**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 25 March 2022**

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

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | The purpose of this meeting was to reflect on the Consortium Away Day on 3rd March, as a single agenda item. |  |
| **2.** | Key questions arising from the Away Day:   * How can the Consortium be fit for purpose for the future? Is it still needed, and if so who are the right people to be part of its future shape? * How can we demonstrate that the Consortium is there to benefit the communities of Sheffield? * What are the good elements of the Consortium which we would want to take forward into future arrangements?   **Discussion**  Is the Consortium just the sum of its parts and what its individual members do, or something additional? The Consortium is not about individual organisations, but collective/additional activity – playing for country not club.  Successes by the Consortium include:   * 2016 Year of Making, which created an umbrella and platform for all artforms and promoted the idea of Sheffield as an inclusive City of Makers. * the Making Ways Visual Arts project, which supported 531 artists * the creation during the pandemic of the Freelancer Fund 1 and 2 using Consortium donations, City Council and City Region ARG funding. £297,000 was distributed to 150 individuals and 6 group projects, administered at no cost by Sheffield Museums and Site Gallery. * Learning from Making Ways, and the role of the Artist’s Panel, is informing the current Visual Art Group and plans for a non-hierarchical, highly participative future art festival. * Acting as a vehicle to attract additional funds for the sector.   However, all future projects need to have improved diversity and engagement built in; and include resource for clear evaluation.  The negative perception of the Consortium may come from marginalised communities who feel intimidated by the arts organisations who make up the Consortium, and who feel that the Consortium is not benefitting the public.  The Consortium has up to now been business-to-business, not public-facing. We cannot become audience-facing/carry out audience development with the resources we currently have – but would need to work via existing arts and community organisations. The Consortium has only ever had specific project funding from ACE, and currently has £2k in its accounts.  The Consortium can develop its role to tackle inequality in the city, using data to inform this. Olivier proposed developing a Rapid Improvement Plan for the Consortium.  A consortium can be useful in applying for funding e.g Place Based Partnership Fund, which requires a consortium approach. How do we root this in community need, using the expertise of communities?  Sheffield Hallam may be able to build on its role as a civic university to put additional resource into supporting the Consortium/its successor. The University of Sheffield has a well-developed civic university role, and (with SHU) has contributed funding to the Consortium in the past, and would look to do so again.  The Consortium can be a conduit for the sector to the Culture Collective.  **Way forward**  Two new aims were proposed for the Consortium/group:   * To tackle inequality in the city via culture * To make all cultures in the city visible   Proposed way forward:   * Agree the new aims * Define 5 initial target communities (of interest or place) using Index of Multiple Deprivation data. * Identify our networks and gaps in these areas * Use our networks to ask 2/3 questions to define need; and work out how to reach beyond gaps. * Craft a Place Based Partnership Fund or other bid, based on what communities have told us.   Suggested consultation questions:   * What funding do you need to support culture and arts in your neighbourhood? * What other types of support would help elevate culture in your area? (e.g skills sharing/mentoring/information/sign-posting/knowledge exchange) * If you could be supported to put on an amazing cultural event in your community, what would you like it to be? * What can we do to help you celebrate culture in your community? * What investment would you need?   This is about understanding what is needed and wanted to help get investment to these communities, but we don’t have any funding available yet.  If this way forward is agreed, we can update the website and send out a press release to explain what is being done. Issues of the group name, membership, wider networks and meeting formats will need further discussion. | **Olivier has sent RIP example** |
| **8.** | **Next meeting: Friday 29 April, 9.30-11.30 on Zoom** |  |