

Culture Matson Principles & Values



1. What is a Community Chest? What makes it different?

2. Key principles

3. Core values

1. What is a Community Chest? What makes it different?

- It is hyper local. Community owned, innovative, inclusive and collective.
- Explores other funding partners
- Happens without money too
- Not all partners need funding from the Community Chest and are there to either part fund or just to support and deliver within the community
- Challenging current systems

Community Power

Behaviour that unlocks and builds positive potential through arts within Culture Matson

Locality

- People remain engaged because we build momentum across partnerships
- Ideas are driven by the community
- Each of us represents a different area of the community
- The meetings rotate around community venues; building connections across the estate

Autonomy

- Our dominant culture is a 'can do' principle of reciprocity
- People talk, meet, listen and are supported to present ideas or requests for help
- Decisions are shared and underpinned by mutual respect, always asking 'what help do you need?'
- Trust is built because we 'begin well' with crisply facilitated individual updates

Diversity

- Change is constant and we will adapt and thrive
- Every citizen has a voice and has a different (but equally valid) role and place
- We are focussed upon relationships
- The spark that gives direction and shared enquiry is that we say 'yes' first (and then work it out) rather than 'no

2. Key principles

- Shared pot of funds
- To support creativity and community in Matson, White City and Robinswood
- Owned by nobody/Available to anyone
- Decisions made by Culture Matson
- Light touch approach based on trust and respect.
- Process for deciding funding allocation agreed and implemented by Culture Matson
- Rules to prevent abuse agreed and implemented by Culture Matson. (to be agreed)
- All applications are discussed in the group before an application is made
- Decisions open and transparent with sharing on a digital platform
- Admin costs as low as possible so as maximum investment goes to activity
- Culture Matson responsible collectively for ensuring the pot doesn't empty
- However, whilst funding is much needed things can still happen through collaborative working
- Lobbying for mainstream funding for projects that demonstrate strong impact

3. Core values

- Debate and dialogue first
- Light touch process for when consensus can't be achieved
- Local people making decisions about local funding with input from specialists to see wider picture/perspectives
- Seek for consensus at all times
- Embed flexibility of how people can contribute to funding discussions. Not everyone can come to meetings
- All applications for the community chest are circulated to all CM members who may not have been able to attend the meeting. So, everyone gets the opportunity to input
- Transparency so everyone knows the process and what the funding is for
- Learning about what has gone wrong is most valuable

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