

Creative



North East

Cultural Sector Update

26th April 2018

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Creative Fuse North East (CFNE) provides opportunities for registered freelancers/sole traders, micro businesses and SMEs from the cultural sector across the region to benefit from a wide range of innovation support delivered by the region's five universities and in partnership with the Creative, Digital and IT sector.

CLICK ON THE LINKS TO REGISTER FOR ACTIVITIES or FIND OUT MORE

Activities are fully funded, but time limited. Eligibility for activities is shown for those registered in the NELEP area (Durham, Northumberland, Newcastle, Gateshead, N. Tyneside, S. Tyneside, Sunderland), Tees Valley or are regional and open to all.

[Sign up on the CFNE website here to get the latest news and updates directly](#)

CREATIVE FUSE CONFERENCE & CONTRIBUTIONS

Creative Fuse NE conference on 10-11th July at Discovery Museum, Newcastle: This is a key event, enabling the region to reflect on the Creative Fuse journey, share knowledge, be inspired, explore ideas, discuss cross sector collaboration and innovation and the value and future of academic, creative and digital fusion for the creative economy and ecology in the region. There will be an exciting line up of presentations, panel discussions, workshops and performances from a fusion of businesses, academics and creative practitioners.

- [Click here for the Conference invite and call out](#)
- [Click here to register](#)

Conference call for contributions: Creative Fuse is looking for presentations, panel discussions, workshops and performances for the conference in July. If you're doing something exciting with creativity and collaboration, send your idea and be part of the action. Click on the links to find out more about the opportunities and format for [presentations](#), [panel discussions](#), [workshops](#), [performances](#) and also a [wildcard](#) option (**deadline 21st May**) and [click here to respond to the call for contributions](#)

LATEST EVENTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Tees Valley [North East Culture is Digital - Commission Hack Event 9am-4pm 3rd May at mima](#) This event is for digital and IT SMEs to learn more about digital commissioning in the cultural sector and the opportunity to pitch for three funded commissions relating to this innovation pilot, involving Sage Gateshead, Festival of Thrift and Theatre Hullabaloo and supported by Sunderland and Teesside Universities.

Regional [CAKE 21 – Games in the North 10.30-12.30 16th May at The Curve, Teesside University:](#) A collaboration and knowledge event with Animex, the International Festival of Animation and Computer Games. This will be a chance to explore what it's like to study and work in games in the North, as well as ways in which games companies can collaborate with and add value to other creative and digital businesses. There will also be the option to engage with Expo Tees, Teesside University's annual exhibition of outstanding work from final year students. [Click here to register](#) [Click here to read the blog about CAKE 20 celebrating maker communities](#)

NELEP [Creative Connections and B2B Connect and Innovate: 9am-6pm 11 and 15th June \(register by 4th May\):](#) Reflect on your enterprise and talk through current challenges and opportunities with a business manager from a larger regional organisation with Creative Connections. This two-day intensive workshop brings together experienced business managers to work with you to drive innovation and build resilience in your business, supported by Newcastle University. [Click here to register](#)

ONGOING BUSINESS INNOVATION ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT ACROSS THE REGION

Tees Valley [Creative Fuse Tees Valley's programme](#) of activities is developing in partnership with Innovate Tees Valley. [Click here to find out about this and other opportunities through Innovate Tees Valley](#)

NELEP [Digital Literature](#) New Writing North leads this activity to support creative writers to build digital skills capacity, brands and digital marketing competences. Remaining activities include:

- [Digi Create conference 11am-4pm 26th May at Live Theatre](#) A day-long conference exploring creative ways writers are using digital technologies and distribution to develop their work and engage audiences
- [Digi Transform digital development programme April, May, June](#) An application led, bespoke, professional digital development programme for 15 writers
- [Digi Resources: Toolkits, advice and guidance materials launch in Autumn 2018, building on New Writing North's existing resources](#)

NELEP [Digital Business Innovation Programme](#) for digital, tech and creative sector companies to explore business challenges with like-minded companies to explore new ideas and solutions

NELEP [Get Ready to Innovate](#) 12 hours of action-packed support across 3 sessions with Northumbria's Fuse team, to equip you with a fresh perspective on your challenges and opportunities, with support to: start developing new ideas, concepts, products, services, strategies; experience new ways of working, supported by our innovation tools and approaches

PLACEMENT PROGRAMMES – SUPPORT FROM GRADUATES, STUDENTS AND UNIVERSITIES

Tees Valley [Graduate Consultancy Programme](#): 30 businesses will benefit from working with a team of university staff and talented graduates over 4 weeks to embed a product or process innovation.

NELEP [Hothouse programme](#) where a team of talented students from the University of Sunderland will work with you on a project brief around business challenges for 5-10 days to deliver fast turnaround solutions

NELEP [Creative Fuse Placement Programme](#) University of Sunderland's talented students or graduates will be paired with companies for short term flexible projects/placements to develop/test new products or services, engage with/research new markets and audiences, support design-led thinking

NELEP [Creative and Cultural Industries Placements](#): 12-week postgraduate placements from Northumbria

FURTHER INFORMATION AND CONTACT

If you have questions about any of these activities or want links into the universities, do get in touch with me. My role is to support the cultural sector in the region to engage in the opportunities on offer, as well as to share learning and good practice from the [Creative Fuse North East](#) programme.

This and previous cultural sector updates are [available online here](#).

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Creative Fuse North East is supported by:

