

## Arun Young Cultural Changemakers Session 8 Minutes

### Agenda:

Recap of sessions so far and looking into the last AR session

Look at a new potential garden site.

### Recap:

Since coming together at the end of October last year, we've had 7 action packed sessions, you've really began exploring creative ways of solving problems, coming up with some fantastic ideas, all whilst working on Arts Award and completing a digital badge on communication too!

We had our first session on the 30<sup>th</sup> October where we shared with you the key themes that young people have told us from our recent consultation events.

We asked you to look for links that connect these themes and issues that are affecting young people and you told us:

There's no where to go for young people! You're too young to go to the pub, too old to go to the park when children are there and wait until after dark

Young people turn to anti-social behaviour and crime to entertain themselves as there's nothing to do

The rise in crime and stereotyping makes a lot of young people stay at home and turn to technology and social media.

In Session 2 we focused on this cycle and how we could break it!

In a Mentimeter Questionnaire you told us how the benefits of breaking this cycle would inspire change, stop boredom, express yourself, increase wellbeing and make a safe space for young people with lower crime rates.

Some obstacles we might face when breaking the cycle are how easy screens are to access and how addicted younger generations are to tech, and that bullying and anti-social behaviour could potentially be a problem.

You decided on either creating a digital space or transforming a garden space for young people where they feel safe, not judged and can be themselves.

Session 3 was all about the project!

We introduced the changemaker project to you and worked on Jamboards to think about the pros and cons of a digital slash physical space or transforming a garden space would be.

We also considered how to combine a physical and digital space and highlighted that keeping a physical space in the forefront was important in distancing young people from technology and social media, but having Augmented Reality elements would invite more people to interact with the space.

In our fourth session we used jamboard to show what we want the space to feel like, what features it could have and what creative elements could be in the space! From that you decided the key qualities the space should have would be things like safety, accessibility, privacy and full of wildlife.

In session 5 we began to look at potential sites for the garden space and considered the possible benefits and pitfalls of each. You decided that the priorities of the space should be things like being a safe area, away from traffic, close to public transport routes and have rules to keep the space a positive and nice place to be.

In session 6 we all met at Felpham and worked with artist Shirley Bloomfield Davies to create 3D woven frames of what we want the space to look and feel like, focusing on amenities in the space like a stage, looking at how to make the space accessible with pathways, adding sensory elements to make the area feel inclusive, thinking about seating and socialising and how to incorporate wildlife into the space.

In our final session before the winter break we spoke with Augmented Reality Artist Sophie Dixon at what AR possibilities there could be for the garden. You had some great ideas like showing summer flowers in the winter, exhibiting young people's artworks, and use markers to download resources or enhance the space. Again there were concerns that AR could detract from the physical space and contribute to the problem of technology addiction so that's something to consider too.

Recap/thoughts on the Augmented Reality session:

Nathan mentioned that the AR might use a bit too much of our budget making it not worthwhile after all.

If we decided on AR then we could go back to the artist and request a quote.

Maddy agrees as children will be obsessed with their phones, defeating the purpose of the garden.

Kai agrees and said we need to focus on the garden to get them away from technology!

Looking at a new potential garden site: Arun Changemaker Jamboard 2 (Page 9-12)

Barnham site – pages 9 and 10 of Jamboard 2

Beccy visited the site and had some concerns about it.

The road pictured in photos 3 and 4 is an active road so it makes the edges of the space less secure for young people to hang around.

Maddy mentioned that a lot of children go there for the park and its quite a popular area!

Nathan asked if the space is used already would it be worth putting a space there? As the park is already there.

Maddy said most of the time young people just sit on the field and go on their phones so they think it would be a really good idea and that the park could be a benefit to the space!

The space on page 10 is very close to the road and the back of people's houses. We need to consider the big field doesn't have hedges, walls and would need to define a space within that field.

There are a lot of negotiations in place with this site at the moment with the council and the question of who will be maintaining the space too.

Phoenix Centre site – pages 11 and 12 of Jamboard 2

Made private by a bike shelter, blank canvas with lots of mature trees.

Nathan said there are possible areas to expand on in the future as the whole space will be owned by The Regis school.

Beccy mentioned this space might not be as accessible for people not living in the area.

Nathan said it's not too difficult to travel as there are bus stops outside the united learning space round the corner.

If we ask the people who are responsible for both sites regarding maintenance and restrictions of what we'd like to put in the space. If either space says our ideas aren't feasible, we'll have a better idea of what space we'd prefer. There will hopefully be a gardener in our in-person session to ask if our ideas are doable!

What happens next? We need to do a call out for an artist! We'll be designing a commission brief for these artists who will work WITH us not just for us! We need to clearly state the outcome of the project "we want to appoint someone to make ... happen."

Page 13 of Jamboard 2 – Writing a commission

What do we want the professional to make happen for us?

- We want a safe space for young people to feel welcome, heavily inspired by nature.
- It is a place based off of our opinions as young people because otherwise the point of the garden isn't going to be properly followed through.
- A garden for youth to use in order to feel safe and relax for local people
- We want young peoples thoughts and ideas to be at the forefront of this project
- Entertains and invites people to leave their screens and be social towards others

What would we like to see the garden achieve? Feelings:

- Accessible for everyone so everyone feels welcome, all ages, especially teenagers
- People feel safe

What would we like to see the garden achieve? Physical attributes:

- Places to sit
- Wildlife
- Pond
- Open but still safe, more welcoming than daunting
- A lot of different types of nature so it looks attractive and welcoming. Benches and picnic areas and litter bins.

“It has to be based on young people’s lifestyles and opinions” Beccy asked based on this statement if there is something that we’re not doing currently to capture the young people to get involved in the garden design process

Maddy suggested sending something out or speak to our schools to get a wider variety of opinions.

Sam agrees, especially in the areas we’re doing the project, sending out a survey or get some information on the young people who are most likely to use the space and get their opinions.

In terms of producing this garden, we can write a commission with fundamental aims instead of specifics so we can start working with a gardener on this!

What is the most important AIM of the garden? – What do we want the garden to do for the young people using it?

Aisla on behalf of Kristian said that once we’re done it will be around easter so we could have an opening event, easter themed event for people who believe in easter, and a good opportunity for people to visit the space.

Harry said that the post-it note that says “we want a safe space for young people to feel welcome, heavily inspired by nature.” fits our aims perfectly!

