

# Canal Carnival for Urbanism Transcript

0:00 Audio

[Music]

0:25 Sarah Butler

My name is Sarah and I'm a writer and I'm working with public works on the *Canal Carnival*. So this is a space that's been constructed by public works, it's greenhouse extracts with a story that I was commissioned to write, which is the kind of magical fairy tale about the canal. And there are also some kind of imagined occupations of different spaces, kind of, currently, disused spaces along the canal space that we're asking people to comment on. And then we've got a kind of production space here with a table and a kind of conversation and reading space at the back. And we've been working with the Liverpool Canal company, working with particularly kids to kind of make plans to go onto the end of the boat structure, and asking people to write wishes for the canal. So we've had everything from chocolate water to fruit boats today. And I yeah, I've written a story called *Fishing for Stars*, which is a kind of magical fairy tale about the canal and just getting some people at the moment to write letters to the characters kind of talking to them about the magical experiences they've had here. So the idea of the canal club is to create a kind of conversation space and to extend the spaces the toe back into the water, and to basically make an area for people to talk about the canal about their experiences about what they want to happen here. Well, I guess it's just I mean, water is always such a kind of beautiful thing to be around and a lot of people I've talked to today everyone kind of there's something about the water that attracts them to the place and so I think there's a there's a kind of throughfare, you know, there's a lot of scope for being on the canal, being by the canal and using as a space for interaction.

2:01 Audience Member

You know, Liverpool is about water isn't it, the Mersey, the docks, the canal, and kids, phone and water go together on these kinds of sites, particularly something that's novel like this, and kids can come on and have ownership of some of it and it becomes this in a sense. And they really love it, you know, it gives them a sense of responsibility and accountability and it affects their behaviour.

2:35 Audio

[Music]

#### **4:09 Audience Member**

It's well improved to what it used to be like, it's really as, as you get closer to town, it's really good, like, you could do with a little bit more as you come in towards the local areas like but, towards much better.

#### **4:23 Audience Member**

I think it's absolutely fantastic. Very, very, very excited. I thought I was just saying to my friend, actually, the amount of people it turned out I think it's really, really special. And I think it shows the level of interest and desire to get involved and kind of be a part of a new canal.

#### **4:42 Alan Dunn**

My name is Alan. For the past 18 months I've been working with the artist group Re-Dock, and the artist David Jakes - working with around 2000 local people here, with some suggestions for the canal, but first met Paul Keller 18 months ago to talk about the work in Sefton and we agreed that the canal was going to be the thread; the key metaphor and some symbol of the area. And they thought rather than I said what could happen in the canal, why don't we simply ask the locals what could happen in the canal. So we consulted a few thousand people through workshops and some of the suggestions were, for example, to hold a procession, hold the parade in the canal they've come through getting some pedals - there's some up there - and some people suggesting more "have an annual throw your husband in" say for example. So getting fun back into the canal and getting the local using it again, someone suggested that formed a series of billboards around Sefton. Just what's really nice is that tonight seeing some of those suggestions actually come true. Because so often you ask people what would you like to happen to an area and it gets put on some fail report somewhere this is actual tangible results of what some people suggested.

#### **5:54 Audio**

[*Music*]

#### **6:47 Speaker**

Yeah, so what did you like about this?

**6:50 Audience Member**

First, I couldn't work out how it was done. I was looking for where the projection was. And then seeing the guys actually move around was brilliant. There's a fantastic bit where they got an image which was right, the same size as the window. Yes. It kind of broke hopeless, but it's brilliant. And I really enjoyed it. Yeah. And then there was a guy cycling along and I thought he was part of the project, but he wasn't. It was good.

**7:12 Speaker**

That's great. Where do you think these projections could be used next?

**7:16 Audience Member**

I think in any kind of urban space? It'd be fantastic. I just think there should be more of this kind of stuff in urban environments really.

**7:23 Speaker**

Fantastic, thank you very much.

**7:26 Audience Member**

This came alive. It was amazing. I've never seen anything like that.

**7:34 Speaker**

Anyway, so you enjoyed it?

**7:36 Audience Member**

Amazing! We'd love to come back tomorrow.

**7:38 Speaker**

Oh, good. You're coming back?

**7:40 Audience Member**

Oh, no, I'm bringing more people tomorrow.

### **7:42 Audience Member**

They used to have lights here in the 1900s, but they came into everyday which is where we all are now. That's absolutely fabulous. And it showed you the progression, like the city of Liverpool is happening at this moment in time is having. So to Danilo and Diana, well done because what they've pulled off in such a short amount of time is absolutely amazing, so congratulations to them. What you've been doing is absolutely amazing.

### **8:12 Audience Member**

The whole experience has been amazing for us. An eye opener. Yeah. Yeah, I mean, we can, we kind of looked at it. It's a bit well a bit cynically, to be honest, we thought it would be a little bit blah. To be honest, I loved it as a way of getting out of two days of work. Which I'm ashamed of because now, no it really it makes - it does sound like bullocks, but it really does make a difference to the way we think about how we're going to go and how we're going to go forwards. Beaver scout group, and they it goes to cubs and scouts and explorers. So there's loads we can do much badge-wise and of course the kids can do more in their local environment involving the local community and make them realise and to appreciate their own environments we have. We have a space that's like quite, I suppose that's what everybody's talking about. Since developed it doesn't have - we've got a big empty back yard that's full of cans, and litter, and weeds. We kind of thought that we might one day do something with it possibly, maybe. But now, now we really do ideas. My head hurts with the kind of ideas we have - to get the kids away from their PlayStation, and the telly and get off their bums.

### **9:44 Audio**

[*Music*]