



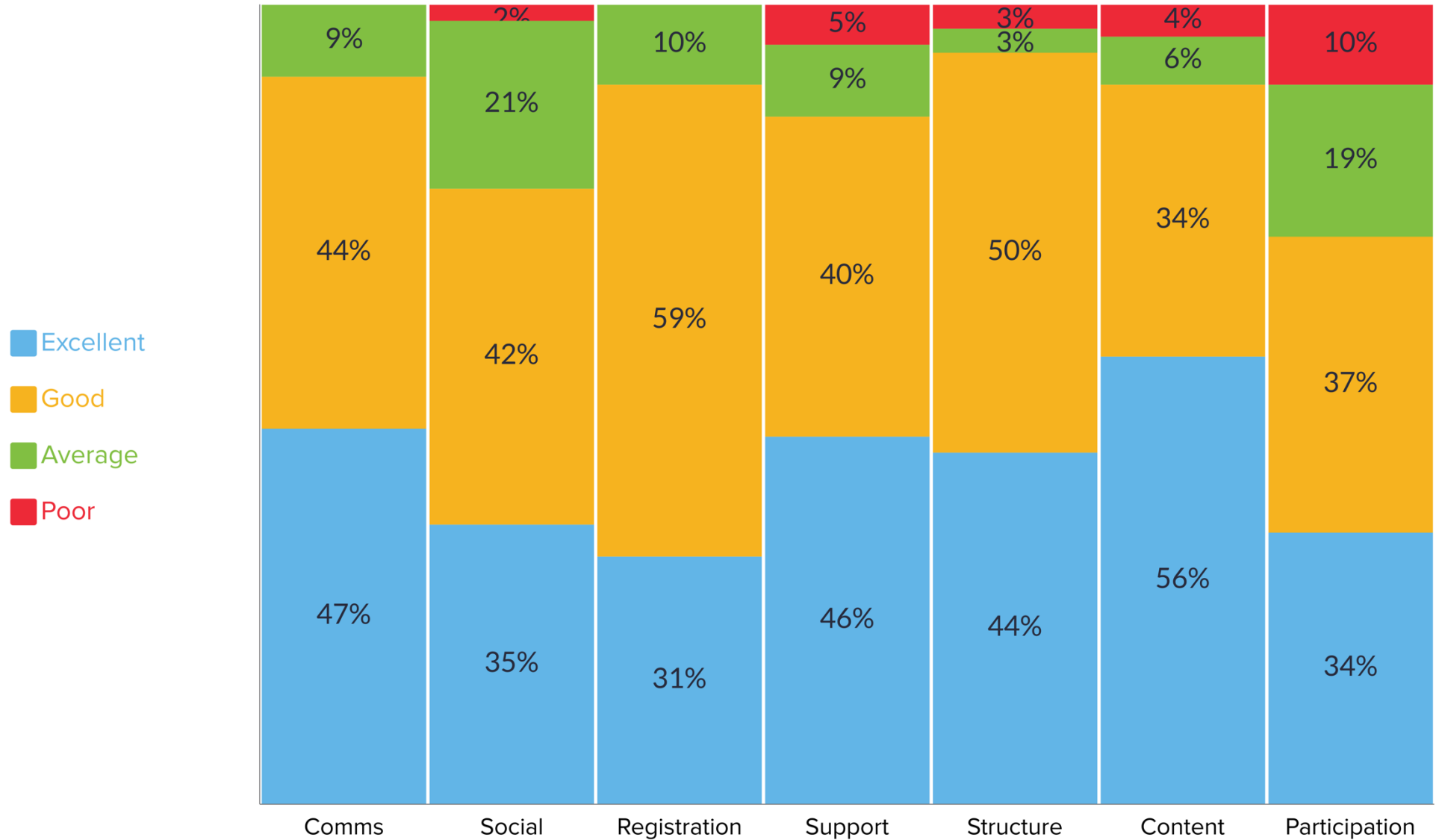
Shifting Cultures: Reframing the future with the North East's independent creative workforce

From 29 January 2021

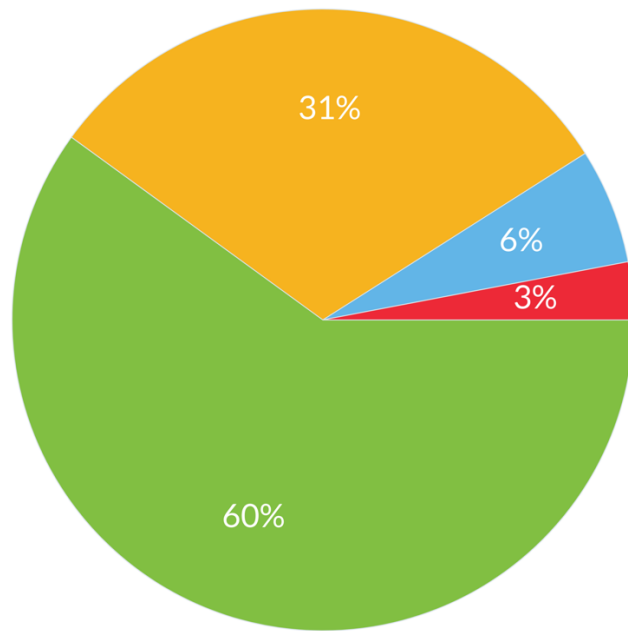
Participant Feedback

75 responses (speakers and attendees)

How would you rate the following elements of the Annual Forum?

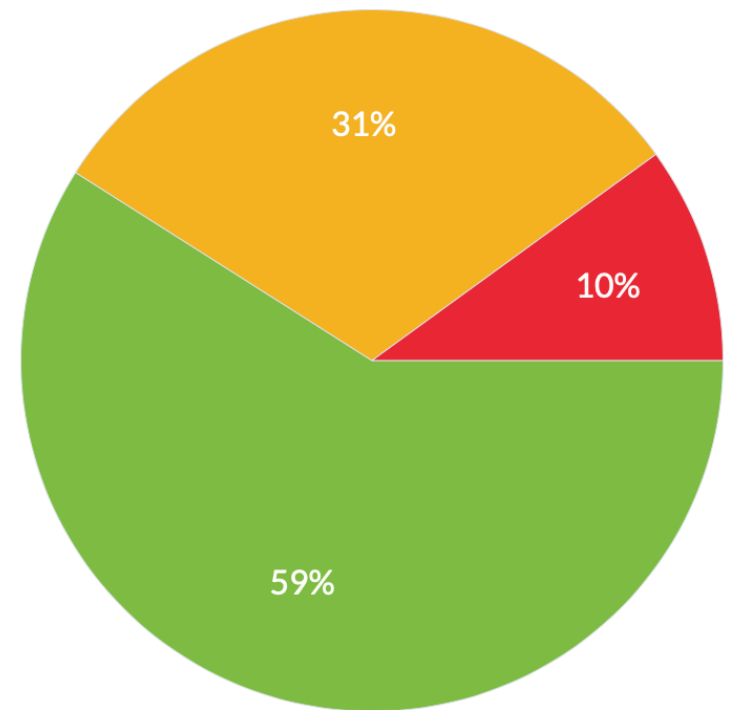


How easy or difficult did you find Zoom, the online platform the Forum was hosted on? ↓



Very Easy 60% Easy 31% Neither 6%
Very Difficult 3%

Did the online platform provide you with sufficient opportunity for participation? →

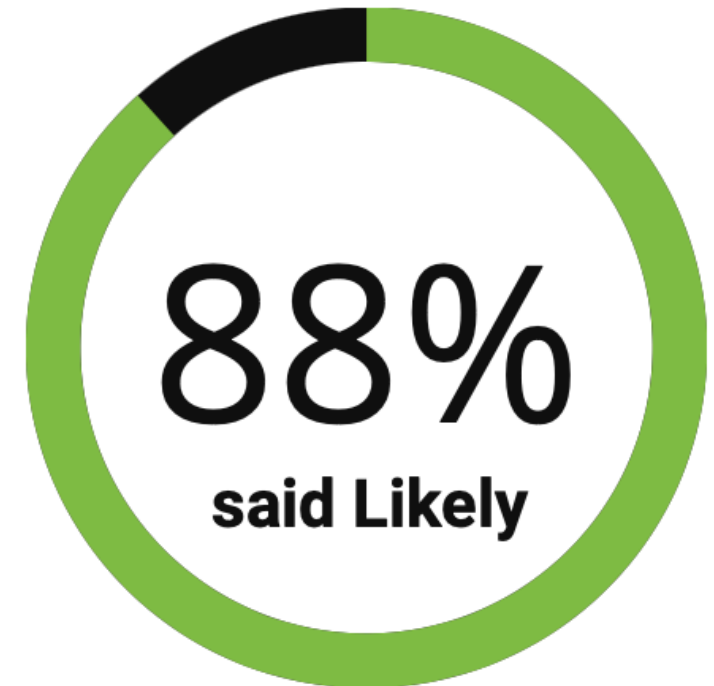


Yes 59% Somewhat 31% No 10%

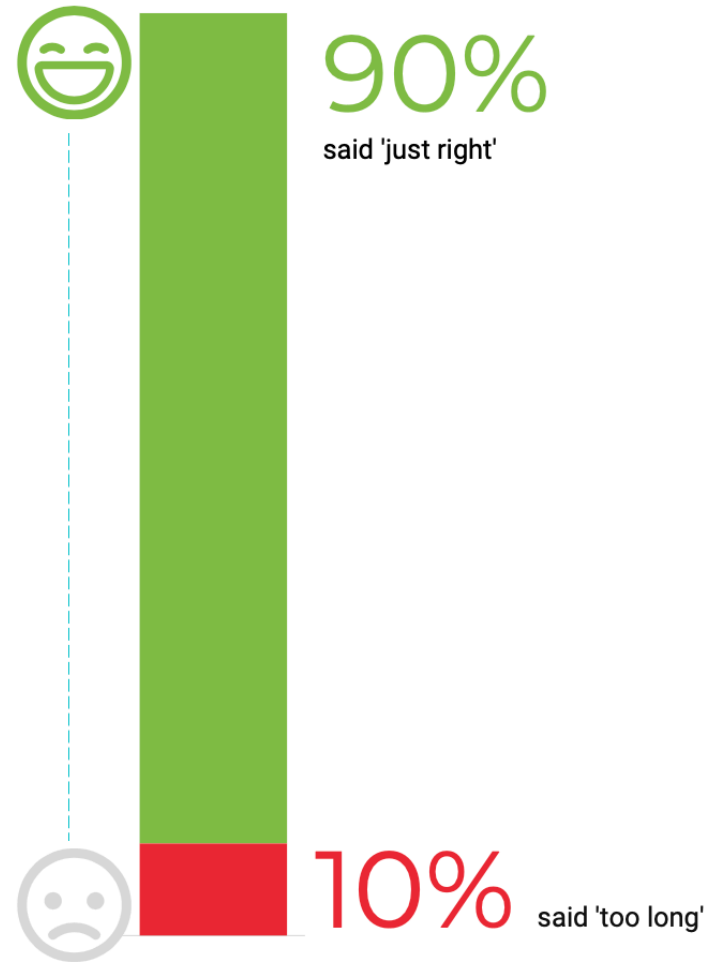
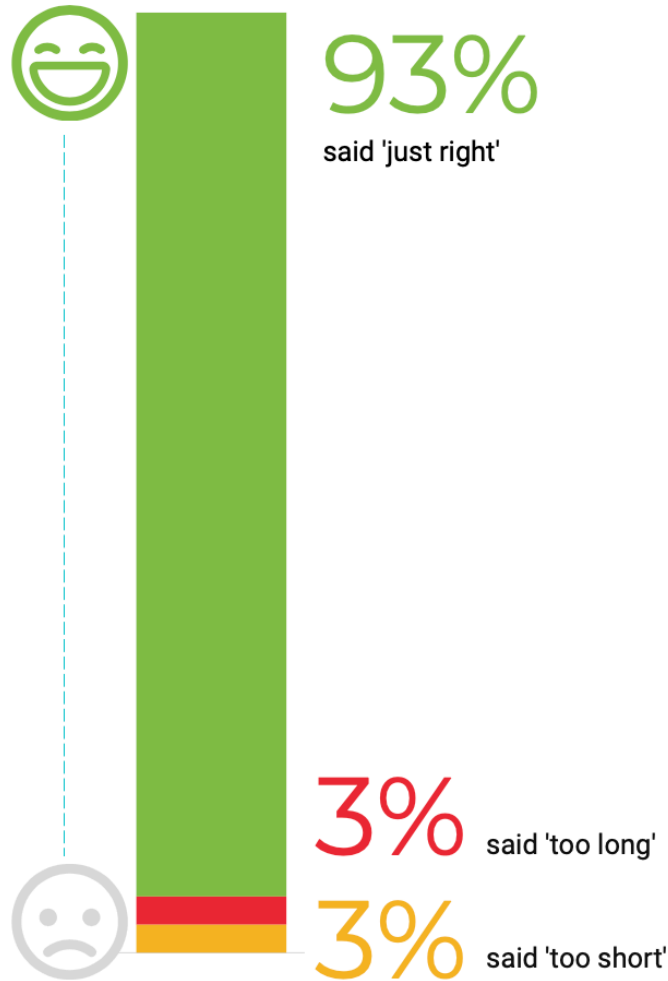
↓ Have you attended an Annual Forum in previous years?



How likely are you to attend future NECP events based on your experience at the Annual Forum? →



How did you feel about the length of the sessions and the length of the breaks in general?



With the online platform we used, is there anything that you would have liked to be able to do that you couldn't?

As with all Zoom and online meetings it is difficult to read the chat at the same time when one is listening to the meeting...but this is not an issue for the organisers - it is just a feature of the online conference/meeting world that we are in now.

It was mainly listening, but I was happy with that because the quality of the speakers was really good. Then having the lunch and end of day session to chat was great.

To save the chat- I couldn't see how to do that and there were some useful links etc.

Individual chat to each other rather than to whole group. Chance for breakout 'breaks' with smaller groups for informal chat.

I did not use some of the opportunities to input comment during the event as the event was fast paced and at times it's hard to focus on listening and typing at the same time, however I think the range of options and opportunities for input were great, and clear scheduling and those presenting helping to guide those of us less familiar with this format to the opportunities on offer and the timeframe in which to explore them, were helpful.

I was able to access the morning events, but I couldn't overcome technical difficulties to join the afternoon sessions. Not sure if it was my laptop or problems with the log-on address for the afternoon sessions.

No, I liked being able to focus on the key speakers and then breakout into the lunch table discussion with cameras and sound on. It is good not to be distracted by needing to mute people or images of non-participants for the main sessions. Webinar is good for this. There was opportunity to connect at the end with the Beach room, Trombone room etc which was very beneficial!!

If required, were your accessibility requirements considered and addressed? Please let us know any comments or recommendations. (optional)

N/A but I appreciated the visual descriptions of each of the speakers, something I will take away into my own practice online.

I have no access needs, but it was refreshing that these were considered throughout the day – e.g. signing, and visual descriptions of presenters.

I have no additional requirements personally, but did make use of some e.g. captions and visual asset thread - much appreciated & done really well!

I spent so much time trying to log on from different devices in the afternoon, it didn't seem worth notifying the support line because I'd missed so much.

So well considered - really great to see the thought that had gone in to it. Even the little things like timings and long breaks.

What, if anything, do you think worked better as an online event than an in-person version of the event?

The scheduled breaks throughout the day rather than back-to-back sessions usually at a conference or event

It broadened and diversified access unquestionably.

Less time travelling and ability to engage with so many sessions.

I'm not sure how many people were there (one of the negatives of virtual conferences for me, by the way), but I suspect the reach was wider due to it being virtual rather than in 'real-time'. As a participant/delegate, I prefer to see, talk with and be with people in 3-dimensions, as opposed to on a flat screen.

More likely to attend. More likely to speak.

Yes and no. Online allowed me to attend when may not have been able to travel etc but did miss out on some conversations that would have only happened in the room.

I enjoyed the opportunity to read some of the chat and access some of the weblinks whilst hearing the presenters present. I normally feel comfortable asking questions in person at forum type events but understand not everybody may feel as comfortable doing so, and the chat option seems to offer one route to encourage broader input. I also expect seeing presentations or films online within an online forum would work better, as you are already looking at a screen, and sometimes if you're in the back of a hall at a Forum event this can inhibit your engagement with presentations. I also felt, on this experience, the event was better paced and allowed for clearer demarcation of forum, work and domestic activity, as the networking element of a forum is not as compelling in a digital format.

I thought the range of speakers was particularly good this year - and being online allowed them to clearly articulate.

For me, not travelling makes a huge difference and also these kind of events/event spaces are migraine triggers, so it is brilliant to be able to be remote Also I had childcare that day but was still able to attend.

More flexible (e.g. being able to fit in other meetings/calls in between sessions which is important to me as a freelancer - otherwise it's a full day out of my diary which I can't really afford). Didn't have to travel so there was broader regional representation.

The speakers were not 'elevated on stage' per se and I really felt this gave the event overall a feel of inclusion, positive energy and diversity. Being able to have all the sessions recorded to come back to for those not able to attend has been awesome.

We were able to attend as freelancers without having travel costs. We could also attend for part of the day if necessary. We were able to come next with others pretty instantly. I'm not deaf or hard of hearing but actually in a conference space do sometimes struggle to follow/hear what is said. Regular breaks between sessions avoid overload. Good time keeping.

And, what one thing would you say didn't work as well online as it would have done in an in-person event?

Lag and videos freezing.

The networking and personal interactions.

Exclusion of BAME.

Maybe just seeing faces. Having a good laugh with friends between sessions! And meeting new faces!

Networking doesn't work online.

The chat function is overwhelming and often gets dominated by a small group of people, probably the same people who would dominate in an in-person event. Finding ways for those less confident to speak up are crucial to hearing everyone's voices.

There was a lovely sense of being back 'with your tribe', fellow creatives with a lot of similar issues and challenges right now. If anything, an in-person event would have

heightened this even more but completely understand why it had to be virtual and Kate, The GIFT team and all the NECP committee replicated this brilliantly in a virtual environment. It was a wonderful day.

Is there anything you will do differently in your role as a result of attending this event?

Yes, engage much more with north east culture.

Yes. Very inspired by Anand's "two of each kind" idea. I think (hope) this is a time of real change around race, disability and under-representation in the cultural sector in the North East. I think the NECP event was a well-timed, well made and useful contribution to this process.

Consider a place for cultural events in my work.

Being more aware of our relationship with freelancers.

More on-going work on anti-racism.

Not sure, the event reaffirmed some longstanding concerns, challenges for artists, and also increased my awareness of the new mechanisms which they are adopting. It was refreshing to see an event which was focused on artists and producers rather than enterprises, organisations and services.

Yes, I'll be looking further into how I can improve the diversity and accessibility of my business.

Yes - took away some brilliant lessons, and also, learned I really need to switch inbox off in order to get the most of online conferences. In the end I watched as much as I could at a later date and realised just how much I didn't take in first time around.

Make sure the day after a whole day conference I give myself time to process, reflect and recover.

If you attended the Lunchtime Conversation breakout sessions, how did you feel about this format?

Thought it was great. A really welcome opportunity to chat after the panels.

Good but could have involved a larger number of people.

Useful - allowed a focus on a particular topic.

I really enjoyed this part of the day, it was really well organized, having a group leader to help conversation flow really helped.

Many comments on how people didn't attend online because they needed a screen break or felt a bit uncomfortable, though they would attend this type of thing in person.

Do you have any other feedback you'd like to share about this event? Please type in the box below. (optional)

It was a great event and happy it was able to go ahead online this year although looking forward to attending in person next time!

Fantastic hosts and panels Audio description was good for everyone.

Thought it was well-organised, including adhering to the timetable. Facilitators were very good - they listened, valiantly tried to keep up with all the chatter/comments/questions in the chat room and summarised the proceedings at the end of each session well. Links to reports, research, publications and organisations referred to in the presentations were posted quickly and helpful.

MUCH better than last year, in terms of diversity of speakers. It felt much more thought through and considered.

I think it worked well given the circumstances. It was very performing arts focussed so perhaps some representation from other artforms

A much needed, well organized and energizing forum event, I felt better connected and engaged with artists, producers, and freelancers in the cultural sector as a result. I found the format refreshing.

Would be interested to see how themes and issues raised during the event are picked up by the partnership.

A whole day was hard to manage for me around other stuff, so I missed parts of it. But I don't know that suggesting doing something like this over more than one day is the right thing... but maybe a quarterly half day or something?

I felt very negative after the event - it was really demotivating. I think it is important to think about the whole ecology of the sector and all those that work in it - but I felt it ended up being quite against people in paid roles within ACE funded orgs. I run a small NPO and have worked over and above my contracted hours without pay for almost a year now - focused on securing funds and opportunities for artists, freelancers and staff so it felt like a complete kick in the teeth. I also think it is important for everyone invested in the sector to come together - we are all interdependent - many are both freelance part of the week and employee the rest of the week etc. Also, felt it was very focused on the

performing arts - there was no-one in the morning talking from the perspective of the visual arts. I would be interested to know how you selected your speakers - was there any element of open call?