

The background of the slide is a large, textured painting. It depicts an orca (killer whale) leaping out of the water. The sky is a vibrant blue with white, fluffy clouds. On either side of the orca, there are palm trees. The water below the orca is a mix of dark blue and orange-brown, suggesting a sunset or sunrise. The painting has a rough, hand-painted texture. The title text is overlaid on the painting.

Art of Belonging Dissemination and dialogue

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The Art of Belonging is a research project bringing together teams in Sweden and England

Project partners and stakeholders



Nottingham
City Council



LUNDS
UNIVERSITET



University of
Nottingham
UK | CHINA | MALAYSIA




And representatives from the municipalities and cultural sectors of our two case study cities:



Lund



Nottingham



Stage One of the project explored
**How municipalities currently work to
develop cultural citizenship for young people
and what stakeholders perceive the benefits
to be?**

Cultural citizenship

Is defined by interviewees in the project as:

- *feeling part of the whole cultural landscape and feeling that you can enhance and contribute to that cultural landscape*
- *different for every individual, partly a sense of belonging and a sense of community in which I live, and work and have come from*
- *what you bring to the place you live in and what you can learn from that place*
- *feeling that you can connect to others and be open with others through arts and cultural activities*



Barriers to young people engaging with arts and cultural activities in the city


- **Communication and gatekeepers-** knowing what opportunities are out there. Arts and cultural organisations find it difficult to communicate their activities to young new arrivals.
- **Finance and resources-** youth programmes have been significantly cut and arts programmes have been funded by short-term grants; there is a lack of knowledge about what is needed to ensure the programmes are successful.
- **Access-** the cost of transport is high
- **Localisation-** young people, especially those living outside the city centre, are reluctant to travel outside their own area.
- **Gender** –where traditionally activities are experienced separately by men and women.

The Cultural Rucksack

An important existing initiative which links to the idea of cultural citizenship in Nottingham is the **Cultural Rucksack** programme. This brings together schools and creative organisations in the city to celebrate the heritage and cultural diversity of Nottingham with the aim of **‘ensuring young people grow up feeling connected to and valued by their city’**.



Extending the
cultural rucksack in
Nottingham and
Lund— what we did
in Nottingham



The Signature Pedagogies of Artists working with new arrivals

(drawing on Hall and Thomson 2017)

Social and
cultural
integration



Developing cultural citizenship through extending the cultural rucksack for new arrivals

Nottingham's Cultural Education partnership and the Cultural Rucksack

'We believe every child and young person is entitled to a broad range of arts and cultural experiences that can lead to a life-long engagement with creativity and the arts. The *Cultural Rucksack* creates these opportunities by working with Nottingham's schools. We're drawing together inspirational arts experiences, devised jointly by teachers and creative organisations to align with the school curriculum and meet the needs, aspirations and interests of young people. Celebrating the rich heritage and cultural diversity of Nottingham is also an important element of the *Cultural Rucksack*, ensuring young people grow up feeling connected to and valued by their city.'

(<https://challengenottingham.co.uk/cultural-rucksack>)

Art of Belonging: alignment with the Cultural Rucksack model in Nottingham

- A commitment to a place-based approach celebrating the heritage and cultural diversity of the city and helping new arrivals to feel connected to and valued by their (new) city.
- A commitment to youth empowerment (new arrivals were involved in selection of artists delivering the programme)
- A commitment to recognition that young people do not arrive with an 'empty cultural rucksack' (the artist sought to build on cultural experiences that they brought and also to develop existing skills, as well as introduce new ones)
- A commitment to the entitlement that new arrivals feel part of the cultural life of Nottingham through a programme of visits and experiences (which drew on formal/informal understandings of art and culture)





Representation
of youth.



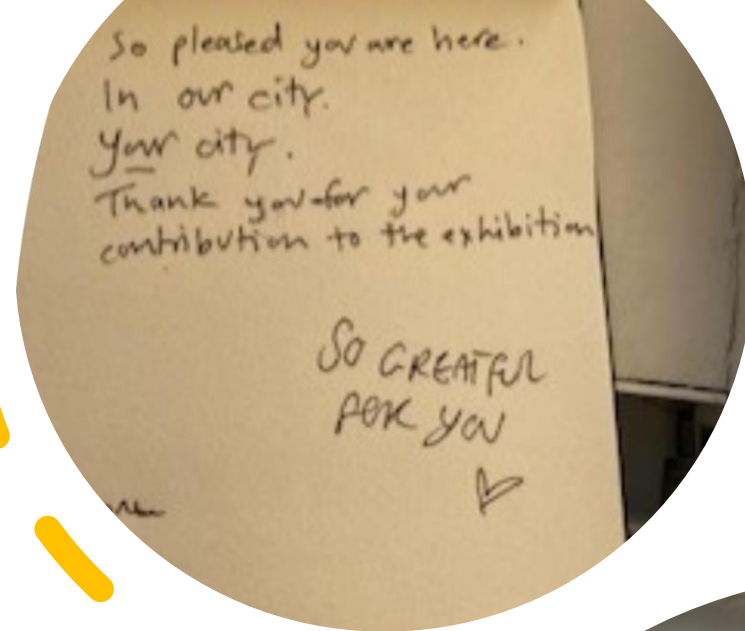
Forging an identity



The role arts and culture can play in individual and collective mental wellbeing

- *‘Belongingness is ..for me, it is a feeling of connection to others and a connection to a place. It means feeling welcomed and accepted. It means being safe enough to be me’*

(Nottingham participant)



Next steps...

Is there a place for new arrivals in the Cultural Rucksack Programme in Nottingham? If so, how could new arrivals be embedded within the CR?

Some suggestions for enhancing the current CR programme to be more inclusive for new arrivals:

- A bespoke CR programme of arts activity and cultural visits for new arrivals becomes part of the city's offer (week long? repeated at key times across the year to reflect the pattern of arrival into the city)
- Identifying a CR champion – who works with arts and cultural institutions across the city to identify where their core programming could be modified to be inclusive for young new arrivals (including those within and outside formal education) and brokers the Art of Belonging programme for those working with young refugee and asylum-seekers.
- Mapping the potential gatekeepers working with refugee communities within our cities (schools and informal organisations)
- Promoting the cultural map and Challenge newsletters to a wider partnership incorporating gatekeepers working with new arrivals
- This could signpost short-term 'pop-up' activities where an organisation/freelancer has secured funding to work with new arrivals on cultural activity
- Development of basic guides/explanations (phone friendly) for new arrivals to regular place-based cultural events such as Goose Fair, Light Night, Festival of Science and Curiosity
- Existing arts clubs extend free places for one to two newly arrived participants

And now over to you...

Can you help us develop our thinking by answering some of these questions

- If Nottingham were to have a rolling Art of Belonging programme for new arrivals, they would be innovating in the UK and beyond. What might the challenges to this be? Can you consider any solutions to counter these?
- What do **policy makers** (national and local) need to know/do to support the extension of the Art of Belonging for new arrivals?
- What do **arts and cultural** organisations need to know/do to support the extension of the Art of Belonging for new arrivals?
- How might artists develop a legacy of the Art of Belonging in their subsequent work?
- What do **schools and those working in the community** to support young refugees and asylum-seekers need to know/do to support the extension of the Art of Belonging for new arrivals?
- How could we further engage the **wider public**?
- How do we map who are the gatekeepers working with new arrivals in the city (including but moving beyond those on resettlement programmes)?
- How could we include new arrivals and those already living in 'host' cities in arts and cultural activities?
- How might 'host cities' further value the skills, attributes and potential contributions of young new arrivals?
- What can we learn from similar existing initiatives/ practices in other contexts?
- What has been the most interesting/ valuable aspect of today for you?
- What else should we be asking? (and how would you answer?)