

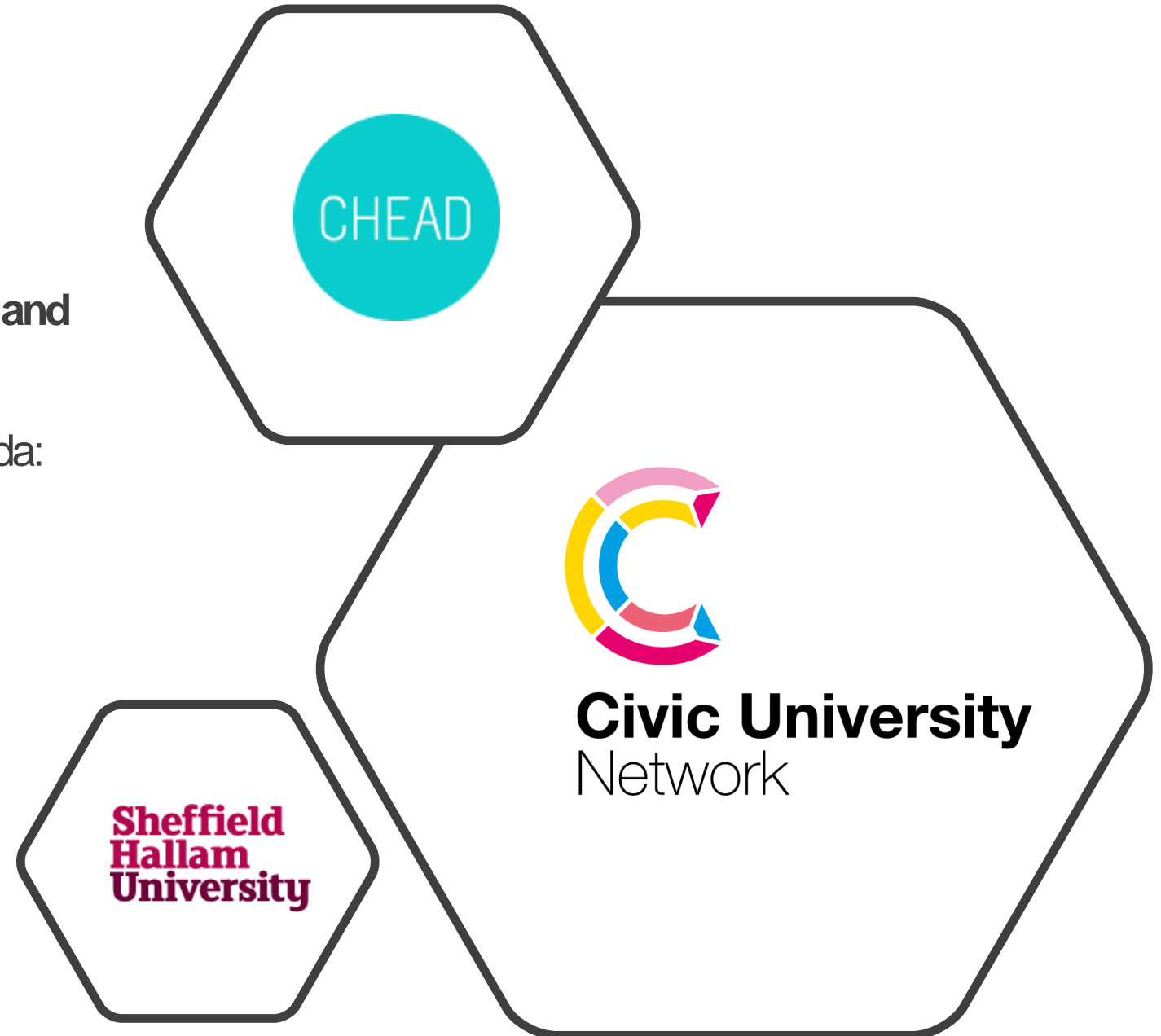
The Council of Higher Education in Art and Design

Annual Conference 2022: The Civic Agenda:
Art and Design Engaged

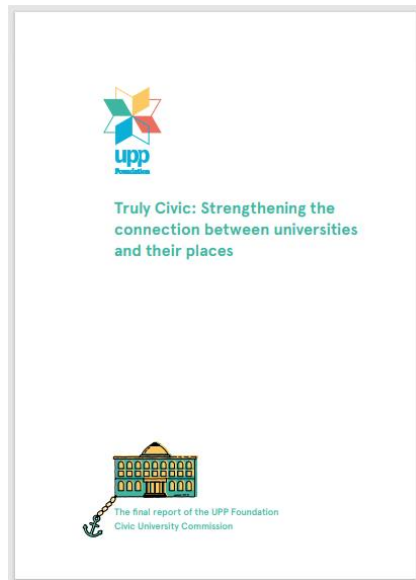
The Civic University Network and the Cultural Contribution of Universities

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16 March 2022



Civic University Network



In 2019 the UPP Foundation created the Civic University Commission to explore the question – *how important is the civic role of universities?*

The Commission produced a report [Truly Civic: Strengthening the connection between universities and their places](#)

One of the key recommendations was to establish a national **Civic University Network** in a host university to provide practical support, to support peer learning and to develop a peer review system

In March 2020, following a competitive process, Sheffield Hallam University won the bid to host the Network

Network Engagement



Guide to creating a Civic University Agreement

Reimagining the relationship between universities & the NHS

A guide for building and sustaining local, place-based collaborations



Going Further and Higher:
How collaboration between colleges and universities can transform lives and places



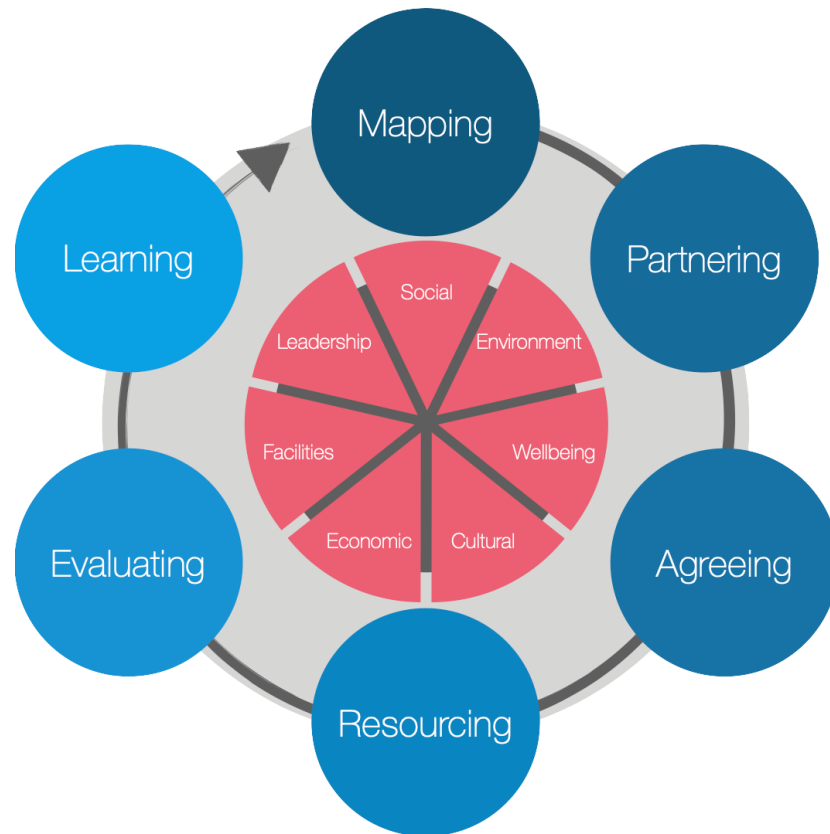
The Civic Movement

Universities Working in Partnership

Conference 2021



Civic Impact Framework



The framework identifies seven domains of universities' civic commitment – the core areas in which universities impact their places and communities.

It also identifies six phases of progress. Progress is envisaged as a cyclical and iterative process, in which the learning then informs further reviews and development.

It aims to encourage a comprehensive approach to HEIs' civic activities, ensuring they are not narrowly focused on economic development. We would expect universities to be working across these domains simultaneously as well as sequentially, informed by their relationships with local partners.



Progress levels	1) Mapping: where are we now?	2) Partnering: where do we want to go, and with whom?	3) Agreeing: who will do what, and when?	4) Resourcing: how are activities supported?	5) Evaluating: how are we doing?	6) Learning: What will we change, and how?
Cultural Contribution	Key questions: How does our university celebrate and enrich the cultural life of our localities and communities? How do we create vibrant, creative and playful places?					
	Potential supporting data: Board and senior leadership papers; involvement in local partnerships; HEBCE returns; community engagement tools (EDGE, TEFCE); access and participation plans; local JSNAs					
	What activities are we engaged in that support the wider cultural life of our places? Which aspects of community life do we celebrate in our institution? How are our staff and students involved? Is our heritage and history perceived as positive or problematic by our communities?	Which groups and organisations are we partnering with, and whose ideas are welcomed? Are any groups or activities under-represented? How will our institution learn from the cultures of our communities as well as give to them?	What activities will we support and in what ways? How will we ensure our cultural activities are partnerships of equals? How will we support staff and students in their cultural activities?	What resources do we contribute to the cultural life of our places? Do we have capacity to respond to new ideas and initiatives from our communities? How does mainstream teaching and research engage with the cultural life of our places?	Can we measure the depth as well as the extent of our cultural activities, and how do we do it? What do our communities think of our cultural activities? Have we addressed aspects of our legacy and heritage that may offend and alienate our communities?	How will our communities inform and help to develop our plans and ideas for events and activities? What has worked well in engaging new groups and places? What do we need to do better? Are there communities of practice that share learning regularly?
Illustrative indicators	We know, across our institution, what contribution we make to local cultural life. We have mapped this against local demographics and identified gaps and opportunities.	We know and engage with a wide range of local cultural organisations, with a range of formal and informal partnerships. We ensure local communities are welcomed and included in our events and activities.	We have identified priorities for support and know which communities we need to work with more.	We promote and fund events and activities that enrich and celebrate the cultural life of our localities, and support staff and students in linking with local communities.	We have asked our communities what they think of the activities we support and have listened to their views.	We are not content with repeating success but are actively considering how our activities can be better. In doing so we value and learn from the expertise and knowledge within our localities.

Next steps

Supported by Arts Council England, the Civic University Network team will explore how universities identify, build and enhance mutually beneficial relationships with cultural institutions and their communities to maximise the civic impact of universities in their place.

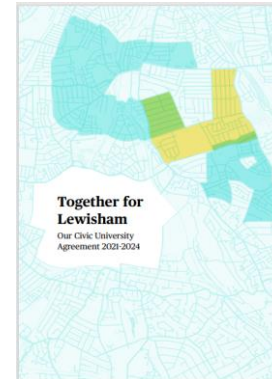
- Civic roles will be informed by an evidence-based analysis of the relationship between universities and cultural institutions, developed with local partners and informed by the voices of both sectors and other allies
- The profile of arts in Civic University Agreements will be raised
- Dissemination of good practice will accelerate the development of local partnerships and widen the reach of universities



Working together



culture
forum
north



Please get in touch if you would like to be part of the ongoing conversation or if you have a case study that you would like to share

Visit www.civicuniversitynetwork.co.uk for:

- Resources from work and webinars to date
- Information about upcoming events
- To sign up to the Civic University Network newsletter

