

Future Arts Centres

Most Significant Change Training Programme 2026

Following our exploration of its application and use within arts centres over the past three years, we are now pleased to offer training on the use of Most Significant Change impact evaluation methodology to any arts or community organisation based in the UK.

What is Most Significant Change?

Most Significant Change (MSC) is an applied evaluation methodology designed to measure impact in terms of social change. It originated in international development, and has been adopted by other sectors, including within the cultural sector.

It is characterised by the collection of stories from beneficiaries, about what the most significant change has been for them as a result of taking part in a particular project or programme; and then the discussion of those stories by different groups of people, involved in delivering, overseeing or funding those projects, providing an opportunity to learn about the impact of the work directly from beneficiaries.

You can read more about Future Arts Centres work to date with MSC [here](#).

What are the benefits of MSC?

Our most recent reports on MSC, have showed that the methodology is providing fresh approaches to evaluation and to advocacy based on evidence and learning, by:

- Improving understanding of the impacts on users,
- Finding appropriate ways to describe that impact,
- Finding ways to evaluate impact that avoided the 'survey fatigue' many people expressed, or methods which missed the 'essence' of the activity or practice.

Who is the training for?

The training is aimed at organisations that are looking to better capture and learn from the impact their work is making and want to embed this learning into their strategic planning. Any arts or community organisation in the UK can apply to join.

It does require organisations to commit time and resources to implementing it. Although the training only involves three sessions, in between the sessions you will need to train up staff and volunteers to capture stories, support them to do so, and convene some panel discussions. Please do not underestimate this commitment!

We suggest that someone relatively senior within your organisation attends the training and leads the implementation process for you, as it is designed to inform your strategic planning.

Training programme

The training programme will consist of three sessions:

Session 1: Story Collection

The first session will introduce the principles of MSC and provide the information and tools to enable participants to train up a cohort of story ‘capturers’ within their own organisations.

Session 2: Reflection & Learning

This session will take participants through the next stages of the process, including training on leading the facilitated discussions that form a core part of MSC.

Session 3: Applying the Learning

The final session will focus on sharing and applying the learning, how to use the stories and discussions to inform your future work and plans.

Evaluation & Shared Learning

Participants will be invited to take part in FAC’s evaluation of the programme, including completing a short online survey and one to one interview.

Programme Leaders

The training programme will be led by Annabel Turpin and Mark Robinson.

Co-Director of Future Arts Centres, Annabel has more than six years’ experience of using MSC within art centre settings and has shared her learning with organisations across the UK.

Mark Robinson of [Thinking Practice](#) has worked with MSC over a number of years. He initially introduced MSC as part of Arts Council England’s Creative Ageing programme, and subsequently worked with FAC around its use within arts centres. Mark is a member of the [Story-based Evaluation & Research Alliance \(SERA\)](#), a group of researchers using MSC.

Dates & Locations

Session 1:	Thu, 29 Jan 26	11am – 4.30pm	The Albany , London
Session 2:	Thu, 16 Apr 26	1pm – 4pm	Online
Session 3:	Wed, 1 July 26	12pm – 4pm	HOME , Manchester

Cost

The cost for this programme is:

- £250 (no VAT) to FAC members
- £400 (no VAT) for non-members

Attendees must work for an arts or community organisation and a charity (or other not for profit structure).

Contribution towards travel costs

For Future Arts Centres members, please contact sophie@futureartscentres.org.uk for details on our policy to support travel to FAC meetings for arts centres who have longer or more expensive journeys. Please note that only FAC members are eligible for this financial support.

Access

We aim to meet everyone's access requirements and can contribute to the costs of any access support to enable participation. Please use the Expression of Interest form (see the link below) to tell us about any access support you require.

How to Apply

If you would like to take part in the MSC training please [sign up here](#) – please note that places are limited to 16 and will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis, with a small number of places reserved for FAC members.