

a/nordi/c

Think Tank for Art and Policies (2021-2023)

CURATED CONVERSATION/THE CONCEPT

CURATED THEME/CURATED PARTICIPANTS/CURATED FORMAT

The Curated Conversations meeting format has been developed by a/nordi/c as a smaller forum for the bigger questions in art and society. Participants are hand-picked according to the theme. During the course of the meeting and various experimental dialogue formats, they explore and shed new light on the topic and build bridges between sectors and disciplines. Using artistic approaches, the dialogues are staged to create new ways of meeting and talking. With this concept, a/nordi/c has developed a meeting platform for knowledge and debate that can help practitioners, organisations and citizens contribute to a better understanding of complex topics and to initiate systemic change.

“There was a good combination of different meeting and conversation formats. Throughout the meeting there was a strong focus on content which is unique from other network meetings I have been to.”

A CURATED CONVERSATION IS

- A meeting between 15-40 hand-picked participants
- Bridge-building and networking between art and cultural organisations across countries
- Co-creating and publishing a discussion paper before and after the meeting for electronic distribution and dissemination to the participants and others
- Studying a curated topic and accumulating knowledge on the topic across areas, countries and sectors
- Experimenting with different formats of dialogue and developing new ways of talking to each other
- Policy development

CONTENT OF THE CONCEPT

- Artistic and experimental approach - in programme and content. E.g. using an artist as a moderator
- Local anchoring by organising site-specific activities, meals, snacks, visits, etc.
- Securing time for networking and informal conversations
- Presenting and welcoming - but not necessarily at the start
- Securing a bottom-up approach with a large representation of artists
- Remunirating artists and participants who do not have an institution securing them
- A discussion paper with background information on each theme, circulated to participants before the meeting and published as an online document afterwards
- Including keynote speakers as participants

“The telephone conversation was a new and inspiring way of starting the meeting.”

BEHIND THE SCENES

- Development of a theme, discussion paper and list of participants, including organising with keynote speakers and programme participants
- Distribution of save-the-dates reminders, invitations and final list of participants, programme and discussion paper
- Design of discussion paper
- Development of an artistic concept and programme
- Planning of location, accommodation, catering, practicalities and local anchoring
- Managing budget overview and financial logistics
- Creating a registration system for participants
- Developing communication strategy, PR and SoMe-kit.
- Collecting feedback from participants
- Evaluating the organizational aspects of the meeting
- Updating and adapting discussion paper or other material
- Reporting back



“I mainly go to meetings where, unfortunately, there is one-way talker-listener activity and a very competitive and dominantly coloured atmosphere. This concept differs completely from other network meetings.”

THREE CURATED CONVERSATIONS ORGANISED

During 2022 and 2023 a/nordi/c held three Curated Conversations in the Faroe Islands, Helsinki and Iceland. The conversations were organised to shed light on issues concerning art through experimental dialogue formats.

For each conversation a/nordi/c, in collaboration with the Nordic Culture Fund and local cultural hosts in the Nordic Region, brought together 30-40 participants from across the Nordic countries for 2 days. The invited group consisted of researchers, artists, cultural writers, representatives from art institutions and foundations and local politicians who in their own way work with art and culture across the Nordic Region.

Around half of the participants took part in one or more meetings to make sure knowledge and experience were passed on from conversation to conversation, while the other half consisted of new participants who were selected in relevance to the theme.

ARM'S LENGTH PRINCIPLE & ARTISTIC QUALITY

Nordic House in the Faroe Islands, 13 and 14 June 2022

FREEDOM OF ARTISTIC EXPRESSION

Hanaholmen in Finland, 14 and 15 November 2022

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON ART ECONOMY

Nordic House in Reykjavík, 17 and 18 April 2023

“I think the artists in this case "had the upper hand". Thank you! More like this!”