

## Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Sheffield City Hall, Vincent Harris Suite.**

Attending: Dan Bates (Chair - Sheffield Theatres); Ian Wild (Showroom/Workstation); Vanessa Toulmin (UoS); Andrew Snelling (SCT/SIV); John Hamshere (SIMT); Chris Harvey (Museums Sheffield); Mary Heyler (Sheffield Music Hub); Kate Dore (Yorkshire Artspace); Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Neil Jones (Urban Design); Rebecca Maddox (SCC – Minutes).

Visitors: Andi Stamp (Merlin Theatre); Simon Green (SCC Executive Director of Place)

Apologies: Mary Nash (SY Dance Hub); Jo Lettin (SY Dance Hub); Paul Billington (SCC); Kim Streets (Museums Sheffield); Sally Wade (SHU); Tracey Lancaster (SHU); Brendan Moffett (Marketing Sheffield).

	<b>Actions</b>	<b>By</b>
1.	<p><b>Andi Stamp, Merlin Theatre Fundraiser</b></p> <p>Following a flood 5 years ago, the Merlin Theatre has undergone a £1.2m renovation which is almost complete. It sits in the grounds of Tintagel House in Nether Edge, which has a strong heritage of penny concerts and inclusive arts, and is now run as a partnership between Freeman College and Brantwood Specialist School. The theatre seats 214, with an octagonal arts and meeting room above, and service areas below. The building will be a community venue and a centre for special needs theatre. Work should be complete by October, with a formal opening in January 16. The Merlin is keen to work closely with The Montgomery and Sheffield Theatres, and it would be great to involve the Merlin in 2016 Year of Making. There are plans for an Art and Ecology Performing Arts Festival. Mary suggested a link up with Bents Green Specialist School, who have a strong music department.</p> <p>Consortium members would be keen to visit the Merlin once works are complete.</p>	<p><b>Rebecca to arrange with Andi</b></p>
2.	<p><b>Simon Green, SCC Executive Director of Place</b></p> <p>Simon expressed his support for the Consortium’s work, and reflected on the importance of Sheffield as a creative city, with a cultural offer which attracts and retains talent.</p> <p>Dan summarized the Consortium’s current activity, including the website, Cultural Destinations, the Creative Guild, links to What Next? Sheffield, the SNAP Network and 2016 Year of Making.</p> <p>Mary reported that the Music Hub and the Halle are working closely together for the Schools Concert next spring. This autumn, the Halle will be performing at the City Hall on the opening night of the first Classical Sheffield Festival.</p> <p>Vanessa updated on plans for the 2016 Year of Making. All partner activity will be branded under the Year of Making banner, with additional funding being sought from the University of Sheffield, Arts Council and other sources. Simon is keen to see a legacy for the Year of Making.</p> <p>The Castlegate Festival takes place this weekend 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> June.</p>	

	Vanessa and Kim are Sheffield's reps on the Northern Partnership, a consortium of arts organisations across Northern England.	
3.	<p><b>Minutes and matters arising</b></p> <p>The minutes were agreed as an accurate record.</p> <p>The Showroom has been asked to apply for Film Archive funding from the BFI.</p> <p>Rebecca circulated a paper draft of the proposed accessibility audit, which will be circulated to all members by the end of next week. We will do a separate audit on diversity.</p> <p>Outdoor poster contract – the financial model for this is still being developed. This will be a standing item until the new system comes into play.</p> <p>Dan is awaiting further information on the City Smart Lab project.</p> <p>There was a successful launch event for the Business Improvement District this week, with 100 businesses attending. Both Universities have an automatic place on the BID Board, but there will be elections for the rest of the places, and a proposal to have a cultural rep. A marketing company has been asked to assess the city centre to generate ideas. The BID Manager will be appointed next month, from a field of 16. We will invite them to a future meeting.</p> <p>Doc/Fest went really well and smoothly this year, with a further increase in industry delegates. Congratulations to Mark Atkin, Interim Director, and the team.</p>	<p>Rebecca</p> <p>Rebecca</p>
4.	<p><b>Review of Membership</b></p> <p>Heather Croall had been invited to join the Consortium as a Creative and Digital rep. However, it was agreed that Dan will meet up with her successor, Liz McIntyre, and invite her as a Doc/Fest rep in its own right.</p> <p>It was also agreed to invite the Chair of the new Digital Media Exchange to attend once or twice a year.</p> <p>Rebecca to discuss dance membership with Mary and Jo.</p>	<p>Dan</p> <p>Rebecca</p> <p>Rebecca</p>
5.	<p><b>Activity Updates</b></p> <p><i>2016 Year of Making</i></p> <p>The outcome of a bid for funds to the University of Sheffield will be known soon. Vanessa is negotiating the use of a city centre venue which can be used throughout the year by festivals and partners. Kim is submitting an ACE Ambition for Excellence Fund expression of interest. It was suggested that Emma England from RIBA should be invited onto the YOM Advisory Panel.</p> <p><i>Sheffield Creative Guild</i></p> <p>The Guild has now been registered as a Limited Company; the Board has set up</p>	

	<p>several sub groups; and it is planned to launch the Guild for membership in September.</p> <p><i>Cultural Destinations Project</i> Rebecca and Wendy Ulyett attended a meeting of all 10 Cultural Destinations projects at the Tourism Society Conference on 1<sup>st</sup>/2<sup>nd</sup> June. There will be an overall evaluation process which the Sheffield project will be part of.</p> <p><i>Yorkshire Festival</i> Interviews for a Festival Director are in process. Dan, Brendan, Tracey and Rebecca to meet to discuss Sheffield's position.</p> <p><i>Park Hill</i> The Economic Impact Study for the Duke Street building is taking place, and Dan, Judith, Kate and Kim will all be consulted. The group agreed that the Central Library and Graves Gallery should be seen as the No 1 capital project for the city. Paul Billington will be asked to update on the Central Library project at the next meeting.</p>	<p>Rebecca</p> <p>Paul Billington</p>
6.	<p><b>AOB</b> Chris updated on the London press launch for the 'Going Public' collectors exhibition, which has had great coverage in the art press and an excellent full page article in the Guardian today.</p> <p>John has been successful in 10/10 bids to Heritage Lottery, this one to celebrate the role of the city and the River Don Engine in manufacturing steel clad battleships for the Battle of Jutland in 1916. Congratulations! There may be good ways to link this to the Year of Making.</p> <p>The Showroom is developing a national engagement programme for the film 'Suffragette', which comes out in the Autumn.</p> <p>Kate reported that S1 Artspace, Site Gallery and Yorkshire Artspace had jointly drafted a discussion piece in the Sheffield Telegraph, on the lack of interest shown by city businesses in supporting the arts. There has been no response!</p> <p>Dan will write to congratulate Deborah Egan on her OBE.</p>	
7.	<p>Date of next meeting:</p> <p><b>Friday 31st July, 9.30 – 11.30, Vincent Harris Suite, City Hall</b></p> <p>NB The October Culture Consortium meeting will now be on <b>Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October</b> (moved from 30<sup>th</sup> October), in the Creative Sheffield Board Room, 2nd Floor, 11 Broad St West, Sheffield S1 2BQ (map will be provided nearer the time!)</p>	

