

ENGAGING LIBRARIES HELPSHEET 2 NETWORKS AND USEFUL LINKS

This document lists some organisations which may be able to help you find partners in the spheres of public engagement, art or science. The list is not exhaustive and it is an optional resource – you are welcome to collaborate with individuals or organisations local to you.

Public Engagement

National Coordinating Centre for Public Engagement:

<https://www.publicengagement.ac.uk/explore-it/what-public-engagement>

This organisation supports universities to do public engagement. The site lists many resources which can be useful for getting more information about public engagement practice. It's worth bearing in mind that the website is targeted at university researcher, but can still be used by anyone.

Arts and Culture

National Alliance for Museums, Health and Wellbeing:

<https://museumsandwellbeingalliance.wordpress.com/>

The National Alliance for Museums, Health & Wellbeing is a place where information about museums and health is shared; to improve existing practice, help build resilience and provide resources and support for those individuals and organisations working in this area of activity. The Alliance is funded by Arts Council England. The site includes [useful links to resources](#) providing examples of health and wellbeing engagement activities taking part in museums.

National Alliance for Arts, Health and wellbeing: <http://www.artshealthandwellbeing.org.uk/>

This network provides a voice and resource for arts and health activity. Here you will find resources to support your own work, and examples of the ways that creative activity can benefit the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities.

Axis web <https://www.axisweb.org/>

This network site supports and presents contemporary art and the activities of contemporary artists and makers. Axis web encourages and enables new collaborations and opportunities with artists. It also looks to advance education of the public by promoting and developing engagement, provide understanding and appreciation of the visual arts in the UK; and Inspire new thinking, encourage public debate and inform best practice to contribute to better cultural engagement. This is a useful site to search artists and promote opportunities for artists to get involved in activities

Audience agency: <https://www.theaudienceagency.org/>

The Audience Agency supports cultural organisations to better understand their audiences. They also contribute in increasing the number and diversity of people engaging with a broad range of culture, and the depth and scope of their involvement.

They website contains a [useful tools section](#), providing overview of audience data and ways of describing audiences.

Science

British Interactive Group (BIG): <http://www.big.uk.com/>

The British Interactive Group (BIG) is a skills-sharing network for individuals involved in the communication of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) subjects. Their mailing list (BIG chat) is useful to forum to hear and take part in discussions within the science engagement sector, as well as hear about upcoming opportunities within the sector. Their website also lists a

number of science engagement contractors across the country, outlining what they offer in terms of support and how to contact them (<http://www.big.uk.com/services>).

PSCI-Comm mailing list <https://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/cgi-bin/webadmin?A0=PSCI-COM>

This is another online mailing list for those working in research and engagement communities. Although similar to BIG Chat (managed by the British Interactive Group) in that it acts as a forum for discussions and notifications on upcoming events and activities, this mailing list is much more used within the researchers engagement community.

UK Association for Science and Discovery Centres: <http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/>

ASDC brings together over 60 of the UK's major science engagement organisations. This network page is useful as it provides a list of Science centres and discovery centres across the country <http://www.sciencecentres.org.uk/centres/weblinks.php>. The Association website provides some resources and information on upcoming activities. In particular, the site contains an [overview paper](#) (click the link to download) on how you can work with science centres and discovery centres, and how you can contact them.

British Science Association: <https://www.britishscienceassociation.org/>

The British Science Association coordinates, delivers and oversees a number of different projects and programmes aimed at engaging more people with science. They work across the UK through their network of regional branches and by building partnerships with national and local organisations.

BSA local branches <https://www.britishscienceassociation.org/the-branches>

Although the main office is in London, the BSA has a number of branches located across the country, each of which delivers their own programme of events, but also looks to partner on projects taking part in their local area: Their branches are largely run by willing volunteers who are always looking for new opportunities to engage publics with science.

British Science Week <https://www.britishscienceweek.org/>

This is a national week celebrating science that takes place in March every year. The website includes activity packs, marketing materials and other resources for anyone looking to run activities during science week but can also be downloaded and used by anyone interested in running their own activity anytime. The team also provide opportunities for organisations to apply for small grants to run activities during the science week. This programme is also coordinated by the BSA

UK Science Festivals Network: <http://sciencefestivals.uk/>

This network represents and unites Science Festivals across the country. This is a useful site listing all science festivals and their websites. Science Festivals are a great source of different types of formats and activities so it's worth having a look at their programmes online or attending a festival near you. This programme is also coordinated by the BSA

Science Live: <http://sciencelive.net/>

This is an online events platform connecting event organisers, volunteers and speakers to put on live science events across the country. This can be a useful resource to find speakers or contractors.

You can see a list of the public engagement projects Wellcome has supported here:

<https://wellcome.ac.uk/what-we-do/directories/people-awards-people-funded>