

Birmingham as a creative city: a milieu for learning

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Social, cultural and symbolic capital is an important resource for cultural entrepreneurs. The social element includes the social contacts and networks between actors within the habitus.

Methodology

- MICRO: Individual narratives –subjective experience
- MESO (habitus): Birmingham initiatives, people, networks and activities.
- MACRO (field): Birmingham as a space for cultural work and it's cultural policies.

a shift from 'cultural worker' to
'cultural entrepreneur' in the language
of cultural policy

93% of creative firms are micro-businesses, employing 10 or fewer people. The number of creative businesses of 1-10 employees having grown in the period between 2003-2007 by 24.9%.

There are senior chief executives who think I flirted with my job title and ignored what it was suppose to be... It really started off as managing projects, ERDF etc.. but what it moved into being was more about partnerships and relationships across stakeholders and the private sector. So realistically what we delivered in terms of business support was in the context of business trends, market trends, where the sector specialism, what the skills were, and so that you could look at ways of supporting leadership management by actually looking at what the challenges were in the sector. (Zoe, 2012)

birmingham social media cafe

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Next Event: Friday 30th August at Birmingham Symphony Hall

Posted on [October 28, 2013](#) by [Karen Strunks](#)



The next event will be on Friday 29th 10am-midday

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FRIDAY 29TH NOV 1:30PM-
4:00PM PRIORY ROOMS BULL
ST E35



Event hosted and organised by
[Karen Strunks](#) Social media &

‘...I realise that all the people I talked about they were talking job opportunities and starting projects. I knew that I can't do this because I didn't have a work permit. I felt like what am I doing here?’ Dom

‘The social media cafe is really interesting because everyone is there for the same reason, so you can just go from room to room and talk to people and tell them who you are and change cards and be friends with people on twitter and Facebook. So it's a really relaxed place and people come and talk to you.’ Maria

'In Nigeria it is very shaky because they just think you will take ideas from them so people dont go up to people in Nigeria and say 'hi my name is..' Joy

'And the cultural barriers, some people will look at me because I'm from a different place and some people will even like that I'm from a different place, different background. I don't know, if I was scared of crossing cultural barriers, I wouldn't be doing what I'm doing.' Maria

'(the social media cafe) led me to the social media surgery because I met some people there who go to the socials media surgery... I went to help people, it was really cool, it was really nice.'

Maria

'Because I had to wait for my work permit, I felt a bit isolated. At the beginning I was just a student. I felt like a student.' Dom

'I introduce myself as a student and as a digital marketing consultant now.' Maria

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20th
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2013

Flatpack Submissions – Now Open

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by [Kassie Fleet](#)

20th – 30th March 2014 are dates for your diary as it sees the return of Flatpack Festival. For a reminder of what you enjoyed, or missed, last year watch the below video to view the highlights of the seventh Flatpack Festival.



Submissions are now open for Flatpack 8 and this year a new category has been added – the medium length film (defined as between 20 – 40 minutes). Alongside this



128



106

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Cultural entrepreneurs are not working in a vacuum but that the language of enterprise, an emphasis on economic development and the role of the cultural industries as part of the city is an important factor in the space of production.

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