

24th September 2020 6.30-8pm
Good Practice Charter Launch

Chair: Sophie Gibson (SG)

SG welcomed everyone to the meeting and discussed the format the meeting would take. SG named all members of the working group and asked everyone to contribute to the GPC. SG asked members to feed in and contribute to, noting it would be useful for new and young artists to the sector. SG interested to see how members use the GPC. The GPC can be a tool to help us all in the future.

Theresa Easton (TE) introduce the GPC, set of six principles we want organisations to sign up to in order to improve the lives of artists. The GPC is rooted in conversations with members who want to work with 'good' organisations and one of the principle aims of the trade union, regulating the arts sector. These conversations resonated with discussions with other trade unionists, including Beth Farhat Northern Regional TUC Secretary who talked about the need to have minimum terms and conditions. TE talked about taking part in the TUC Organising Academy training and other examples of work pledges from Mayors around the country. The working group feeds into a generic charter which can meet the aims of a broad range of organisations. The final document will be ratified by members at the next AGM and the working group is open to all members who want to get involved. Organisations work towards the GPC using information provided.

Invited Speaker: Beth Farhat Northern Regional TUC
bfarhat@tuc.org.uk

BF noted the progress AUE has come in the past 6 years. BF represents trade unions in the region. AUE members can sign up to newsletters and get involved in local sub groups to regional TUC's. Members can also sit on regional TUC council and feed into work programs alongside other trade unions. "It's about engaging with the broader trade union movement with your campaigns and causes, it's about collectivism"

Beth Farhat described the GPC "to see this charter which in effect is your standards, your values, your worth, is really, really important"

"once its complete, it's what we do with it next, because we are only as strong as our activist, we are only as strong as our negotiating ability".

Commissioning processes and public funds should measure against the GPC, these are AUE standards. COVID has brought out the inner artists in many. BF talked about education, shared TUC website. Topics and subjects come from trade unions. BF suggested members sign up to courses in order to empower members to take the GPC forward. BF suggested AUE stream e-Notes together on zoom and have break out rooms to discuss. Webinars by TUC can be seen on you tube. Discussed next webinar – for Environmental Reps. BF happy to bring in subject specialists to help in specific training. Talked about Mental Health & wellbeing training for the future for members.

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/TUCcourses>

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/mediacentre/register>

Q&A: KG asked if training was open to all members or just reps? BF clarified training is open to all AUE members. Contact BF if there are issues.

Union Learn Website: festival of learning October 2020.

SG noted we all need to be better educated.

Feedback from breakout rooms

- Making contact with Local Gov Association to discuss adopting GPC
- Making contact with Unison - local gov cultural work regarding adopting
- Make contact with regional UNISON secretary.
- AUE members and own artist networks offer to host zooms to discuss GPC.
- AUE to take the unknowns/myths/fear out of how it might be used in practice, with examples, especially with young artists.
- Make contact with organisations about GPC, have a dialogue and even if they start with signing up to two or three of the principles, it's a start.

- see the charter as part of a wider ecology, including commissioning opportunities in the built environment and creating public art also the terms and conditions of other culture workers e.g. cleaning and retail workers (who may also be artists);
- recognising the contribution of artists working for other artists in creating work;
- whistleblowing procedure for artists;
- nothing in the charter about climate change or carbon footprint of arts institutions or commissioning organisations
- Suggestion to use the GPC alongside Rates of Pay & members using GPC.
- Keep design simple and

- How is it going to be implemented? Who is it for? Do artists take to organisations?
- GPC could be pushed further by the union? “Arms for Artists”
- Noted some organisations contacted about GPC have not responded.
- Some organisations have responded really positively.
- SG asked if members could suggest organisations.

Round up and Next Steps:

Where do we take it?

Some organisations want to sign up and add to their website straight away.

The far left hand column of the GPC is where organisations write in how organisations are working or meeting the principle.

Some organisations want to meet with other organisations who have signed up to it to share good practice.

Some artists are using the GPC as a check list for using in projects.

Artists can ask organisations if they are signed up to.

The GPC working group can organise meet ups and training around GPC.

29th October launch for organisations who have engaged with and other orgs/artists – more public – orgs to talk about what they want to get out of it.

Social media around launch – members to share on social media and build excitement.

Members to provide quotes on why they think it is good.

Members can join working group.

Regional sub committees exist on culture. Anthony Padgett looking to set up in North West.

Use facebook groups to stay in touch. New regional ones can be set up if needed.

Martin Sundram invited members to join AUE Executive or observe meetings.

Action points:

Sign petition <https://www.change.org/p/boris-johnson-provide-appropriate-and-adequate-support-to-self-employed-artists-impacted-by-coronavirus>

AUE to feed into training subjects to GFTU & TUC.

AUE share TUC YouTube webinars.

AUE plan live stream of eNotes on zoom for members.

GPC Contact AA2A

GPC discuss Social Responsibility could be Eco-Social Responsibility?

Environmental and Social Responsibility?

Encourage members to feedback thoughts & reflections.

GPC contact: New Art Gallery Walsall are part of turning point West Midlands and used to host free workshops for artists