

Concepts of Sustainability

Dr Matt Brennan, University of Glasgow

European Forum on Music, Budapest, 8 June 2023



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS





UNITED NATIONS

"Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs."

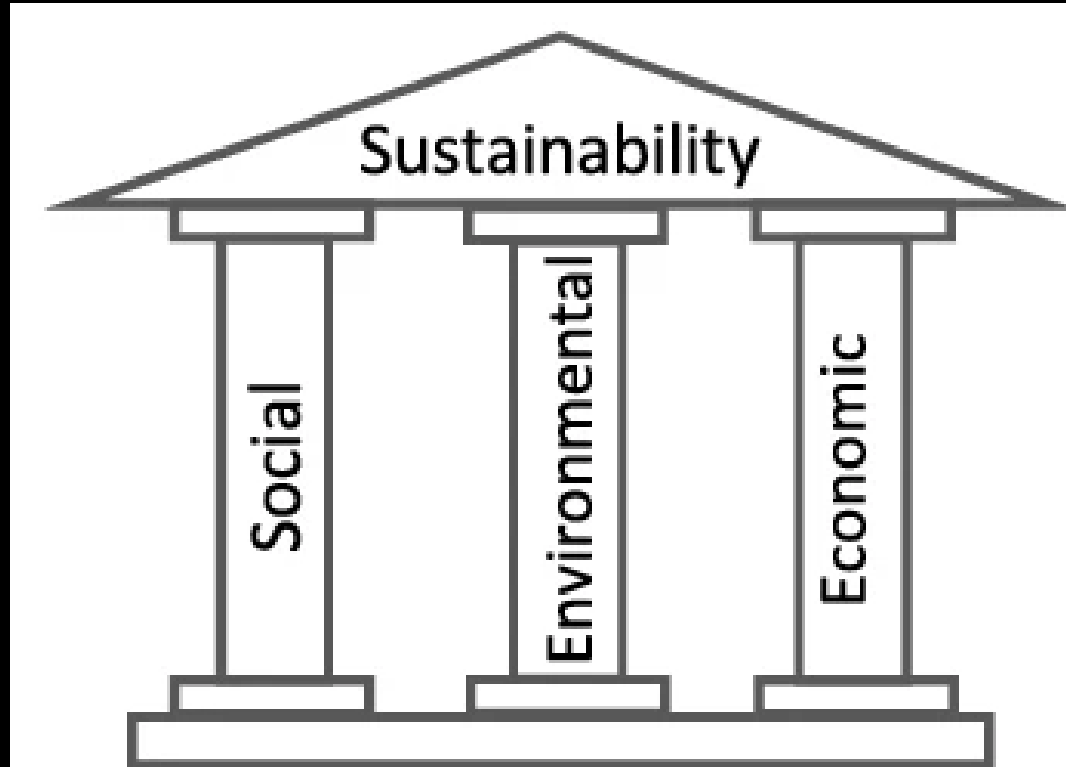
OUR COMMON FUTURE

THE WORLD COMMISSION

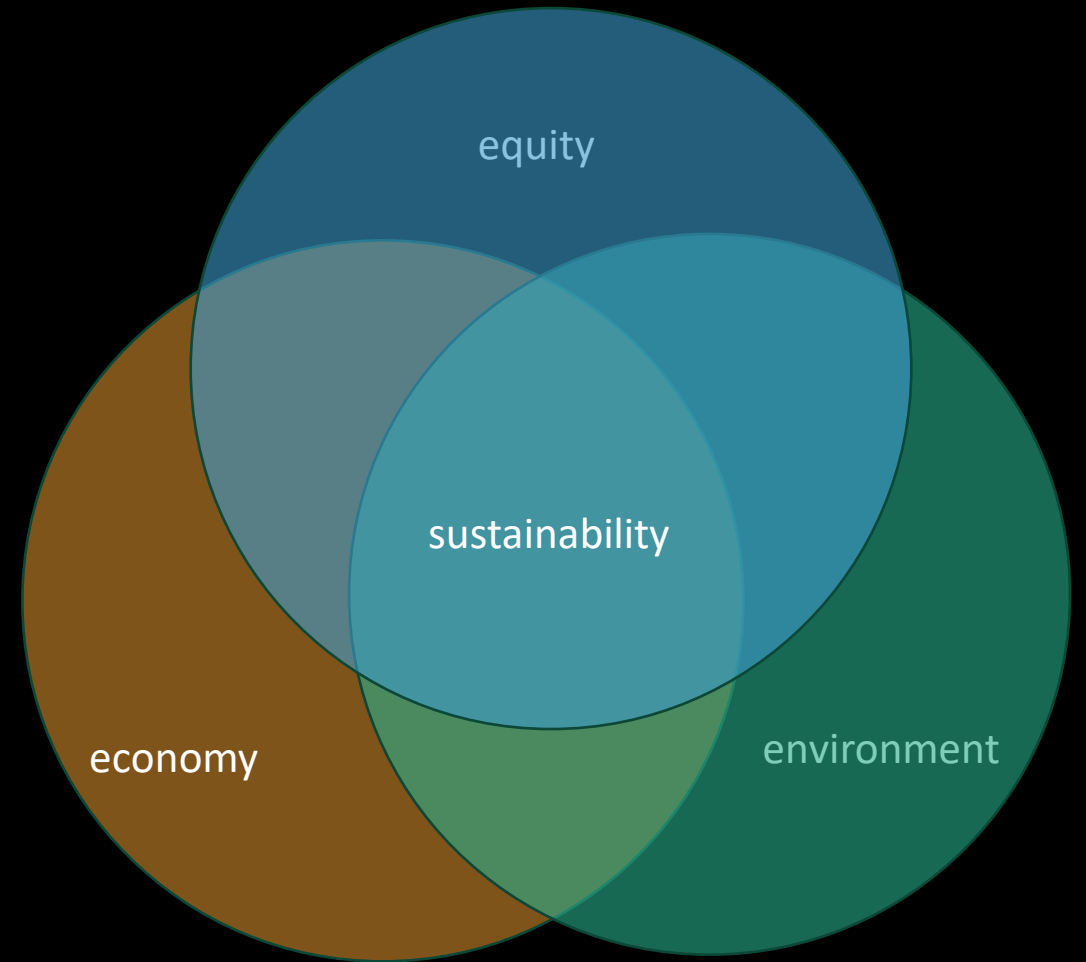
ON ENVIRONMENT

AND DEVELOPMENT

United Nations World Commission on Environment and Development, ed. 1987. Report of the World Commission on Environment and Development: Our Common Future. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

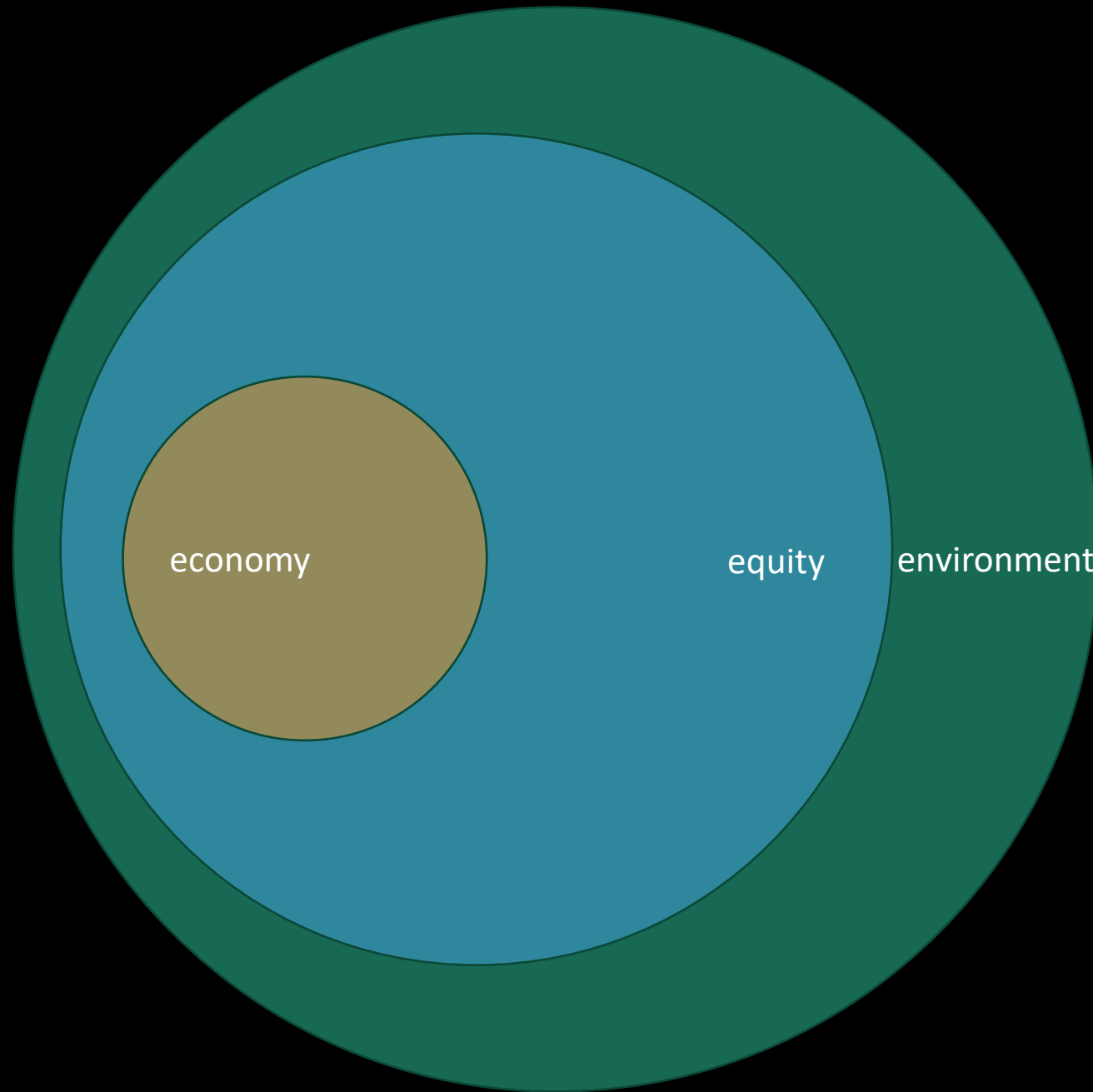


Pillars of sustainability



Intersecting circles of sustainability

1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development in Rio de Janeiro (i.e. 'Earth Summit')



economy

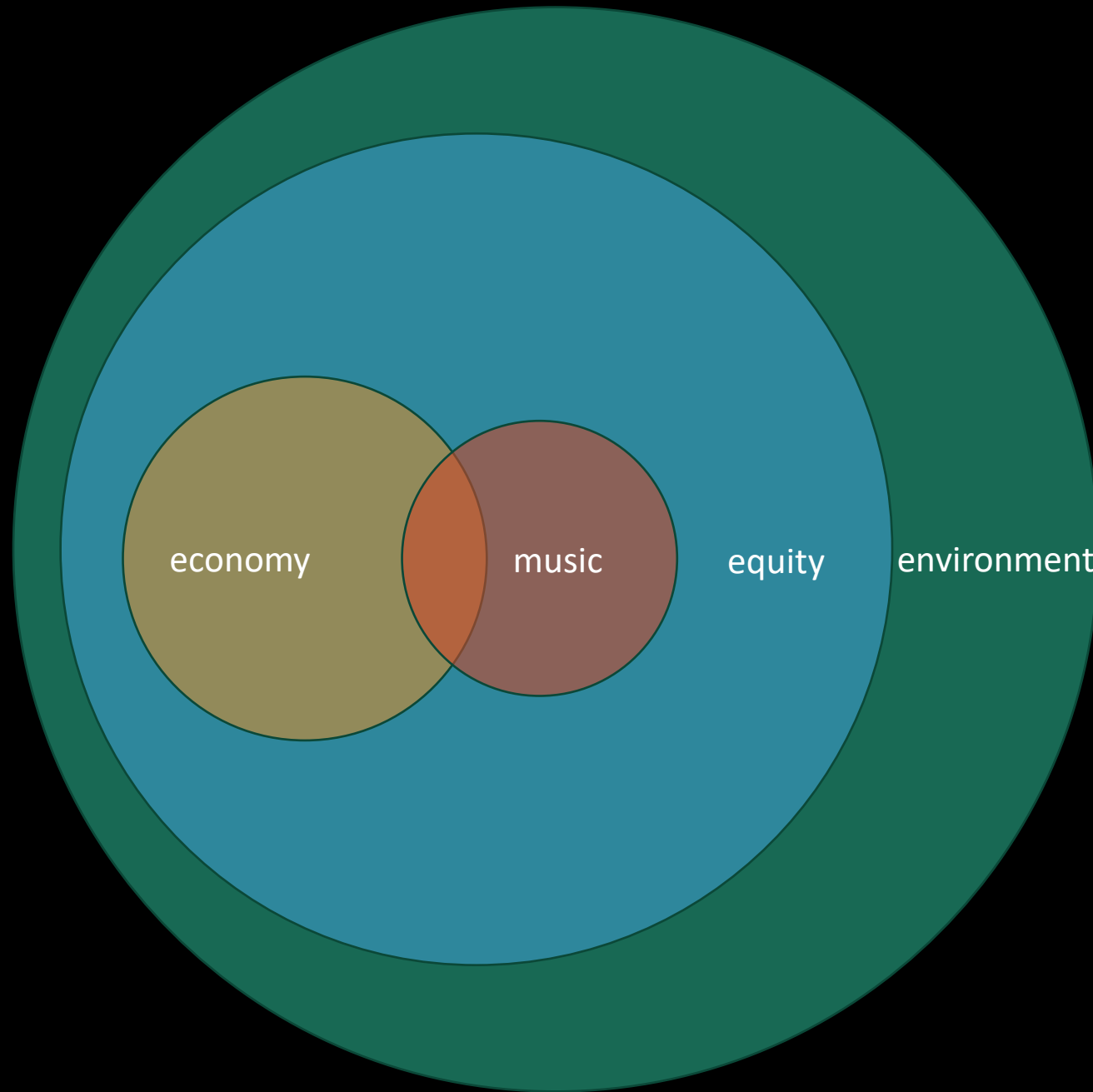
equity

environment

Nested concentric circles of sustainability



Allen, Aaron S., Jeff Todd Titon, and Denise Von Glahn. "Sustainability and sound: ecomusicology inside and outside the university." *Music and Politics* 8.2 (2014): 1-26.



Nested concentric circles of sustainability with music!



MUSICAL ECOSYSTEMS: FIVE DOMAINS

LEARNING AND TEACHING MUSIC

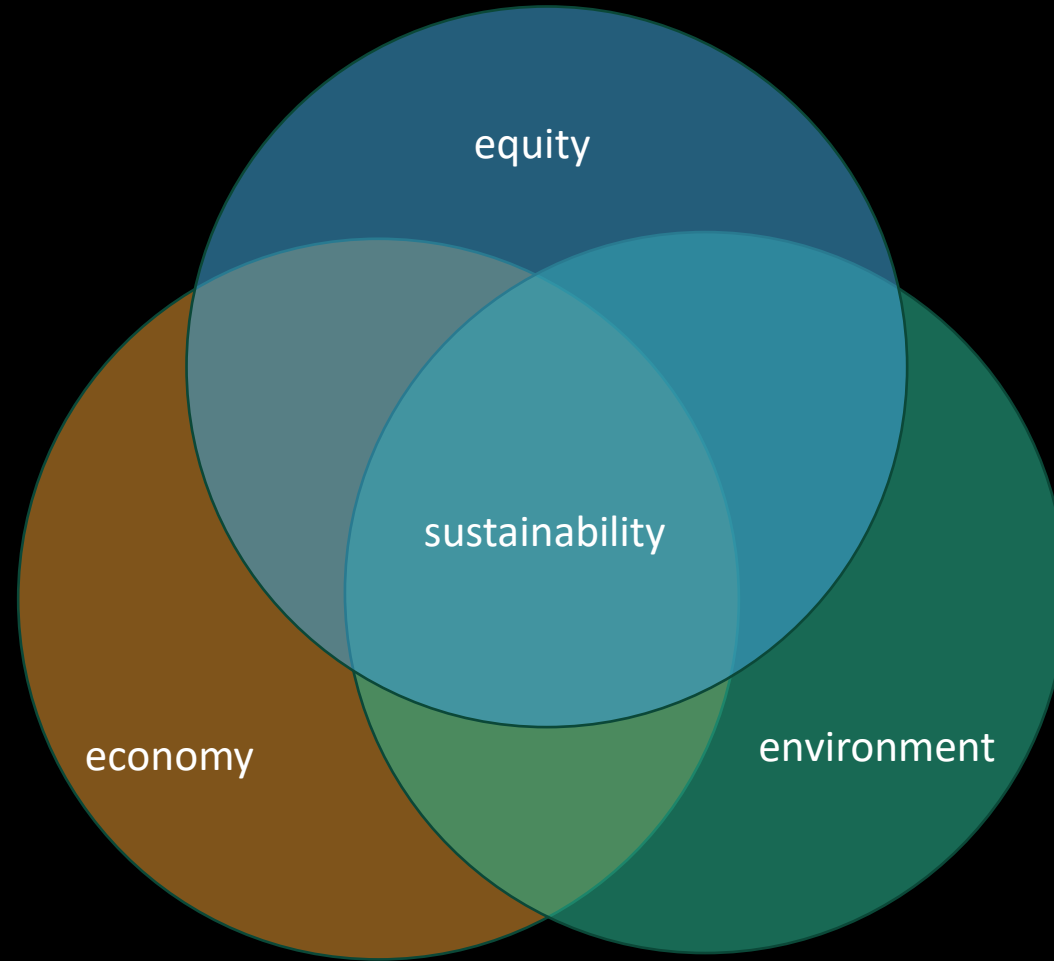
MUSICIANS AND COMMUNITIES

CONTEXTS AND CONSTRUCTS

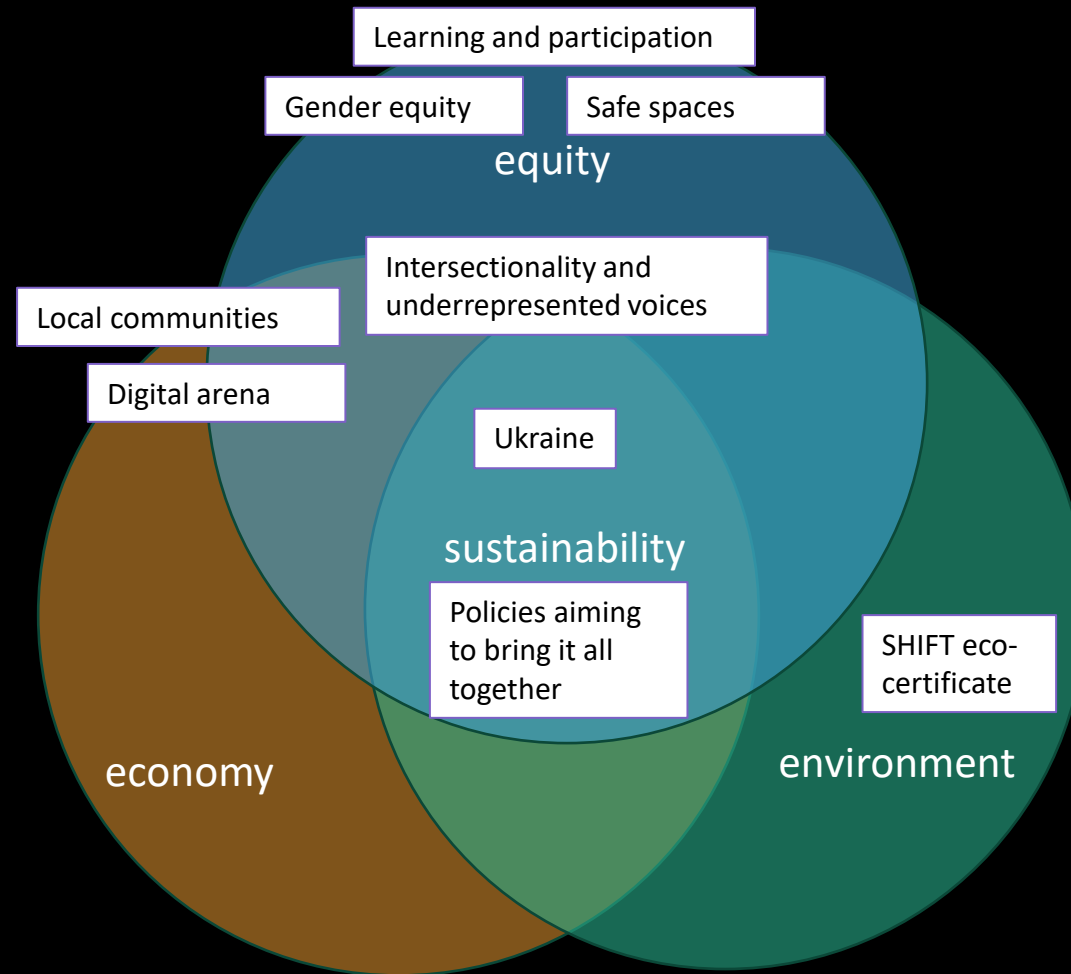
INFRASTRUCTURE AND REGULATIONS

MEDIA AND THE MUSIC INDUSTRY

Ecosystems of music: Major forces working on the sustainability of music genres across five domains (Schippers 2015)



A (very!) rough mapping of some topics at European Forum on Music 2023



A (very!) rough mapping of some topics at European Forum on Music 2023



Greta Thunberg speaking a rally in Glasgow during COP26, November 2021

Competing crises in the music sector:

Cuts to the arts



Onni Gust @onni_gust · 16h ...

UKHE is being burnt to the ground. Solidarity with many brilliant colleagues at DMU, Roehampton, Leicester, Wolverhampton, Dundee, Goldsmiths, who are facing/have been facing redundancy.

2 104 476



Based on your likes · [See more](#) X

Dr Caroline Edw... @the_bloc... · 16h ...

Hearing the news coming out of Roehampton, Wolverhampton, De Montfort (& maybe Dundee) about mass redundancies in Arts & Humanities subjects makes me feel physically sick. This is a cultural war against critical thinking in the UK university sector, make no mistake. 1/

13 422 1,551

Creative work force conditions



Crispin Hunt Retweeted

Alan Graha... @agraham9... · May 17 ...

Replying to @jamesearmusic @crispinhunt and @CMAgovUK

Something very bad happened in the past decade. I don't know exactly when, but it began this this idea of "how do artists get paid more" but ended with "let's lock everything away except for a select few".

If we're not careful, art will be fully ruined for everyone but the rich.

1 1 5



Stressed Musi... @sadmusic... · 13h ...

I just quit my job and damn it felt good. Several of my students are torn up & although it breaks my heart, it's nice to know I was able to create strong relationships during such a short time. I also refuse to feel guilty that this isn't "enough" to keep me at a toxic school.

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Bigger issues impacting music: cost of living, health, biosphere

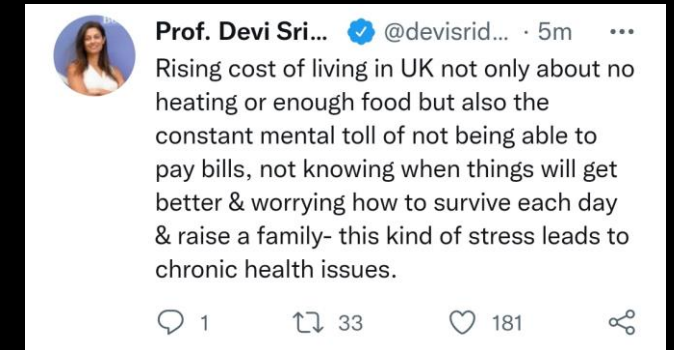


Avani Dias @AvaniDias · May 18 ...

Climate change has barely come up in the Australian election campaign. As Delhi continues to face 47 degrees in a heatwave while glaciers in the Himalayas melt, tonight on @abc730 our story w people on the frontline of the **climate crisis** who want countries like **Australia** to act.



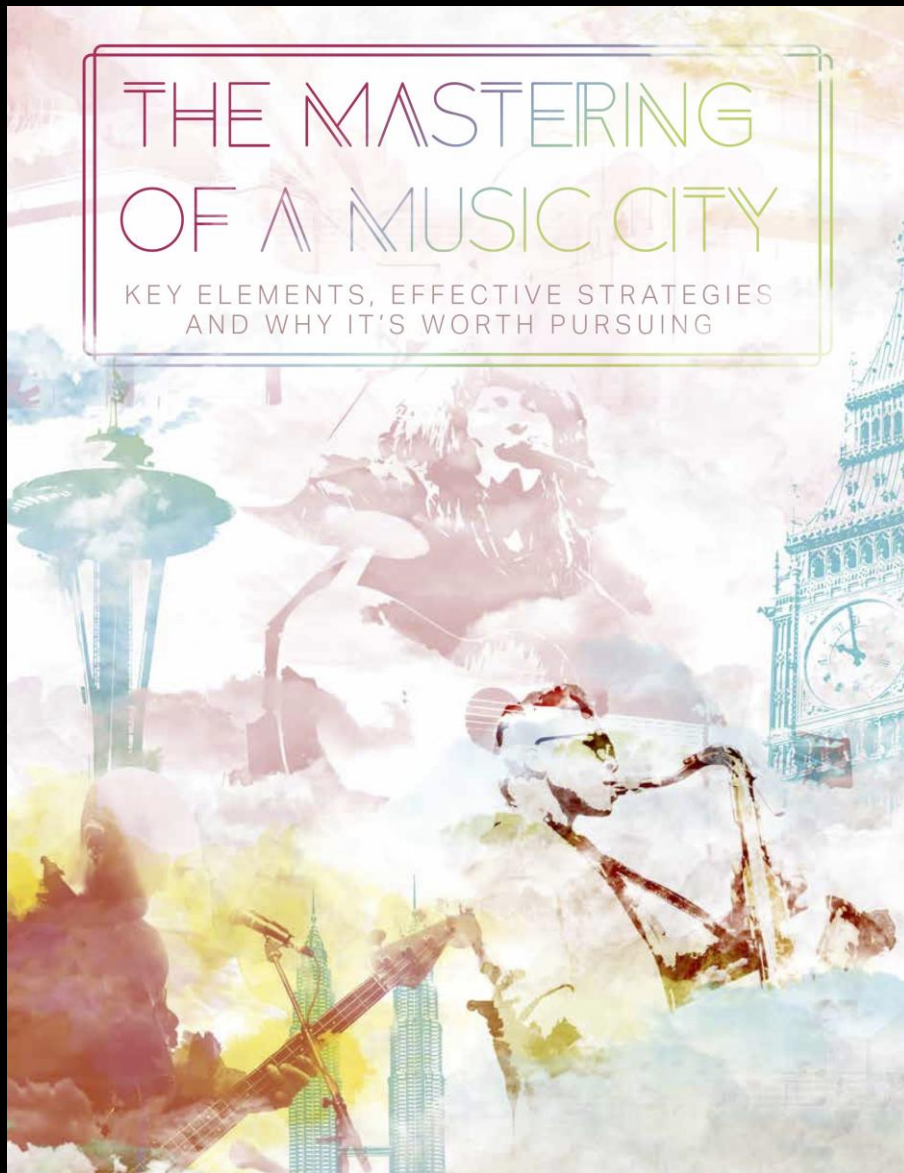
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Prof. Devi Sri... @devisrid... · 5m ...

Rising cost of living in UK not only about no heating or enough food but also the constant mental toll of not being able to pay bills, not knowing when things will get better & worrying how to survive each day & raise a family- this kind of stress leads to chronic health issues.

1 33 181



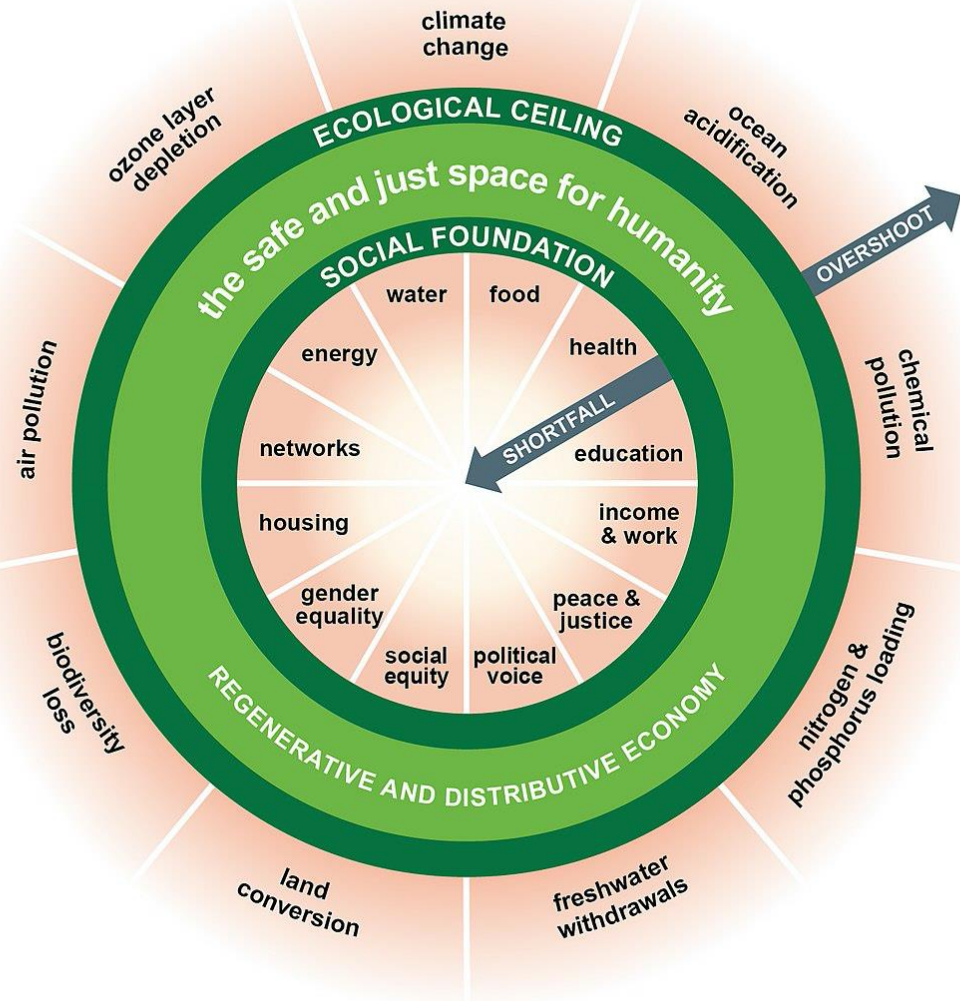
There is nothing like music as a means to connect people, bridge linguistic and cultural divides and provide an avenue for identity and expression. Music is a transformative experience.

Collectively, the music **ecosystem** generates rich social, cultural and economic benefits.

Cities are increasingly assigning importance to these advantages and working with their music communities to accelerate the growth of the music economy, and identify and eliminate barriers. Small or large, they have the potential to become Music Cities.

(Terrill *et al* 2015, p.13)

The rise of 'music ecosystems' as a policy concept



The Doughnut:
 'a social foundation of well-being that no one should fall below, and an ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that we should not go beyond. Between the two lies a safe and just space for all.' (Raworth 2017: 11)

A Music Doughnut is 'a sustainable system for musical life that contributes to a social foundation of well-being that no one should fall below, while respecting the ecological ceiling of planetary pressure that we should not go beyond. Between the two lies a safe and just musical space for all.'

My attempt at a definition for a 'Music Doughnut' (based on Raworth 2017)



Remarks on Utopia in the Age of Climate Change

Kim Stanley Robinson

ABSTRACT

Kim Stanley Robinson gives an account of his utopian novels and evaluates the current moment for its utopian potential and utopian opportunities.

KEYWORD: *science fiction, utopia, climate change, Kim Stanley Robinson*

I came to utopia by accident, having painted myself into a corner with an idea for a trilogy: three science fiction novels consisting of an after-the-fall novel, a dystopia, and a utopia, all set in the same place and about the same distance into the future. The idea came to me in 1972, and I didn't know how to write a novel then, so the plan needed brooding on. Some sixteen years later, the time came for the utopia. I had written the after-the-fall novel, *The Wild Shore*, and the dystopia, *The Gold Coast*. The utopia was the only one left.

By that time many aspects of it had been determined by the previous two books. I needed it to be in Orange County, California; I needed it to be fifty years in the future; and I needed to include the old man who had also been a character in the other two stories, so that he would have three lives,

Utopian Studies, Vol. 27, No. 1, 2016

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2011

ONE OF BARACK OBAMA'S
FAVOURITE BOOKS OF THE YEAR

THE MINISTRY FOR THE FUTURE

KIM STANLEY
ROBINSON

'A novel that presents a rousing vision of how we might unite to overcome the greatest challenge of our time'

TED.com

2020

New concepts for music and sustainability: Musical utopias

'Turn Up The Volume' Survey 2022



'Turn Up the Volume' Survey

Music Fan Attitudes towards Climate Change & Music Sustainability

INITIAL REPORT

By Daniel Shaw, Matt Brennan, David McKeever, Mark Wong

9th May 2022

- Partnership with Music Declares Emergency and Beggars Group
- Commissioned YouGov to survey over 2,000 adults across the UK (a nationally representative sample of British adults in terms of age, gender, social class and education)
- On climate change, the poll found that 82% of music fans were concerned about climate change compared to 72% of non-music fans. These figures are broken down as 42% of music fans were “very concerned” and 40% “fairly concerned” compared to 31% non-music fans being “very” or 41% being “fairly” concerned.
- While both music fans and non-fans tend to see climate change as an important issue which should be addressed, music fans are significantly more likely to view it as a top priority with 54% of music fans agreeing that “tackling climate change should be a top priority now, above other issues” as compared to 47% of non-fans.



RE | SHAPING POLICIES FOR CREATIVITY

Addressing
culture as a global
public good

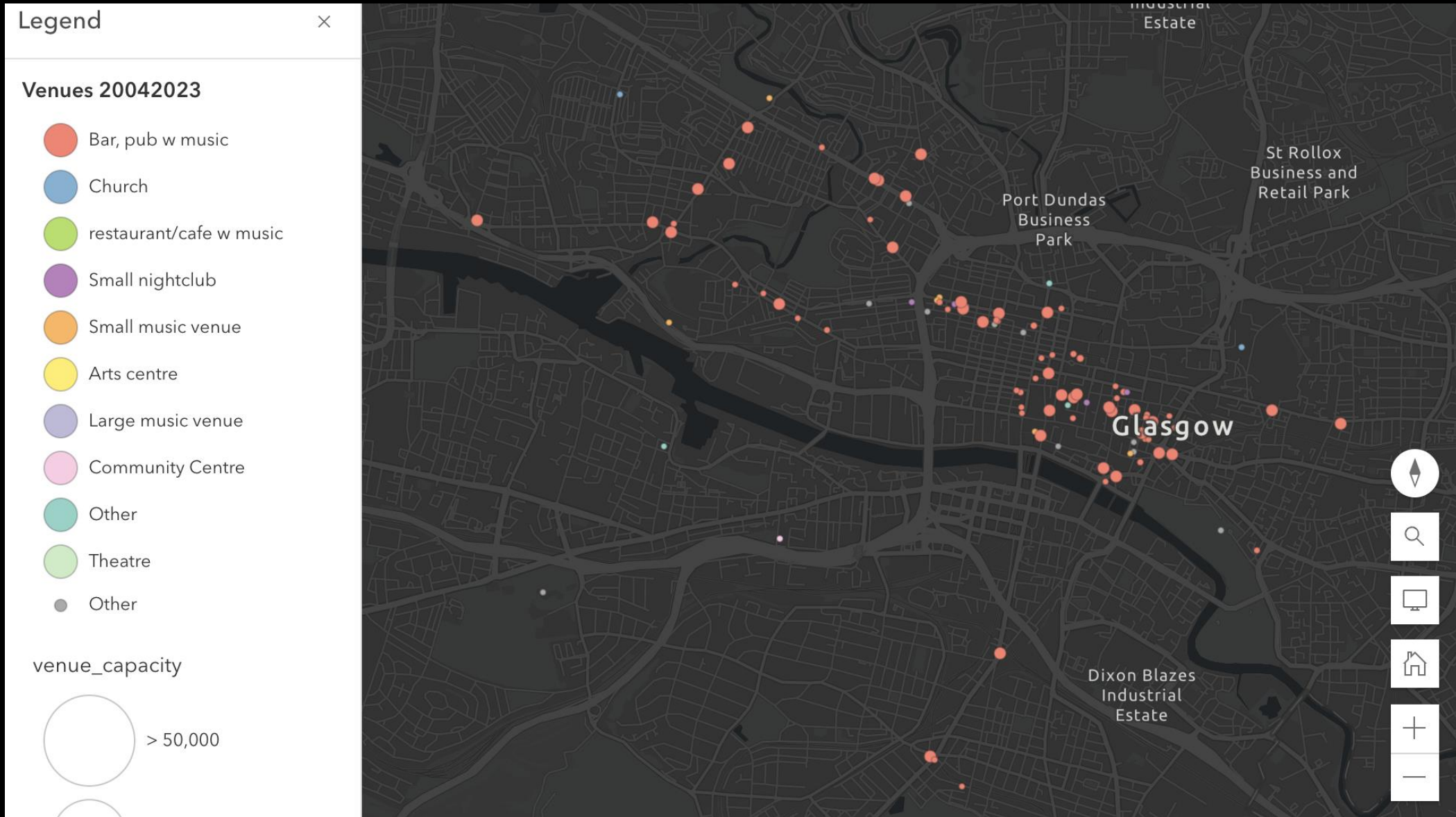
Imagining a just and green future for music cities

The case of Glasgow as a UNESCO City of Music

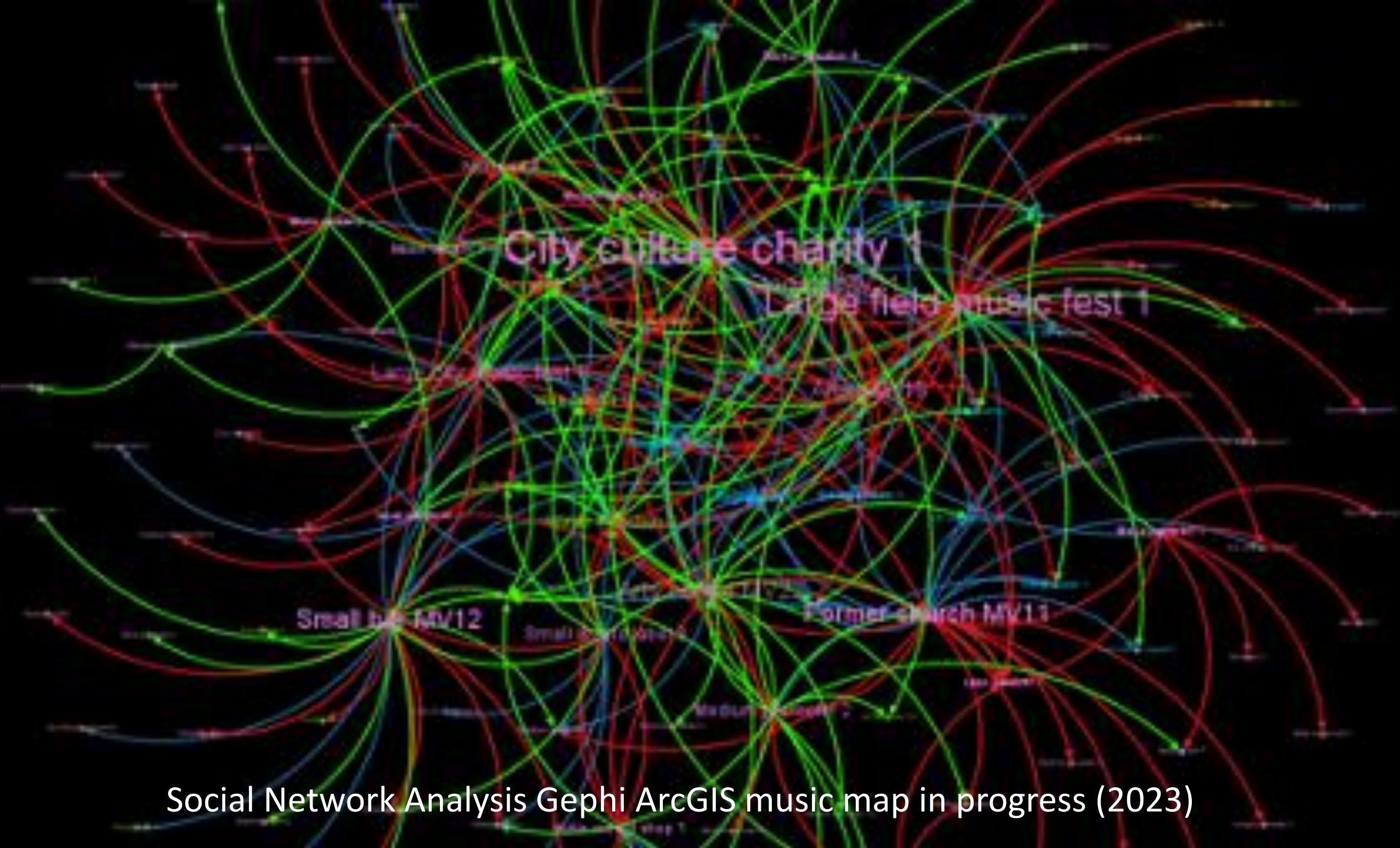


My research questions:

What does a 'just and green transition' mean in the context of a city's music sector?
How can music activity be integrated into the city's wider just and green transition strategy?



Geo-spatial ArcGIS music map in progress (2023)



Social Network Analysis Gephi ArcGIS music map in progress (2023)

Conclusion

Sustain Music:

- As a form of human expression (cultural)
- In a way that is fair, diverse, and inclusive (equity)
- As a form of meaningful work at the individual, community and sectoral levels (economic)
- As part of, and a means to participate in, the larger existential project of sustaining a habitable earth for future generations and mitigating climate catastrophe (environmental)
- Or something else entirely! (insert your own concept here)

Thanks for listening!

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