

URBAN CIRCLE

CULT CYMRU



A creative future with space for everyone in the community to share their story and build a career - that can be the legacy of Ffilm Cymru's Foot In The Door Newport programme.

In collaboration with partners including Newport Council, Screen Alliance Wales, Sgil Cymru, Cult Cymru/BECTU, University of South Wales, Pobl Housing and Coleg Gwent, the Foot In The Door programme has seen Ffilm Cymru work with over 800 people in Newport to demystify careers in film and TV, develop skills and offer opportunities for people with transferable skills to move into the screen sector.

Urban Circle Newport, a youth arts and advocacy charity based in Newport, has been a key partner in terms of connecting delivery partners with the community in a trusting and authentic way. Urban Circle has existed as an arts development organisation for young creatives in the city for over 15 years.

Mohamad Miah, Head of Media and Communications, has been part of the Urban Circle team for over a decade, and has been organising workshops and delivering training during the organisation's partnership with Foot In The Door.

Mohamad said: **"A lot of the work we do is grassroots in Newport, utilising the arts as a means of advocacy for the youth community. It was essential for us that this partnership was going to help our community and build strong meaningful relationships to provide access to creative careers.**

“Foot In The Door has given us the opportunity to provide our community with creative training, workshops and careers development, in collaboration with other project partners, that these young people may never have known they had access to before.”

From funding the HUMANiTREE Media School, in collaboration with Cult Cymru/ BECTU; a selection of creative workshops including storyboarding, video editing, stop motion animation and more, to leading practical sessions on access to freelancing opportunities and CV writing, Foot In The Door has enabled Urban Circle to run weekly training sessions and events that spread awareness of access to screen sector careers to the Newport community.

Mohamad said: **“This project has given Urban Circle the opportunity to meet like-minded agencies led by people that share our values of community and trust, and practise and understand the barriers to access that exist within marginalised communities.”**

One such organisation is Cult Cymru, a learning project run by BECTU in partnership with the Musicians Union, the Writers' Guild and Equity. Sian Gale, skills and development manager at Cult Cymru, said: **“Our relationship with Urban Circle has been built on the shared values of caring about communities, and allowing people to be their most creative and authentic selves in an environment they feel safe in.”**

Working primarily on awareness raising, training and work placements, Sian led a session on freelancing for creatives with Urban Circle for the Foot In The Door programme. **“So many people weren't aware of the unions and the support out there for them throughout a freelance career,”** she said, **“but the community wanted to understand and learn how to overcome the fears and doubts they had about branching out on their own, doing something they love.”**



“Working with Foot In The Door has proved that if you give people the right knowledge and information, you’re already breaking down major barriers many face to get into these creative industries. It’s our role to open the door and empower people to feel comfortable to tell their stories, and I feel we’ve built solid foundations to develop in the future.”

“We’ve loved working in Newport and the real success for this Foot In The Door project is the rich partnerships we’ve built, and the better understanding we now have on how we can engage authentically into communities in Newport.

“We’ve learnt a lot and have fed that back into today’s programme. It’s our ambition to continue the work, and hopefully this is a long-lasting legacy of how we approach screen sector skills.”



Faye Hannah
Head of Skills and Training
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www.footinthedoorwales.com