

ATLAS PANDEMICA

All Flourishing is Mutual
A platform for future action

A N N I E W I L D
F O R L O V E , N O T M O N E Y ?

E M M A J A Y N E P A R K
T H E G E O G R A P H Y O F P O W E R

J E N N A M A C R O Y
L G B T Q V O I C E S

J O A N N E M C K A Y
W H A T R E M A I N S ?

K A R E N C A M P B E L L
H E R E I S O U R S T O R Y

K A T I E A N D E R S O N
E L S E W H E R E

M A R K Z Y G A D L O
L A N D W A T E R S H I P

P E T E R S M I T H
B E A U T Y I N T H E B R O K E N

R O B B I E C O L E M A N
& J O H O D G E S
P R O X I M I T Y - D I S T A N C E - L O S S

T S B E A L L
F A I R | N O F A I R

Creativity is making a fundamental contribution to our passage through the pandemic and must be part of the way we face the future together. **All Flourishing is Mutual** presents a set of practical actions and ideas for how a creative, collaborative and mutual approach for Dumfries and Galloway could be developed in the future.

Atlas Pandemica is just one of the many stories of creativity filling in for lost essential services and proving critical to peoples' wellbeing. Some Atlas Pandemica projects have already developed into ongoing initiatives with their communities while others suggest blueprints and case studies for future activity.

In the pandemic we have learnt to do the previously unthinkable and this spirit of possibility is our best chance of re-configuring our region to address the huge challenges of inequality and climate justice that we face. This document focusses the premise of creativity being an essential part of 'building back better' after the opportunity that Covid has presented for a reset of the ways we think, prioritise and do things.

Some principles:

- Small initiatives have a disproportionately significant impact – particularly in our rural context. We should not be afraid to adopt a strategy of supporting small things, one size does not fit all.
- People working creatively together is a route to wellbeing, trust, collaboration and responsible stewardship.
- We see the role of creative practitioners to facilitate the involvement of others in creativity. 'Creativity' in the context of this document, always means the participation of the wider community in creative activity, exploration and experience.
- Atlas Pandemica grew from the principle of localism, as such, some of the ideas here are specific to a local context but, we hope, the principles will be of wider interest also.



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VISION	POLICY	PLAN
<p>1. There is a renewed covenant and understanding between the public and public service</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support innovative projects that build on the experience of public and third sector initiatives during the pandemic to create long-term change within public agencies towards a culture of trust, responsible risk-taking and collaboration. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Programme of projects with creative direction towards advocacy, evidence building and profile promoting an expanded understanding of public service, also extending this to the Third Sector and community-led initiatives Programme of creatives-in-residence projects within the Public and Third Sector.
<p>2. Creativity is an essential part of society's problem-solving and planning toolkit.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use creative projects as means of opening out issues that we face as a society and creating innovative platforms for developing ways of addressing these. Embed creative principles of risk-taking, collaboration and a people-first approach within local decision-making Include historical perspectives in planning and decision-making 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support creative practitioners to work with communities on projects for rebuilding & resilience and create local, public, collaborative art. A biennial Dumfries and Galloway Leadership Summit for all sectors in the region convened by the region's cultural sector. Appoint creative practitioners to the boards of public and private bodies. Research/archive partnerships that connect individual projects to wider networks of creative and community practice regionally, nationally and internationally Historians/Researchers-in-residence to be placed within key agencies and businesses
<p>3. The voices and experience of diverse communities are included in planning and decision-making</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support long-term projects that build trust-based relationships with diverse communities across the region. Resource diverse communities to develop the creative projects they would like to see, without external agenda or interference. Support projects that offer power in local planning, decision-making and delivery to diverse communities Commitment to long-term projects giving the time needed for people to engage meaningfully and effectively. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A programme of creative projects across the region that actively engage diverse communities (including additional support needs) in planning and shaping the future of their places. Make support available for the costs of accessibility and inclusion within creative projects. Support creative projects with the sole aim of sharing different perspectives and community learning. Involve the Showpeople community in the planning of the public spaces of the Whitesands flood prevention scheme Support projects that build a greater understanding and empathy between the queer and heteronormative communities.
<p>4. Caring, health and wellbeing are at the centre of how we understand our community</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Value caring more highly in our community as one of the qualities by which we measure our success and wellbeing as a society Engage with healthcare as promoting wellbeing rather than treating illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projects to highlight the number and contribution of unpaid carers in our community Support a region-wide conversation about death, dying and remembering that involves diverse communities, professionals, creative practitioners and historians Promote and support social prescribing using arts and creativity as activity prescribed by medical professionals as part of people's recovery and ongoing wellbeing
<p>5. People feel more involved and better represented in local democratic structures and processes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restructure local governance with a focus on embedding the local, multi-agency community cells that were so effective & valuable during the pandemic. Put power into the hands of the people who live in communities and public sector teams on the ground, allowing them to work in a dynamic, grassroots led way, to create true, collaborative democracy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Creation of local Citizen's Assemblies Appoint 'wild cards' to the board of public and private bodies. Support the development of and implementation of systems which anticipate a rotation of leadership Support pathways to empower the next generation of local leaders Develop governance structures with primary school children through creative learning Develop creative projects that explore existing local power structures eg using choreographic approaches to walk through governance structures physically. Map where the wealth of the region lies and which figures hold most influence (including soft power).
<p>6. Local solutions are the accepted starting point in any decision-making process</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support locally-led, small scale environmental and community development initiatives 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support hyper-local communities to develop innovative proposals for environmental approaches to their places and give them the means to prototype these Developing a culture of coalition between community groups through communal eating, gardening, walking, sharing space and creativity. Support a creatively-led submission as part of D&G's climate targets and COP26 involvement Support a third Environmental Art Festival Scotland
<p>7. The cultural value and purpose of our town centres and other public spaces is prioritised in their future planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rethink the stewardship, value and role of our town centres and other public spaces 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support creative, cultural and community organisations to bring forward proposals for events/initiatives that will stimulate activity in public places and discussion about their future Encourage community ownership with ongoing core support for community groups that take over land and buildings Support heritage engagement and interpretation projects that contribute to civic pride and collective sense of ownership/responsibility for public places