**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium Zoom**

**Friday 25 April 2022**

**Attending**: – Jo Towler (Music in the Round) - Chair; Geff Green (SHU); Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres); Georgina Kettlewell (YAS); Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Nathan Geering (Theatre Deli); Sara Unwin (UoS); Laura Clarke (Arts Catalyst); Oriana Franceschi (Sheffield Creative Guild)Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries); Wendy Ulyett (SCC Marketing Sheffield); Rebecca Maddox (SCC).

**Apologies:** Olivier Tsemo (SADACCA); Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill); Kim Streets (Sheffield Museums); Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums); Ian Wild (Showroom/ Workstation); Clare Stewart (Doc/Fest).

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|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Minutes and matters arising**The minutes of the March meeting were agreed, with an additional line to acknowledge the University of Sheffield’s Civic University role (alongside SHU), and to note that UoS had contributed funding to the Consortium in the past and would do so again.Matters arising will be covered through the agenda.  |  |
| **2.** | **Ratify the new aims:**At the last meeting, two new aims were proposed for the Consortium:* To tackle inequality in the city via culture
* To make all cultures in the city visible

The aims were refined, with ways of working nesting beneath them:* **To help all cultures and communities in Sheffield to be visible**
* **To tackle inequality in Sheffield via arts and culture**
* By working to secure ACE funding and other opportunities for the city
* By providing Business – to – Business support

In a new Consortium Plan, and on the website, it would be valuable to spell out what we mean by culture and cultures in this context, to ensure that the aims can be fulfilled within the limited capacity which the group has.Consortium members are used to working co-operatively to benefit the sector (acting as accountable body/ consortium bid development/ support in kind/ cash match/ joint programming/ shared training/ bending programmes). New funding bids must include capacity to deliver.We can also widen membership to bring in new partners with their specialisms.This marks a new direction of travel for the Consortium, which has previously been Business-to-Business rather than audience facing, but fits in well with local and national Levelling Up policies and the new Arts Council ‘Let’s Create’ Strategy. The relationship between the Culture Consortium and the Culture Collective needs to be clarified and formalised. [Also – can the CC play a role in helping to restore the connectivity within the sector which has been really reduced over the past 2 years of covid?] | **Jo and Sara to discuss with Surriya Falconer later in May** |
| **3.** | **Agree the 5 target areas and identify our networks and gaps in these areas:**Based on the latest Index of Multiple Deprivation data, the **wards** with highest needs are Firth Park; Southey; Burngreave; Manor Castle and Park; Arbourthorne. The **neighbourhoods** with highest needs areManor; Arbourthorne; Southey Green; Batemoor / Jordanthorpe; Old Parson Cross.The CC has already been working in Darnall. Outlying communities like Stocksbridge and Deepcar can find it harder to access activity in the city centre. There are thriving arts organisations across the borough.It was agreed to hold an in-person Mapping session on May 20th to clarify community infrastructure and existing linkages / activity. | **RM to arrange mapping session and identify any useful SCC data** |
| **4.** | **Listening exercise: What questions are we wanting to ask in communities?**The Culture Consortium could be well-placed to put in a Place Based Partnerships bid, based on listening to communities about what is needed and what can be offered in communities to support culture and arts. A very short questionnaire could be used with partners and community organisations, at events, via the Local Area Committees etc:* What are your ambitions for arts and cultural activities in your area?
* What funding (in an ideal world) would 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)
* What community groups, buildings or activities are already in your area?
* What is your postcode?

Geff suggested that an event – ‘Project Exchange Forum’ – to find out what different partners are doing. This would need to be resourced.Proposed timeline for activity:Mapping exercise late May; conversations/questionnaire responses over the summer; bid writing in the autumn.Sara noted that the Visual Art Panel (which is a legacy of Making Ways) will be putting in an ACE Project Grant bid this year for a non-hierarchical art festival in Spring 2024 called ‘This is for You’. |  |
| **5.** | **African Heritage Culture Forum**A new African Heritage Culture Forum has been set up, to celebrate Black culture and history throughout the year.The AHCF has asked whether they can have a page on the CC website to give the group online visibility; and the Chair Des Smith has asked to join the CC.Both these ideas were warmly supported. The idea of having more voices around the table as the CC develops, plus extended networks to help with the listening exercise, was supported.The CC needs to keep reviewing membership and broaden representation further. |  |
| **6.** | **Group name** Should the CC change its name to signify its changing aims, and to shift the narrative?The term Consortium sounds weighty – but with a closed membership; Forum – Alliance – Coalition imply more open structures. There are plenty of other options too!The future structure of the Consortium and its meetings has not yet been decided, so it was agreed it is too soon to consider changing the name. |  |
| **7.** | **Rapid improvement Plan**Jo and Rebecca to develop Olivier’s draft, based on today’s discussions, and bring back to the June meeting. |  |
| **8.** | **AOB**Geff reported that the National Videogames Museum are looking urgently for space to store their archive.Nathan’s company Rationale Arts has been nominated in the National Diversity Awards – congratulations!Summer in the Cultural Industries Quarter – call-out for artists being made.South Yorkshire Mayor elections take place on 5th May – outcome could be significant for cultural resourcing in the region. | **Nick and Nathan keen to discuss options****Nathan to send voting link** |
| **9.** | **Next meeting: Friday 20 May, 9.30-11.30, Site Gallery Studio – mapping session** |  |