

## **What do Youth want/need for Live Music to happen in Newcastle?**

Symposium Workshop results at Softys 12<sup>th</sup> August 2018, 2-4pm.

Processed by Jamie Oorschot, Softys, 14<sup>th</sup> August 2018.

Special Guests; John Mackenzie – Greens Councillor, Declan Clausen – Deputy Lord Mayor,

Host; Michael McDonagh – Softys Clubhouse President

Approximately 30-40 attendees from the public.

What happened on the day: After introductions (Michael, John and Declan), a brief presentation by India Seddon Callaghan on 'whats involved in putting on a gig' followed by some discussion about the online Survey results. Then we all broke up into 5 tables to discuss What we Love, What's Missing and What would we Change about Newcastle's live music scene. After this all tables were given time to discuss "Ideas". Finally, the five tables were given a specific topic – Questions for Council, Activating Spaces, Money, Transport, Culture.

All the following are direct word for word from the worksheets – i.e. no filters or interpretation. Any repetition has been maintained.

### **1.0 Love**

- 1.1 Chill vibe
- 1.2 Good bands – huge variety
- 1.3 Poetry –(revolution?)
- 1.4 Storey Telling
- 1.5 Brings people together
- 1.6 Community
- 1.7 Bands!!!
- 1.8 Young people expressing themselves!
- 1.9 Diversity
- 1.10 Community
- 1.11 Energy
- 1.12 Acceptance
- 1.13 Accessibility
- 1.14 Original music/art
- 1.15 Inclusive – raw
- 1.16 People – new people
- 1.17 Talent
- 1.18 Support between artists
- 1.19 The past of music in Newy
- 1.20 The performers
- 1.21 Diverse Genres
- 1.22 The passion
- 1.23 Connected
- 1.24 Community
- 1.25 Affordable
- 1.26 Dancing
- 1.27 Council working with and helping venue owners meet state guidelines/legislation
- 1.28 Sense of community
- 1.29 Opportunity – venues small enough for bands to learn (gig 1 – they suck, gig2 – they're better, gig3 – they move to Melbourne)
- 1.30 Encouragement through the local scene

## 2.0 Missing

- 2.1 Good venues – not focussed on revenues
- 2.2 Venues that showcase local talent
- 2.3 Rehearsal Space
- 2.4 Funding
- 2.5 Public transport
- 2.6 Dedicated space for music
- 2.7 Sustainability
- 2.8 All-ages venues
- 2.9 Autonomous spaces
- 2.10 Support – alcohol association w/music
- 2.11 Options
- 2.12 Collaboration between young and old
- 2.13 More all ages venues
- 2.14 Rehearsal spaces
- 2.15 Diversity in venues
- 2.16 Freedom to organise gigs
- 2.17 Free spaces
- 2.18 Workshops
- 2.19 Safe spaces
- 2.20 Venues
- 2.21 Missing co-ordinated promotional platform
- 2.22 Performer support (\$\$\$)
- 2.23 Practice spaces/venues
- 2.24 Collaboration of mediums e.g. Art/lights/dance
- 2.25 Organised online platform for advertisement of different genres across Newcastle's musicians, venues etc
- 2.26 Open practice/rehearsal space help in sourcing and networking
- 2.27 Variety of scenes being valued
- 2.28 Money – income streams various
- 2.29 All-ages venues

## **3.0 Change**

- 3.1 Music train
- 3.2 Lighter sound restriction
- 3.3 Public events without bureaucracy
- 3.4 Coffee at 2am
- 3.5 Sound restrictions
- 3.6 Consultation
- 3.7 Context
- 3.8 Gentrification
- 3.9 Youth Venues
- 3.10 More alcohol-free gigs (safe spaces)
- 3.11 Transport accessibility
- 3.12 Venue restrictions
- 3.13 Attitude of punters – going for music not alcohol
- 3.14 More promo – radio/paper
- 3.15 Touring map of bands!
- 3.16 We need more venues available to touring artists – especially all-ages
- 3.17 Increase co-ordinated promotion
- 3.18 Safer volumes (venues?)
- 3.19 Beige whingers having all the rights and none of the responsibilities
- 3.20 The understanding that music is evil (i.e. sports clubs etc are tolerated but music isn't)
- 3.21 Places for start-up bands

## **4.0 Ideas**

- 4.1 Musicians Union
- 4.2 Government minimum wage for musicians
- 4.3 Funded (council?) showcases of diverse representation in music – youth, women, POC, indigenous.
- 4.4 Council venues with reduced or no charge for local artists.
- 4.5 Inclusion of stories of land by the original people of the land dream time and song lines and music.
- 4.6 Fostering young new bands
- 4.7 More busking all over the city
- 4.8 DIY Cookbook – how to do illegal/underground gigs safely
- 4.9 Reduce the cost of staging gigs
- 4.10 Festival of band stands everywhere with bicycles
- 4.11 Council function room for all-ages gigs
- 4.12 Live radio show at Softys
- 4.13 CAT BUS – does an organisation/school have a bus they may be willing to put to use for gigs?
- 4.14 Bike club
- 4.15 Champion for Creatives! A council person who can navigate between creatives and the process required to become authorised. Free upskilling workshops on how to navigate this process & what/how much red tape your idea/s is up against.
- 4.16 Rehearsal space in council venues
- 4.17 Challenge conception of what music scene looks like. The image of Sex, Drugs + Rock'n'Roll can turn some off, or give young musicians unsustainable ideas of what their passion is about.
- 4.18 Making spaces available to all-ages gigs + rehearsal spaces.
- 4.19 Cat bus (better transport for under-age and elderly)
- 4.20 Different medium gigs – Dance, theatre
- 4.21 Interconnected venues
- 4.22 Festivals by Softys
- 4.23 Merch Day
- 4.24 Music Collective stalls
- 4.25 House band, Karaoke
- 4.26 Rentable Backlines
- 4.27 Workshops – to put on illegal gigs
- 4.28 Activating underutilised public spaces for live music, i.e. Drain Rave
- 4.29 Art/Creative workshops
- 4.30 Nights for dancing
- 4.31 DnB nights (I think this might mean Drum and Base?)
- 4.32 Disco nights
- 4.33 Community rehearsal space
- 4.34 Re-occurring nights at Softys (every Thursday night at Softys)
- 4.35 Re-claim underutilised
- 4.36 Collaboration between music & food, art, dance, theatre, film etc
- 4.37 Utilising empty spaces!!!
- 4.38 Collaboration of local event organisations
- 4.39 Diverse gigs – Opportunities for bands who don't really know where to 'start'. Allowing new ideas.
- 4.40 More daytime large gigs. Sunday BBQ
- 4.41 Evening hang spaces

## **5.0 Culture**

- 5.1 PCYC music program/funding
- 5.2 Bring back Drone
- 5.3 Work for the Dole
- 5.4 More than Music – workshops, after school programs, tuition.
- 5.5 Gender, Geography, Generation (missing G – Genre)
- 5.6 Internships/Work Experience
- 5.7 Proximity to public transport
- 5.8 Challenge alcohol culture
- 5.9 Supporting the DIY communities
- 5.10 Promote inclusivity – cultural, people with disability, socioeconomic

## **6.0 Activating Space**

- 6.1 Space
- 6.2 JAM – speed dating sessions style
- 6.3 Cafes – we have heaps. Simple approval of outside hrs trading & b.y.o. alcohol? (or no alcohol)
- 6.4 Self Storage (currently being used as rehearsal space)
- 6.5 Velodrome (Adamstown)
- 6.6 Pool shows
- 6.7 Rotundas
- 6.8 Rehearsal Space/Council Space. Sound/Tech people co-ordinator (council, Training programme-Tafe people?)  
Safety – Agreements. Online schedule/timetable. Application for rehearsal by bands. Rent per session/rent for membership. Could be run by collective with paid membership (sustainable).
- 6.9 Mixing rehearsal space/space with lessons for people to get into playing music already in those spaces and music scene to help new minds come in.

## **7.0 Council**

- 7.1 Funding (specific proposals)
- 7.2 Office of the night-mayor(s)?
- 7.3 Translate council – speak & artist – speak?
- 7.4 Involvement of youth demographic in surveys etc (council surveys)

## **8.0 Transport**

- 8.1 Disabled access – Ramp building
- 8.2 Cat Bus
- 8.3 Promotion by venues of transport options
- 8.4 Bike Ride Gig Guide. Facebook (or similar) group who go for bike rides and attend gigs.

## **9.0 Money**

- 9.1 Transparency of Payment
- 9.2 Booking process/fees at existing venues