Culture Matson Community Chest

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Terms of reference M

Purpose

The alliance is a coalition of organisations that work together to support communitypowered projects. It has grown over time and is now self-sustaining and self-governing.

This is a practical multi-agency group focussing on providing support and funding to projects that will make a difference to the people who live in Matson, Robinswood and White City.

Starting as an informal group in 2017, when there was no cultural infrastructure, it has now developed into a much larger group of people who represent schools, community groups and organisations in the area.

"We never set out to become a place-based alliance. We have just worked that out as we've gone along!"

PIPPA JONES, CREATE GLOUCESTERSHIRE FOUNDER AND DIRECTOR

Background

The alliance was kickstarted by an invitation from Nick Clitheroe (**RIO**) to support a meeting about setting up an after-school club in Robinswood & Moat School allowing creative people to run workshops and after school activities; there were none at that time. Slowly other people started to come along, and it became a meeting about people wanting to increase the opportunity to get involved with creative and cultural activities.

The primary driver was young people in Matson who didn't have the opportunity to see anything or go to anything that challenged the world that they grew up in.

The alliance received 'Great Place funding' to interview people and to create a visual illustration of Culture Matson, asking everyone why they had been coming to Culture Matson every six weeks for the last four years and why they kept coming. The Matson Map was developed. APPENDIX 1

In 2022 Create Gloucestershire's Create Health programme of work placed a further spotlight on the alliance with a health lens. Create Gloucestershire's 'Create Health' Programme tests and widens our understanding of 'living well'. *We view arts, creativity and culture as a fundamental part of living well, supporting recovery and contributing towards a sense of wellbeing for individuals and communities.*

A review of Culture Matson activity and reports showed that the trust and structure developed over time closely align with the principles of Elinor Ostrom. Professor **Eleanor Ostrom** was the first and only woman to win the Nobel Prize in Economics for her ground breaking research on the ways that people organise themselves to manage resources.

This includes agreed behaviours based upon the design principles of locality, autonomy and diversity, and adapted 'Rules of the Commons' applied for a thriving community chest fund shared between a neighbourhood; *owned by no body, available to all with rules to prevent abuse with defined management requirements.*

"Systems – including the way that resources are managed, rules are designed, and decisions are made – should be originated within, and appropriate for, the particular places where they operate"

ELINOR OSTROM

Principles and Values

At the beginning of every meeting attendees are reminded that the purpose of the meeting is to create a place that is more creative and more equal and more fun.

The infrastructure enables the community to have access to an infrastructure that enables decision making power over local funding.

- Key principles of locality, autonomy and diversity are defined in APPENDIX 2.
- Alliance members share and sign up to the care values defined in APPENDIX 2.

Scrutiny, risk and reward is shared amongst alliance partners.

The creative catalyst also resolves issues as the neutral person who bridges any gaps.

Management

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' (see APPENDIX 3) and a 'How to apply for funding' (SEE APPENDIX 4) information sheets support the funding application process.

Membership

Membership has representatives from within local schools, library, social prescribing service, Matson Baptist church, arts organisations (GASP), Strike A Light, Glos Community Policing, Youth Engagement Officer (Glos City Council), Local Ward Councillors, Gloucestershire Gateway Trust, Community Organisations (charities and CIC's), NHS, Social Housing Providers (Glos City Homes, Elim)

Finance and Administration

Some of the administration (including minute taking, application process, bidding panels and evaluation) is undertaken by the Creative catalyst. In addition to other admin support which is currently co-ordinated by GL4.

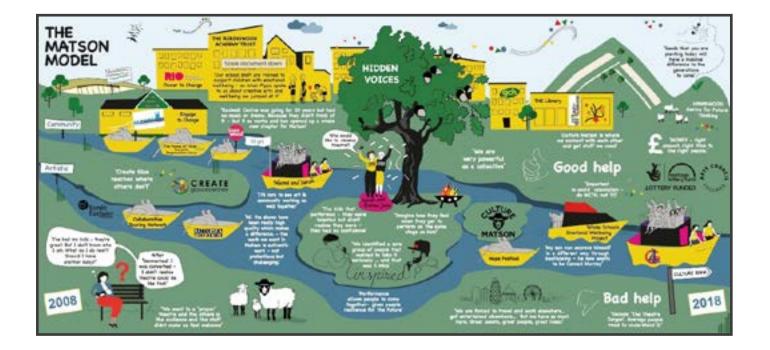
Fundraising is a collective task amongst all members.

The structure of the community chest enables the locality to receive donations from grants, NHS, personal and business. Create Gloucestershire has the role of fiscal host.

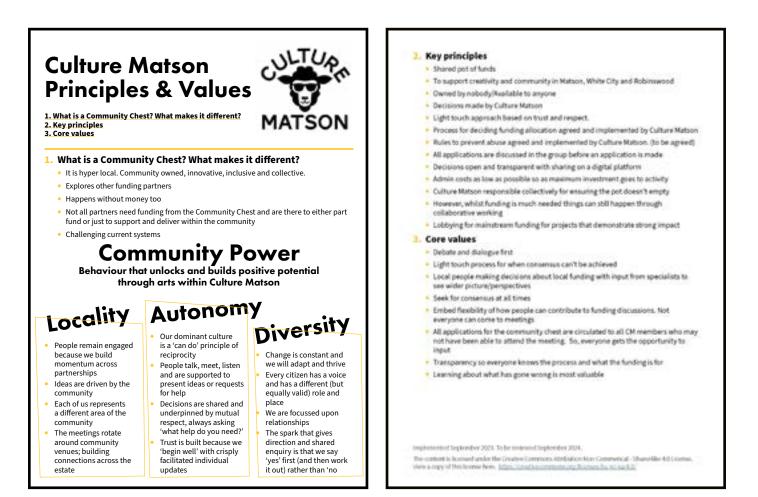
Meetings

The alliance meets every six weeks with the option of additional meetings on request.

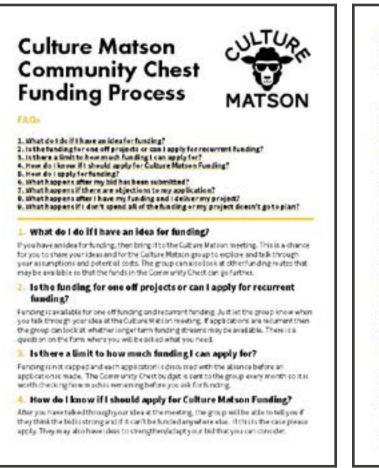
APPENDIX 1 - THE MATSON MAP



APPENDIX 2 - KEY PRINCIPLES AND CORE VALUES



APPENDIX 3 – FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS



Kow do I apply for funding?

There is an application form which you can fill in online. This is a document shared on a digital platform, Artable, and the information on it can be seen by everyone in Culture Matson. You will have received access to this document with Culture Matson minutes but if you haven't you can request access to it from:

- Sarah O'Donnell. Email sarabodonnell@gl4.org.uk
- Debbie Christie. Email hello@creategloscestershire.ce.uk

The form will ask you about your project idea, how you have consulted with the community, losis at costs and if you have any match funding. You do not need match funding to receive funding. If you need any support with completing the form please costast Sarah or Debbie.

What happens after my bid has been submitted?

The application will be circulated to all Culture Matson members. There is a 14 day deadline for members to object. If there are no objections the funding will be allocated. If you are successful you will be contacted by Debbie Christie and advised how to involce for your funding. It is normally paid within T days of receipt of your involce.

1. What happens if there are objections to my application?

If there is an objection to the bid, then a small group will be formed to review the application. This group will be made up of three members of Culture Matson, who have no interest in the bid. They have the final decision as to whether or not your application should be accepted for funding or refused. If it is accepted, you will be contacted by Debble Christe and advised how you can access your funding. If the bid is refused, then the group will be able to offer advice and support of other potential funding options or says in which the bid may be strengthered or adapted.

What happens after I have my funding and I deliver my project?

Everyone who receives Culture Matson funding should gather data to evaluate their project. This can be returned in a variety of formats – impact statements, statistics, photographs, or videos. This information can then be shared with members of the Culture Matson group and our funders. This information will be an opportunity for us all to share our learning and ideas for the future.

What happens if I don't spend all of the funding or my project doesn't go to plan?

Sometimes funding is allocated and the project may not be delivered for a variety of reasons. If there are problems talk then through with the group as another portner may be able to support you. If the project cannot be delivered after other options are explored then the funding should be returned to the Community Chest. This money can then be used for future projects.

implemented September 2023. To be noteened September 2028. The content is its encodered or for the Content Content of the Sector Sector.

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APPENDIX 4 – HOW TO APPLY

Implemented September 2023. To be reviewed September 2025.

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