**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 24 September 2021**

**Power Lab, Kelham Island Museum**

**Attending**: – Kim Streets (Sheffield Museums) - Chair; Jo Towler (Music in the Round) ; Janet Jennings (Sheffield Museums); Jane Shields (Sheffield Creative Guild), Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill); Sara Unwin (UoS); Andrew Snelling (Sheffield City Trust); Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Claudia Lastra (Art Catalyst); Rebecca Maddox (SCC).

**Apologies:** Vanessa Toulmin (UoS), Sylvia Bednarz (Doc/Fest), Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres), Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums), Georgina Kettlewell (YAS), Ian Wild (Showroom/ Workstation), Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries), Wendy Ulyett (Marketing Sheffield).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and intros**  Kim welcomed everyone to the first in-person Consortium meeting since February 2020.  Everyone shared brief updates, with common themes of staff changes/shortages, reopening with varied levels of audience, and varying audience expectations from audiences re covid measures – but a lot of positivity. |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes and Matters arising**  The minutes of the July meeting were agreed.  Actions carried forward:   * Invite Karen Durham back to the Consortium, and to arrange a visit to Sheffield, is carried forward. * Set up a joint session on Mental Health First Aid with a course provider. There will be a modest charge for this. * Set up joint meeting with Doc/Fest and Consortium to share learning on outreach programme * Further Culture Consortium Plan session to be set up   The new Consortium Plan needs to be short and readable; to show what we would want Sheffield to look like in 5 years (reflecting the context of climate emergency, Black Lives Matter and Covid recovery); and what the Consortium can specifically do, with objectives, action points and KPIs. | **RM**  **RM**  **RM**  **RM** |
| **3.** | **Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion**  Roger Wilson (Black Lives in Music) will be running a follow-up session on Building Inclusive Boards on September 30th. |  |
| **4.** | **Sheffield Culture Collective and Sheffield Culture Consortium**  The *Culture Consortium* was set up in 2011 as a dynamic alternative to a large, Sheffield City Council (SCC)-led Culture Board which lacked focus. It is made up of larger cultural organisations, both universities and relevant Council officers. The Consortium is led by the sector, not SCC, and was designed to work together on larger joint projects of city-wide benefit, to identify opportunities and collaborate. Members have been those with capacity to work for city benefit, not directly for the benefit of their own organisations. The Consortium is not well-resourced (part-time SCC officer support, £5k admin budget).  There have always been concerns that the Consortium is an exclusive, inward-looking ‘club’, despite transparency through the website, and these concerns are being strongly expressed at present.  There needs to be better engagement and conversation with the sector, including via the website and the updated Plan; and clarity on the networks which members link to, with more explicit two-way information flows.  The *Culture Collective* (Sheffield’s Cultural Cities Compact) was set up with Arts Council prompting and funding in 2019, as a result of the ‘Cultural Cities Enquiry’ on supporting culture in a post-austerity environment. It is private sector-led (Sheffield Property Association), with a wider range of partners including health and voluntary sector. The two universities, Sheffield Museums, Sheffield Theatres, the Consortium Chair and SCC sit on both groups, and have influenced the Strategy published in June 2019. The Collective has attracted senior level membership and buy-in from SCC.  The Collective is designed for advocacy and lobbying, and seeking new funding streams. They are not a delivery body. Their messaging is mainly for funders, business and politicians. Sir Bob Kerslake has taken over as Chair from Dame Julie Kenny.  The Collective and the Consortium need mechanisms for regular formal reporting e.g standing agenda item, joint meetings, Chair to attend Consortium meetings twice-yearly?  The four ambitions in the current Culture Consortium Plan were considered:   1. **Ambition for people** 2. **Ambition for creative practitioners** 3. **Ambition for infrastructure** 4. **Ambition for influence**   It was agreed that the Culture Consortium has a particular responsibility for people and creative practitioners, and that ambitions for infrastructure and influence were shared with the Collective.  It was noted that sustainability does not feature strongly enough in the Consortium’s current plan. The Sheffield Climate Change Alliance includes arts organisations – can the Consortium link with / support their work?  The Consortium is committed to holding an annual open event. The structure of monthly meetings could also change.  It would be helpful to map existing networks – there may be a missing layer? | **RM to circ Laura’s email**  **Invite Climate Change Alliance to a future meeting** |
| **5.** | **Membership**  Theatre Deli and SADACCA have requested to join the Culture Consortium. Jo and Rebecca are meeting with them both in October.  This prompted a wider discussion that members need to have:   * Capacity to act on behalf of the city * Strong links to networks * Willingness to collaborate.   It was agreed to ask each current member to provide Equal Opportunities data, and a listing of networks, to provide a baseline.  On the CC website we can show under each member the networks they link to. Members need to provide a more pro-active ‘funnel’ of advocacy and information as part of their role. |  |
| **6.** | **AOB**  Kate Brindley (Project Director for Arts, Culture and Heritage) at the South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority (prev City Region) is setting up a Strategy Development Stakeholder Group, and has asked for a rep from the Culture Consortium.  Mayor Dan Jarvis has secured £1m of regional funding for creative/cultural industries, which is being divided between the 4 boroughs, with local variation. Funds have to be spent by the end of March. There were discussions on how best to design a programme to support freelancers and creative businesses, with support for ideas which include collaboration, access and diversity.  Kim was warmly thanked for her year as Chair, and Jo was formally welcomed to the role as new Chair. | **RM to email whole group with request** |
| **8.** | **Next meeting:**  Friday 29 October, 9.30 – 11.30 venue tbc |  |