

**Culture Consortium Meeting
26 January 2024
Adelphi Room, Crucible Theatre**

Present

Olivier Tsemo
Laura Clarke
Roger Bateman
Tom Bird
Amy Cooper
Sonia Gayle
Kirstie Hamilton
Judith Harry
Georgina Kettlewell
Rebecca Maddox
Ethel Maqeda
Wendy Ulyett
Ian Wild
Jo Wingate

SADACCA - Co-Chair
Arts Catalyst – Co-Chair
SHU
Sheffield Theatres
Sheffield Children, Youth and Family Consortium
African Heritage Culture Forum
Sheffield Museums
Site Gallery
Yorkshire Artspace
SCC/Culture
Utopia Theatre
SCC/Marketing
Showroom
SCC/Cultural Pipeline Fund

Apologies

Diana Buckley
Hilary Coulson
Christopher Cutforth
Annabel Grundy
Daljinder Singh
Jo Towler
Sara Unwin
Rose Wilcox

Sheffield City Council
SCC/Libraries
SHU/CYF Consortium
DocFest
Theatre Deli
Music in the Round
UoS
Leadmill

	Actions	Timeframe
<p>Introductions and welcome</p> <p>Review of minutes from November meeting and matters arising.</p> <p>Actions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Strategy Action: Request for a list re. engagement. Laura had chased and Joe didn't yet have a shareable list. Laura to chase with Tom Agar. • City Goals had been shared. • Sheffield Children, Youth and Family Consortium – Judith volunteered to attend on behalf of the Culture Consortium. <p>Rebecca updated that there will be recommendations within the Culture Strategy about wider networks working together more cohesively.</p>	<p>Laura follow up re. engagement list.</p>	<p>For next CC meeting.</p>
<p>2-minute updates: Attendees each gave a highlight from 2023 and their hopes for 2024.</p>		
<p>Culture Strategy update/discussion Laura had circulated the PDF doc with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • an overview of the pre-engagement survey results • a cultural audit to show how they are designing the framework (we need to make sure engagement process is hitting the right notes). • Timeline. • Draft engagement process: any feedback – thoughts comments – share directly to Tom, and Joe. • Methodology • Early Feb – digital platform on city council website 'Have Your Say'. • Sector-wide in person workshops. Feb to April – interviews and group consultation. distribute workshop plan. Speciality groups; Community conversations. <p>Ideally before next the meeting we'll have more fleshed-out frameworks.</p>	<p>Send engagement process feedback – thoughts/ comments directly to Tom & Joe.</p>	

Sonia encouraged everyone to have a look at the survey, with 180 respondents. Over 20% of respondents identified as having health issues/disability and ongoing challenges with infrastructure. This picks up on some comments from Sheffield City Goals.

Tom noted some myth busting. E.g. Sheffield not a fast-growing city. Not a city of freelancers, comparatively. Sonia asked how well we can use culture for growth of the city, the population is pretty stagnant. Rebecca questioned if it's a bad thing from the point of view of infrastructure and resource use. Judith added that it's good to have research to understand, and be honest about, what we are. Judith felt whether it's an aging city is as much a question. Olivier felt it was as much about getting the right mix and identifying the optimum size for Sheffield.

Roger stated that Sheffield isn't a city of freelancers, but it could be. Graduates out of university often want to stay in the city, have great business ideas but have to leave. SHU ILAB provides free access to business support. What Hallam is trying to do but can only cope with a certain number (and only Hallam).

Tom pointed out that the strategy also needs to be distinct to other strategies and decide on a real focus in culture e.g. children and young people – and excluding what.

Laura felt with that the steering group has not yet defined a sense of vision or ambition. It runs the risk of trying to do everything.

Olivier re. population growth, need to look into variational growth. Exponential African heritage community growth. Looking at the strategy – how well can we address inequality using culture – if we fail, this will be a missed opportunity.

Ian stated the issue was that lots of people wanted to stay but there is a lack of employment opportunities. Need to map and look at data, strengths and growth areas. The games sector is strong and provides employment. We can start to support that sector – festival of innovation in the games sector.

Roger updated that SHU will work on some of the things described. Can create the opportunity to work for London whilst sitting in Sheffield, student placements want access to space and tech. Just need to think differently.

Tom felt the council are being very vocal re. culture but wondered if this is replicated in the mayoral authority. Not staffed for culture. Andy Burnham – always mentions culture and transport. Can we invite them, to the consortium for example and to events.

CC to invite SYMCA rep. to meeting and/or events.

February/March 2024 (and ongoing for event invitations).

<p>Olivier stated we need a Culture department in the city of more than 10 people.</p> <p>The issue of demand was discussed in relation to the strategy. Rebecca explained there is an element on demand through next online survey – focus so far is more on the sector. We will need follow up work including more on demand side.</p> <p>Georgina also raised the issue of perception – what seems not to work, and levels of trust. Laura agreed the need for a road map, a consultation including Fourth Street’s plan on what the demand is. The framing should be around thinking what Sheffield needs as a city strategically rather than individual agendas.</p> <p>Laura raised re. Tom’s point on SYMCA and the Northern Cultural Network. In conversation other members commented on a disconnect between local authorities and regional combined authorities. Judith asked whether SYMCA are working on a cultural strategy for the region.</p> <p>Ian asked about next steps in the cultural strategy. Laura needed everyone to feed back after looking at the draft documents circulated. Quick turnaround.</p> <p>Kirstie SYMCA report doesn’t feature – feels quite desktop – nothing about nonusers/prospective audiences. Laura agreed that’s where research is missing.</p>	<p>All: feedback on the draft document.</p>	<p>ASAP - quick turnaround.</p>
<p>Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – Race Equality Commission report and new legacy body Since the Rec report was published in 2022, work has taken place to preserve the legacy and create a body to deliver on the commission’s recommendations. Sonia reported that on 5th February there is a conference at Millenium Galleries to introduce the new Race Equality Partnership for Sheffield. The main key anchor organisations will come together under Sheffield City Partnership for a strategy to accelerate progression to an anti-racist city. The recruitment deadline for a Chair and VC has been extended. The driver for change is not focused exclusively on ethnicity – needs to be about inclusion more widely.</p> <p>Olivier added there is lots to do but by changing the culture – others will follow. REP will deliver on action.</p> <p>Roger asked whether people are looking outside of country for examples. Olivier felt Sheffield could be a mini-Paris, with brave leadership and culture as a driver. Roger felt heritage more integrated in New Zealand, people soak up the culture. Leeds has mapped the city well, with culture in all areas.</p>		

<p>Sonia raised the MOBOs - hoping for a great success. Great for social cohesion. Raised the socio-economic power of the cultural strategy, needs to address inequality.</p>		
<p>Climate Emergency and response Judith had sent an invite to cultural organisations to an online meeting to talk about joined up action on climate emergency. 25 organisations wished to join – 16 on the day. There will be 4 meetings over the year, sharing practice, learning and thoughts. Need to think bigger picture and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • learn more about Sheffield’s net zero plans and how we as a cultural sector feed in. • Training is needed. Need to get budget. <p>Northern network climate group has carbon literacy trainers and resources. Can join group. SAIL in Leeds and GMAST arts climate action group have had massive success.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lot of smaller organisations on zoom – need a way to share info technically. <p>Sonia suggested it ties in with goals as a city of makers. Could be first eco city, self-sustainable. Generate our own power – spend money saved on something else. Would put Sheffield on the map. Roger mentioned the sustainability module at Sheffield Hallam. Might be an opportunity to offer. Judith is looking into culture specific Carbon Literacy training for Sheffield. Likes the idea of audacious ambition to be UK’s first sustainable city, just need to make people feel empowered; the smaller the organisation the more drained in terms of capacity.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low carbon cultural community fund take up is low. Will send out. If organisations are struggling to access the data – can use industry standard figures – trying to find ways to make it easier to access. <p>Sonia raised the need for efficiency – and making best use of spaces and places.</p>	<p>Judith will send out Low Carbon fund info.</p>	<p>Jan. 2024</p>
<p>Key updates: Laura: Council are developing an inclusive growth strategy – focus group with consortium – Friday 9th Feb 2 – 3.30pm. Will circulate calendar invite.</p> <p>MOBOs take place 7th February. Fringe events 5th – 7th to platform local talent and provide mentoring and advice. Olivier added they are outstanding events and map the community. The press have a negative view re. safety. Police looking at how we’ll minimise anti-social behaviour, and look after the safety of patrons when there are a lot of visitors.</p>	<p>Laura to circulate calendar invitation</p>	<p>8/2/24</p>

<p>Tom asked that Sheffield Theatres are involved in any meetings. Their showcase event sold out in 2 days. Would like to get the balance right (not being heavy-handed). Olivier explained the intake will mainly be coming here for first time. Important for community leaders to be visible in the city centre.</p> <p>Sonia happy to have police presence, needs to be safe.</p> <p>Wendy asked whether the SAG group had been involved?</p> <p>Kirstie hoped to include items in city collection with photographs and any performance object to go into the collections. E.g. a T-shirt.</p>		
<p>AOB</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Rebecca updated on the Place Partnership bid. The portal wasn't working but is now back up and running and the bid will go in shortly. - Cultural Pipeline Fund: Jo updated that the Fund is now live – please circulate around networks. There are 2 rounds, and the first round closes 29 February. - SCC recruitment: Rebecca is leaving at the end of March. 2 adverts out now including for 1 new role. 		
<p>Date of next meeting: Friday 23 February, 9.30 – 11.30 Adelphi Room, Crucible Theatre</p>		