

## **Abstract**

Decision-making in the arts sector is sometimes seen as problematical as many of the 'primary' decisions are made away from the 'primary' creative practice. The criteria for decision-making may be perceived as based on organisational or financial need, rather than creative output or social need. It is my view that the perceptions need testing. To do this I needed a way of understanding how decisions are reached in a variety of different contexts within the arts and cultural sector. Most would concede that decision-making is not a precise science. My quest thus became finding an appropriate research methodology for these explorations. Action research emerged as a useful framework for adding understanding within dynamic situations. This thesis reports on the usefulness of participatory action research as a tool for the exploration of decision-making processes by a range of people working within the arts and cultural sectors.

## **Declaration**

I declare that this thesis does not incorporate without the acknowledgment any material previously submitted for a degree or diploma in any university; and that to the best of knowledge it does not contain materials previously published or written by another person except where due reference is made in the text.

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