

Engage, Think, Do!

"Here we are all citizens"



PB Fringe Programme

Friday the 21st October 2016.

Running simultaneously at 3 venues in central Edinburgh, with 14 sessions that explore the full range of innovatory democratic practice that's happening in Scotland, in Europe and worldwide.

All sessions are free to attend but if you can make a donation, that's welcome.

Move between Venues

Dovecot Studios:

Our 'Engage' meetings will be in The Ladies Baths, on the first floor. Dovecot studios is on Infirmery Street (EH1 1LT), on the right hand side as you approach from South Bridge St. You can't miss it.

Edin' Centre for Carbon Innovation

Just next door to Dovecot you will cross the yard in front of the ECCI building for 'Think'. Look for signs to the ground floor conference room inside ECCI.

South Side Community Centre

Our 'Do' venue is around 7 minutes walk from the others. Coming out of Infirmery St, turn left and head south past Nicolson Sq. The building is an imposing church on the right hand side (heading south). We are in room 1 on the ground floor.

Refreshments needed?

You will be able to get drinks at all the venues, either in the room or a venue cafe. However, leave time to refuel between sessions. There are lots of places nearby to grab a coffee. Lunch (for a limited of people) is being supplied at Dovecot during the PB Network session, courtesy of our sponsors.

Special attraction

Walking tour of the city: 2pm-4pm.

Up to 20 people can join a 2 hour tour of the city, looking at its rich heritage, with a special focus on the growth of democracy in Scotland over the last 500 years. Costs just £5 per person, and leaving from Dovecot studios. "An amazing walk and discussion by an inspiring guide."



Prof Giovanni Allegretti

Renowned international PB expert and academic, and lead researcher for the Empatia programme.



Marco Biagi

Ex-Scottish Govt Minister, researcher at Yale, communication consultant, with a passion for PB.



Peter Bryant

Community engagement expert, director of Shared Future CIC and member of PB Partners.



Alan Budge

PB Partner with experience of work PB across the UK. Developed the early PB grant making model.



Dr Andrew Fisher

Police Superintendent (Rtd), assoc' at PB Partners and MutualGain, lecturer and research fellow.



Daniel Grieg

Policy Coordinator at Highland Council with a keen interest in environmental policy.



Jez Hall

Coordinates website for PB Network, PB Partner, director of SFCIC, and leading PB consultant.



Paul Nelis

Development manager at SCDC, including responsibility for development of VOICE.



Reema Patel

Develops informed conversations as Programme Manager for the RSA's Citizens Economic Council.



Sue Ritchie

Director of MutualGain, PB Partner, experienced consultant, and chair of the UK PB Network.



Alistair Stoddart

Scotland Network Manager for DemSoc, digital democracy expert, and a keen football fan.



Dr Paul Teedon

Research Fellow, Glasgow Caledonian Uni', and researcher into sustainable rural communities.

"Engage, Think, Do" is supported by:

UK PB Network, Scottish Government, Scottish Community Development Centre, PB Partners, Royal Society of Arts Citizens Economic Council, SF CIC, Mutual Gain, What Works Scotland



Workshop Sessions:

Engage ... @ Dovecot Studios 10 Infirmary Street, EH1 1LT

(1) 10.00-11.45: Lived experiences of PB:

Jez Hall, of PB Partners

Cases studies from around the world, followed by a discussion on engaging the 'hard to engage'. Expect speakers from Scotland, Kenya, France, Denmark and Catalonia.

(2) 12.00-12.45: Elected members and PB:

Marco Biagi

Participatory budgeting almost always needs the go-ahead from elected representatives who are used to taking financial decisions themselves. Initial responses can range from enthusiasm and interest to cynicism or even feelings of threat. Introducing PB is a process of change whose survival can be very delicate. What are the reasons elected representatives should support it? And are there important lessons to be learned from the experience of PB in Scotland and the momentum it has picked up? This session is a chance to compare experiences and explore this crucial dimension to introducing PB.

(3) 1.00-1.45: The UK PB Network:

Sue Ritchie/Jez Hall, of UK PB Network

National UKPB Network gathering + lunchtime networking session. We will be announcing the newly constituted structure for our network, setting our agenda for the coming year and celebrating the great things achieved since the network was created in 2012.

(4) 2.00-4.00: PB Open Space:

Peter Bryant, of PB Partners

"What do we need to do to make sure that we realise the huge potential of PB now and in the future?!" Open space is a highly participatory way to engage people in debating the issues that matter to them. The topics for discussion are up to you, framed by the question above. Expect a stimulating debate led by a experienced facilitator, based on the 'law of two feet': If you have not contributed to, or taken any ideas from the conversation you are part of... leave it, and join a fresh conversation.

Think .. @ Edin' Cen' for Carbon Innovation High School Yards, EH1 1LZ

(5) 10.00-10.45: International learning:

Reema Patel, of RSA Citizens Economic Council

Join us for a short introduction to democratic innovations in participatory budgeting across the world, and a facilitated discussion exploring emerging good practice. The Royal Society of Arts always puts on stimulating, cutting edge events, and this is sure to be another.

(6) 11.00-11.45: Digital democracy:

Alistair Stoddart, of Demsoc

An opportunity to explore a range of practical tools for online PB. Featuring technology experts drawn from around the world who are driving forwards the boundaries of democracy. They will on hand to show you what new technologies can do for your engagement process.

(7) 12.00-12.45: Evaluating PB:

Paul Teedon, of Glasgow Caledonian University

"Whose voice, whose stories?" Glasgow Caledonian University are actively researching the impacts of PB across Scotland. Paul will lead a session in a workshop format, where the participants will answer the question above. Here, we are all citizens, and all experts.

(8) 2.00-2.45: PB Scotland:

Paul Nelis, of SCDC

Forming a Scotland wide PB learning community. What's needed, what exists, and what works? This popular session will be a journey into collaborative peer to peer learning. SCDC, the people behind the rapidly growing PB Scotland website, are asking you... where next. How do we ensure we catch, and then ride the wave of PB underway in Scotland, embedding the learning to build good practice.

(9) 3.00-4.00: PB Academy:

Giovanni Allegretti, of Empatia

Building a practical research network for PB; the example of Empatia, a multichannel platform for participation funded by the European Union. Including a perspective on how PB is potentially going to contribute towards building peace and democracy in Colombia, by closing the gap between the FARC rebels, the government and citizens of that troubled nation. Applied research at its best.

Do ... @ South Side Community Centre 117 Nicolson Street, EH8 9ER

(10) 10.00-10.45: Community Choices:

Alan Budge, of PB Partners

How to run a successful PB grant making programme. Exploring our new guide to one of the most common, and successful ways PB is being done in the UK. Alan Budge has supported countless PB grant programmes in Scotland and across the UK and has unrivalled experience of how to create a successful, engaging start to your PB

(11) 11.00-11.45: PB at Scale:

Sue Ritchie and Alan Budge, of PB Partners

Community led commissioning and how to mainstream PB. Participatory Grant making has worked successfully in a many places, and been seen to engage local people, build social capital and effectively target resources at the 'grassroots'. But the challenge remains of how to scale up the influence of residents over the 'mainstream' money spent by public bodies, which annually reach into the billions.

(12) 12.00-12.45: Young people and PB:

Daniel Grieg, of Highland Council

Involving young people in PB. Using examples of the successful Lochaber young people's project held last year in the Highlands, but considering this important topic much more widely. It will be a chance to discuss how we not only build citizens of the future, but listen to and appreciate the voice of young citizens of Scotland, by considering how they are being engaged in PB in many different places.

(13) 2.00-2.45: PB and Community Safety:

Dr Andrew Fisher of Mutual Gain

The role of PB to meet the needs of Police Scotland, public agencies and the third sector. Across the UK police forces, and those concerned with community safety, are using PB and thereby remaining true to the original vision of Sir Robert Peel; of policing with the consent and active participation of citizens, rather than by relying simply on enforcement. Dr Andrew Fisher is a retired Police Superintendent having served in Merseyside Police for 30 years.

(14) 3.00-3.45: Health and Wellbeing:

Susan Ritchie of Mutual Gain

Asset based approaches to PB improve health and well-being. Evidence from around the world indicates that PB and health and well being are closely linked, when a good process is followed and expert advice in planning your PB work is listened to. In the session Sue explores what good process looks like, and the outcomes that can be achieved.