

Culture Consortium Meeting
22 March 2024
Adelphi Room, Crucible Theatre

Present

Roger Bateman	Sheffield Hallam University
Tom Bird	Sheffield Theatres
Laura Clarke	Arts Catalyst (Co-Chair)
Mojisola Elufowoju	Utopia Theatre
Sonia Gayle	African Heritage Culture Forum
Annabel Grundy	Sheffield DocFest
Kirstie Hamilton	Sheffield Museums
Georgina Kettlewell	Yorkshire Artspace
Rebecca Maddox	SCC/Culture
Jo Towler	Music in the Round
Olivier Tsemo	SADACCA (Co-Chair)
Jo Wingate	SCC/Cultural Pipeline Fund

Apologies

Kate Brindley	SCC/Culture Strategy
Amy Cooper	Sheffield Children, Youth and Family Consortium
Judith Harry	Site Gallery
Neil Jones	SCC/Programmes and Partnerships
Katie Matthews	Gut Level
Daljinder Singh	Theatre Deli
Wendy Ulyett	SCC/Marketing
Sara Unwin	University of Sheffield
Rose Wilcox	The Leadmill
Ian Wild	Showroom Workstation

Minutes

1. Matters arising:

- Sonia to discuss a joined-up approach (as part of the wider cultural strategy review and also with Sheffield Museums re: Graves Gallery 'feasibility review' and the central library) for a Sheffield Heritage Centre that reflects Sheffield's diverse communities overall.
 - Judith would feedback to the funders on the Low Carbon Community and Culture Project. Carried over to the next meeting.
 - Heritage Strategy: follow up re. discussions on intangible heritage and culture. A draft strategy had been produced and a consultation response on behalf of Sheffield prepared. Once revised it was suggested there may be a heritage rep. on the Consortium.
- Action: Rebecca (and her successor) to raise this via the Culture Collective / Sheffield Heritage to arrange for the Consortium to have sight of the draft strategy and

consultation response; and also to follow up with Sheffield Heritage with an open invite to the Consortium.

The current role and arrangements for Consortium Chair will also be carried over.

2. Changes in the Consortium

- Staff support

This will continue initially with Jo's support.

Rebecca announced her successor will be Sarah Sharp who is currently running The Montgomery. Sarah's start date is likely to be mid-June. There will be unbroken support from the city council.

- Co-Chair

Laura is stepping down as she starts a new role at Site Gallery as Head of Programme.

*The consortium members need to think about potentially taking on the role from May. Olivier's term as Co-Chair is due to end in September. The role involves attending other networks and meetings including the Northern Culture Network and the Culture Collective board.

Rebecca feels the Co-Chair model works well.

Jo added that it is good to gain knowledge across the northern region and shout about Sheffield. Co-Chair model makes the role more achievable.

There is an engagement group next week, Rebecca will be present to feed into the discussion.

Future structure and membership discussion, to inform the Culture Strategy

Attached: Rebecca's proposal from last year on a new Culture Consortium model.

There was some discussion about the roles of the Culture Consortium and Culture Collective. There doesn't necessarily need to be two organisations. There is a role to get the income in, also for an overview of how the money is spent. It was questioned whether the two could be separated.

It was felt that the consortium structure had an image problem. It needed a wide and open forum; to elect and nominate those responsible. Since setting up in 2010 the sector found it difficult that it was self-selecting.

It was noted that the Collective are quite open to reforming.

It was stated that dissolving both the Consortium and the Collective in their current forms would be an effective starting point to address what's needed in future.

*This point would be forwarded to inform the culture strategy.

A future structure needs a clear purpose and transparent membership process with a wider network through an open call and possibly a paid role to administrate and support.

3. Sheffield Cultural Strategy – latest

The consortium felt encouraged by the move to vision phase with the workshops. It felt positive, and as representative as possible.

Points raised at the workshops so far had included:

- Feeling that artists are often not remunerated; current model isn't sustainable. Should become a living wage region. Emphasis on quality.
- Need to pull in beyond Peak District.
- Some confused re Consortium and Collective – why need two.
- Access to training (as had been provided by Creative Guild).
- A key take away was pinning strategy to City Goals – risk not memorable and had some controversy.

Annabel raised that the screen industries are missing from the Task and Finish group.

Annabel and Ian had convened a group for film representatives.

It was agreed this was an oversight when the sector is powerful economically.

*Priority Action: recommend that screen is represented. Laura to write on behalf of the consortium.

4. Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

REPS interviews were taking place in April, should appoint in the near future.

One recommendation had been around culture, authenticity and transparency.

Access to resources is an issue, space is hard to get.

Will nominate someone to support this process.

Tom raised the points on under representation in the South Asian community.

Mojisola raised the issue of perception about what here for. What is the purpose.

EDI is about how we perform against the recommendations and how the strategy addresses the recommendations. There is a need to change the conditions.

Roger added the space is not where people belong but where people feel they matter.

Mojisola raised the issue of class, Utopia space has the look of an African theatre, but they host dance classes with young Asians, who feels comfortable to come and sit here.

Overall issue of resourcing and sustainability was raised. There is support for non-salaried to attend the meetings.

5. Climate Emergency and response

Conversation to resume in April.

6. Updates including:

- Creative Communities Fund

Received 55 applications with an ask of just over £1.026m. The shortlisting panel selected 12 projects with a spread of community beneficiaries, art form and types of

organisations which we expect will impact across the city. Putting £180,000 into the sector.

- **Cultural Pipeline Fund**

Received 33 applications with grant requests totalling over £604,000 for an £80,000 pot. The response demonstrates the amount of demand and potential for activity in the city. Jo W. is looking into applying for further funding to increase the funding available. An assessment panel met this week; the decisions will be out in advance of the published date of 22nd April.

Rebecca updated on Place Partnerships; Jo W. will be picking up co-ordination of this.

AOB

Sonia: the African Heritage Culture Forum has made a Windrush Day grant application for £25,000, activities to include a poetry competition.

Will be putting on some activity, but this funding will affect the scale.

Kirstie: an invitation will be circulated for 17th April, Graves Gallery evening viewing.

The meeting closed with a huge THANK YOU to Rebecca for her work and bringing everyone together.

Actions:

- Sonia to view the draft heritage strategy.
- Establish Co-Chair role in May.
- Record to the strategy team the need to dissolve the Culture Consortium and Culture Collective.
- Request that 'Screen' is represented on the Strategy Task & Finish group.

Date of next meeting (*please note venue)

9:30 – 11:30am, Friday 26th April, Meeting Room (Suite 7), **Leonardo Hotel**, 119 Eyre Street, Sheffield S1 4QW.