

# **Task and Finish Group on Participation in the Arts in Wales**

## **Inquiry into Participation in the Arts in Wales**

### **Response from Participant**

**1. What kind of arts activities do you currently participate in (for example, drama, music, arts, writing, crafts, filmmaking, dancing)?**

Crafts

**2. Why do you participate in arts activities?**

Increasing my knowledge & understanding Inspiration and self-realisation

**3. Has arts provision been withdrawn in your area because of budget cuts?**

No – no more than other public services, which have been even more severely cut by comparison

**4. If so, how has this affected you?**

It hasn't

**5. Do you think that people have enough opportunity to participate in arts activities in your area?**

No, but this is not due to budget cuts – this has always been the case – aspiration and demand for arts participation has always outstripped supply (what is available!). The WA should be very wary of interpreting short-term reaction as this is a longstanding need and aspiration – we all want more arts activity, and are all working to support this for over 20 years or more.

**6. Would anything help you to participate more in the arts?**

More time, and the ability to match my own needs and interests with what is on offer – that is the general way I approach selecting anything to buy, experience or participate in. It isn't realistic to expect arts organisations who don't usually have much money to cover everything – they shouldn't be treated as the scapegoat sticking plaster for the economic mess in which we find ourselves. Better we have a good quality sector that is going to take us somewhere and is properly set up to be able to put something back over the medium-term than an ineffective sector funded for political reasons. The timing of this survey and inquiry appears unfortunately cynical – major decisions have been made with careful consideration and we should now be moving on and looking at how to build on that in future.

**7. What might stop you from taking part in arts activities (for example, accessibility)?**

Lack of affordable and properly timetabled public transport. Lack of facilities that are accessible for people with physical disabilities.