

Ending relationships Summary

- Expect some drop-off
- Consider fixed-term partnerships
- Change allows you to work with more communities
- Good communication is needed to end partnerships
- Mark the end and signal new opportunities
- Plan for the end and create a legacy

-Expect some drop-off

On our scheme we had a very large contingent of community partners and sadly quite a lot of people dropped away for various reasons. I don't think it was because they weren't engaged I think that just 'life'.

-Consider fixed-term partnerships

In terms of there being some sort of fixed term or something like that for community partners I think there should be but I don't think we've yet got to the stage where that's a problem our problem is recruiting people in the first place and then getting them to stay.

-Change allows you to work with more communities

We've had changes in community partnerships so, somebody new brings in fresh ideas and I think, you know, it's important to keep it fresh and to rotate this process is of benefit to more organisations, more people in the community.

Relationships with community partners should probably naturally come to an end at times as new community partners come on board. The galleries can't do everything and work with everybody and some community partners it might have been a short thing they wanted to do a piece of work.

-Good communication is needed to end partnerships

But I think sometimes if it's not working or a relationship isn't getting where you want to go then as long as you've got that good communication then you can just be open and honest about that.

-Mark the end and signal new opportunities

There's been a bit of a celebration at the end, a bit of a cup of tea and a cake and then

you know that's the end of something and then... also announce then that if people want to go on to something else it would be possible.

-Plan for the end and create a legacy

But you must know that you have that exit coming up and we've been prepared for this for the last two years. It is going to be painful, but we know what we've created our legacy's going on. So our projects in different forms are continuing, but be prepared for that exit.

I want to continue forever because I think the benefits to both the gallery and to my client group are overwhelmingly positive. However, it might be that it evolves into something different so we've done the exhibitions and we've now moved into the documentary and who knows what we're going to do next year? It might be that it's not The Lightbox that's the appropriate one but we're going to take the art forward. We're not just going to... if we don't work with The Lightbox we'll still continue with the creative side that we deliver to our clients.