

# TEST RISK CHANGE

Exploring democratic practice  
between young people, youth  
organisations and galleries

Circuit Programme  
National Conference  
Friday 10 March 2017  
Nottingham Contemporary

[circuit.tate.org.uk](http://circuit.tate.org.uk)

#SparkChange



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Foundation

 TATE  
PLUS

# INTRODUCTION

Welcome to a day of debate exploring how the youth and gallery sectors can work effectively together in turbulent social and political times to challenge inequalities and champion young people's cultural participation.

Framed around four years of learning from *Circuit*, discussions between youth practitioners, arts professionals and young people aim to interrogate the authenticity of partnership, examine the agency of young people, and address the dynamics of organisational change.

This is the first of a series of platforms for conversation hosted through *Circuit* in 2017 between the arts and youth sectors and young people. Through it, we hope to identify ways to make our programmes more socially inclusive, politically relevant and creatively diverse. And we plan to think about how to collaborate meaningfully while cuts and policy changes are altering the landscape of national youth provision.

Throughout the day, we invite you to pose questions and engage in open conversations. Through each of the table debates, we hope to draw upon our collective experience to share expertise and ideas, and propose actions to advance our work. We want to explore ways in which we can truly begin to develop sustainable and critical understanding across the cultural and youth sectors.

We look forward to engaging in these conversations with you, and finding ways together to inform and influence practice and policy going forward.

# ABOUT CIRCUIT

*Circuit* was a four year national programme from 2013–2017, connecting 15–25 year olds to the arts in galleries and museums working in partnership with the youth and cultural sector. Led by Tate and funded by Paul Hamlyn Foundation, it provided opportunities for young people to steer their own learning and create cultural activity across art disciplines.

*Circuit* involved Tate Modern and Tate Britain; Tate Liverpool; Tate St Ives and partners from the Plus Tate network: Firstsite, Colchester; MOSTYN, Llandudno; Nottingham Contemporary; The Whitworth, Manchester; and Wysing Arts Centre and Kettle's Yard, Cambridgeshire.

## LOOK OUT FOR MORE!

There will be more opportunities for discussion, and new materials released throughout 2017.

Head to the *Circuit* website to sign up to the mailing list or follow us [@CircuitPHF](#)

[circuit.tate.org.uk](http://circuit.tate.org.uk)

# CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

Friday 10 March 2017

**Registration**  
10:00–10:45am

**Conference**  
10:45am–5:30pm

**Reception**  
5:30–6:30pm

If you have any questions throughout the day, please go to the Registration Desk

## Venue list and addresses

All main sessions and several breakout sessions will be held at:

Nottingham Contemporary  
Weekday Cross  
Nottingham  
NG1 2GB

Some breakout sessions will be held at:

(2:00–3:00pm only)  
Syson Gallery  
17–19 Weekday Cross  
Nottingham  
NG1 2GB

Join the debate: [#SparkChange](#) [@CircuitPHF](#) [circuit.tate.org.uk](http://circuit.tate.org.uk)

# PROGRAMME

10:00–  
10:45am

## Registration

10:45–  
11:15am

## Introduction The Space

### Welcome

Kay Hardiman  
Head of Learning, Nottingham Contemporary

Anna Cutler  
Director of Learning, Tate

### *Circuit*: An Introduction

Rachel Moilliet  
*Circuit* Programme National Manager

Maria Balshaw, Director, The Whitworth, University  
of Manchester and Manchester City Galleries

Régis Cochefert  
Director, Grants and Programmes,  
Paul Hamlyn Foundation

Ernest Wereko  
Tate Collective member, London

Julie McCarthy  
Creative Producer, 42nd Street

Abigail Christenson  
Curator, Young People, Tate Liverpool

## Provocation: Youth, change and honesty

Raluca Moraru, *Circuit* Assistant,  
Nottingham Contemporary

11:15am–  
12:15pm

## Cross-sector partnership: Is democratic practice possible?

How is agency and power distributed in partnership activity, and can youth and gallery organisations work together equitably? Speakers unpick the challenges of cross-sector partnership and propose ideas for trialling different ways of working.

Jeff Mills  
Director, Business and Communities, tasc Manchester  
(Chair)

Isabella Martin  
Artist, Wysing Arts Centre & Kettle's Yard

Nicola Sim  
Doctoral researcher, Tate/The University of Nottingham

Alice Thickett  
Youth Programmer, Nottingham Contemporary

Calum Watts  
Residential Social Care Worker, Crocus Fields

Charlotte Winters  
Young Art Kommunity (Y.A.K) member,  
and Trustee, Firstsite

12:15–  
12:30pm

## Break

12:30–  
1:00pm

## Table debates

### Table facilitators

Janet Batsleer  
Principal Lecturer, Youth and Community Work,  
Manchester Metropolitan University

Piotr Bienkowski  
Project Director, Our Museum:  
Communities and Museums as Active Partners

Gillian Brent  
Associate Artist, Nottingham Contemporary

Marina Castledine  
Head of Learning, Towner Art Gallery

Jo Dacombe  
Associate Artist, Nottingham Contemporary

Peter Hamilton  
*Circuit* Board member and youth practitioner

Kay Hardiman  
Head of Learning, Nottingham Contemporary

Sue Hogan  
Education and Learning Officer, Firstsite

Jan Miller  
Artist, MOSTYN

Jane Sillis  
Director, engage, the National Association for  
Gallery Education

Louise Thirlwall  
Operations Director, Wysing Arts Centre

Pat Thomson  
Professor of Education, The University of Nottingham

Laura Turner-Blake  
Curator, Young People's Programmes, Tate London

Hannah Wilmot  
Evaluator, Researcher & Writer

1:00–  
2:00pm

## Lunch

1:30pm

## Optional exhibition tour



Join the debate: #SparkChange [@CircuitPHF](https://twitter.com/CircuitPHF) [circuit.tate.org.uk](http://circuit.tate.org.uk)

2:00–  
3:00pm

**Parallel breakout sessions**  
(You can check your session  
at the Registration Desk)

**Option 1:**  
**What does authentic peer-led working  
look like?**

**Syson Gallery**  
(outside and across the road)

A series of reflections on the realities of co-production between diverse groups of young people, organisations and staff members. Participants highlight different models of peer-led practice and question how much autonomy can be afforded to young people who are not familiar with galleries. Drawing upon examples of practice in the youth and cultural sector, this session asks: does 'peer-led' work in hierarchical organisations? How do young people learn through these semi-professional models? And could they be more inclusive?

Will Dean  
Former GLITCH Collective member, MOSTYN

Sufea Mohamad Noor  
Tate Collective Liverpool member

Tracy Ramsey  
Professional Tutor in Youth and Community Work,  
Liverpool Hope University

Deborah Riding  
Programme Manager, Children & Young People,  
Tate Liverpool

Rebecca Scott  
Former *Circuit* Cambridge member

April Taylor  
GLITCH Collective member, MOSTYN

**Option 2:**  
**Just a gig in a gallery?**  
**Cultural democracy in the museum**

**Meeting Room**

How serious are galleries about connecting with popular/sub youth cultures beyond the visual arts? And can engaging with different art forms help to make galleries more relevant social spaces? A discussion on investing in young creatives and developing emerging talent through social practice.

Mike Baines  
Musician/MC and The Whitworth Young Artist  
in Residence

Angela Diakopoulou  
*Circuit* Evaluator

Araba Mercer Banson  
Tate Collective London member

Adrian Newman  
Station Manager, Rerezent Radio

Adrian Shaw  
Late at Tate Britain Programmer, Tate

Andrew Vaughan  
Learning Manager, The Whitworth

### Option 3: Spatial democracy

#### Studio

Programmers, artists, young people and youth workers from *Circuit* sites share learning from a range of experiments in deformatising and democratising space to build relevance through everyday social encounters. In former cafes, shops and bus stations, many *Circuit* projects have created new relationships with communities and youth workers, and tested innovative ways of working beyond the site of the gallery or youth centre. Can galleries and youth organisations learn from these methods, as well as use art practice to navigate tensions over young people's presence in the public realm?

James Davidson  
Y.A.K member, Firstsite

Judith Merritt  
Head of Talks and Exhibitions, National Theatre

Ben Randall  
Youth and Community Based Commissioner,  
Essex Youth Service, Essex County Council

Emma Saffy Wilson  
Artist, St Ives

Marijke Steedman  
Curator

Rachael Woodhead  
Learning Curator, Tate St Ives

### Option 4: Red tape and glass ceilings: Who speaks for young people?

#### Café

How much say and responsibility do young people really have in youth programmes? What are the factors that limit and amplify their voices? From LGBT cultures to campaigns for racial equality, how can organisations embody underrepresented issues and communities that young people relate to? *Circuit's* young evaluators ask who is speaking, who is listening, and whose voices may be missing.

Rachael Coward  
Tate Collective St Ives member

Lou Greenwell  
*Circuit* Cambridge member

Roz Hall  
*Circuit* Critical Friend

Jackie McManus  
*Circuit* board member and education consultant

Bradley Stephens  
Y.A.K member, Firstsite

Decarla Phillip-Riley  
Tate Collective London member

Dominique Phizacklea  
Former Collabor-8 member,  
Nottingham Contemporary

Gaby Sahhar  
Tate Collective London member

**Option 5:  
Organisational change?  
Directors' Question Time**

**Syson Gallery  
(outside and across the road)**

How are institutions committing to future work with young people? How can we learn from, and extend the influence of these types of programmes? And how can galleries expand their civic role and share resources with communities? Young participants and partners of *Circuit* put questions to directors about the capacity for risk-taking and strategic change in their institutions.

India Cawley Gelling  
Tate Collective Liverpool member

Michael Irwin  
Curatorial Assistant, Firstsite

Francesco Manacorda  
Artistic Director, Tate Liverpool

Julie McCarthy  
Creative Producer, 42nd Street

Emily Pringle  
Head of Learning Practice and Research, Tate

Roxanna Sultan  
Intern, The Whitworth

Sam Thorne  
Director, Nottingham Contemporary

**3:00–  
3:30pm**      **Break**

**3:30–  
4:30pm**      **Where were we, where are we and  
what next?**

**The Space**

The riots of 2011 shone a light on young people's frustrations with racial, generational, class and social inequalities, and were seen by many as a consequence of cuts to youth provision. This panel revisits the original motivations for *Circuit* and confronts the social urgencies that have shaped the creative energy of the programme. Can the art and youth sectors work effectively as allies to bring about future change, and what should this change look like?

Janna Graham  
Lecturer and Programme Leader, BA in Curating,  
Department of Visual Cultures, Goldsmiths (Chair)

Edward Boott  
Artistic Director, Nonsuch and National Programme  
Lead, Undivided

Pat Farrell (aka Cave Man)  
Former Whitworth Emerging Artist

Ruth Ibegbuna  
Founder and CEO, RECLAIM

Hannah Kemp-Welch  
Mental health programme manager, Raw Material  
& *Circuit* Programme: Digital Producer

Mark Miller  
*Circuit* National Lead, Convenor: Young People's  
Programmes, Tate Britain and Tate Modern

Angela Wereko-Anderson  
Tate Collective London member

4:30–  
5:15pm

**Table debates:  
Test, risk, change?**

### The Space

Drawing on themes from the final panel discussion and reflecting on key issues raised across the day, we will bring together ideas for what steps to take next.

5:15–  
5:30pm

**Closing comments**

### The Space

Peter Hamilton  
*Circuit* Board member & youth practitioner

Anna Cutler  
Director of Learning, Tate

5:30–  
6:30pm

**Drinks Reception & Makey Makey workshop**

### Cafe



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# INTERVENTIONS AND INTERACTIONS

## Listen to Rebellious Voices

A new work by sound artist and *Circuit* Digital Producer Hannah Kemp-Welch. Collaging political broadcasts with recorded conversations between *Circuit* participants, the work offers a second critical narrative of the programme and wider socio-political contexts.

## Visit the Circulate Lounge

Hear about the programme's key findings and take away ideas for creative evaluation designed by *Circuit's* young evaluators. Curated by Circulate members Lou Greenwell, Jack Makin, Sufea Mohamad Noor and Bradley Parker, and Roz Hall, *Circuit* Critical Friend.

## Makey Makey workshop

Drop into a digital workshop using Makey Makey technology to explore ideas and footage from the day. Led by Frazer Merrick, artist, and Liam Roberts, *Circuit* Digital Coordinator, Firstsite.

## Explore *Circuit's* archive

Mapping journeys through *Circuit*, creative social action and institutional critique through material generated by young people and staff. Curated by Nicole Jones, *Circuit* Programme Assistant, and Rianna Jade Parker, Tate Collective London member.

## Discover an installation

Exploring the future of organisational change, drawing on key findings from *Circuit* and current shifts in the wider cultural and social landscape. Explore curated resources, contribute your own ideas and encounter others in an experimental library and social space. Curated by Rachel Noel, Assistant Curator, Young People's Programmes at Tate Britain and Tate Modern and featuring artist commissions by Alice Thickett, Youth Programmer at Nottingham Contemporary and Sally Noall, Programme Manager: Young People at Tate St Ives

# NOTES



