**Minutes of the Sheffield Culture Consortium**

**Zoom meeting**

**Friday 22 July 2022**

**Attending**: Jo Towler (Music in the Round - Chair); Geff Green (SHU); Olivier Tsemo (SADACCA); Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums); Sonia Gayle (African Heritage Culture Forum); Nick Partridge (Sheffield Libraries); Des Smith (African Heritage Culture Forum); Dan Bates (Sheffield Theatres); Rebecca Maddox (SCC).

**Apologies:** Judith Harry (Site Gallery); Laura Clarke (Arts Catalyst); Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill); Ian Wild (Showroom/ Workstation); Clare Stewart (Doc/Fest); Sara Unwin (UoS); Wendy Ulyett (SCC Marketing Sheffield); Georgina Kettlewell (YAS); Oriana Franceschi (Sheffield Creative Guild).

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|  | **Notes** | **Action** |
| **1.** | **Minutes and matters arising**It was agreed that the August Consortium meeting will be **cancelled** due to holiday absences.The notes of the previous meeting were agreed.Geff and Sara are still to meet to discuss the role which the Universities can play.Many thanks to Tyler Mellins at Yorkshire Artspace for updating the Consortium website, and especially for adding in the new page for the African Heritage Culture Forum. There was a very positive meeting between the Culture Collective and the new South Yorkshire Mayoral Combined Authority Mayor Oliver Coppard. Mayor Coppard seems committed to developing culture in South Yorkshire and is continuing Kate Brindley’s role as Project Director for Arts Culture and Heritage.Culture Collective members are also meeting with SCC CEO Kate Josephs on 8th August. SCC is looking to formally adopt the Culture Collective Plan as an interim before developing their own. | Geff and Sara to meet |
| **2.** | **Race Equality Commission Report**The final Race Equality Commission Report was launched on 14th July, with an Action Plan to 2024. The need for the REC was demonstrated by the stark health inequalities revealed through Covid, which had a much greater impact on minoritized communities and communities in need. The intention of the report is to increase equality and raise up the whole city.Two recommendations are particularly relevant to the Culture Consortium:Rec 1: Sheffield: An anti-racist cityRec 5: Celebrating Sheffield through Sport and Culture: Past, Present and Future.Olivier and Des underlined the need to use data to create a baseline and to measure improvement, especially for the 20% who most need it, irrespective of ethnicity.Geff noted that data and research is the business of universities, and that the right kind of research projects could help with fulfilling the REC Report.Jo noted that current Arts Council NPO organisations will have baseline data including EDI data, which will allow comparison to 2024.It was suggested that organisations which receive NPO City Pledge support via the Culture Collective should sign up to the REC Report recommendations.There are questions still about resourcing the actions in the Report – from private sector as well as public sector sources - but a Legacy Body is being formed to drive and monitor the actions.Consortium members are keen to support the REC Report recommendations, and have been working for some time to improve anti-racist practice e.g Sheffield Museums and Sheffield Archives. Having a city-wide report to underpin activity is really helpful. | **REC Action Plan to be a standing item on the Consortium agenda.** |
| **3.** | **Membership and meeting format**With great regret it was reported that the Sheffield Creative Guild is to be wound up, due to a recent unsuccessful Arts Council funding application. The Guild was set up as an independent co-operative by the Consortium and What Next Sheffield? to provide a support network for Sheffield’s wide freelance creative sector, and it has fulfilled this role admirably for 7 years.As the Consortium considers its membership, purpose and meeting structure, the needs of the freelance sector need to be taken into account.Jo proposed that the Consortium holds a quarterly open meeting for any creative to attend – this would need to be well-structured and organised to ensure it is of value for attendees.Geff noted that SHU is embracing its Civic University role, and may be able to offer support.Nick noted that a range of Business Support, Grantfinder and Intellectual Property services are available at the Central Library.**Action: Rebecca to scope out meeting timetable for 12 months to include quarterly open meetings to commence October/November.** |  |
| **4.** | **Consultation and survey.**The Consortium is proposing to consult with partners in the community to find out needs and aspirations for culture, especially in the east of the city.Tyler has created a Survey Monkey based on our previous discussions – a few further amendments were suggested.Jo proposed that the survey is used alongside one more in-depth conversation each with a partner organisation, to ensure that good qualitative data is being captured as well as quantitative. Once ready, we would want the survey to be sent out to a wide and diverse range of partners and contacts. |  |
| **4.** | **Code of Conduct**The NCVO Code of Conduct template was circulated with the meeting papers, but this needs further consideration and tailoring to the Consortium.Rebecca to create a first draft Code of Conduct for the Consortium, based on the NCVO template, the AHCF CoC and the Visual Art Panel CoC, for all to amend via email. | **Rebecca/all** |
| **5.** | **AOB**Des noted that the Caribbean Sports Club Fun Day takes place on August 14th at 399 The Common Ecclesfield at 1pmGeff is applying for internal SHU funds for research on festivals and engagement, which was supported by the meeting.Sonia is keen to see the Welcome to Sheffield website better able to filter events. The African Heritage Culture Forum now has a page on the Culture Consortium website, but will be looking to create its own website too, to include educational links and resources.A new Chair for the Consortium is needed from the Autumn – Rebecca to send email prompt. | **Rebecca** |
| **9.** | **Date of next meeting: Friday September 30th, 9.30-11.30, Town Hall Anteroom** |  |