**Call to action – ‘Class and the arts’**

**The arts are too important to become a middle (or indeed upper) class ghetto. Neil John Griffiths, Co-Founder and Director of Arts Emergency, shares some research and ideas for how cultural communicators can play their part is making sure the arts are for all.**

In the final Culture Comms session, Neil John Griffiths of Arts Emergency discussed recently-released findings of a research project on inequality in the arts.  He outlined two main issues that had been identified and need to be addressed: equitable access to the arts; and the general right to a broad, free and fair liberal arts education.

Neil examined the middle-class bubble of those producing culture at the cost of the working classes being excluded from this area of work. His talk was illustrated with some stark statistics and graphics (attached). He concluded that the cultural world is a self-regulated elite which is lacking in diversity and desperately needing to bring more people into the industry. His call to action was for delegates to join the alternative ‘old boys’ network’ of Arts-emergency.org.

You can read the full report here: <http://createlondon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/Panic-Social-Class-Taste-and-Inequalities-in-the-Creative-Industries1.pdf>