**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 25 February 2022**

**Attending**: – Jo Towler (Music in the Round) - Chair; Andrew Snelling (Sheffield City Trust); Geff Green (SHU); Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres); Georgina Kettlewell (YAS); Ian Wild (Showroom/ Workstation); Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Ryan Harston (Theatre Deli); Nathan Geering (Theatre Deli); Oriana Franceschi (Sheffield Creative Guild); Clare Stewart (Doc/Fest); Sara Unwin (UoS); Wendy Ulyett (Marketing Sheffield); Rebecca Maddox (SCC).

**Apologies:** Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill); Kim Streets (Sheffield Museums); Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums); Vanessa Toulmin (UoS); Laura Clarke (Arts Catalyst); Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries).

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Welcome and intros**  Ryan and Nathan were welcomed to the Consortium |  |
| **2.** | **Minutes and Matters arising**  The minutes of the January meeting were agreed.   * The Consortium Away Day with Shruti Bharvaga is taking place next week on 3rd March, so this will be a short meeting. * Karen Durham will attend a CC meeting once the NPO application process has concluded. * Rebecca has approached First Aid for All to set up a joint session on Mental Health First Aid – need to chase. * Invite Climate Change Alliance to a future meeting * Clare, Ian and Rebecca met re BFI funding, and have set up an initial meeting with Screen Yorkshire re a Film Strategy for Sheffield. * Jo sent a response to the City Centre Strategic Vision consultation. | **Rebecca**  **Rebecca** |
| **3.** | **Strategic Context**  Culture in the North, including Sheffield, is being given helpful strategic profile currently through the work of the Northern Cultural Network, the All Party Parliamentary Group Cultural Enquiry, NP(Northern Powerhouse) 11 Place Strategy, the visit of Lord Mendoza to Sheffield etc.  Sheffield is stronger as part of the City Region/Combined Mayoral Authority, and we need a clearer joint message about culture in the region (as Manchester seems to). Kate Brindley, SYMCA Project Director for Culture, Arts and Heritage, has an important role in helping to co-ordinate across the 4 boroughs and enable a South Yorkshire cultural strategy.  The SYMCA Cultural and Creative Industries Network being supported by the MCA and run by the Showroom.  Stronger networks, including with artists, individuals and communities, are also needed within boroughs. | **Jo to suggest different SY bullets in draft NP11 Place Strategy** |
| **4.** | **Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Plan draft**  The plan is a work in progress, which needs to be broadened out to include all protected characteristic including disability and LGBTQI+, and to take in good practice from e.g the BFI Diversity Standards.  The Plan should include joint training and anti-racism work.  The Consortium’s response to the Race Equality Commission Report needs to be meaningful, publicly stated and accountable. | **Further drafts to be produced** |
| **5.** | **Organisational Updates**  Jo noted that Arts Council England have announced a rebalancing of £16m away from London and into the regions, in 2023-25.  Organisations applying to be NPOs can indicate a willingness to move out of London. Sheffield has a lot to offer, although cultural premises are not easy to obtain. There is a danger that Sheffield can become a postal address/HQ for organisations which are delivering elsewhere and not benefitting the people of Sheffield.  Are there organisations we should be proactively inviting to relocate?  Rebecca is working with Theatre Deli, Arts Catalyst and Gut Level on a brief for a piece of work to map and challenge the cultural premises landscape in Sheffield.  Sara reported back on the £40k SY Mayor’s Fund for literature which Off the Shelf have been administering. 95 applications for £179k of support were received, with 25 diverse applicants being successful, so the process has revealed huge need. This has influenced the next Project Grant for OTS, with funds being requested for mentoring and meeting some of the needs highlighted in the applications.  Oriana reported that CADS have a large new space off London Road. The Guild is building connections across the City Region, especially in Rotherham.  Geff noted that Hallam is organising on-site degree shows and exhibitions again this year.  Andrew is leaving the Culture Consortium, but is still available to be contacted on behalf of SCT.  Nathan outlined his work running Rationale Arts, which specialises in dynamic captioning and audio description; injury prevention courses for the partially-sighted and his work with Sheffield Children’s Hospital using hip hop for rehabilitation.  Clare reported that Doc/Fest now has new Alternate Reality and Film leads, and has put out an open call for programme advisors.  Judith encouraged all Consortium members to put out messages of support for Ukraine. There is a big Ukrainian community in Sheffield.  Geff noted that Hallam is supporting both Ukrainian and Russian students at this difficult time.  Jo invited everyone to the launch of Music in the Round’s ‘Sounds of Now’ programme on 11th March, with Elaine Mitchener and Apartment House. |  |
| **8.** | **Next meeting:** |  |