

Notes of Pippa's Warin's talk:

- The cultural sector tends to be disconnected from other sectors.. There are variable links between it and other sectors, such as regeneration and the voluntary and community sector.
- Culture South West (CSW) is currently working on a Creative Industries Project to raise skills in the sector, making links and making use of advice from sources such as Business Link. It's clear that many of the core skills that are needed (e.g. understanding project planning, fundraising) in the cultural sector are also needed in other sectors, such as the voluntary and community sector (VCS). There must be scope for learning and training in common in these areas.
- CSW is also active in research. Discussion at the workshop emphasised that the dissemination of this research, and realisation by other sectors of the great economic and social importance of the cultural sector, is of the greatest importance in gaining recognition and support for the cultural sector. Culture is what people choose to do with the time at their free disposal - this tends to create the impression that it is therefore economically insignificant. It is both economically significant – one of the fastest growing sectors in the SW, and is increasingly recognised in terms of social impact, and social capital. Cultural activity and projects are often at the heart of community regeneration.
- There is a great similarity of outcomes for so much work in the cultural and regeneration sector, and also social enterprise. However, people from arts, heritage, libraries, sports etc. tend to stumble into other sectors, such as social enterprise, by accident.
- Four areas where there are opportunities for joining up are:
 - Research and information
 - Funding advice
 - Skills development
 - Volunteering

Transcription of discussion notes on flip chart:

- Extending networks – SW Forum etc
- Funding issues – similarities across sectors
- Skills development is common to all sectors and transferable skills give people flexibility and ability to move into different jobs.
- Jargon and language alienating
- Funding tends to support either an instrumentalist approach i.e. culture as an instrument in achieving social outcomes, or, is in support of excellence i.e. sporting or artistic outcomes.
- Good practice / growth
- Opportunities are missed / timing
- Subsectors – feel part of a bigger voice which has champions (individuals and organisations)
- Recognition of economic and social impact
- Quantify the impact, produce the evidence
- Joining up research
- At community level regional organisations can be seen as gatekeepers there may be a mismatch between the priorities of regional agencies and those of community based organisations
- Who participates in cultural activities, what are the barriers ?