



Culture in climate action: Integrating culture into 20-minute neighbourhoods

A toolkit for placemaking professionals
and cultural, climate and place
policy makers



COLLECTIVE
ARCHITECTURE



RAMBOLL

Open Road



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Let's tackle the culture gap together!

Despite the crucial role of culture in Scottish policy, it is often underrepresented in placemaking and planning frameworks, that instead prioritise housing, transport and economic development over cultural infrastructure and practice. By failing to integrate culture, we miss out on enhancing community identity and cohesion, which can help create resilient and sustainable places.

Addressing this **culture gap** is essential to realising sustainable and resilient communities across Scotland.



1. Introduction

Why should we worry about culture when we think about climate action?

Climate action involves social, behavioral and political dimensions, not just technical and economic ones. While policies can set emissions reduction targets, cultural shifts in daily practices like travel, food habits and housing expectations are crucial for achieving rapid decarbonisation. Culture also influences public consent and helps build collective support for climate policies through narratives in media, heritage and the arts. In Scotland, the climate strategy's just transition focuses on values, fairness, memory and identity, especially in post-industrial communities. Culture also helps envision new futures, making abstract targets into tangible possibilities.

Culture is also an economic and social asset. Recent Scottish sources ([Scottish Government Draft Infrastructure Strategy](#) and the [30-year Needs Assessment](#), Jan 2026) report that:

- ▶ Creative industries contribute around £5 billion annually to the Scottish economy and support over 155,000 jobs.
- ▶ Scotland's historic environment generates approximately £6 billion annually.
- ▶ The Needs Assessment also notes that local government investment in culture, sport and leisure services fell by about 20% in real terms between 2010–11 and 2022–23.

These figures underline culture's economic importance and the pressures on public support for cultural infrastructure and services.

Ensuring access to culture – both formal institutions and everyday cultural life – is therefore critical as Scotland pursues net zero, strengthens community resilience and promotes wellbeing.



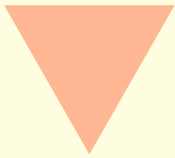
*Image credit: Claire Barclay
Paisley Library Collective*



'A Culture Strategy for Scotland' (Feb 2020) frames this clearly:



The transition to net-zero in Scotland will require transformational change across society. Culture is integral to our ways of life, connecting people to place and helping them to understand and relate to environmental challenges. Culture thus offers potential for galvanising climate action and could play a major role in influencing the widespread behavioural change that will be required to meet our ambitious targets.



Arts, culture and placemaking

What is placemaking in Scotland?

Scotland leads the world in its approach to sustainable placemaking. The National Planning Framework commits Scotland to innovative thinking about places, aligning with the Place Principle and the National Performance Framework to address climate and nature crises, poverty and health inequalities, supporting the creation of liveable, resilient and healthy communities. A key policy to deliver these aspirations is 'Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods'. This toolkit advocates for culture's position as a recognised characteristic of place in Scottish planning policy, recognising its multidimensional contribution to place and society.

We recommend culture be recognised explicitly alongside the five Place & Wellbeing outcomes (PDF) (stewardship, movement, civic, resources, spaces) – due to its ability to affect the wellbeing of people and planet.



Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods

Local living focuses on meeting daily needs near home, centered around 'living well locally'.

The **20-minute neighbourhood model** supports local living by ensuring accessibility within a 20-minute walk or bike ride. This model supports climate mitigation by reducing reliance on private vehicles and lowering transport emissions.

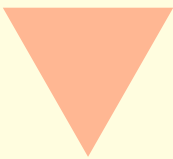
The 'Local living and 20-minute neighbourhoods' policy is a key opportunity for more comprehensively integrating culture into placemaking and climate action policy. The local living approach is a statutory requirement and has a robust aligned guidance and framework.





The role of culture in 20-minute neighbourhoods

Integrating culture into the consideration and design of neighbourhoods enhances community identity, cohesion and wellbeing. Cultural elements like local sports events, community hubs and grassroots activities should be incorporated into placemaking efforts, as culture binds identity, voice, social networks and history, contributing significantly to sustainable communities.



How do we close the culture gap?

This cohort (Culture for Climate Scotland, Collective Architecture, North Edinburgh Arts, Ramboll and Open Road Ltd) is advocating for a broader definition and recognition of culture within placemaking policies. We believe that Scotland can continue to lead by example, ensuring culture remains at the heart of creating vibrant, inclusive and sustainable communities.



Advocate for a broader definition and recognition of culture

Culture binds identity and social networks. Historically, targeted suppression of cultural practices – for example, measures after The Battle of Culloden that undermined Highland traditions – illustrates how cultural erosion weakens community resilience. There is also a documented relationship between the erosion of cultural diversity and the loss of biodiversity, because traditional ecological knowledge, place-based stewardship practices and culturally specific land-use systems often help maintain diverse habitats and species.

Creative subjects are an important part of the school curriculum. Drama builds teamwork, communication and creative problem solving. Music develops collaboration, concentration and emotional literacy. Craft, Design & Technology teaches practical problem solving, systems thinking and hands-on skills. Visual arts strengthen observational skills, visual communication and imaginative thinking.

These subjects support balanced development and lifelong learning. Access to cultural and creative participation shouldn't end at school: it underpins individual wellbeing, civic engagement and the skills communities need to adapt to social and environmental change.



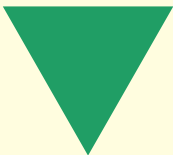
Culture should be recognised as encompassing a range of everyday activities and spaces. It is crucial to expand the definition of culture to include local sports events, community hubs, pubs, oral histories and grassroots activities like community choirs.

These elements form the essence of community life and should be valued and incorporated into placemaking.

It is essential to communicate this value clearly. Showcasing culture's current role in community wellbeing and placemaking – through storytelling, creative engagement and integration into all policy areas – helps make the case for culture as an intrinsic public good and for its inclusion in statutory planning and place outcomes.



*Image credit: Claire Barclay
Paisley Library Collective*



Our suggested actions and next steps

- ▶ Promote a broader, inclusive definition of culture in placemaking that covers everyday cultural life (community hubs, sport, pubs, oral histories and grassroots activities) as well as formal arts and heritage.
- ▶ Encourage national and local planning bodies to recognise culture explicitly as a characteristic of place, and to reflect this in planning guidance and place-based strategies.
- ▶ Build cross-sector consensus through short briefing notes and stakeholder discussions, bringing together planners, cultural bodies, community representatives and elected members.
- ▶ Test the approach in one local area to demonstrate practical benefits and produce a short public case study to support wider adoption.



2. Policy mechanisms to support culture in place

Existing policy mechanisms

The importance of place-based delivery in Scotland's Climate Change Plan 2026-2040 (March 2026) is in line with the principles set out in National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4). This approach understands that implementation of national outcomes and goals in local areas must be people-centred and consider the local impacts of the transition to net zero. On doing so, they must also be delivered in alignment with Net Zero Nation: Public Engagement Strategy for Climate Change (September 2021).

Within the Public Engagement Strategy, the Scottish Government recognises the importance of culture and heritage projects to understand the challenges and opportunities of climate action for different local communities:



Culture and heritage are integral to people's ways of life. By connecting us to our environments and contributing to our sense of belonging, they offer real potential to help deliver the culture and societal change that will be required to support our transition to net zero and adapt to our changing climate.



Similarly, The Environment Strategy for Scotland (March 2026) spotlights Culture for Climate Scotland's Sea Change: Co-creating coastal futures project as an exemplar of how community-led, arts-based approaches can empower communities to shape local climate action.

Meanwhile, in A Culture Strategy for Scotland (February 2020), the Scottish Government recognises that:





People engage in culture in a huge range of different ways: formal and informal; historic; traditional; and emerging and it is often through culture that social networks and relationships are formed.

For many people in Scotland, culture is a self-determined part of everyday life and it is often through local, community-led culture and heritage where the greatest transformations can occur. [our emphasis]



Image credit: Cables Wynd



Emerging policy mechanisms

Ahead of the 2026 Scottish Parliament election, Culture Counts, in partnership with Community Leisure UK, invited all political parties to support the introduction of a Culture Act for Scotland.

As outlined in a briefing on the potential for cultural legislation to strengthen local democracy, the proposed Culture Act ‘offers an opportunity to build on and enhance the role of culture across Scotland’s wellbeing and economic policy agendas, as well as recognising the appetite of communities across the country to access creative and cultural opportunities.’ Parties holding 85 of the 129 seats in the new Parliament made manifesto commitments to explore new cultural legislation over the next five years.

The Draft Infrastructure Strategy outlines the Scottish Government’s commitment to a place-based approach to infrastructure investment, where communities are meaningfully involved in shaping their places. In response to the Draft Strategy, which ‘welcome[s] views on how to better empower and support communities to play a more active role in decision making’, we feel strongly that there is an opportunity for the Scottish Government to profile the transformational power of culture and creativity. This is echoed in the 30-year Needs Assessment which notes that the Scottish culture sector offers ‘significant expertise to draw upon’ in improving the level of engagement with place-based change.



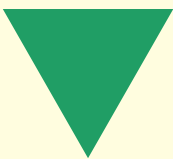
A Creative Placemaking Approach outlines that cultural and arts-led approaches to placemaking offer inclusive and empowering structures for communities to take a leading role in the development of their places.

The Community Wealth Building Act (March 2026) is designed to make Scotland's economy inclusive and sustainable, through strengthening the generation, circulation and retention of wealth in local economies. The Act requires local authorities and relevant public bodies to prepare and publish a community wealth building action plan.

Meanwhile, the National Culture Strategy Action Plan (December 2023) outlines the Scottish Government's commitment to 'champion the economic impact of culture, in particular within the context of community wealth building and creative placemaking'.

The fundamental role of community-led arts and culture as strengthening places and communities is recognised in Public Health Scotland's 10-year strategy, Together We Can (January 2026). The intersection of health, arts and community resilience is affirmed in an Arts, Health and Climate Policy Brief (April 2026) published by World Health Organization and Jameel Arts & Health Lab, which argues that:

“By connecting people to place and to one another, the arts support mental health, strengthen social cohesion, build community resilience and make climate impacts visible and actionable.”



Our suggested actions and next steps

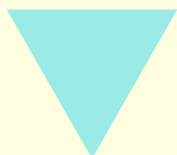
- ▶ Make the case for culture to be considered across relevant policies (planning, climate, transport, health) so cultural approaches are embedded in place-based delivery.
- ▶ Advocate for straightforward policy language that prompts local authorities to account for cultural assets in local living and 20-minute neighbourhood planning.
- ▶ Support a small number of pilot projects that show how cultural approaches can be integrated into climate and place strategies, and use those pilots to inform clear national guidance.
- ▶ Share pilot learning publicly to inform policy updates and encourage cross-government dialogue.



3. Funding mechanisms to support culture in place

Investment will always be a vital part of what it takes to support a thriving culture sector. The call for Scotland to meet the European average of 1% of government investment in culture (from a current position of around 0.75%) has long been championed by Culture Counts. This briefing echoes the call for long-term security for cultural investment in Scotland.

This is in parallel with key action learning from a recent ‘Living Well Locally’ event, where attendees advocated for fair pay for artists and – in recognition that community-based projects take longer than a financial year – innovation in long-term funding models.



Pre-existing funding streams

An example of funding community-engaged creative work, providing paid opportunities for creative practitioners and actively engaging people in shaping the future cultural life of their community, is The Culture Collective Fund, an initiative by the Scottish Government. As the first round of Culture Collective delivery came to an end in 2023, the Programme Lead Team reflected that ‘Culture Collective wasn’t just an investment; it was a commitment, a commitment to creative freelancers working in participatory settings, and the communities in which they work.’

Another example of funding place-based work is from The Arts Council, the national government agency for funding, developing and promoting the arts in Ireland. Architecture is considered one of their professional arts practice areas and has been a designated artform in Ireland since the first Arts Act in 1951. This gives The Arts Council a unique statutory responsibility for its development, with other agents of the State including the Department of Housing and Local Government & Heritage. This represents a systemic de-siloing of disciplines and sectors involved in placemaking.



Innovation in funding models

The Creative Community Hubs Network is a partnership project increasing connections and solidarity between community-based creative hubs across Edinburgh. The network led a small grants programme to support community-embedded and people-centred cultural work in Edinburgh. Their Funding Communities Better report shares the learning from their two years of experimental grantmaking. In this briefing, we draw attention to their participatory grantmaking – as both an ethos and process of redressing power and privilege. Participatory grantmaking – as defined in Deciding Together: Shifting Power And Resources Through Participatory Grantmaking – ‘cedes decision-making power about funding – including the strategy and criteria behind those decisions – to the very communities that funders aim to serve.’

There is a deep need for long-term funding opportunities to allow for meaningful collaboration with communities (see ‘Funding Communities Better’). In a report on Place-Based Community-Led Regeneration for the Joseph Rowntree Foundation, The Really Regenerative Centre CIC and Regen Labs Australia outline that:

“There is [a] strong suggestion from our study that systemic work over much longer periods of time – a minimum of 10 years – is needed to effect genuine transformation. This will require a fundamental shift from the shorter term, smaller investments to long term, systemic partnerships, and away from working on the symptoms of the polycrisis to the sources.”



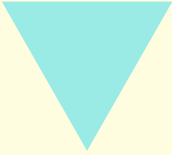
An example of such innovation is the The Regenerative Futures Fund.

The fund has been set up to resource collectives, communities and organisations over a 10-year period. This longer-term funding is designed to enable the deep work needed to address the root causes of poverty and racism in an environmentally sustainable way. It also allows the creation of spaces for people to collectively imagine and build towards a regenerative and just future for Edinburgh.



Image credit: Jassy Earl/Imagineate





Fair pay for artists

When cultural practitioners are embedded in communities, there is often unpaid labour outwith creative activities: from community council meetings to administrative time.

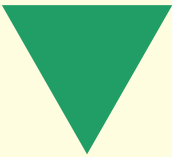
They must be compensated fairly for their contributions. Artists should be paid at Scottish Artist Union rates, which are revised annually. We recommend paying artists for time to attend meetings, planning, communications and admin, as well as time spent on creative activities.



Image credit: Becky Duncan – Open Aye photography/Culture for Climate Scotland

One example of funding – which recognises the contribution of artists to the vibrancy of communities – is the Government of Ireland ‘Basic Income for the Arts Scheme 2026 – 2029’.

The basic income aims to support the arts and creative practice by giving a payment of €325 a week to 2000 professional practicing artists across the country.



Our suggested actions and next steps

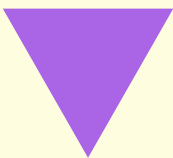
- ▶ Promote more secure, longer-term investment for community cultural work so projects can deliver lasting change (encourage multi-year funding commitments where possible).
- ▶ Encourage funders to require fair payment for cultural practitioners and to recognise the time needed for genuine community engagement.
- ▶ Support experimentation with community-led and participatory funding approaches that shift decision making closer to communities.
- ▶ Publicise successful funding models and lessons so funders and policymakers can replicate effective approaches.



4. Embedding culture in place-based practices

Scotland's planning system is underpinned by National Planning Framework 4 (NPF4), the Place-Based Framework and Local Living Framework, which define six qualities of successful places as: healthy, pleasant, connected, distinctive, sustainable and adaptable. While these core pieces of policy all advocate for a holistic and multi-agency approach to placemaking, there is very little mention of culture and its role in creating healthy, resilient and joyful places to live and work.

The culture of our places embodies the ways in which we connect to our environment, to our histories and to each other. By embedding culture explicitly in placemaking practice, we recognise the fundamental role it plays in weaving our social fabric, contributing to our identity and holding our sense of place and belonging.



In practice, how do we embed culture in placemaking and what does this really mean?

We can think about 'culture' in relation to placemaking through three lenses:

1. Understand existing cultures

The first lens is about understanding the existing culture of a place in broad terms. What is unique about this place, its people and the things that have, and continue to, happen here? This isn't just about measuring access to cultural institutions, although these are hugely important as sites for creative exchange. It is about the intangible fragments of activity and connection that combine to create a unique sense of place. Placemaking practices should understand, respect and celebrate existing cultures to avoid exploitation and gentrification.



2. Creative engagement

The second lens looks more specifically at how creative practices contribute to more equitable and inclusive places, by providing alternative ways to engage local communities and enabling them as agents in participatory processes. This results in more representative outcomes that contribute to successful places. They can also act as a legacy of meaningful engagement by reinforcing social bonds through acts of co-creation and collective action, which further amplify a sense of place and belonging.

3. Cultural indicators

Thirdly, culture is a powerful indicator of the health and resilience of our places. We know that closer-knit communities are more resilient to the kinds of multifaceted threats that we're increasingly faced with (Eric Klinenberg, *Palaces for the People*, 2020), which makes culture an increasingly important measure of the health and quality of a place. If places have poor social infrastructure (ie culture), they are likely to be vulnerable across a range of other indicators. By measuring the quality of place through a cultural lens, we have an opportunity to identify and address these factors to improve wider health and social outcomes.



The ways in which we can embed culture in placemaking are necessarily participatory in nature, and reimagine the top-down hierarchies associated with traditional centralised development and regeneration work. We want to create the conditions for productive exchange of ideas through co-creation and collective processes, by providing tools for all people to engage in the conversation.

The core underlying principles of working in this way are:

Communities are partners and agents in change.

- ▶ Recognising that local people are experts in their area, understand their own local culture best, and can show us how to respect and celebrate this in placemaking.

Creative practitioners as enablers in the process.

- ▶ Creative processes allow a more inclusive and multifaceted exchange of ideas. They can help us negotiate complex and challenging issues with a wider forum and enable more nuanced conversations to take place.

Work in the spirit of reciprocity.

- ▶ For example, a unique creative experience or art class gives participants something back, in exchange for their time and knowledge.



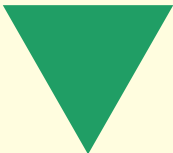
By taking creative approaches to collaborating with local communities, anchor organisations, key stakeholders and creative practitioners, we can embed culture in practice across all stages of placemaking. In practice, this could include art or craft classes, performance and storytelling, exploratory walks etc. The activities should consider local creative networks and a range of artforms to help unlock barriers to participation.

While the approach is most easily adopted in early project stages through community engagement, by taking a holistic and collaborative approach, these principles can be carried through into procurement, delivery and evaluation. This might take the form of a community sounding board or community-led delivery structure, which will represent local cultural interests through to project completion.



Image credit: Mark Richards of Aurora Imaging Findhorn/Culture for Climate Scotland

By combining more participatory placemaking approaches with statutory policy changes, we can ensure that culture's foundational contribution to place is acknowledged and celebrated. This in turn creates healthy, inclusive and joyful places to live.



Our suggested actions and next steps

- ▶ **Encourage** local authorities and partners to embed culture throughout placemaking – from planning and engagement to delivery and evaluation – recognising cultural activity as social infrastructure.
- ▶ **Collaborate** with cultural practitioners on community engagement, developing creative and inclusive methods for sharing knowledge and co-creation. Cultural practitioners should be paid and valued for their time and contributions.
- ▶ **Promote** simple, community-centred practices. Map local cultural assets, involve residents in co-design, and ensure cultural participation is resourced and accessible.
- ▶ **Foster** partnerships between cultural organisations, architects and planners, and communities, to ensure projects reflect local needs and priorities.
- ▶ **Publicly** capture and share examples of good practice to build confidence, provide templates and inspire wider adoption.



5. Case studies



North Edinburgh Arts

North Edinburgh Arts has approached living well locally by making sustainability one of their key strategic pillars, sitting alongside creativity and wellbeing.

Rooted at the heart of the community, North Edinburgh Arts is a purpose-built, community-owned, creative space. They deliver dynamic and sustainable events and activities that build confidence, strengthen connections and challenge perceptions. Each area of work – creative, sustainable and wellbeing – can stand alone but inform one another, with innovation happening in the areas of crossover.



Image credit: Craig MacLean/North Edinburgh Arts

North Edinburgh Arts is committed to monitoring and managing its environmental impact, aiming to reduce carbon emissions in response to the climate emergency and progress towards net zero by 2045, in line with the Scottish Government targets. Recognising that their operations have a negative impact on the environment, the charity switched to solar power in 2026, and is working towards climate change mitigation and adaptation practices.

Their work acknowledges that the community they serve has a lower-than-average carbon footprint, but will be among those most impacted by climate change. North Edinburgh Art's sustainability policy, therefore, supports a just transition for the community of North Edinburgh, building confidence and focusing on collective action and risk sharing.



Their sustainability actions include:

- ▶ Monitoring the organisational carbon footprint to reduce carbon emissions, with a particular focus on energy, waste and transport.
- ▶ Embedding sustainability actions into the programme across all projects.
- ▶ Developing creative responses to the climate emergency that are relevant for, and led by, the local community. The North Edinburgh Arts Bike Library and Community Wood Workshop, are examples of this intention in practice.

North Edinburgh Arts is owned by the 600 Ordinary Members living near the venue, and hosts over 1000 visits weekly. The aim for the coming years is to enable the Members, and other residents, to fully explore the potential of the asset – for now and for the future. They will be setting the strategic direction, ensuring lived experience shapes action and genuinely puts the tools for change in local hands. North Edinburgh Arts is well placed to deliver impactful, inclusive, sustainable change that empowers people and transforms lives.



Image credit: Jassy Earl/Imagineate



the
stove
network

The Stove Network

The Stove Network is an arts and community organisation in the heart of Dumfries High Street. They aim to create a place where culture, community and enterprise work hand in hand to support a new vision for the Dumfries High Street and neighbouring places.



As the only arts-led development trust in Scotland, The Stove works alongside Dumfries and Galloway's local authority, community organisations, local businesses and charities to create a vision for sustainable local futures.

They do this through place-based embedded arts practice, which brings together people and ideas, inspires and supports new community-led projects, and celebrates local places and people.

A key concept around the current approach of The Stove is 'Creative Placemaking' – the role of creativity and creative practice in initiating and sustaining community-led initiatives and social enterprises which improve social, economic and environmental outcomes for places and people.



Open Road

Open Road

Open Road is a cultural organisation located in Aberdeen with a base in the harbourside community of Footdee – known locally as Fittie. Although part of a city, Fittie is an isolated community with no access to evening public transport. The community has a higher-than-average number of older residents and single occupancy households.

Company directors have been active members of the Fittie Community Development Trust. Open Road worked in partnership with the Trust to become part of the first round of Creative Scotland's Culture Collective cohort. The aim of the project was to help revitalise the community-owned hall into a cultural space, providing residents with access to culture and opportunities to participate in cultural activities.

The programme of activity was community-led, with one of the first requests being to start a community choir. The Harbour Voices Community Choir has been active now for around five years, and has become an important part of people's week, as well as health and wellbeing.

Other activities include film nights, music events and creative workshops. Open Road created 'Fittie Past, Present and Possibility' exhibition celebrating the communities' heritage, while also creatively exploring how it needs to adapt for the future.



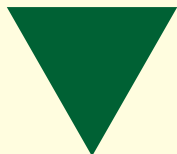


Image credit: Martin Aitken photography/Open Road Film Night

The organisation has built on this work by creating a community programme for Aberdeen's Festival of the Sea, ensuring community recognition and heritage is part of the wider festival programme. As part of the Culture Collective project, Open Road undertook a survey asking residents what they would like their community hall to be used for. Cultural activities came out top in this survey, with residents detailing that they considered their community space as important in terms of access to and participation in culture, which was recognised as vital to help address issues such as social isolation.



6. Conclusion



Let's all close the culture gap together!

Culture is social infrastructure – it sustains wellbeing, shapes identity, and strengthens communities' capacity to respond to climate and social challenges.

Drawing on three years of collaborative work, this toolkit provides practical steps to integrate culture into placemaking: broaden definitions to include everyday cultural life, develop tools and governance to support cultural practice in planning, and remove the barriers that limit community-led work. Doing so will strengthen community wellbeing and ensure that climate and infrastructure policies achieve lasting social outcomes.



What can you do to help?

Take one practical step now:

Recognise culture in planning

- ▶ Ask your local planning team to name culture as a place characteristic.

Pilot cultural indicators

- ▶ Integrate cultural indicators into planning of your 20-minute neighbourhood.

Fund a multi-year pilot project

- ▶ Launch a 2-5 year community cultural pilot project with secured funding.

Map local culture

- ▶ Produce a simple cultural assets map for a neighbourhood and include it in consultations.

Require fair pay

- ▶ Ensure funded projects pay practitioners at agreed sector rates and cover engagement time.

Use participatory funding

- ▶ Run a participatory grant round with community decision makers.



Build cross-policy buy-in

- ▶ Brief one non-planning policy team (eg transport or public health) on culture in place.

Share learning

- ▶ Publicise the details of where you have worked with culture in sustainable placemaking.



The cohort will continue to support this work: we will advocate for policy change, share learning from pilot projects, and partner with local authorities, cultural organisations and communities to embed culture across placemaking.

We remain committed to offering practical expertise, convening stakeholders, and amplifying successful approaches so that culture becomes a recognised, resourced and routine part of building fairer, greener and more resilient 20-minute neighbourhoods.



7. The authors

This toolkit is a collaborative, multi-author effort that synthesises three years of cohort work by placemaking practitioners, cultural partners and policy specialists. Drawing on shared research, place-based pilots and facilitated workshops, the collective approach underpins the toolkit’s practical recommendations. It also demonstrates how coordinated effort across disciplines can achieve more resilient, inclusive and climate-aligned neighbourhoods than isolated activity.



RAMBOLL

Rebecca Dillon-Robinson

Rebecca Dillon-Robinson is Principal Urban Planner and Neighbourhoods & Communities Lead in Ramboll’s Regenerative Cities team, specialising in place-based practice, stakeholder engagement and the 20-minute neighbourhood concept. With over eight years of experience, she translates research into practical tools and community-centred delivery – from city-wide Place Standard baselines and dashboards, to rural digital baselining and Living Well Locally workshops mapping cultural indicators. Ramboll’s Regenerative Cities team co-authored the national 20-minute neighbourhood evidence review for ClimateXChange, and delivers digital baselining and neighbourhood monitoring for public clients. Rebecca’s contribution to this toolkit was supported by Ramboll’s Making a Difference philanthropic programme.



Kate Wimpress

Kate Wimpress has worked for arts organisations and local authorities in Northern Ireland and Scotland since 1990. Currently Kate is the Director of North Edinburgh Arts. The organisation is active in the local regeneration process, completing a Community Asset Transfer from the City of Edinburgh Council in 2022. The North Edinburgh Arts venue, operating as a community anchor across the pandemic, completed a £5m refurbishment and extension to re-open in April 2025. With over 4000m2 of creative and community space, the venue welcomes over 1000 visitors weekly. Kate is also a Trustee of Tinderbox Orchestra and a Board Member of Community Land Scotland.



Pippa Cook

Collective Architecture is a 100% employee-owned studio, founded 25 years ago on principles of creative freedom, equity and sustainability. Pippa Cook has been part of Collective Architecture's Strategy team for the past two years, where she specialises in community engagement and strategic planning. Her role follows a rewarding career as a contemporary art commissioner in Sheffield, working on major commissions, festivals and strategic projects. This creative background underpins her approach to architecture, in which she advocates for the inclusion of arts and culture in our places.

Open Road

Lesley Anne Rose

Lesley Anne Rose is a Creative Producer, Writer and Co-Founder of Open Road, a company that unites her experience in senior cultural leadership, passion for stories about people and place, and commitment to the contribution that culture can make in creating a fairer, better world. She's worked as an Embedded Artist with Culture for Climate Scotland and Climate Ready Clyde, a public sector partnership working strategically across the Clyde Valley region to ensure a just transition. She's a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts and a member of Scottish PEN, a not-for-profit organisation that champions free expression and literature across borders.



Culture
for Climate
Scotland

Eleanor White

Eleanor White is the Senior culture/SHIFT Officer at Culture for Climate Scotland, where she leads place-based work across SPRINGBOARD local assemblies for regional creative climate action, and embedded artist projects for community-led climate action. Culture for Climate Scotland is a charity that connects culture and climate change. They encourage and equip individuals, organisations and strategic bodies to harness the role of culture in achieving the transformational change to an environmentally sustainable Scotland. Eleanor is also a visual artist whose work explores ecological relationality, and a Board Member of Push the Boat Out, Edinburgh's international poetry festival.

