



Cymru Can Newsletter: Culture and Welsh Language



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Cymru Can save culture's future

From the stories we tell, the places we cherish and the languages we speak, our culture and shared experiences bind us together as a nation.

Under the Well-being of Future Generations Act, cultural well-being has equal weight to environmental, social, and economic well-being, recognising the important role it plays in improving our health and bringing communities together.

But [the cultural sector is in crisis](#), and we are at risk of creating a “two-tier” Wales where access to culture depends on geography or income.

Public funding for culture has fallen by 17% since 2015 despite contributing £1.64 billion to our economy each year and supporting 37,000 jobs. It also delivers at least [£588 million in annual health and well-being benefits](#) across Wales.





Our [Culture Act for Wales: Green Paper](#), published today (Wednesday 25 February), calls on the next Welsh Government to introduce a dedicated **Culture Act**, ensuring that culture is safeguarded for future generations, rather than treated as an optional extra.

Written in partnership with the Audience Agency, our Green Paper outlines how shrinking provision, job insecurity, and reduced access to cultural activities are leaving communities with fewer opportunities to engage, learn, and participate.

Culture is woven into the fabric of everyday life, but without legal protection, it is vulnerable to short-term decisions and funding pressures.



Seven in ten people in Wales take part in arts and cultural activities — this is not a niche issue and a Culture Bill isn't a new idea. Scotland and Ireland have already

strengthened culture through national strategies and dedicated bodies, and Spain's Cultural Rights Plan embeds culture in law and governance.

[Share your response to the Green Paper's findings and ideas](#) with us to ensure that a future Culture Bill delivers real protection and priority for culture across Wales.

Everyone, whether living today or born tomorrow, deserves a Wales where they can thrive, communities flourish and our shared identity and traditions are celebrated and protected.

Culture is central to that vision.

[Read Culture Act for Wales: Green Paper](#) and find more information on how we're reinforcing the positive impact of cultural well-being through our Culture and Welsh Language mission [on our website](#).

Working together for Culture: A guide for public bodies working with Freelancers

From the climate and nature emergencies, to decreasing trust in our public institutions, we need creative solutions to transform how we respond to present and future challenges.

Cultural freelancers are essential to Wales' creative ecosystem and can bring innovation, flexibility and community engagement to the public sector.

That's why, with support from Addo, we've developed [Working together for Culture: A Guide for Public Bodies Working with Freelancers](#).





1 - [Artist in Service - Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council](#)

Including guiding principles and the benefits of collaborating with freelancers, the guidance also includes best practice examples and practical steps the public sector can take to connect with diverse communities, improve their services and strengthen social cohesion.

From [local authority artists in service](#), to [health board Arts and Health charters](#), every public body can involve creative freelancers in their work to improve how they engage with communities and make decisions that improve the well-being of current and future generations.

Read the guidance, including [a quick guide](#) and [easy read version](#), and find more information on our Culture and Welsh Language mission [on our website](#).

“We are building a bridge between two worlds — the artistic and the community — and that takes trust.”

Krishnapriya Ramamoorthy

Meet our Freelancer in Residence - Tracy Breathnach

To support our Culture and Welsh Language mission work, Tracy Breathnach, has joined our team as a Freelancer in Residence.

"I am delighted to be working with the Office for Future Generations Commissioner for Wales on the Culture and Welsh Language mission over the next six months. I have been a huge fan of the WFG Act since its inception in 2015, following its implementation and impact, and look forward to connecting with others through our upcoming culture forum in June.

For more than 20 years, I have worked as an artist delivering work (performance and writing) and as an arts manager and consultant across many organisations including arts and heritage, Higher Education and Further Education, local authorities and the voluntary sector.

Between 2019 and 2025 I worked with [Wales Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network](#) (WAHWN) as a freelancer supporting national public bodies, arts organisations and other freelance artists. In this role I led [How Ya Doing?](#), an award-winning programme to support freelance artists' well-being, and managed the national Arts, Health and Wellbeing conference, [Weave](#)."



Future generations must be central to the next Senedd term

Future generations won't have a vote in May - we can't leave it to them to solve the problems we can fix today.

This was the message that the Commissioner and colleagues gave to members of the Senedd's Equality and Social Justice Committee at our annual scrutiny evidence. He [warned that the needs of future generations cannot be treated as an afterthought](#) as we approach the Senedd elections and beyond.

Wales is facing urgent and deeply interconnected challenges: the cost-of-living crisis, entrenched inequalities, increasing pressure on the NHS, and accelerating climate and nature emergencies.

As parties write their manifestos and prepare to become elected members, they must remember they are making decisions for the three million people living in Wales today, and the 360,000 people who will be born in Wales over the next 20 years.



2 - [Equality and Social Justice Committee - 9 February 2026](#)

Decisions taken in the next Senedd term will shape the lives and opportunities of our children, grandchildren and those not yet born, and we cannot let short-term cycles stop us from focusing on the long-term future of Wales.

Our [Future Generations Report 2025](#) outlines how our political parties can respond to both the current and future challenges and opportunities, and during my evidence I called on the next Senedd to consider establishing a Committee for the Future to strengthen long-term political scrutiny of the WFG Act.

In case you missed it...

Newid - the Future Generations Changemaker Academy

Real, lasting change happens when we invest in young people and amplify their voices.

In partnership with our team, the Open University in Wales, Bridgend College and Unloc have launched Newid - the Future Generations Changemaker Academy to help young people (aged 16-25) across Wales to lead change and shape a sustainable future, aligned with the WFG Act.

The pilot programme includes training around leadership, critical thinking and social justice, and is centred around changemaker projects that are designed to deliver local and national change, in response to some of the biggest challenges facing young people.

Find out more on the [Open University's website](#).



3 - [Newid - the Future Generations Changemaker Academy](#)



4 - [A decade of Wales' Future Generations Commissioner](#)

A decade of Wales' Future Generations Commissioner – Big Issue feature

We spoke to the Big Issue on 10 years since Wales appointed a Future Generations Commissioner for Wales and transformed long-term thinking for future generations' well-being "from a bold idea to a legal reality".

Read the full article [on their website](#).

Blog - A Community Right to Buy is central to strengthening social infrastructure

We [called for a Community Right to Buy Bill](#) in our Future Generations Report 2025, warning that much-loved pubs, parks, religious buildings, village halls and heritage buildings could be lost forever unless communities are given a fair chance to save them.

Building Communities Trust blog is focused on why community right to buy is central to strengthening social infrastructure, stopping loneliness and promoting prevention to improve health and well-being.

Read the blog [on their website](#).



5 - [Inventories of Living Heritage in the UK](#)



6 - [Cynffin: A Creative Health Review for Wales network](#)

Inventories of Living Heritage in the UK

Are there traditions in your community which you would like to see on Wales' list of living heritage?

For the first time, the UK and Wales is creating a national inventory of living cultural practices, ensuring our communities' traditions and skills are formally recognised and celebrated.

Find out more about the [Inventories of Living Heritage in the UK](#), including how to express interest in contributing [via the UNESCO website](#).

Amgueddfa Cymru are operating as a Community Hub and can support with applications – email livingheritage@museumwales.ac.uk for further support and advice.

Cynefin: A Creative Health Review for Wales

Created as part of the Co-Lab Policy Network Awards, [Cynefin: A Creative Health Review for Wales network](#), is developing a new creative health strategy for Wales, integrating culture more fully into health and social care policy.

Led by Public Health Wales NHS Trust, in partnership with our team, Wales Arts Health and Well-being Network, Arts Council of Wales and Senedd Cymru, Cynefin will co-create and test policy based on creative health, with an emphasis on sustainable growth, prevention and community well-being.

Find out more about the Network Awards [on the WAHWN website](#).

Contact us

Want to catch up on previous issues of the newsletter? You can find them on our website [here](#).

For more information get in contact here:

futuregenerations.wales

contactus@futuregenerations.wales

@futuregencymru

