



# British Art Network Newsletter

## Winter 2021 to 2022

Easy read  
booklet

### Emerging Curators Group Takeover

## Introduction to the Winter 2021 to 2022 newsletter



# What this booklet is about



We are the **Emerging Curators Group** (called **ECG** for short).



We are a group of 15 new **curators** who meet to share thoughts and ideas and to support each other.



A **curator** is someone that looks after and works on museum collections, or works with artists and others to create exhibitions.



9 of us from the ECG have written the **British Art Network Newsletter Winter 2021 to 2022**. This booklet is an introduction to the newsletter.



The newsletter is not the views and thoughts of the ECG as a whole, but some of the conversations we had with each other.



The conversations started in October 2020 online until we finally met in person in September 2021.



Working online with 14 other people was hard. We learnt to use each person's skills in the best way to help us make good decisions.

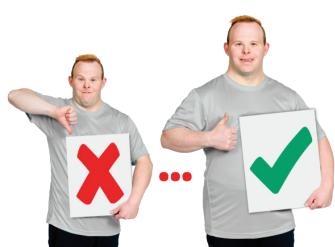


We realised accessibility should have been part of everything we did. Some of the ways we communicated meant not everyone could join in.



We hope that what we have learnt is shown in the newsletter.

# Who we are



Members of the ECG are

- artists
- art practitioners
- co-ordinators
- curators
- educators
- guides
- researchers
- workshopers
- writers
- many other things.

Each of us want to help make our **sector** better.

A **sector** is the name for a large group of similar organisations. We work in the arts sector.



The ideas we look at and talk about come from our experiences in our sector.



The 2 main ideas we talk about are

- Who gets to be a curator?
- and **precarity**.



**Precarity** is when you are uncertain or worried about something. For example, being worried about money or employment.



These aren't new ideas and we want to do more than talk about them. We want to make things happen.



We are excited to share **Who Gets to Be a Curator?** in December and **Slow Reflections on Precarity** in January.

# Who gets to be a curator?



Our video called **Who gets to be a curator?** looks at how most of us in the ECG have found it hard to become a curator.



This is because

- there are not many jobs
- lots of talented people apply for the same jobs
- managers do not leave their jobs often
- there are **institutional gatekeepers**.



**Institutional gatekeepers** are people who might stop someone becoming a curator because they aren't a certain type of person.



Things are changing but it can feel like its more about **who you know** rather than **what you can do**.

# Slow reflections on precarity



We know that precarity is a big problem in our sector. Especially for artists and **freelancers**.



**Freelancers** are people different organisations will work with for a short time. A freelancer might not have work all the time.



To find out how precarity affects how people work we asked 3 artist curators some questions.



We paid for them to have a treat like a trip or massage so they could feel rested when thinking about our questions.

# Barriers to change



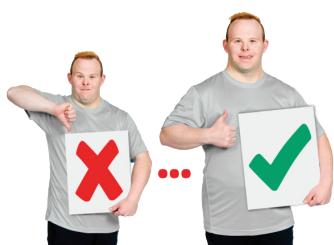
We talked about **barriers to change** a lot in our conversations.



**Barriers to change** means things that are in the way or stop good changes from happening.



We want you to think about what barriers to change you see in the art and museums sector.

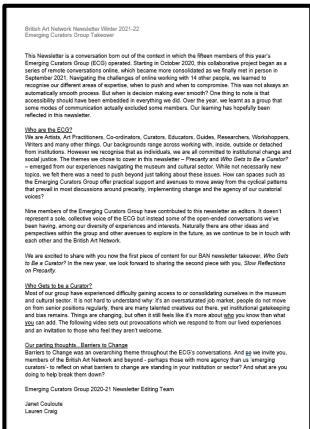


We want you to think about what you are doing to help remove those barriers.

# Thank you

The 9 members of the ECG that have created the **British Art Network Newsletter Winter 2021 to 2022** are

- Janet Couloute
- Lauren Craig
- Harvey Dimond
- Lisa Kennedy
- Siobhan McLaughlin
- Chiedza Mhondoro
- Umulkhayr Mohamed
- Prerona Prasad
- Jess Starns



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The full version of this document is called  
**Covering Statement**