**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 26 March 2021**

**Attending**: Jo Towler (Music in the Round), Wendy Ulyett (Marketing Sheffield), Rebecca Maddox (SCC), Laura Clarke (Art Catalyst), Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres), Corrigan Lowe (Doc/Fest), Georgina Kettlewell (YAS) , Jeff Green (SHU), Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries), Jane Shields (Sheffield Creative Guild), Sara Unwin (UoS), Vanessa Toulmin (UoS), Andrew Snelling (Sheffield City Trust), Judith Harry (Site Gallery), Ian Wild (Showroom/Workstation), Janet Jennings (Museums Sheffield).

**Visiting**: Rose Wilcox, The Leadmill

**Apologies:** Kim Streets (Museums Sheffield), Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), Cintia Gil (Sheffield Doc/Fest).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and intros**  Jo Towler (Vice Chair) is standing in for Kim as Chair today, due to the final Board meetings for Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust and Museums Sheffield, plus the inaugural Board for the new joint Sheffield Museums Trust. Congratulations!  Laura Clarke from Arts Catalyst was officially welcomed as a member the CC.   Welcome to Rose Wilcox from The Leadmill, who is attending with a view to joining the CC. The Leadmill is developing its leadership role for music venues and is linking into wider activity in the city and region, with collaborations, wider programming and commissions. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**  The Minutes from the March meeting were accepted.  Another **Covid briefing** with Greg Fell (Director of Public Health) for cultural organisations will take place soon.  **NPOs in Sheffield + Culture Collective** The Culture Collective was formed last year from a national Cultural Compact initiative. This is a private sector-led group with wider remit than the Culture Consortium. The Collective are about to launch their strategy with one of their aims being to support and grow the number of NPOs in the city. Karen Durham from ACE is keen to see more NPO applications from Sheffield. The Collective have indicated that they can support with advice, letters of support and mentoring; potential options for match funding support are still being explored.  Any support needs to fit within ACE NPO application timetables and be open and equitable.  **BID (Business improvement district)** Successful vote to continue the BID for the next five years. Dan Bates is willing to be rep for culture on the Board.  **Freelancer fund** 83 applications funded with the £77k available. 273 applications received with a value of £276k. Site Gallery are now starting to process payments.  Focus of applications was on equipment and software, but also collaborations to support other artists or the wider community, and training.  **Future High Streets Fund** The focus of the bid is Fargate and High Street, and will complement all the other development work taking place in the city centre (Heart of the City II; Castlegate; John Lewis options). The Event Central building on Fargate is being acquired. |  |
| **3.** | **Diana Buckley, Emma France and Sarah Lowi Jones** – Sheffield City Council, City Growth  Diana, Emma and Sarah attended to give details on the new Recovery fund. This was launched a week ago and aims to support collaborative activity in the city centre and districts across Sheffield to encourage footfall and vibrancy.  There are two funding strands: Small pot - up to 50k. This is on a rolling basis with no deadline. Larger applications – up to £200k – This has an EoI deadline of 30 April, with a second round likely. Examples might include: - A group of pubs wanting to programme live music  - A series of new street art commissions across the city Diana’s team can support the development of EoIs, suggest partners and give intros to e.g licencing colleagues. Including a management fee in the budget is fine... 5-20% dependent on how much is applied for and what is being undertaken.  **Sheffield City Region**  There have been discussions with Kate Brindley at Sheffield City Region on the potential for other ring fenced funding for culture, including for freelancers.   Kate is working with Culture officers in Rotherham, Barnsley, Doncaster and Sheffield to develop a culture strategy for the City Region. | **Set up sub-group discussion** |
| **4.** | **Reopening plans**  Judith – **Site Gallery** will open 17 May with the cafe and shop, not exhibitions. Summer programme will start with Doc/Fest 4 June and the Alternate Realities exhibition. Expecting local audience, rather than national/international. This will be followed by a show with CMC in July, and local artists exhibition in August in collaboration with YAS and Bloc.  Corrigan – **Doc/Fest** 4 June to 13 June - including public screening days. Mainly local audiences expected. Hybrid events: some online, some live. Industry activity mainly online to prevent travel. Reduced capacity, some exhibitions at Site Gallery, but also exploring other venues, outdoor spaces etc.  Emma – **SCC** - National events research programme re Covid re-opening starts 12 April, with a number of events across the UK including snooker In Sheffield. Audiences will have a test before and after the event, with data influencing decisions for 17 May. Larger events likely to be allowed post 21 June and guidance is being developed.  Emma is happy to respond to any questions related reopening.  Jo – **Music in the Round** have launched first podcast to be released every Friday in run up to their South Yorkshire Chamber Music Festival, online from 15 May and recorded in Sheffield, Barnsley and Doncaster. Hoping to be back in venues in August and complete the autumn season by Nov to avoid any Winter Covid spike.  Sara – **Off the Shelf** is the last 2 weeks in October. It will be a blended festival with online and digital delivery and 50% capacity live events planned. Speakers do want to travel. Audience confidence needs to be considered. It’s the 30th anniversary and there will be 30 events – with a key event in each town in the region.  Jane – **Creative Guild’s** new website will be launched in the next few weeks and the Guild are planning a programme including mentoring, and events in Orchard Square including markets or gigs, poetry reading, dance. What Next? Sheffield meeting will take place on Zoom on 12 May.  Georgina – **YAS** undergoing a restructuring process. Looking to better understand audiences for YAS’s activity. Future projects may include: a community kiln facility for ceramicists regionally; hosting Sheffield Printworks; using all spaces to greatest benefit, including for non-studio holders. Plan for Hanne Westerhard window exhibition in April and local artists with Site Gallery in the summer.  Laura – **Arts Catalyst** are undertaking internal development, fundraising and Board development. About to advertise 2x P/T roles - programme and community coordinator and admin role. Programme is currently online.  Ian - reopening **Workstation** 12 April and then **Showroom Cinema** and cafe bar 17 May. A full programme is planned: 4 shows a day in all screens and events planned: Celluloid Screams, London Film Festival on tour, Doc/Fest. The Residential Academy in June will mostly be online. Conferencing will restart according to guidance; new staff are being recruited.  Andrew – **Sheffield City Trust** – The Arena is 30 this year, and there will be a celebration when possible. Most events likely from the Autumn, all depending on Roadmap guidance. Results from test events will be important.  Rose – **The Leadmill** is working to similar timescales – the diary is full Oct to May. Planning socially distanced events from May and June. VAT reduction has really helped to support the business, as has people not asking for refunds and being flexible.  Vanessa – **UoS** - no events in the Uni until Dec. There will be a pop up outdoor events with SCC in Tudor Square, Winter Garden, Art in the Garden, Off the Shelf. Uni reopening as soon as possible, aim to get people back on campus 21 June.  Online digital platform in development.  Jeff - **SHU** - Degree Shows will be online across art and design. Planning how to deliver courses next year with social distancing restrictions still likely. Equality, diversity and inclusion roles are being introduced across every department.  Nick – **Libraries** will be re-opening to the public as soon as allowed. |  |
| **5.** | **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**  The Culture Consortium – as a group, and as individual members – want to help provide leadership and best practice for the sector. Black Lives Matter has been an important spur, and we need to consider all elements of equality, diversity and inclusion.  It would be useful to link with the work of SCC’s Race Equality Commission, and submit a report to their July hearing. | Set up training event |
| **5.** | **AOB**  Laura suggested holding joint Mental Health First Aider training - Georgina, Jane and Corrigan were interested and we will include this on the next agenda.  The current Culture Consortium Plan runs from 2017 – 2022. Jo noted that this will be a good time to update it, with learning about equalities, digital developments and the effects of Covid. While we will have an Away Day in December, it would be good to start discussing the new Plan before this.  The Festivals Mentoring Group are holding a Showcase event on the first weekend in September. This could be a good time to hold a Consortium public event.  An ACE bid for Darnall Community of Culture Stage 2 is being submitted. This project grew out of the Consortium’s Away Day in 2017, and an initial phase of creative community consultation by Ignite Imaginations, with Darnall Well Being, has informed the next stage of the bid.  The Northern Cultural All-Party Parliamentary Group is calling for evidence on the impact of Covid on culture, and need. The University of Sheffield will be submitting their UKRI project data. A recent APPG meeting did not reference Sheffield sufficiently.  With reference to the Consortium’s wellbeing priority, Rebecca is supporting a Wellbeing and Arts Conference being co-ordinated by Ignite Imaginations, with input from Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, on Wednesday 12th May 10am – 1.00pm.  David Gilbert has been appointed Director of Bloc Projects, following David McLeavy’s departure.  Wendy and Rebecca have been discussing the future of Our Favourite Places with Claire Thornley. A City Region-wide meeting is being set up with Kate Brindley. | **All to submit individually and via Kate Brindley** |
| **6.** | **Next meeting:**  Zoom Meeting Friday April 30th, 11.30-13.30 |  |