheap venue for exhibitions
- A place to appreciate art together; to educate and to attract tourists/visitors

- The DCA in Dundee is good example of a facility that could work, it houses a cinema, a printmaking studio, an internationally recognised collection of artists books, a bar/restaurant, shop, education space and galleries
- An opportunity to show local art, for artists to meet, and for learning. Art is an enriching experience for artists and the public
- Should be able to provide people in the area better access to the creative arts without the need of travelling outside Moray. Emphasis on positive effects to the local economy which may also bring additional people into the area
- There is little on the way of space for up-and-coming artists to show new work
- I think that space in general is something which seems to be in short supply in Elgin. studio space... exhibition space... artist's spaces
- Community art workshop space for a range of classes
- Somewhere where artists can work, share space and experience, pass on expertise and showcase their talents would be nice. I'm thinking how nice the space at An Tobar is on Mull, which also has a cafe to draw in people. It hosts music, theatre productions, movies made locally, shows artists work, and give opportunities for the community to come together. It helps build the community and also draws in people from outside
- I like to experience new crafts and art
- The ability to see and participate in activities that will empower them through experiencing their creative side and stimulating questions about their life and community as well as assist them address common issues of concern
- A new arts space could maybe also feature local musicians and a space to have a coffee, encouraging people to spend time and meet people there as well as maybe be inspired
- Interactive and outreaching to all ages. Look the social factors in the area these groups into consideration
- Exhibitions and creative workshops
- Arts and crafts
- A more "open to all" approach. Something to engage with young and old and also the opportunity to purchase affordable art
- Short courses and workshops for all abilities, fun and interactive
- Many different genres
- Facility where people can come together to create but also equipped with facilities for individual use with perhaps someone to go to for assistance
- Access to try a varied range of mediums for creative practice. Charity Funded classes for lower income families
- I think a new arts space should provide jobs, CPD development opportunities for a range of creative practitioners and people who support/work with them, and that people who practice arts as professionals should not always be viewed as distinct from 'the community'. That doesn't mean don't engage artists/crafts people/designers from further afield but recognise that an arts venue will engage with a range of thematic communities as well as the more immediate geography and by doing so will increase the number of people locally who do engage and as the population of Moray's tastes and interests are diverse, wide and varied
- Safe space for outsider artists - those that fall through the cracks when it comes to higher education funding strands
- Galleries are a place to meet to open our minds, as individuals or as groups. It is educational, sparks debate, thought, and inspires. It can be for quiet contemplation or a party. Contemporary art is a voice from today's artists and encourages us to talk about

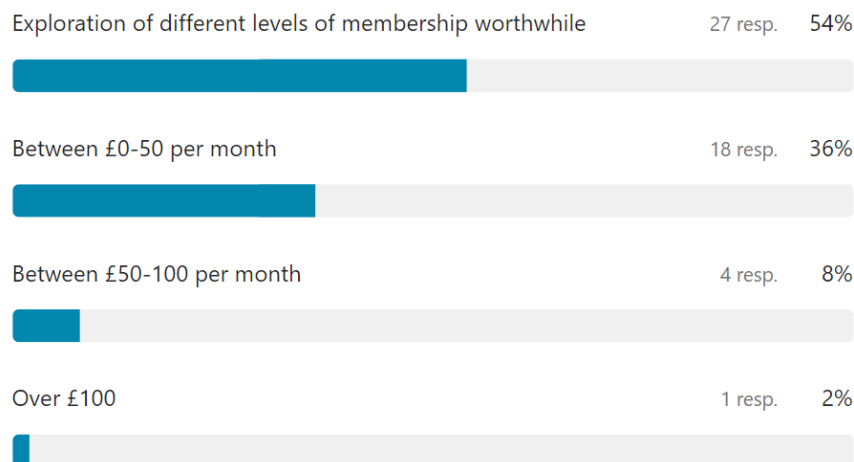
what we experience in our lives. It is vital for everyone to have access to art, for it to be normal not something other people do

- I think a new arts space could provide all the things outlined above, and all of them are very important, but most important of all, in the process of providing these it would become a "home" for artists in Moray, a hub for them to meet and engage in creative exchange/ collaboration, or simply to feel the mutual support of being part of a network. Potential for artists in residence bringing in different artists/outlooks from outside the area and offering opportunities to local artists
- An opportunity to view and engage with artists (a rare event in most people's lives) not necessarily to be drawn into purchasing art but to have the opportunity to ask questions and mostly to perhaps feel the enthusiasm and passion
- A programme of exhibitions with related activities for example short courses and workshops which relate to the programming alongside educational activities such as talks/ workshops by artists for young people (maybe school visits) It is important that people can get involved in art activities for fun, health and wellbeing. It's also great if people can experience good quality art and meet/ hear from artists and understand what they do. Each year students graduate in the area with art degrees and so it is important that they should have somewhere to continue to progress and develop their professional skills. Local young people also will benefit from seeing and engaging with art and may want to follow this career path and study locally
- For people from all walks of life. Sometimes art is reserved for the privileged and affluent. To learn new hobbies, crafts and skills can cost a lot of money. A community involvement, pay it in kind scheme might be nice. I learn something from attending your workshop, I will help you set up/clear up type exchange
- Opportunity and accessibility for the local community to experience examples of quality current and historic local and international fine art. To allow more people access to the experience of witnessing quality fine art first-hand
- Moray has an insular art scene with few contemporary practitioners or places to show
- More access to everyone (aka make it affordable)
- Studio spaces with exhibition opportunities for new grads or local artists

6. What benefits might attract you to invest in a membership at a new local arts venue?



7. How much might you expect/be prepared to pay for an annual membership if terms of the agreement were of benefit to you?



8. In what ways would you like/expect a local arts venue to support artists and practitioners? This may be related to continued professional development or otherwise.

All responses are below but in summary the following came out as priority areas (determined by frequency of mention): Opportunities to show and sell work comes out as a strong lead, followed by support in professional practice areas (funding, marketing etc) and finally an offer varied CPD opportunities, mindful of different entry/engagement levels. Residencies and employment were also mentioned multiple times. There is also an overwhelming response rate with comments relating to providing a place of 'belonging'.

- CPD, networking, 'HR' type support, helping with funding applications
- An annual exhibition open to the public to enable sales of art etc
- Professional development, seed funding, residencies
- Ability to share costs and rent space
- To help with ongoing CPD, to provide a space to meet, network and support, to provide opportunities to sell work, to provide a space for artists and designers to share opportunities e.g. grants, funding, exhibitions, workshops, employment
- Providing facilities with specialist equipment that either are impractical due to space at home or are too expensive
- To ensure it does not become a 'clique'
- Run workshops leading to exhibitions/sale of participants work
- Highly trained tutors/staff who have knowledge about specific techniques such as printmaking or digital design
- CPD
- Give them the opportunity to present themselves to a wider audience

- Business development, exhibiting, building your practice, funding application support
- Yes, CPD would be good; also, opportunities for artists to earn through being creative practitioners; and opportunities simply for social contact
- An arts venue that would bring artists and viewers to come together without intimidation
- It would be great to have a safe space to attend after uni graduation. To have support as a new artist.
- Inclusion is important. Effort to include less proactive or disabled artists as barriers to feeling included can be invisible or unsaid. I experience difficulties with this because of hidden ADHD e.g. feel not part of popular selected artists for opportunities because of confidence or challenges to being organised within certain timeframes. Not included because of perceptions of class, political bias, ageism
- Opportunities for local artists to show and sell work
- Make it free
- Help with marketing work, membership of collector plan art purchasing plan
- Yes CPD, forums, opportunities to exhibit and give talks, networking and sharing ideas and identifying opportunities for funding/fundraising, research and cross-disciplinary work/networks
- Quality exhibitions, possible residency space, workshop/social etc
- As a platform for local arts and a means for artists to show their work
- Providing a space equipped with the tools and resources to develop and showcase their work without having to leave the area
- Providing space and events for local artists to not only exhibit but also to connect and meet
- Helping us advertise would be good
- "Group"/open exhibitions given all an opportunity to exhibit
- Offer a space where people could go and find information on available opportunities
- Tuition and support
- Provide a focal point for artists and facilities of a high standard to allow artists to remain in Moray and to contribute to a wider audience internationally
- Practical advice and plentiful opportunities to showcase work
- Exhibitions, CPD, Links and relationships with similar venues
- Available course
- Local artists
- Personally I would like advice on what's required to hold an exhibition. How many pieces, pricing, framing and how to optimise the space
- To be a space available for all up and coming artist
- Investing in young people/ continued development/ creative hub for all genres
- Exhibition space, artists talks and workshops, mentoring
- Work experience for those starting out in the industry. The chance to curate or exhibit at a group
- A range of development opportunities from short courses through to jobs, but not necessarily try to run it all, engage with and champion/support/serve the flourishing of a range of different independent networks
- There are so many opportunities online now since covid, that I think its biggest draw would be the space to exhibit and work. Something like the pier arts centre in Orkney. An amazing art library resource would be wonderful too. Might be worth thinking about a 'food bank' style of basic materials made available :D
- Opportunities to exhibit, employment, a meeting place for a creative community. Artist talks

- Professional development training (perhaps in partnership with others such as SAU), opportunities to show work and engage with audiences, facilitation of artists' projects, networking/social events
- The whole spectrum from school to becoming an artist ready and willing to show work. The artist would identify with the organisation and be an ambassador
- CPD courses, maybe administrating VACMA funds so Moray could participate. Acting as a hub and gathering place for ongoing networking structure, attracting funding to support programmes including local artists
- CPD, help with marketing, advertising, exhibition venue, being part of a collective, constructive critical feedback, overall support, skills workshops
- Training courses / facilities
- More information/resources to help people sell their artwork
- Collaborating with practitioners for workshops/exhibitions - social media support, media coverage - help with admin possibly? Professional practice workshops for new artists may be helpful?

9. Collaboration with businesses, organisations, artists, and communities would be key. Do any potential partnerships/relationships come to mind when thinking about a possible new arts venue?

- Independent businesses in town, the town hall?, MAC?, Moray College
- Gordon and MacPhail
- Moray Art Centre
- Perhaps coaching support for artists e.g supporting them as independent entrepreneurs and small business owners
- Hard to say. 'Build it and they will come'
- Aberdeen Art Gallery
- Creative Scotland, local art shops, local investors
- Collaboration with large and small businesses locally.
- The art school, local cafes etc
- Environmental agencies, John Muir Trust, Scientific Research specific to the area
- Close links with MS of A; possible links with Johnstons of Elgin and their design department
- Moray Council
- Car showrooms, hospitals
- I don't know the locality well but Logie Steading springs to mind as a good environment for maybe little outreach residencies? I would worry about strong unionist political bias which comes from elements of population connected with armed forces. I have 1st hand experience of that involved in broader arts in Highland. Not caring about the arts. Motivated by personal wealth at any cost to others. Not everyone obviously but one or two corrupt characters out there offering money and business management. Be sure you don't get conned
- Partnerships with venues/opps in central belt for creative exchange
- Council, church, business. schools
- Creative Scotland, Moray Council
- Business (all kinds), whisky and manufacturing, product design

- None, I don't agree that business, organisations, and communities should be involved unless involvement is restricted to servicing or accessing facilities, autonomy and clarity of mission would be compromised from the outset if they were
- If participation with local businesses is to be successful, the question of "what's in it for me?" must be addressed
- Schools, colleges, I am sure most Elgin businesses would want to build a partnership/relationship with a venue such as this if it brings business to the area, links with hospitality, other smaller community groups and new artists should be a given priority also