



Imagine If...today, and every day, each child and young person had access to arts and culture

Conference Series: 07 - 11 November 2022

Save the date and call out for sessions

Imagine if... is Culture Bridge North East's annual conference which brings together delegates from the education and culture sectors to explore a key theme each year.

This year, Imagine If... 2022 will explore how we can take action to *ensure that each child and young person has access to arts and culture, today and every day.*

It will be an opportunity to engage in cross-sector open conversation that takes a deep-dive into current issues faced by children and young people. These include:

- SEND and designing inclusive, creative learning.
- LGBTQ+ education, opportunity and community.
- Climate change and the climate crisis.
- Child poverty and the effects of class inequality.
- Creative careers and cultural accessibility.

Through a mixture of interactive digital workshops and in-person CPD opportunities, we aim for delegates of Imagine If...2022 to feel:

- Inspired to try something new.
- Challenged to take creative risks that respond to today's societal issues facing children and young people.
- They have the opportunity to realise the potential of creative learning in a way that responds to today's urgent issues.
- Equipped to help change the lives of the next generation.
- Able to engage in collaborative learning, forward-planning and learn from examples of positive partnership.
- They have the space to turn theoretical conversation into concrete action.
- Engaged in a practical and interactive way.
- They have current education and culture sector knowledge to take their direct action to the next level.

Session content:

Imagine If... 2022 will be a space to move from theoretical conversation to concrete action to help our present and future generations.

Through our booking process, we aim to ensure an even mix of delegates from the education, culture and youth sectors.

This year, we're asking all Imagine If... sessions to address one of the following societal issues facing children and young people today:

SEND and designing inclusive, creative learning:

- How can cultural education support neuro-divergent and SEND children and young people to express themselves?
- How can cultural education ensure that learners with SEND and additional needs fully achieve their potential?

LGBTQ+ education, opportunity and community:

- How can cultural education create a positive and safe LGBTQ+ learning environment for children and young people in the North East?
- How can cultural education allow LGBTQ+ children and young people to feel safe and to find a voice and a community in/out of school and how can it educate their peers?

Climate change and the climate crisis:

- How can cultural education adapt to meet the challenges of the climate crisis and the changes in the current decade?
- How can schools and organisations begin this change to support children and young people through the present and future changes, whilst not putting the pressure on them to lead and have the answers themselves?

- How can we ensure children and young people don't feel alone to process the present and future urgency of the climate crisis?

Child poverty and the effects of class inequality:

- How can cultural education support the most vulnerable children and young people?
- How can we ensure our cultural education programmes better serve the community and are truly reflective of the needs and aspirations of every child and young person in the North East?

Creative careers and cultural accessibility:

- How can we support children from every background to see creative careers as accessible to them?
- How can we support young people to take that next step and equip them with the understanding needed to break into the cultural industry?

This year, Imagine If... will be a series of digital sessions and regional, in-person CPD and networking events, all under the Imagine If... banner.

Digital sessions:

- We're looking for insightful and thought-provoking workshops which incorporate practical elements as well as opportunities for delegates to engage with each other and discuss the issues explored.
 - Examples of interactivity: polls; break out exercises and working groups; Q&As; practical warm-ups, etc.
- We're looking for dynamic workshop experiences accessible for all. We want delegates to feel welcome and engaged but also challenged to try new things and face the difficult questions surrounding cultural education provision, where it currently stands and how it can be improved.
- Digital workshop sizes could be anything from 20 to 40 delegates.
- All digital sessions will be delivered via Zoom. Sessions will be recorded, and shared via the Culture Bridge North East website and YouTube channel after the conference.

In-person regional CPD:

Do you have a scheduled in-person workshop that would fit well with the themes explored in Imagine If...2022?

- We're looking for in-person regional CPD opportunities for our delegates to engage with one of the five aforementioned themes at this year's Imagine If...
- We're also interested in Imagine If... in-person networking opportunities where this year's themes are discussed in open conversation, facilitated by an experienced host.

Please note: Conference facilitators of in-person workshops and networking conversations are responsible for sourcing the venue and arranging all necessary technical requirements. Culture Bridge North East will subsidise the workshop and

incorporate it into the conference series programme as well as manage the bookings and joining details. We will only accept proposals for in-person workshops that have a fully-formed workshop plan and confirmed venue. That being said, we will also consider proposals where the venue is TBC but suitable venues have been approached and preliminary arrangements have been made.

Audience and relevance: Our delegates are professionals and specialists in the education, cultural and youth sectors in the North East as well as nationally. Content may be targeted at specific groups, for example, primary teachers or creative freelancers. However, please design your workshop in light of the fact our delegates are experienced and are looking for in-depth, specialist knowledge. All sessions will be chosen on the basis of relevance to the conference theme, accessibility and ambition to engage with the delegates in a practical manner.

Do you have another type of session you think would work well? We're open to trying new ways of facilitating and we have a stage manager on hand to aid in digital technical delivery.

Youth participation: We welcome children and young people at Imagine If... and we would open to accepting proposals for sessions which are devised, developed and delivered by young people wishing to engage with one of the 5 conference themes. We are open to whatever form of workshop delivery the group of young people feel encapsulates their experiences and voices so long as it fits within the conference's key aims.

We recognise that the content of these sessions may not be fully formed at the time of submitting a proposal, and so we're asking for a working title, aim for the session, and an indication of which of the themes it would relate to, along with any available logistical information you can give us, prompts for which can be found below in the section, 'to submit a session proposal'.

Please note that if organisations wish to invite anyone under 18 years old to attend as part of their proposed session, this will need to be in accordance with their own safeguarding policy.

All Imagine If... facilitators must be available for a pre-conference technical meeting with a member of the CBNE team and digital stage manager.

To submit a session proposal:

Please send your proposals to bridge@twmuseums.org.uk by **09:00, Wednesday 15 June 2022**, providing the following information. For ease, please use the below headings in your proposal:

1. **Name, role and organisation** of the person or people delivering the session. Please also provide some background information on their relevant expertise as well as contact email addresses.
2. **Is your session digital or in-person?** If your session is in-person, please give details of your confirmed venue or potential venue deemed suitable for your type of session, as well as providing confirmation that they have been approached and preliminary arrangements have been made.
3. **Session title, theme and content:** Which of the 5 aforementioned societal issues facing children and young people will you be exploring in your session? Please tell us the content overview of your session and how it will engage the delegates and challenge them to take action. How does it link in directly with the intentions of this year's Imagine If...?
4. **Practicality:** How will you engage your delegates practically and encourage interactive participation? What elements will you incorporate e.g. Q&A, working groups, polls, etc.
5. **Duration:** This could be between 30 and 120 minutes (with breaks). Please try to offer specifics however if the length is flexible, please let us know so we can take that into account when curating the conference.
6. **Capacity:** This could be anything from a small group to a large audience of 40. If there is no planned capacity, please state this.
7. **Audience:** Please be specific about your target audience from the education and/or cultural sector. Is there any knowledge, job role or experience that would ensure delegates gained the most from your workshop?
8. **Technical requirements:**
 - a. **Digital sessions:** Please state your experience and overall confidence in workshop delivery via Zoom. What tech will you be using in your session? E.g., polls, break outs, screen-sharing presentation, screen-sharing audio (video clips) etc. Please be as specific as you can.
 - b. **In-person sessions:** You will be managing your own technical equipment and requirements for your in-person workshop. Please state your experience and comfort in doing so. If you have a confirmed/proposed venue, please inform us of how this venue caters to your technical needs.
9. **Imagine If preliminary meeting:** All Imagine If... facilitators will be required to have a preliminary meeting with our digital stage manager and/or a member of the CBNE team in the lead up to the conference series in order to finalise the session's tech needs and running order. Please confirm your commitment to attending this meeting.
10. **Fee:** Please indicate a fixed price inclusive of all costs (net VAT)
11. **Availability:**

- a. **Digital sessions:** Please state your projected availability in this year's conference week (07-11 November)
 - b. **In-person sessions:** Please state the dates you and your workshop venue are available to facilitate your workshop. We're looking for sessions to be facilitated mid-November – mid-December 2022.
12. **Links:** Is there any online content you can provide us with that would help us understand your work and proposal?

We will respond to all proposals by July 2022