**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 30 April 2021**

**Attending**: Kim Streets (Museums Sheffield - Chair); Jo Towler (Music in the Round), Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), Wendy Ulyett (Marketing Sheffield), Rebecca Maddox (SCC), Laura Clarke (Art Catalyst), Corrigan Lowe (Doc/Fest), Geff Green (SHU), 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); David Gilbert (Bloc Projects)

**Apologies:**, Cintia Gil (Sheffield Doc/Fest), Georgina Kettlewell (YAS), Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres); Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries)

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|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and intros**David Gilbert has taken over from David McLeavy at Bloc Projects, and outlined some of Bloc Project’s future plans. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes and Matters Arising**The Minutes from the March meeting were accepted.A discussion session on the Recovery Fund took place on 23rd April.A Race Code seminar/discussion has been arranged for 14th May. |  |
| **3.** | **Community Renewal Fund, Sheffield Business Recovery grants and Sheffield Recovery Fund**The **Community Renewal Fund** is national funding, with a very short deadline, requiring bids of at least £500k and spend by the end of March 2022. Tech, innovation and skills are strong themes, thought there is a wellbeing and place focus as well. Both universities are likely to bid for this. Vanessa reported on an additional £2m of City Region **Business Recovery Grants**, to help businesses to trade outside; for digital innovation; a productivity scheme; and a capital investment scheme.Kate Brindley (Project Director Culture, Arts and Heritage at Sheffield City Region) is working on a scheme specifically for culture in South Yorkshire.**Sheffield Recovery Fund -** to support collaborative activity in the city centre and districts across Sheffield to encourage footfall and vibrancy. The EOI deadline for larger applications (up to £200k) was today (second round likely), but the up to £50k strand is ongoing.A number of Consortium members are planning bids. Discuss any ideas with sarah.lowijones@sheffield.gov.uk | **Vanessa to circulate notes** |
| **4.**  | **Mental Health First Aid**Laura Clarke has been researching options for Mental Health First Aider training, including from Mental Health First Aid England, St John Ambulance and MIND.Jo has had good online training with a Manchester organisation; Sheffield Museums have used the St John Ambulance programme.Costs per trainee can be high, but this would be a really good thing for Consortium members to do jointly. First Aid For All UK do group sessions for 12 people.There was a discussion on how people have been supporting staff while on furlough and as they start to return, including through informal newsletters, re-induction on site, sorting out passwords, H&S training, encouraging staff to book in-person meetings, developing hybrid working patterns. | **Laura, Jo, Kirstie to send info to Rebecca** |
| **5.** | **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion**Jane, Judith and Kim attended an excellent event by Voluntary Action Sheffield on the Race Code, for good governance and representation. Consortium members are invited to an informal session on May 14th to discuss and build on this for our own organisations. We may bring in an expert facilitator after this.Learning from Black Lives Matter is essential, and we need to be working for equality, diversity and inclusion across the board. | **Rebecca to circ Race Code and Charity Commission Code of Good Governance** |
| **6.** | **Updating the Culture Consortium Plan**The current CC Plan runs from 2017 to 2022. While the core ambitions are still valid, much has changed, and we would want much more emphasis on equalities and environment crisis. There are many other plans and strategies being developed, including for the Sheffield Culture Collective, the City Region and the City Council.We may need to meet with other groups / could be a wider meeting at some stage; use facilitation to create focus. | **Rebecca to circulate current plan – ALL to read and comment****Rebecca to invite CC members inc Jane, Laura and Sara to an initial meeting at Kelham Island** |
| **7.** | **Organisational Updates****Sara** attended Northern Cultural Network workshop (cultural consortia across the North) on behalf of the Consortium on 22 April. Participants agreed that the Network has a role in advocacy, talent development, a narrative for the North, independent voice, collaboration, diversity – and needs resource to support it. 92% voted to continue - funding will be sought.**Vanessa** reported that Clare Devaney, Strategic Lead for Place and Culture with the NP11 (Northern Powerhouse) is now in post, part-funded by ACE. She is reporting on culture for the LEPs.**APPG call for Evidence** (Northern Cultural All-Party Parliamentary Group) on Covid impacts and recovery – do respond as organisations, and copy to Kate Brindley and Molly Axelby, who are co-ordinating a City Region response. | **Send APPG submissions** |
| **8.** | **Reopening plans****Sheffield City Trust – Andrew:** the leisure venues are now open. The Arena is a vaccination centre until July. Plans for the City Hall will be developed as appropriate.**Sheffield Creative Guild – Jane:** the team of 3 will be back in the Orchard Square office from Wednesday, with regular testing. Summer events and activity are being planned.**Sheffield Museums – Kirstie:** while some staff have been onsite most of the time, there will be further returns from 17th May with reopening at Kelham, Millennium Gallery and Weston Park on 20th May. Abbeydale Industrial Hamlet is celebrating its 51st year this year, with reopening from 29 May. Shepherd Wheel will reopen from 5th June.**Showroom/Workstation – Ian:** The Workstation is already open and retaining tenants; the cinema and café will open on 17th May, within initial capacity of 25%. This is not sustainable long-term, but will be reviewed from June 21st.**Doc/Fest – Corrigan:** The programme launch will take place mid-May for the June 4th-13th festival. Testing and covid-safe measures will be carried out.**Arts Catalyst – Laura:** the team of 3 will become5 soon! The Radio Arts Catalyst podcast is starting, with Ashley Holmes; the Calder project continues; AC are co-curating an exhibition by Gary Zhang with Bloc.**Visual Art Panel – Janet:**  following the Freelance Fund activity, Janet is focusing on the VAP, which is part of the Making Ways legacy. The group is developing a Code of Conduct for visual arts organisations, discussing a new art festival, and looking to map artists across the city to improve networking.**Music in the Round – Jo:** The Sheffield Chamber Music Festival starts on May 11th, live but also on the website. There may be outdoor concerts in August, and hopefully an Autumn Season in the Upper Chapel or Crucible Studio. Capacity is a conundrum! The team’s office in the library is still shut. Jo also represents Create Sheffield, Classical Sheffield, the Music Hub and the City Region Music Board.**Sheffield Hallam – Geff:** Most teaching will be in-person from September. 3 awards gained for student films. New Masters courses are being offered in photography, computer animation and game animation. Degree Shows will be online.**The Leadmill – Rose:** The pavement Beer Garden is going well! The Leadmill has featured in Absolute Radio and Sky Arts features about music venues in covid. An ACE Project Grant is supporting programming and a sound system. A project with Jo and the Music Hub is developing a commercial classical strand with the Senor Youth Orchestra and Hive. There will be 25 socially-distanced events from 17th May, supported by CRF.**Bloc Projects – David:** A series of Wednesday evening seminars are interrogating ACE investment principles. Sunshine Wong is working with Sheffield Hallam Yr3 Fine Art students. |  |
| **6.** | **Next meeting:** Zoom Meeting Friday May 21st, 11.30-13.30 |  |