

Topic	Why people in arts and culture stay or leave Prince Edward Island		
Date	December 12, 2018	Location	Y Loft - Charlottetown, PE
Host(s)	Marissa Lad�route, Program Coordinator, CreativePEI		
Participants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Becca Griffin, theatre performer professional • Rebecca Parent, theatre performer professional • Ryan Doucette, comedian • Karen Lips, architech • Ole Hammarlund, architech • Sarah Hagen, pianist & humorist • Julia Purcell, painter • Louise Lalonde, Project Manager, PEI Screenwriters • Jane Ledwell, writer, poet • Mahdi Selseleh, film director/producer • Kathryn Nazim, Special Project Coordinator, F�d�ration culturelle de l'�le-du-Prince-�douard • Noah Nazim, videogames, writer, actor • Kinley Dowling, musician • Dylan Menzie, musician • Stuart Braidwood, graphic designer, web and videogames • Rebecca Hume, music therapy 		
Notetaker(s)	Nicole Allain, F�d�ration culturelle de l'�le-du-Prince-�douard		
Facilitator(s)	Becka Viau, President - Becka Viau & Associates		
Invitation	<p>CreativePEI is hosting a Mass Culture gathering and you're invited! Mass Culture is a national organization that partners with local organizations like CreativePEI to explore issues facing artists and culture sector workers across the country. One of their main tools is bringing groups of people together in informal, facilitated gatherings to discuss the challenges they face.</p> <p>CreativePEI is hosting a gathering in December, facilitated by Becka Viau, to discuss why people in arts and culture stay or leave Prince Edward Island. This gathering is for us to explore together the reasons why some people stay and some people leave. During the event we will collect ideas, resources, needs and success stories from participants (without taking any names) in hopes of understanding this question better.</p>		
Perspectives and thoughts	<p>The gathering started with a little icebreaker game involving name tags which led people to introduce themselves to one another. Very easygoing atmosphere with refreshments and snacks. We had five big sheets of paper up on the wall with five main questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Why do you stay on PEI? - How did you get to PEI? - What would make your creative career easier to develop on PEI? 		

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What would make your life easier or happier on PEI? - Ideas. Random? Maybe, maybe not! <p>Once everyone had arrived, the host and facilitator started off the night with an introduction, explained how the evening will go and thanked everyone for coming. The participants were asked to take a pack of post-it notes (to write their thoughts), place themselves in small groups and discuss the five questions. As the evening went on, ideas were flowing and quite a few post-it notes were attached to each question. After about 15 mins, everyone changed groups. This went on for about an hour. For the last half hour we gathered around the “living room” area in one big group. We asked what were the main points that stood out for everyone during these 15 mins discussions. A few people spoke about what they thought were important points to them. Such as how important it is to have these types of gatherings that allow us to connect with all culture sectors, how there is potential to produce whatever you want on PEI and export it on an international scale and to create jobs for youth to practice and share their art.</p> <p>Everyone was very thankful to be there. They all seemed to be on the same page as artists. Coming to together and helping each other is how we keep growing. Our support system is our competitive advantage. PEI is an ideal place to try something that has never been done before - low cost, low risk, multiskilled collaborators, little bureaucracy or red tape, culture of self-reliance. The overwhelming impression from the gathering was that</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - PEI has a lot of talent and culture. - This was a really great networking opportunity. <p>There were a few artists that were there who just moved to PEI and they were a great addition to the group. They were able to inform us about what it’s like for newcomer artists and cultural professionals to move to PEI. We were pretty successful getting people with different backgrounds and that work in different culture sectors. Overall, the evening was a success. People left with more knowledge and new connections. The honorarium was a great bonus. It’s important to recognize our artists. After all, the time they spent at the event could have been spent working on their art. They were very pleased with the value of their time being recognized.</p>
<p>What research would be useful?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● How to move beyond the seasonal, tourism-dominated nature of PEI’s culture sector by developing work for local audiences ● Shared spaces best practices ● Online and real life networks for cultural professionals. How to set them up and pay for them ● Teleworking in the cultural sector ● Networking to create work nationally and internationally ● How to create world class work in a small place ● Getting artists into schools ● Arts programs in schools ● New models for postsecondary and lifelong arts education ● Overcoming isolation in rural communities - e.g. public transit solutions

<p>Whose voices are missing around the table?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● PEI Government (funds, to make a connection with artists) ● More newcomers ● Board members from each culture sector (in a position to take action) ● Young artists - fresh out of college/university ● Even more diversity in the culture sector - construction, writers, crafters... especially dance! Unfortunately the ones invited in the dance sector were all unable to attend.
<p>Resources & Links (mentioned during discussion or shared afterwards)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● InnovationPEI https://www.princeedwardisland.ca/en/information/innovation-pei/culture-action-plan ● SkillsPEI https://skillspei.com/ ● Peter Mutch - Music Therapy - Director of Catholic Family Services Bureau http://www.catholicfamilyservicesbureau.com/ ● Bus Stop Theatre, Halifax https://thebusstoptheatre.org/about/
<p>What next steps were mentioned as a result of the Gathering?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Set up ongoing networking structures online and in real life. ● To keep having these types of get-togethers with more artists and more culture sectors. Would be great once a month. ● A great source of networking. Invite people who are involved in the industry and who are currently looking for employees or who need people for a specific project. ● Create an online JobHub for PEI artists. Because when you look up online for job opportunities there are only 1 or 2 posted when we know there are definitely more than that. There is no specific place for artists to look up. This could turn into a Culture Sector Hub. Where people could post about upcoming events, materials needed for a project etc.