



Youth

Symposium:

Co-create

2019

Friday, 19 July, 2019

2019

LONDON





Youth

Symposium:

Co-create



Foreword

The Youth Symposium is the annual gathering of advisors, mediators, staff and core audiences of Science Gallery. Together, these communities create the blueprint for the civic role of Science Gallery: they are the ones who literally give meaning to our exhibitions and programs.

Last year the Youth Symposium identified three pillars of what Science Gallery means to young people: **an environment to develop people skills; a platform to amplify young voices; and being a champion for diversity and inclusion.** We took these insights not only as recommendations, but rather as demands for immediate action. Our Network programming is now centred around these three pillars.

This year the Youth Symposium focussed on how young voices can become an integral part of the work of Science Gallery. Co-creation is an act of mutual respect and intellectual humility; an acknowledgment of competences, vision and leadership that transcends established frameworks and pushes us a bit outside of our comfort zone. Co-creation is an exercise in trusting each other.

The Youth Symposium participants trust Science Gallery to take action on pressing issues that include climate crisis, mental health, ethics and technology. They trust Science Gallery to develop the Mediator model into a powerful system to reimagine what the university can offer

to students and citizens at large as a platform to learn, work and grow professionally. And they trust Science Gallery to be a truly global network. The gallery space is too small for them: the Youth Symposium participants want Science Gallery to achieve an impact that is much larger than the walls of the gallery. They dare to look far beyond where we can see.

It is easy to see how the Youth Symposium is a powerful blueprint for our work. It is an event where the boundaries between the “inside” and “outside” of Science Gallery disappear. It is a unique source of inspiration and it reinforces the role of universities not only as leaders in creating and sharing knowledge, but also as sites of civic engagement.

This report presents the highlights of the 2019 Youth Symposium, which is already shaping our work going forward. As we reflect on the learnings from the event, our deepest gratitude goes to every person involved in preparing and attending the Youth Symposium. Over several months teams from the whole Network have planned and designed the event with enthusiasm and remarkable commitment, and the results make everyone proud. A special thanks to King’s College London for the generosity in hosting the Symposium and many of the participants.

Executive Director, Andrea Bandelli

Colophon/Credits

The 2019 edition of the Youth Symposium took place in Science Gallery at King's College London.

PROJECT TEAM:

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The Purpose

In 2018, we held the first Youth Symposium. The idea at the time was to bring two burgeoning Science Gallery groups, from Venice and London, to the long-established Science Gallery in Dublin, so that all three groups could learn from one another. We had no idea how much joy and critique and fresh, beautiful ideas would come out of that first event. The first Symposium left us with a great sense of satisfaction and purpose, but also with a recognition that we have so much more to do. In order to keep the momentum going, we acknowledged that we needed to produce the event again, and indeed, commit to doing one annually. Our intention now is to host the Youth Symposium in a different Science Gallery location each year. We increased the size and scope of this year's Symposium, expanding the number of participating Science Gallery locations from three to six, and bringing producers on board from across the Network. Together, we landed upon a theme we believed encompassed the experience of watching the Science Gallery Network grow all over the world: *Co-create*.

“Find a group of people who challenge and inspire you, spend a lot of time with them, and it will change your life.”

— Amy Poehler

The world has moved on from a model where organisations decide what’s best for their public and offer it back to them. Science Gallery believes in a structure where we explore models of co-creation together, from tinkering to collaboration. There are endless examples of this work across the Network, from the Open Call platform, to Mediator-led event series, to the Youth Advisory Committees. All of this work is important, but often localised. The Youth Symposium aims to bring the full weight of all of these ideas and experiences together in a room.

Empowering young people to engage in meaningful co-creation is about more than improvement to Science Gallery programming. It’s also about providing a more meaningful and valuable experience for our core audience. Co-creation is both the future and the now, and supporting young participants to engage in these processes is critical.

“The European Commission has identified co-creation as an important part of [Responsible Research and Innovation] RRI and [...] it looks like it will be crucial in the next framework programme of Horizon Europe. What has become apparent is that across projects and policies the concept of co-creation raises high expectations.”

— SISCODE Project, a supporter of the Youth Symposium project

Facts and Figures

40

▶ Number of Symposium participants

6

▶ Science Gallery Youth Groups represented

6

▶ Countries represented

10

▶ Number of facilitators

6

▶ Number of participating Science Gallery locations

Glossary:

Sci Curious:

Science Gallery Melbourne's incredible group of 15–25 year olds meet three to four times throughout the year, contributing ideas to the programming team. They also collaborate directly with the Science Gallery Melbourne Leonardos, and helped to lock in the upcoming 2020 and 2021 themes. Three members of the group also took on the role of Curatorial Advisors for DISPOSABLE, Science Gallery Melbourne's 2019 summer season.

Young Leaders:

Science Gallery London's Young Leaders shape the Gallery and guide its work through curation, consultation and creative thinking. This group, made up of 15–25 year old people who live, work or study in the boroughs of Southwark and Lambeth, represent the incredible talent and diversity of London and are passionate about bringing new voices to the fore. As part of the programme, the Young Leaders develop their skills and professional networks, receive 1:1 mentoring and receive training on skills such as curating, marketing, leadership and public speaking.

Young Leos:

Originally established as a group for 15–17 year olds to meet and contribute to Science Gallery programming, Science Gallery Dublin announced in summer 2019 that they would create an additional spinoff group, opening up membership to an older cohort as well. The group meets a few times a year, contributing ideas to the programming and communications teams at Science Gallery Dublin, and also working specifically to conceive and produce an event for their peers. In 2018 this was Werk,

a networking event for young people considering their career options post-secondary school.

Young voices:

The Young voices are a group of young Italians, between the ages of 22–29. The talented group come from a wide-range of fields and areas of expertise, including Environmental Sciences, Chemistry, Translation, Climate Change, Economics, Art and Culture, as well as Philosophy. They meet regularly to discuss and contribute to Science Gallery Venice's programming.

(Un)realists

The newest youth advisory group, Science Gallery Rotterdam's young people are focused on preparing for their first programming season, UN(REAL).

Mediators:

Mediators are the lifeblood of Science Gallery — they contribute to making a Science Gallery experience what it is: participatory, engaging and surprising. More than just tour guides, Mediators are trained conversationalists who create informal learning experiences for visitors to Science Gallery. Time and again we are told that they are the best thing about Science Gallery, and we couldn't agree more.



Mediator

RESULTS FROM LAST YEAR

Last year's Youth Symposium saw participants challenging Science Gallery with their ideas and fresh perspectives. Three major themed areas emerged — Skills Development, Amplifying Young Voices, and Diversity and Inclusion — and the Network promised to be responsive to them.

Skills Development for the Future:

Last year's young participants stressed the value of soft skill development, and their hope that Science Gallery would focus on this area in its work throughout the year.

The Network delivered, through a host of events, lectures, workshops and exhibitions.

Science Gallery Dublin explored the importance of **emotional intelligence** via the exhibition INTIMACY, while at Science Gallery Melbourne, PhD candidate Jessica Williams looked at the topic through the lens of AI. Detroit's beautiful Science of Grief and Melbourne's PERFECTIONISMS probed the depths of **self-awareness**. **Adaptability** and **cognitive flexibility** were explored via Detroit's HUSTLE exhibition and CODE/SWITCH event, looking at the necessity for people of colour to move between different "languages". London's CLICK, CLICK... BOOM: LIFE ONLINE and Dublin's EIGHT EASY PIECES encapsulated the importance of **independent thinking**.

Dublin's NEW AGE OF ACTIVISM looked at using **creativity** as a catalyst for activism, while Venice's Creativity Art and Culture in the Veneto Region event explored the ways it can be used locally.

Amplifying Young Voices:

Amplifying young voices was a powerful theme from the 2018 Youth Symposium. We responded to the call in the first instance by committing to an annual Youth Symposium. Science Gallery locations that hadn't already established youth advisory groups did so, while those with preexisting groups doubled down on their commitment to reaching even broader, often underrepresented communities. The Network applied for — and won — a grant to host our first youth mobility activity, which will bring together Youth Advisory representatives from across the Network to work together over several months, as well as to spend time together in Dublin for a full week in fall 2019. This group will take forward many of the ideas generated at the 2019 Youth Symposium.

Diversity and Inclusion:

Following on from 2018's Youth Symposium, the Network Directors' Forum invited a representative from London's Young Leaders to discuss diversity and inclusion practices and concerns with the gallery directors. The Directors' Forum initiated a Diversity and Inclusion Working Group, which involves members from across the Network meeting on a monthly basis to develop protocols and ideas around better, more diverse, practices. Locally, multiple Science Gallery locations launched initiatives that were responsive to their own communities, including Science Gallery Melbourne's discussion paper with INDIGI LAB to create a First Nations Framework, and Science Gallery Dublin's event with Women In Research: Ireland, Diverse Ireland — Chances And Challenges For Minorities In Society And The Workplace.

2019 SESSIONS

Each session was an exploration of what Co-create can mean to individuals, to groups, and to the entire Science Gallery Network. From brainstorming new ideas for programming and operations, to collaborative storytelling, to participatory rapping, young people from across the Network came together, to learn, share and collaborate.



Science Gallery Detroit Mediator Alyssa and Science Gallery Melbourne SciCurious Member and Collaborator Mitch, working together.



Science Gallery London Mediator Lily wordlessly communicating.

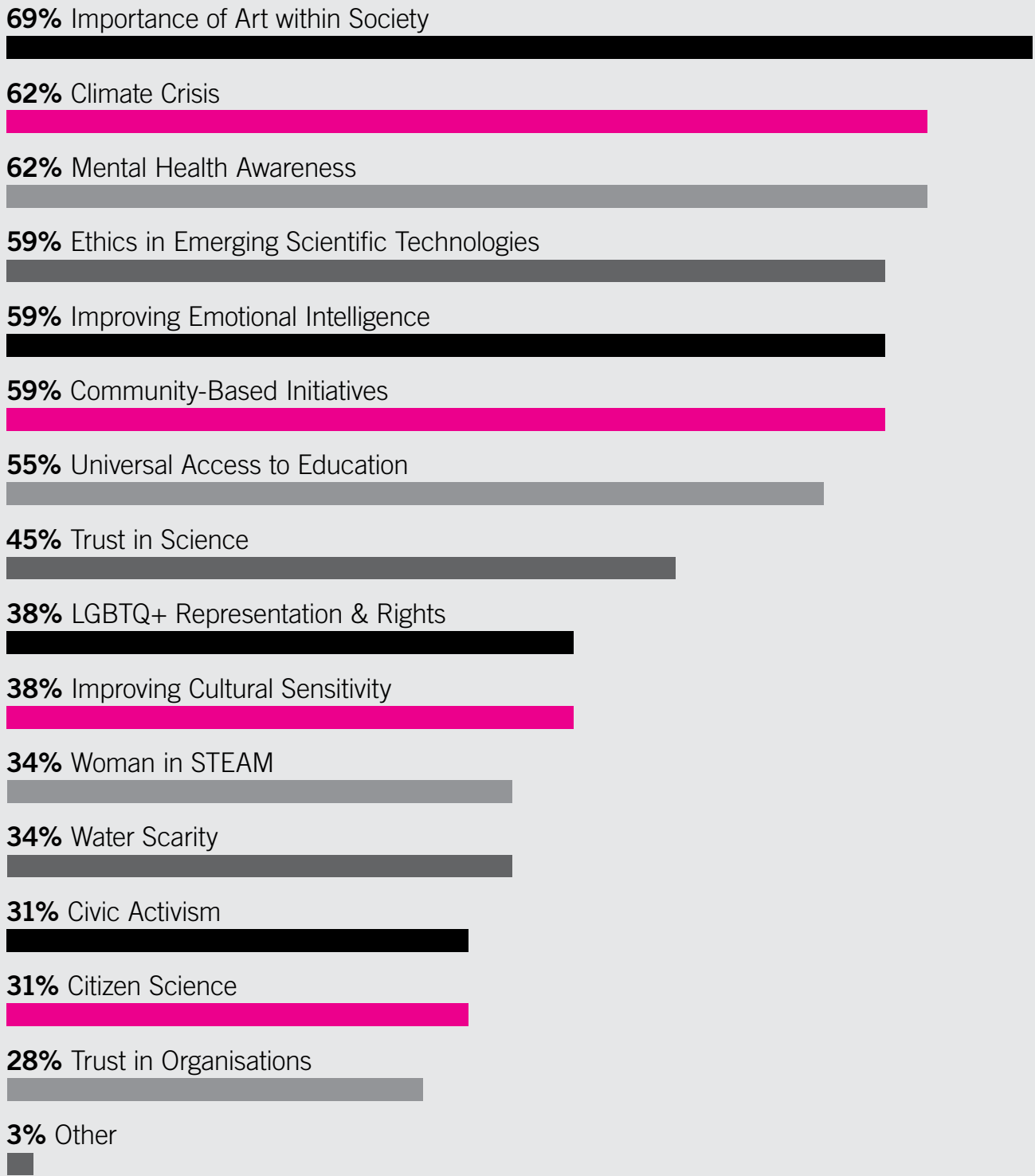


Science Gallery Rotterdam Un(realist) Lineke sharing an inspirational thought with the Network.

EMERGING IDEAS AND THEMES

What topics do you hope Science
Gallery can have a hand in solving?

We asked participants what topics they hoped Science Gallery can have a hand in solving. The chart of their responses is to the right. Reclaiming the conversations about why art is important in society came up first. This is both a sign of confidence in the work of Science Gallery by the participants, but most importantly a loud signal that for our audiences art is a fundamental pillar of their lives. They see art as an essential component of their education that gives meaning to how we understand the world. Taking action on climate crisis, mental health awareness, ethics and technology, improving emotional intelligence and community-based initiatives were all identified as priorities. Throughout the day the participants reflected on how Science Gallery can play a role in addressing these issues.



At the end of the day participants created a newspaper headline outlining what the world would look like the day after the issue was solved. These uplifting posters are hopeful statements about the world our audiences want to live in, and good reminders of what needs to be done today in order to get there.



SCIENCE GALLERY
CLIMATE CRISIS

Science Gallery hosts an exhibition on climate crisis whilst holding their organisation to meaningful structural change to how gallery is run.

~~They~~
Gallery goes carbon neutral & rejects traditional model of constant growth!


Make your emotions WORK for you

Rather than hiding your feelings in the workplace, could understanding them be a key part of success? Bethan Rose Jenkins investigates

Disability doesn't mean the end of our world

Science Gallery has opened a new window for mental health awareness.

Together we keep advancing

The News 

SCIENCE GALLERY INTERNATIONAL OPENS THE DOOR TO CONVERSATIONS ABOUT ART & SOCIETY!

Art is essential to human expression and our understanding of the world. How do we transform that into action? How does that momentum transcend mediums, fine arts, and schools of thought?

1.5 MILLION PLEDGE TO STORM AREA 51

WORLD NEWS

GALLERY PRACTISE WHAT THEY PREACH

Whilst exhibiting collaborative work between artists & scientists, they actually changed their model to de-emphasise constant growth.

Gallery thoughtfully sources material, pledges carbon neutrality, & grounds flights, and helps 15-25+ year old employees get out of the precarious 0.1 hour ~~work~~ contracts that underpins a lot of employment in the arts.

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THE BIG ISSUE

WHOSE LIFE WILL YOU CHANGE

everyone's talking about

normal people too

GET UP, STAND UP, NOW!

CHOOSE LOVE

safe. healthy. educated.

SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

FEELS GOOD TO

CHANGED MY LIFE

BE FREE

infinity, by what's beyond

Now we want to inspire

Rewriting the rules

THREE MAJOR THEMES FOR THE COMING YEAR

Following an analysis of activity outputs, conversations, anecdotes and evaluations, we noted that three major themes emerged: climate change activism, new roles and ideas for the Mediator programme, and the increasing need for global connectivity.

Climate Change

No surprise that climate change was a topic frequently broached by our participants; the international climate change movement is led by young people, from Greta Thunberg, to student strikers, to the members of Extinction Rebellion (a socio-political group using acts of civil disobedience to draw attention to the urgency of the issue), and that has steered both the UK and Irish governments to formally declare a climate emergency. Climate change came up in conversation, surveys and evaluations. When asked which kinds of challenges Science Gallery should be addressing, climate change was chosen by 62% of participants, making it the second-most voted for option (tied with “Mental Health Awareness”, and just behind “The Importance of Art within Society”). Two participants that met at the event were even motivated to start working on a London-based climate change Symposium (see postcard message below).

Mediator Opportunities

The Mediator programme came up frequently in the course of conversations and ideas, wading into labour and contract critiques, hopes for a consistent, global training programme, as well as aspirations for involving Mediators in every level of the organisation, from programming to operations. There is no doubt that the Mediators are essential to what happens at Science Gallery, and both addressing their interests and offering them new opportunities for growth and involvement are all worthy ambitions.

Global Connectivity

There is an appetite for young people to keep connecting with one each other, but also for Science Gallery locations to work together with more frequency. We agree — there are rewards to be reaped from both, and in the coming year, we will expand the role of the Youth Symposium and develop a shared technology platform. Our global outlook is a pillar of what we do, and embedding it in every level of the Network, from audience interaction to strategic focus, are key deliverables for the coming year.

Science Gallery International
 Structural environmental
 consciousness
 - flights / international travel
 is v. unsustainable, how
 can SG International make
 an international network
 without relying on flight/
 other ~~detour~~ unenviron-
 mental things.
 Practise what you preach.

To Science Gallery International:
 Structural environmental consciousness
 Flights/international travel is v. unsustainable,
 how can Science Gallery International
 make an international network without
 relying on flight / other unenvironmental
 [sic] things. Practise what you preach.

Dear Science
 Gallery London
 Team,
 I strongly hope
 there will be an
 opportunity to
 organise a Climate
 Change Youth
 Symposium at the
 gallery to bring
 together protesters
 and institutions to understand how we all
 can create change. I would love to be involved.

All the
 best,
 Kerstin Weil

Science Gall
 London

Dear Science Gallery London Team,
 I strongly hope there will be an opportunity to
 organise a Climate Change Youth Symposium
 at the gallery to bring together protesters and
 institutions to understand how we all can
 create change. I would love to be involved.

It would be great
 to have a common
 mediator training
 programme, so
 the various
 galleries are
 promoting a
 core way to
 address, approach
 + communicate with visitors
 A foundation to build on

Science Gallery
 Mediator
 Training
 Management
 Teams

To Science Gallery Mediator Training
 Management:
 It would be great to have a common
 Mediator training programme, so the various
 galleries are promoting a core way to address,
 approach & communicate with visitors.
 A foundation to build on.

Try to encourage mediators to host events during exhibitions

- give support
- examples
- Leaders
- Help to make more impact from ground up

— WHERE SCIENCE AND ART COLLIDE —

Science Gallery Outreach

Try to encourage Mediators to host events during the exhibition.

- Give Support
- Examples
- Leaders
- Help to Make More Impact from the Ground Up

I would like to have a place in each Science Gallery where you can virtually connect with the Network

— WHERE SCIENCE AND ART COLLIDE —

To all the Science Galleries

To all the Science Galleries:

I would like to have a place in each Science Gallery where you can virtually connect with the Network

Dear Science Gallery International Team,

I was wondering whether there might be more opportunities to connect the different Science Galleries worldwide. I believe it would be more engaging if there would be more common projects between the different galleries.

— WHERE SCIENCE AND ART COLLIDE —

Science Gallery International

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I was wondering whether there might be more opportunities to connect the different Science Galleries worldwide? I believe it would be more engaging if there would be more common projects between the different galleries.



This project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon 2020 Research and Innovation programme under grant agreement No 774088.



SISCODE

SISCODE: Co-Design for Society in Innovation and Science

