

The Rural Space Agency

What We Do

The Rural Space Agency is an arts and creative placemaking charitable organisation. We want to help make the Borders a place where everyone is supported in creative participation towards the celebration and making of our culture, a place where communities are empowered and thrive through collaboration, enterprise and risk-taking, valuing different perspectives, forms of knowledge and experience. We will do this through place-based work and embedded arts practice, supporting creative conversation, enterprise and inclusion. We will bring together diverse communities to promote and develop well-being and sustainable local futures.

Our charitable aims are:-

- the advancement of the arts, heritage and culture through the involvement of individuals, organisations and communities in the Scottish Borders.
- the advancement of community development, rural and small town regeneration by means of creative placemaking.
- the provision of opportunities for participation in the arts by people who might otherwise be excluded.

Our Values

We wish to be part of a network based on strong values. We are committed to those values and as a result seek clarity and confidence in what we do and how we do it. Our values inform and guide our day-to-day interactions, choices and practices.

- To work in an atmosphere of mutual respect and generosity at all times, to show kindness and consideration for all collaborators in both online and physical contexts. To be supportive and flexible, welcoming and hospitable, responding to different personal needs and ways of working.
- To communicate clearly and without jargon. To share directly the voices and perspectives of townspeople, rural communities, artists and young people.
- To create opportunities for those furthest from power and celebrate the value of lived experiences in our semi-rural locations.

- To be actively anti-racist and anti-ableist, to challenge discriminatory behaviour and/or language.
- To listen, to foster collaboration and to seek consensus as co-operation between equals in all our interactions.
- To identify and address personal and societal barriers to participation in creativity and community, for example economic circumstances, digital poverty, location and disability.
- To recognise, support and promote diversity.
- To take risks and to create the conditions where people are empowered to embrace creative risk.
- To generate positive disruptive change.
- To support and promote innovation.
- To embrace and encourage responsiveness, proactiveness and flexibility.
- To draw on shared knowledge, experience and skills.
- To build a space of possibility.
- To place environmental and economic sustainability at the core of our work, giving time to our planning and processes and taking account of the longer term in our thinking. To value working as a small team with limited resources, supporting local and sustainable suppliers.

If you have any questions, suggestions or concerns please get in touch:-

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(values and aims partly paraphrased from The Stove and Peak Cymru)