

Law, Arts and Island Resilience Project 3rd Workshop

Island Resilience and Sustainability: Developing a Creative Platform for Connectivity

Strathclyde Centre for Environmental Law and Governance, Glasgow School of Art
and Taigh Chearsabhagh

14th March 2019
Dark Island Hotel

*How can creativity, understood in the widest possible sense, be employed to
promote resilience and sustainability in island communities?*

*What opportunities may be unlocked for island communities on the Uist(s) to be
able to foster this, as a result of the recent introduction of the Islands (Scotland)
Act?*

Workshop Goals

The previous two Law, Arts and Island Resilience workshops focused on resilience and sustainability on Uist and the many ways in which creativity underpins survival and everyday life here. This third and last workshop builds on these discussions, and responds to the interest expressed by workshop participants to explore work across sectors in order to empower each other's work, build greater confidence and platform further creative and environmentally conscious initiatives on Uist.

The aim of the workshop is two-fold:

- It will consider the projected impact of the Islands (Scotland) Act for island communities, including highlighting opportunities brought about by the new legislation, through presentations from Speakers from the Scottish Government (Islands Team), the Islands Deal and from Creative Scotland.
- At the same time, it will invite workshop participants to consider and discuss whether there is scope (or indeed a need) for developing a creative platform that brings them more closely together as a creative community, and if so, what shape might this take, and how it could be instigated?

Workshop Sessions

9:30 – 10:00 Registration and Coffee

10:00 – 11:30 First session (chaired by SCELG): Projected Impact of the Islands (Scotland) Act and Opportunities for Island Communities

The goal of the first session is to provide an update of Scottish island law and policy and of creative policy to workshop participants.

10:00 – 10:10 Introduction to the workshop (Francesco Sindico)

Francesco will clarify from the start the structure and the goal of the 3rd workshop.

10:10 – 10:25 The Islands Scotland Act (Don Morrison – via Skype)

10:25 – 10:40 The Islands Deal (David Amos)

10:40 – 10:55 Creative Scotland: Core Ambitions and the Emergent Themes from the Draft Culture Strategy (Amanda Catto)

10:55 – 11:15 Q&A session

11:15– 11:30 Coffee break

11:30 – 1:15 Second session (chaired by GSA): Platforming Creative and Environmentally Conscious Initiatives

The goal of the second session will be to consider:

- *The value of identifying and promoting examples of community growth and sustainability that are impacted through creativity on Uist;*
- *The most effective ways of representing and platforming this work;*
- *Whether there is scope and/or need to work in more connected ways, and if so, what is needed to make this happen;*
- *Whether to take advantage of the opportunity to highlight creative work in a way that can be linked the National Islands Plan – and how to best approach this.*

Through an interactive group discussion, participants will brainstorm and discuss an approach, vision, or direction of travel that makes sense on Uist, building on the infrastructure and work that is already in place and considering how to best capture new opportunities.

11:30 – 11:45 Sustainability and Resilience in Uist (GSA)
GSA will provide an overview of workshops 1 and 2 provide guidance for the ensuing group discussions, including explaining discussion questions.

11:45 – 12:45 A Creative Platform for Connectivity – group discussion
Working in groups that represent a diversity of experiences, participants will consider aspects of the following: whether a creative platform is needed to connect and work more closely in order to promote resilience and sustainability in island communities, or whether one already exists; how such a creative platform might be represented visually; specific aspects of collaboration; helpful models of practice; use of technology, etc. Groups will comprise individuals with a range of expertise, as well as Uist based and non-Uist based participants, and discussions will be facilitated by representatives from SCLEG and GSA.

12:45 – 1:15 Groups report-back in plenary
Each group will be given 10 minutes to report back (30 minutes total). Some immediate and brief reaction to each group will be allowed after each group.

1:15 – 2:30 Lunch

2:30 – 4.30 Third session (chaired by TC)

2:30 – 2:45 Islands Deal (TBC)
Islands Deal to comment on the morning group discussions and on whether a platform could indeed be included in possible future activities supported by an Islands Deal. Islands Deal also encouraged to comment on the broader question of how and if creativity can play in how island communities engage in political and legal processes.

2:45 – 3:00 Creative Scotland
Representative from Creative Scotland to comment on the morning group discussions and consider any initiatives or strategies proposed by participants in relation to the wider Islands cultural landscape.

3:00 – 3:30 Questions & Discussion

3:30- 4:30 Conclusions & Future Legacy (SCELG and GSA)
SCELG and GSA will comment on key points raised during the Workshop Sessions, discuss how they perceive creativity dealing with resilience and sustainability, and highlight any future activities and any legacy stemming from the project.

5:30 – 7:30 Workshop dinner