



Dear Councillors and **Members of the Learning and Culture Scrutiny Committee,**

I have read closely the report which addresses the recent **2020 REVIEW OF THE ARTS DEVELOPMENT SERVICE** and warmly welcome its systematic analysis of the issues, ideas and proposals suggested for the future.

I would like to raise two points briefly:-

- 1) Art Central Gallery is ideally placed to be a core and central focus for the Wales Assembly Government's new "Expressive Arts Curriculum" with which all schools of the Vale must engage. The Arts Development Service should liaise with the responsible Expressive Arts subject teachers in order to develop a programme (of exhibitions, workshops and performances) which would assist in the delivery of this exciting new 'Expressive Arts Curriculum'. This would vastly improve and fulfil the gallery's community remit, widen the user demographic and increase footfall and its profile within the Vale.
- 2) The Vale is fortunate to have across its region, various excellent and professional venues and facilities to support a range of Arts and creative initiatives- drama, dance, music, art, photography, film, textile and crafts. A number of resourceful and knowledgeable community groups exist. Not least the 16 year old group of Art Central Friends (ACFs) who currently act as gallery volunteers, fundraisers and event organisers to bring guests to the splendid gallery on Kings Square!

There is much good will and enthusiasm available in the communities of the Vale. However, it mainly exists in "pockets" and opportunities for collaboration and joining up a sequence of Arts based events and clear programming remain limited. There is a very real danger that this enthusiasm will dissipate because there appears to be little or no central leadership, communication or systematic marketing.

If the Expressive Arts are to flourish and the region is to become a "culturally vibrant Vale" -with several lively destination venues, then structural innovation is needed. The establishment of designated group with authority to lead and activate decisions is required. Clearly, this body would need representatives from key venues and importantly have members with relevant skill sets and experience. This would enable productive "joined up working" and the development of plans and programmes to engage a whole spectrum of potential audiences.

I hope my thoughts above are useful in your discussions and subsequent recommendations.

Yours sincerely,

Jane Salisbury

Jane Salisbury (Dr.)

[Former Chair of Art Central Friends; Trustee of Memo Arts Centre:
Executive Officer of Contemporary Arts Society of Wales, CASW.
Honorary Senior Lecturer, Social Sciences, Cardiff University.]

Written Representations 2

From: [Nina Lazarou](#)
To: [Democratic](#)
Subject: Re Scrutiny Meeting on the 22nd July 2021
Date: 21 July 2021 11:26:38

I am writing as Chair of the Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VOGA). I am a wire sculptor living in Barry and supporting community groups to enjoy and explore the arts. I am also a committee member of Women's Art Association Wales (WAAW) and a committee member of Art Central Friends (ACF).

I have already sent in an application to hold workshops at Art Central via Tracey Harding for school children, young adults and those within the health and wellbeing sector. I think it is vital to support, share and engage in art activities via workshops and talks. I have also suggested working collaboratively with the community and other art groups to create an alternating showcase of public artwork on Barry Town Square.

During lockdown, I held Zoom Workshops with Cardiff Met students to help with their wellbeing, I've held outdoor workshops in Penarth for local Brownies groups and held 'Poppy making Workshops' for the adult community to raise money for the Royal British Legion. Activities like these need to be developed and encouraged within the Vale by creating an inclusive arts service to create an exciting arts and education programme and to identify a sustainable service.

Barry is growing and regenerating at a fantastic pace and having an Arts Development Service run by a group of artists with varying skills both visual and performing overlooked by the council could only enhance the future of Barry and its surroundings for locals and visitors to enjoy.

As a group, VOGA have exhibited throughout the Vale of Glamorgan many times using various venues and we are very keen, as are most other local art groups to continue and grow, to show more work in more venues across the Vale. As we grow, we anticipate, collaboratively to be able to apply for funding and explore income opportunities. I believe we can achieve this by forming a new group/trust to oversee the vision and objectives set in the Art Strategy

With support, we can achieve this together!

Best wishes

Nina Lazarou

Chair - Vale of Glamorgan Artists (VOGA)