

The People's Palace – innovating and working together



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The People's Palace – innovating and working together

Today we want to

- Pose some questions
- Introduce project – very briefly
- Step back and think about engagement in Glasgow Museums
- Step back and think about participative & deliberative democracy
- How is it coming together at the People's Palace Winter Gardens
- Leave time for your questions

The People's Palace – innovating and working together

Some initial questions

- Honestly, where do you think the work we talk about today is on the engagement spectrum? (IAP2)
- Reflecting on what you hear, where do you think your organisation is on the spectrum – and where could it be?
- What level of community agency can your organisation commit to?
- How would you get there and is everyone on board?
- How does museum engagement contribute to a flourishing local democracy?
- What evidence do you have, or need to help take this forward?

The People's Palace and Winter Gardens



“a palace of pleasure and imagination around which the people may place their affections”

Lord Roseberry 1898

The People's Palace – certainly in people's affections

“stop in the name of love ...”

“you are our sunshine ...”

*George Square,
outside City Chambers 2019*



Stepping back: engagement in Glasgow Museums

Open Museum - 1995



Riverside - 2011



Visitor Studies - present

2015-16 : baseline survey

- How many visitors
- Basic demographics
- Main interests
- Key motivations

2019 : updated survey

- Differentiated questions for local & tourist visitors
- More visitors from the most deprived areas of Scotland
- More visitors who identify as BAME
- More first time visitors

And :

- New digital insights

Stepping back: a turning point : “the Cake report”

Short termism

False consensus

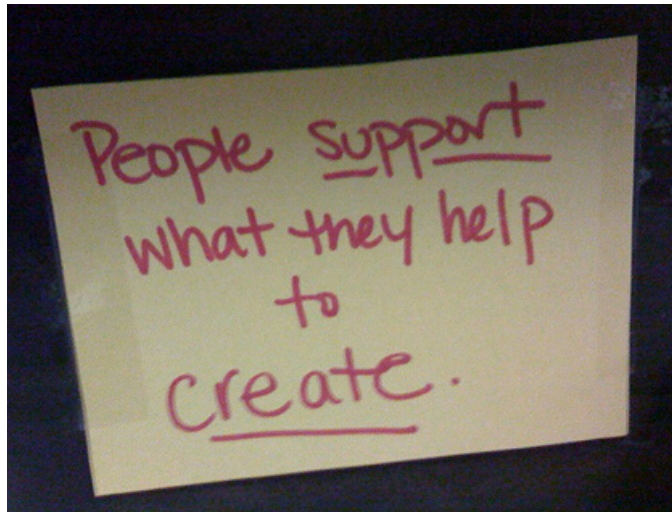
Empowerment ‘lite’

Beneficiaries not active agents



Stepping back: a turning point : Our Museum initiative

Our Museum: Communities & Museums as Active Partners



Community participation in our work is vital

We must be **responsive to our communities** rather than imposing our own agendas

Community partners should be encouraged to be **active collaborators**, not passive recipients of our offerings

Community engagement is **not an extra** – it has to be at the heart of what we do

Community engagement is not only in one department, and not only for the duration of any one piece of work, but needs to be **embedded** in the whole organisation

Our Museum : starting points

Characteristics of radical transparency

- Shaped by a critique of dashboard transparency
- Committed to reciprocity in relations between museums and publics
- Shares process of value-based decision-making
- Empowers participants to make informed choices
- Dependent on internal/external alignments

**Ethics conference
– early 2012
Janet Marstine**

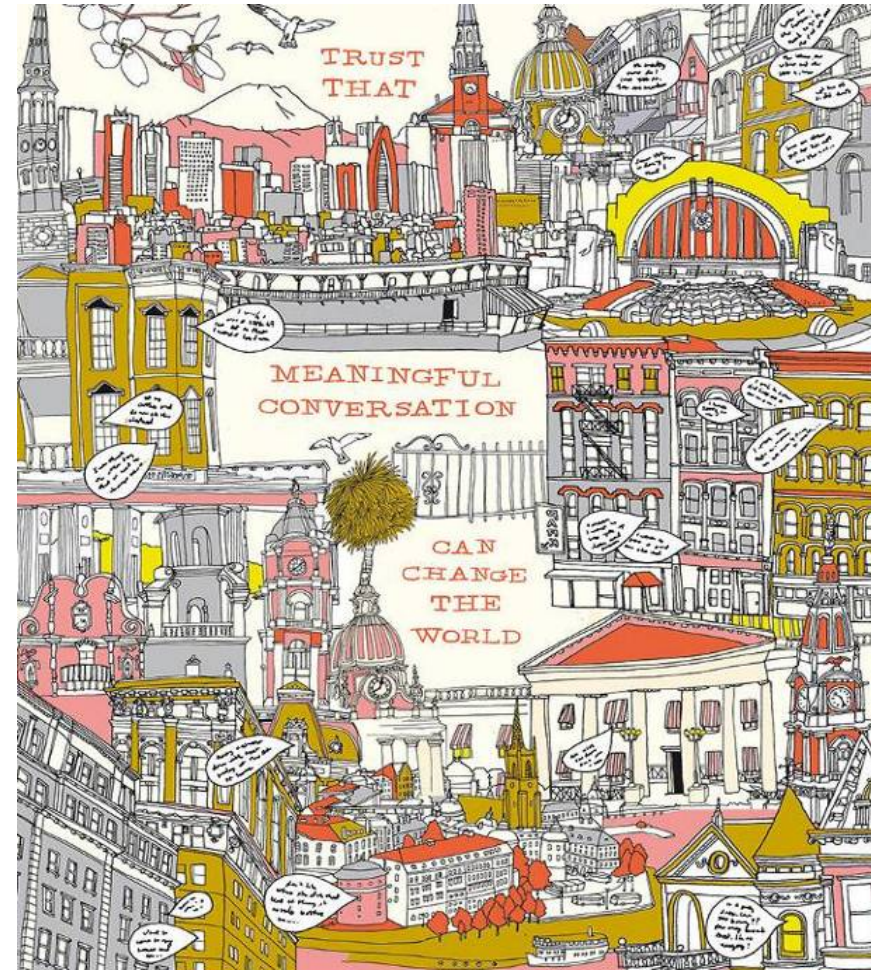
Our Museum 2012-2016

Challenges

- Communication
- Bringing staff with us
- Terminology have right to participate

Successes

- Gradual change in mind set
- New mechanisms for discussion and exchange
- Opportunity to reflect and learn as an organisation
- Importance of external voice



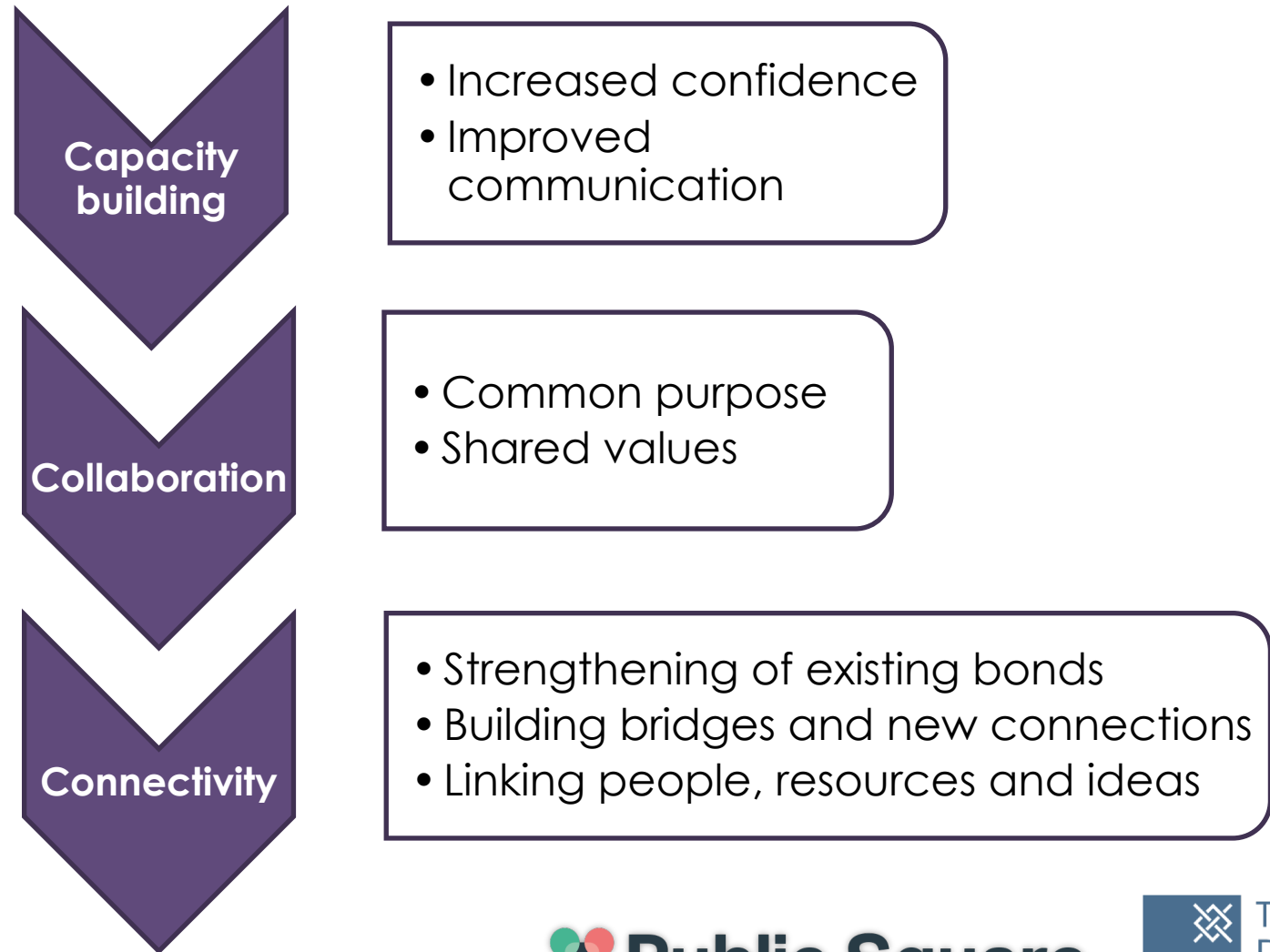
Quote

Margaret Wheatley

Artwork

Julia Rothman

Our Museum 2012-2016 : the result



*Taken from 'what we've achieved' presentation
August 2015*

The Project Team – exploring Public Square

The Democratic Society and Glasgow Life with Glasgow City Council are pooling their resources and expertise on a common project, bringing together;

- Demsoc's practical experience of participation and deliberation, and supporting organisational development and culture change
- Glasgow's experience of delivering participatory projects in the city

Builds upon Luminare's commitment to open government and civic tech - supporting new forms of participation



Reasons to be cheerful



Review of 1st Generation Participatory Budgeting in Scotland



Camden 2025

Be a part of Camden's future – join the conversations now

camden.gov.uk/camden2025 #camden2025



Welcome to your local

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Citizens' Jury – Mental Health

Thursday 19 April 2018

2.00pm – 4.30pm (arrival from 1.30pm)



There are a lot of different efforts to make participation a real thing – with people exploring how it can be a more meaningful part of our decision making and have real impacts on people's lives.

But ...

Is anybody listening?

Capacity is low

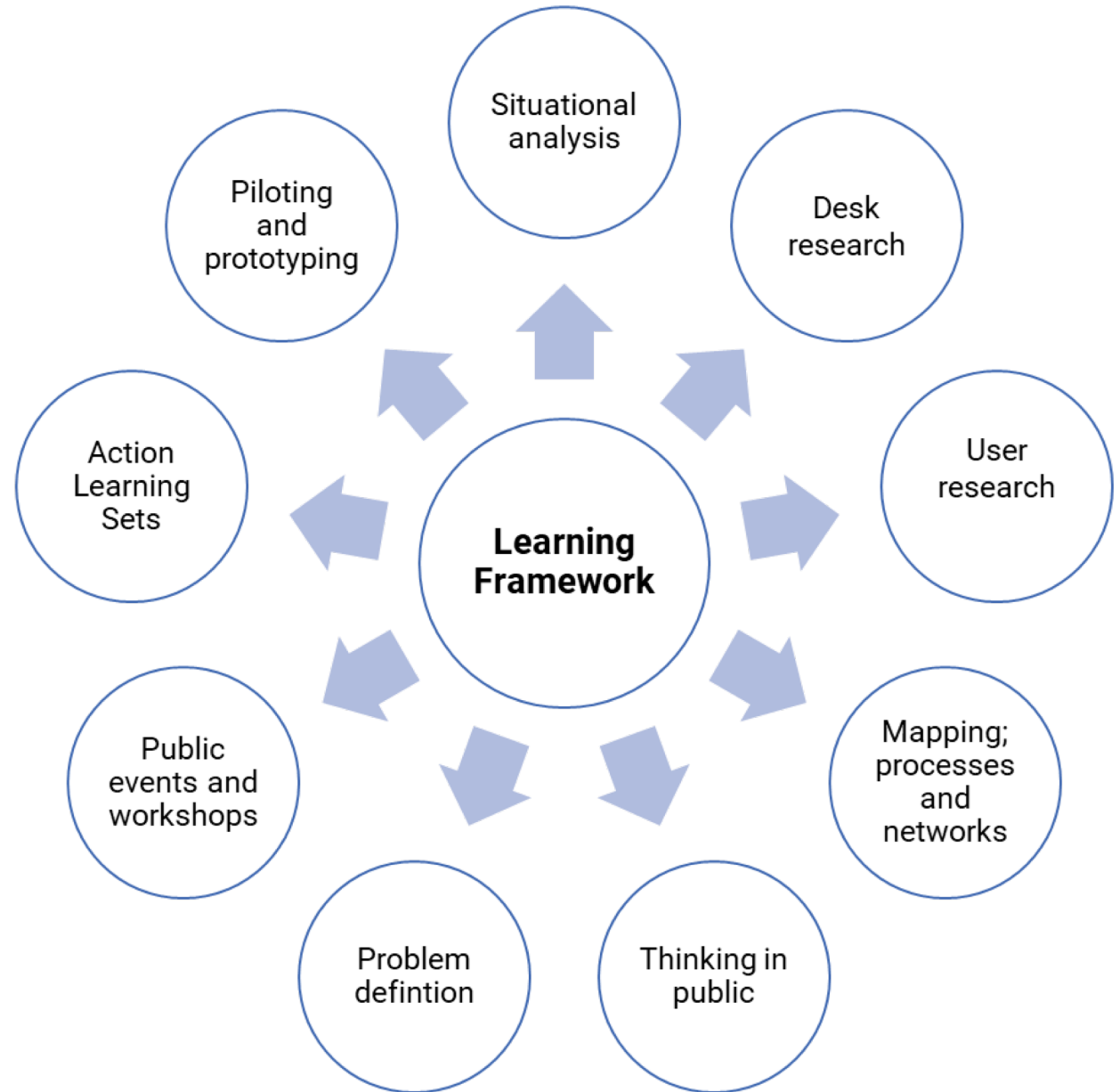
Embedding needs systemic
change

Disinformation

Empowering the powerful

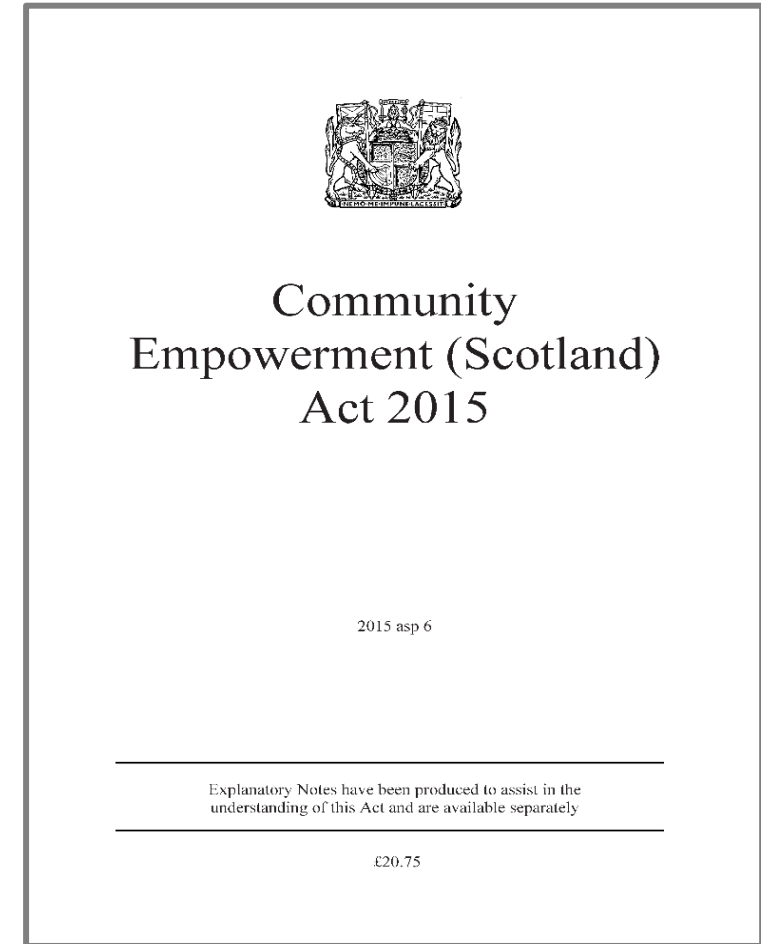
- We are not seeing politics and democracy transform in ways that meet citizens expectations or provide full benefits for decision-makers & service providers. This is especially true at a local level - where our most immediate experience of democracy is felt.
- Currently seeing lots of individual small-scale pilots within single councils. Results in fragmented engagement (bad for citizens) and duplicated effort (bad for councils)

Learning as we go

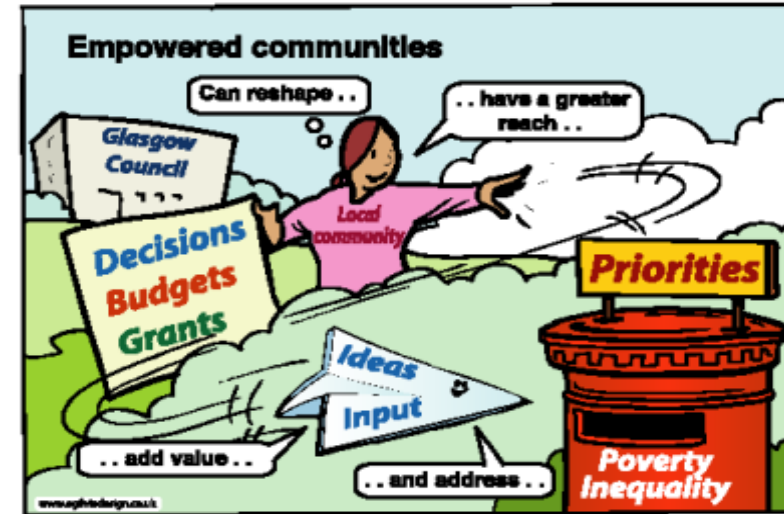


Another turning point - Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015

- Communities have more power over decisions
- Communities have right to participate
- Public services must listen more to communities
- Communities have new rights to improve public services
- Communities have new rights to take over land and buildings
- Rooted in human rights and tackling inequalities
- Co-production with communities for better services
- Part 10 - Participation in public decision-making



Legislation in action – Glasgow Community Plan & Governance Review



Communities have more power in decisions
Community Plan & Locality Planning
Involve community bodies at all stages
Focus on tackling inequalities
79 Community Councils neighbourhoods

Local Governance Review
Democracy Matters (Dialogue)
Citizen Participation (Deliberation)
National Findings (Present)
Citizen's Jury Approach (Decide)
Local/Community Governance

Legislation in action– Glasgow’s Strategic Direction

- **Strategic plan priorities**

- 1) Thriving economy & inclusive growth
- 2) Resilient and empowered neighbourhoods

- **Expected outcomes**

- 1) Ensure citizens are involved in economic decision making
- 2) Extend PB to all Wards by 2022

“Our Participatory Budgeting commitment is an exciting shift in power that will spark the minds and the imagination of citizens, it will help tackle local problems head-on and will engage people like never before in thinking about the future of their local areas.”

David McDonald
Depute Leader - Glasgow



**1% of Council budget via
Participatory budgeting by 2021**

Participation in Glasgow Museums now – 1

GoMA Youth Group – 16-25 yrs

Year long collaboration

Youth centred programme

Group proposed, developed & delivered own programme

Claimed main gallery

- took it over
- selected artists
- designed space &
- hosted events



GROWTH

DISRUPTION, RESISTANCE
AND RESILIENCE

Friday 14 February 2020, 5:30pm – 7:30pm

The GoMA Youth Group would be delighted if you
could join us for the opening of

GROWTH: Disruption, Resistance and Resilience

GROWTH is an exhibition organised by the GoMA Youth Group
featuring six young artists as they explore the intersection of identity,
ecology and consumerism through their work.

The exhibition runs until 23 February 2020 in Gallery 1.

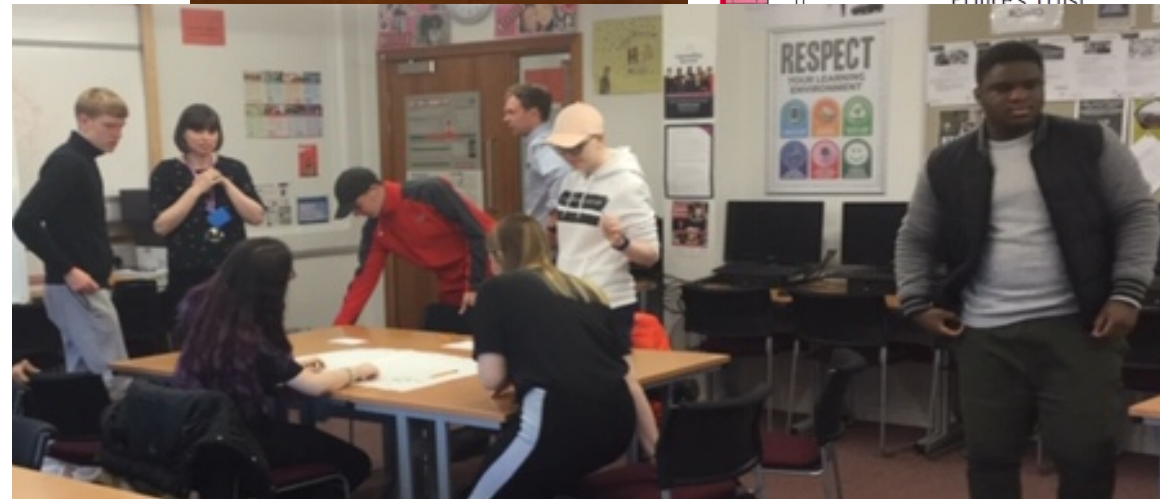
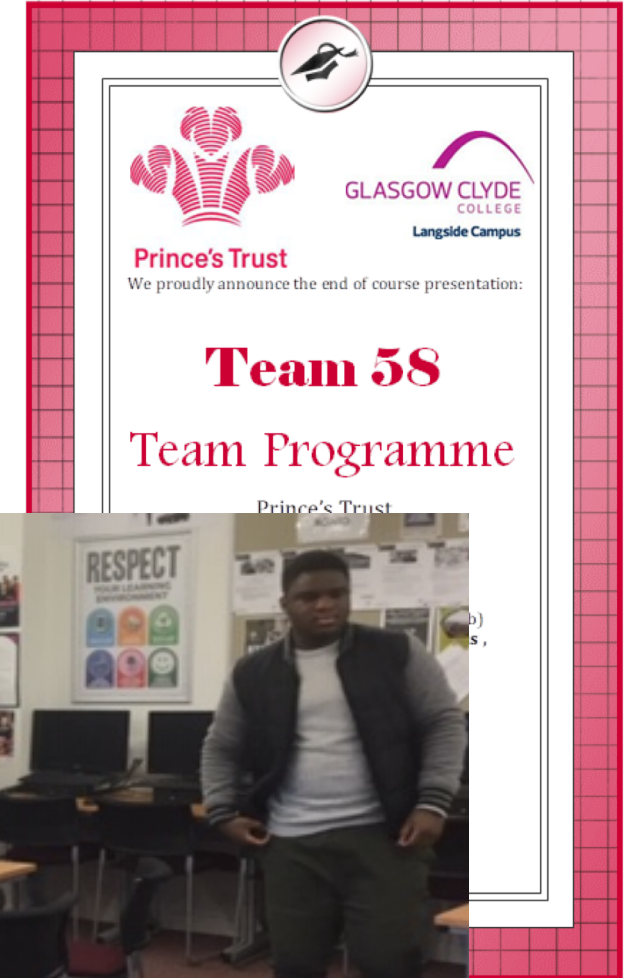
   

Image credit: Dana Cruickshank (2020)

Participation in Glasgow Museums now – 2

Museums Digital Learning Resource – 12-18yrs

- Inspire young people, particularly those from disadvantaged backgrounds, towards self-confidence
- Help develop less tangible life skills
- Create a collaborative, social experience
- Meaningful evaluation / user consultation & participation



Participation in Glasgow Museums now – 3

Burrell handling kits

3 developed

Different groups & collections



Co-curated displays

Community venues

15 co-curated displays

New galleries



Back to the Peoples Palace



How do we build on what has gone before and meet the political aspiration, the city agenda and achieve the right public participation at every stage and level?

Museum engagement as local democracy?

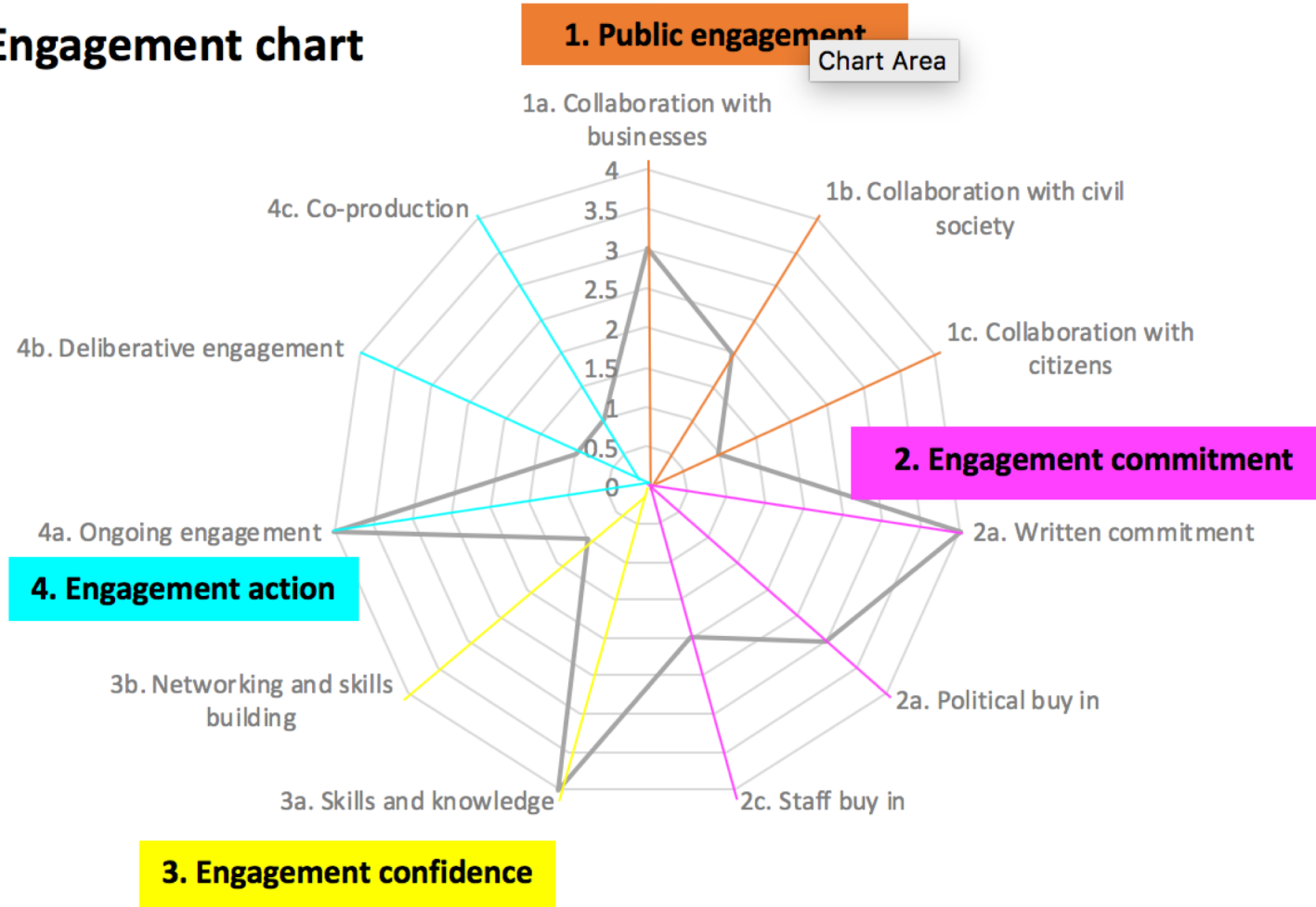
The People's Palace – designing with communities

- Opportunity to harness collective expertise and build on the energy around the project
- Communities feel passionate – creating a case for good?
- Working in the middle – sometimes tricky!
- What does a positive outcome look like? Does this all match up – are we all **really** talking about the same things?
- Being open and transparent, and doing this well
- What role do communities want to play?
- Do we have the right governance structure – is it enabling?



Working in the open – sharing and caring

Engagement chart



Working in the open – sharing and caring

People have a need to feel:

Included, in control and valued

What achieves this is:

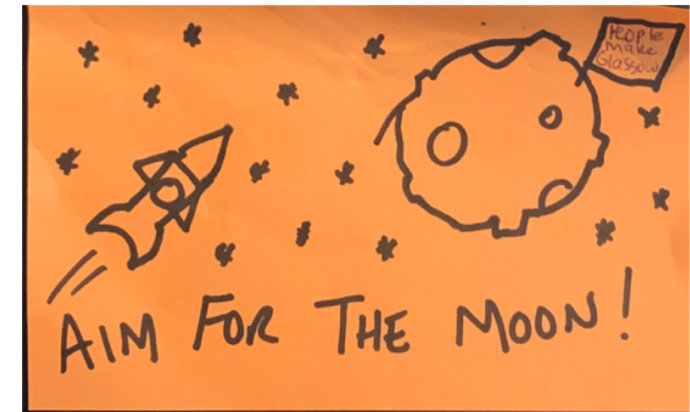
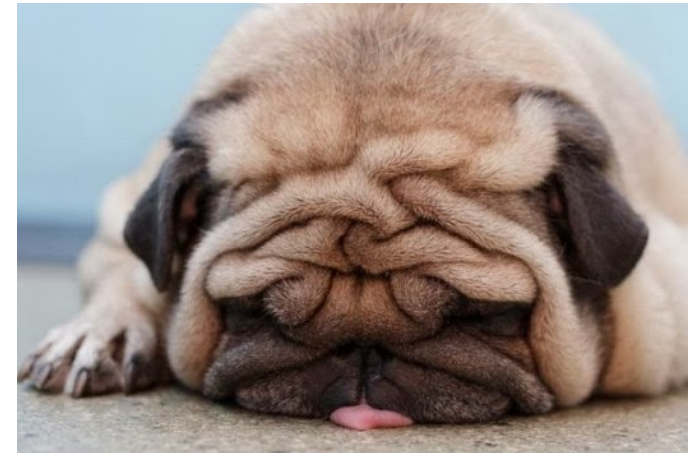
- Joining and belonging
- Role and control
- Sharing and caring



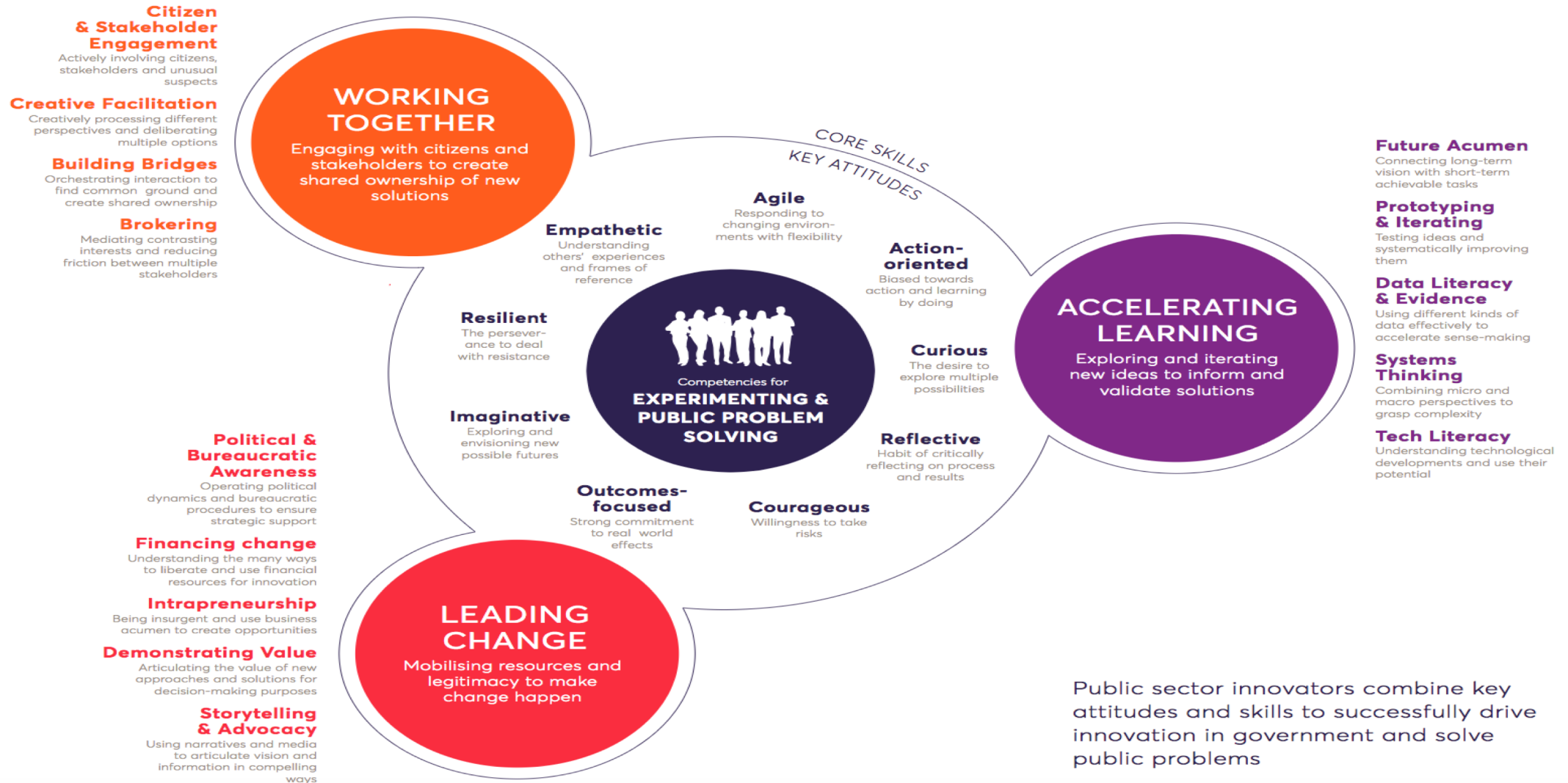
Reference: William Shultz

What's possible in all of this?

- Involving active agents of change
- Thinking beyond job titles – who are the unlockers?
- Being internally participative – just as important!
- Trust – process/ethos
- Knowledge – blocker to participation



Getting your head around it



Making sense of it all



Thanks ... Questions ?



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