

# Reflections as an LCC Changemaker

2025

By Cassia Clarke

Cassia Clarke graduated with a bachelor's degree in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography (2020-2023) and was part of the second cohort of LCC Changemakers, and remained in the role for four years. In Cassia's first year in the role, she worked on the Photography programme, and then moved over to the Sound and Music programme, for the remaining three years. Outside of her Changemaker responsibilities, Cassia is a Support Worker for UAL's Disability Service, an independent Community Archivist and Artist Educator.

## **Extended Description**

Against a charcoal blue background, three white boxes with select years are connected with maze-like pathways, containing chaotic orange lines and dots. The lines represent my journey, the physical and emotional chaos of navigating new spaces, while the dots show periods of personal reflection points, and in some cases, my doubts.

The diagram is a visual representation of my reflections as a Changemaker – I entered into the position ready and optimistic, with limited knowledge of what looking behind the curtain truly entailed. Following the completion of my first year, I was determined to remain in the role as it was an eventful and fulfilling experience. I had a hand in many things – from Programme work, to contributing to staff briefings and conferences, to co-hosting talks with UAL's international and national contacts, such as Senac University in São Paulo.

As a student who struggled through university and contemplated dropping out, the work I and my peers were doing weighed heavy on my heart. But, between 2022 and 2024, the diagram shows more chaotic movement and reflection points, as it was during this period that doubt and the constant headbutting started to take its toll on my enthusiasm and drive.

It can be accepted that change is needed, but in many instances, change is slow, and within that slowness, frustration grows.

I found myself for the first time questioning my position in all of this – Is this what I signed up for? There were many moments of being lost in the ‘behind the curtain’ maze. This was my first ever job, and even before being taken on, I questioned whether I was worthy of it. I think my connection to this role clouded something important – the need to truly ask myself if staying was still right for me. I still believe in what Changemakers stand for. But maybe... maybe I had outgrown this space.

There is no denying how this role has shaped me – my colleagues held me together in a space I felt I did not belong in. The trust required to be here has been such an uplifting feeling. I chose to stay on this academic year (2024-2025) because I trust that my younger self entered into this position for a reason and with so much hope, and I would hate to leave with less.

The best advice I could give to the next Changemaker stepping into the maze is to expect turbulence, but to hold on to your why. Why did I apply? Why did I accept the job offer? And, why do I remain here? Your answers might change, but the act of asking might help you stay grounded in what you need.