

The Young Persons' Draft Constitution for Lunar Settlement: a drawing workshop

Through a series of drawing and writing workshops, this project explores how young people might want to live together in adverse conditions on the Moon. It encourages and supports children to generate ideas towards a draft lunar constitution, translating ideas into thought through art making. This workshop focuses on the complexity of human rights and freedoms in a constrained setting, particularly in relation to the preservation of life and the right to personal and shared liberty. Inevitably, because the extremities of the extra-terrestrial environment are so great, there is much to discuss about the pivotal role of science and technology and how its institutions and mechanisms can be used to engender or constrain liberty for children living in new, small, enclosed communities on the lunar surface. Further, our drawing project towards The Young Persons' Draft Constitution for Lunar Settlement pre-supposes that, in some form, new extra-terrestrial lunar societies should be democratic and have the capacity for self-sufficiency. It also assumes that, in so far as is possible, certain basic Earthly conditions will be recapitulated.

Through drawing, dialogue and writing, this project aims to:

- introduces the Moon as part of the greater Earth
- increases awareness of what life might be like for young people living off-Earth on a village on the Moon.
- promotes empowerment and inclusivity through participation in a general cultural consensus around the development of a human presence on the Moon.

Its method is as follows:

- 1) Prior to our meeting, to explore an understanding of our human relationship with space, young people are invited to bring to the workshop one or two important objects (or ideas) that they think might help them survive on the Moon.
- 2) We begin our workshop with a conversation about the conditions and challenges of living in a small Moon village, focusing on what might ensure mental and physical well-being and happiness when the outside environment is poisonous and harsh, and when confinement under constant surveillance in limited physical space and stimuli is a constant.

- 3) We talk about the idea of a 'constitution' and what it means in this context.
- 4) Children are asked to share the objects they have brought with them with our group.
- 5) They draw their objects, talk to their neighbour about their choices and write a sentence with their drawing which begins something like,

'Children on the Moon should be allowed to...'

- 6) The activity of drawing and writing with the drawing follows. Children are encouraged to expand their ideas and speak about their work in progress with the person next to them.
- 7) We pin up our drawings on the wall to share them and discuss what choices have been made, what this might mean for the future, not only for themselves but for others.
- 8) We begin a shared text on the wall that notates those ideas, pulling out some general key principles that are useful for everyone.
- 9) As a group, we make a list that orders and groups our ideas. We take a vote on the perceived order of importance of ideas towards a draft Young Person's Lunar Constitution.
- 10) Permission forms granting access to images and texts must be signed by accompanying adults for this work to be acknowledged.
- 11) Children take home paper and a brief to design a lunar flag, along with my contact details.



Survivor on the Moon: towards a Draft Constitution for Lunar Settlement

1) Crawford Gallery, Cork, Ireland: 20/07/2019

2) Abbeystrewry Hall, Skibbereen, County Cork, Ireland: 25/07/2019

As part of a series of festivals in Ireland during the week of the 50th anniversary of the Apollo Moon Landing, I was invited by Dowtcha Puppets, in collaboration with Crawford Gallery and Blackrock Observatory, Cork, to run two Moon-themed drawing workshops with young people in local venues as part of their festival program. Both workshops titled **Survivor on the Moon: towards a Draft Constitution for Lunar Settlement,** in the Crawford Gallery and the Skibbereen Village Hall were well attended, (by children, ages 8 to 14, and their parents). The different kinds of objects brought to the workshop ranged from personal effects; diaries, soft toys, sports equipment, to designs for floating outdoor swimming pools and peas sprouting in cotton wool. A selection of drawings is attached.

The consensus around the written outcomes is as follows:

1. Children should be allowed to live on the Moon like they do on Earth, as much as is possible.

- 2. Children should be allowed to bring precious, personal objects to the Moon.
- 3. Children should have a place to play in the space ship to do what they want.
- 4. Children should be allowed to travel back to Earth to visit their friends and families.
- 5. Children on the Moon should be trained to understand technology, for instance, to learn how to use the radios; to use space suits or for example, to learn how to monitor weather stations and
- 6. Children should be supported to explore the Moon; to brings back things from the new environment as well as learn to play outside.
- 7. Children should have private time and space on the ship where they can read, draw and construct.
- 8. Children should be supported to continue their sports in space.
- 9. Children should be able to participate in daily space habitat activities, eg. gardening.
- 10. Children should have their own rocket.











