MEASURING THE CCI SECTORS

Developing a Practice-Led Approach to Monitoring and Evaluation
Social Development
Historically politicised and highly contested, increasingly principles of human rights, empowerment and sustainability are emerging in approaches.

Applied Arts
A catch-all term for a multiplicity of arts-based approaches for development.

Drama for Life
Uses participatory pedagogy and embodied processes in an interdisciplinary, critical reflexive and therapeutic approach to enhance dialogue for purposes of social transformation.

Practice-Led Monitoring and Evaluation
Uses the medium itself as a tool; integrating measures of practice, in methods of practice.

Playback Theatre
Observes embodied, reflective and interactive techniques, inviting audiences to tell their stories, and experience their narrative performed on stage.
Art is the manifestation of an impulse to create, synthesize and reveal. Art is the revelation of meaning – not the simple depiction of beauty or observation of form – it is an inspired attempt to convey a perception of a meaning that emerges from or underlies the randomness of common experience. For the perceiver of art, there is a sense of recognition, delight; a confirmation of truth.

(Salas, 1993)
Considering the challenges and affordances of measuring artistic value and social impact.

- Political asymmetries of power
- Social disparities of access
- Economic inequalities of dependence

- Community participation
  - Local relevance
  - Context responsiveness

- Methodological weakness
  - Selective measures
  - Anecdotal evidence

- Best Practice
- Sustainability
- Investment
Developing a practice-led approach to monitoring and evaluation.

Diagram:
- Performance
- Observation
- Participation
- Reflection
- Dialogue

Circles:
- Community change agency
- Individual critical reflexivity
- Organisation-level capacity
Articulating the affordances and limitations of practice-led monitoring and evaluation.

One of the greatest difficulties facing researchers when communicating their findings is to harness the empathy and engagement required for maximum impact. An intellectual understanding is often made, but an emotional connection can be lacking, and therefore the impetus for action is not high. (Melbourne Playback Theatre Company, 2014)

A tiered assessment of common principles, using a logic model and theory of change

- Transformational value
- Transactional value
- Critical value
- Functional value

Interdependent social concepts driving change

- Form
- Content
- Context
The best way to assess the impact of the Playback Theatre show is simply to observe the performances themselves: how many participants speak up, the content and depth of stories, responses to enactments, and the way tellers are received by the audience. (Salas, 2005)

Drama for Life Playback Theatre as a method and measure of practice and participation for change in community settings.

Reflections on discipline and context specific monitoring and evaluation.

Context

Dialogue
Reflection

Content

Performance
Participation

Form

Ritual
Inquiry