

ONLINE PROGRAMME Governance Now 2025: Power! – Tuesday 4 November 2025

TIME	SESSION	SPEAKER/S	SESSION DETAIL
09:30 – 09:45	Conference Welcome – Amanda Smethurst , Associate Facilitator, Clore Leadership		Online welcome and housekeeping with host
09:45 – 10:00	Conference Welcome	Charlotte Jones , Chief Executive Officer, Independent Theatre Council (ITC)	Conference welcome, framing the content and theme for the day.
10:00 – 11:00	Opening Keynote Panel ‘State of the Nation - Perspectives from the Sector’	Francesca Hegyi , CEO, Edinburgh International Festival Caroline Norbury , CEO, Creative UK Laura Pye , Director, National Museums Liverpool & Chair Robin Simpson , Chief Executive, Creative Lives (Chair)	Opening the conference this year will be perspectives from the sector discussing the State of the Nation, topics including the devolution agenda the shifting interplay of power in politics and government, and the challenges, and opportunities, that cultural institutions are facing.
11:00 – 11:25	Break		
11:25 – 11:30	Online Morning Breakout Introduction (Amanda Smethurst)		
11:30 – 12:30	Optional – registration required Online Workshop Governance 101: An introduction to governance and board dynamics	Nicola Nuttall , Consultant and Director of Tempus Fugit Consultancy & Director, Charles Causley Trust	Revisit the basics of good governance for the cultural sector. This session will provide a helpful overview of governance for new trustees, as well as a useful refresher for those with more experience.
12:30 – 13:25	Lunch		
13:25 – 13:30	Online Afternoon Introduction (Amanda Smethurst)		
13:30 – 14:00	Afternoon Keynote Darren Henley in conversation	Hilary Carty , Executive Director, Clore Leadership Darren Henley , CEO, Arts Council England	Darren Henley will share perspectives and priorities for the arts and cultural landscape, looking short and long term at the Arts Council’s investment

	with Hilary Carty		aspirations, challenges and opportunities for creativity and culture.
14:00 – 15:00	Breakout 2A How can Commissioners empower the next generation of artists and curators?	Yasmin Khan , Director, Individual Practitioners and London, Arts Council England Cat Sheridan , Senior Producer, Unlimited Jenny Waldman , Director, Art Fund	This session will explore the power dynamics between artists and institutions, asking the questions: Should art have gatekeepers? How can artists' voices be amplified? What shifts can organizations make to share power? Speakers will discuss strategies for building supportive infrastructures that allow artists to truly lead with their work.
15:00 – 15:10	Break		
15:10 – 15:15	Roundtable Breakouts Introduction (Amanda Smethurst)		
15:15 – 15:45	Roundtable Discussions	Led by delegates	A series of group discussions in breakout rooms, exploring key issues in governance today. Topics will be suggested and facilitated by delegates.
15:45 – 16:05	Roundtables Reflection	Facilitated by Amanda Smethurst	Group reflection.
16:05 – 16:20	Break		
16:20 – 17:00	Closing Keynote Panel Power, Policy, and Partnerships	Stella Kanu , CEO, Shakespeare's Globe John McGrath , Artistic Director & Chief Executive, Factory International Kate Varah , Executive Director, National Theatre	This closing keynote panel will explore the pivotal role national organisations can play in driving change at scale, and the opportunities and challenges of navigating complex stakeholder landscapes (including political) and shaping impactful partnerships.
17:00 – 17:15	Closing Remarks	Moira Sinclair , Chair, Factory International & Chair, Clore Leadership	Final thoughts for the day.
17:15 – 17:20	Online Host Farewell (Amanda Smethurst)		