

Sumac Centre Visioning Day

Saturday 6th September

10am-5pm

All Welcome

A chance for people involved in the Sumac Centre, and those wanting to be involved, to get together and talk, conspire, laugh, find out what has been going on at the centre and plan what we could do next...

Opening the Sumac Centre has been a tremendous achievement, and tremendously hard work... This day is intended to refocus attention on why we have done it, what we want to do with the centre, and how best to achieve this. We hope it will make people realise where our strengths and weaknesses are, help us find our common goals, and inspire us to take steps towards them!

Why have we published the agenda early?

- .. To give you a chance to think about it before hand - please do!
- .. To give you the chance to write a discussion document for people to read before the meeting.
This could be anything you like - from a controversial rant, to a 5 year plan of action - the more the merrier! We will try to get these out by email, and make them available in the Sumac centre as soon as possible to give you a chance to read them.
- .. If you are unable to attend, it gives you a chance to pass your opinions to others before hand, or to write something down to be read on the day.
- ◆ To give you a chance to comment on the agenda, so we can make changes before the day.

Hand in written stuff to the Bar or Cafe, or to a volunteer at the Sumac, or [email it to visioning@veggies.org.uk](mailto:visioning@veggies.org.uk)

Morning session

10am - Introduction

- ◆ House-keeping
- ◆ Introduction to ideas behind the day
- ◆ Brief history of Sumac / Rainbow Centre

10.30am Short questions

These questions are designed to get everybody thinking and talking, You will be asked to write the answers down, and these will be read out anonymously by someone else. They should be answered with short paragraphs only - there is no need to write an essay!

- .. Why did you get involved with the Sumac Centre, or the Rainbow Centre?
- .. Name three reasons why you continue to be involved with the Sumac Centre?
- .. How would you describe the Sumac Centre to someone who knew nothing about it?

- .. How would you expect someone who is not involved in the Sumac Centre, but lives locally and uses it occasionally, to describe it?
- .. Are you a member of a core collective (Sumac, bar, café etc). If so, why? If not, why not?
- .. What do you think is currently motivating people to get involved .
- .. Why do you think that we are not flooded with volunteers?
- .. Name three inspiring things you have seen or been involved in at the Sumac/Rainbow Centre.
- .. Name three strengths of the Sumac Centre as it is now.
- .. Think of one problem for the Sumac Centre/ Rainbow Centre which has been overcome, and comment on how this was done.
- .. Name three things that you see as current problems for the Sumac Centre
- .. Name three things you like about the way the Sumac Centre is run
- .. Name three ways the running of the Sumac Centre could be improved.

11.30 The Current Situation - open discussion

In this session, focus on the individual collectives, the centre as a whole, and how they interact. The following questions could be useful to start discussion:

What is the Centre currently achieving, and how?

What things are we trying to do, but not doing so well? Why do you think this is?

What are the important areas we think we should be working on, but aren't really? Why not?

How exactly is the centre run - for example, how are decisions made? Are we happy with this?

What are our most pressing problems?

1pm Lunch - provided for donations

Afternoon session

1.45 Our vision for the future - open discussion

Again, focus on the individual collectives, the centre as a whole, and how they interact.

The following questions could be useful to start discussion:

How would you like to see the centre evolve over the next five years?

What activities would you like to see the centre involved with?

What people / groups would you like to use the centre?

How would you like to see the centre being run?

3pm How do we get there?

Over lunch we will pull together the ideas that have come out of the morning discussions and identify common themes we would like to work on.

Brainstorm of ideas...

In this session, we will brainstorm around these threads and ways to achieve them - think big and small!

Practical solutions...

Which ideas can we take on at the moment?

What practical things can we do to make these things happen?

4.45 Wind up....

Do you think this day has been useful?

How could it have been improved?

Do we want another session like this?

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