

CULTURE CONSORTIUM MEETING
Adelphi Room, The Crucible Theatre
Friday 31 January 2025

Attending: Annabel Grundy (Sheffield DocFest and Co-Chair), Olivier Tsemo (SADACCA and Co-Chair), Roger Bateman (Sheffield Hallam University), Hilary Coulson (SCC), Sonia Gayle (African Heritage Culture Forum), Salli Greaves (Showroom Cinema), Kirstie Hamilton (Sheffield Museums), Judith Harry (Site Gallery), Robin Hughes (Joined Up Heritage), Georgina Kettlewell (Yorkshire Artspace), Frazer Scott (SCC), Jo Towler (Music in the Round), Sara Unwin (University of Sheffield), Jo Wingate, (SCC).

Apologies: Katy Ashton (SCC), Tom Bird (Sheffield Theatres), Diana Buckley (SCC), Amy Cooper (Sheffield Children Youth and Family Consortium), Mojisola Elufowoju (Utopia Theatre), Dave Hembrough (SCYFC, Sheffield Hallam), Neil Jones (SCC), Claudia Lastra (Arts Catalyst), Katie Matthews (Gut Level), Jennifer Morton (Joined Up Heritage), Sarah Sharp (SCC), Wendy Ulyett (SCC), Lesley Webster (University of Sheffield), Rose Wilcox (The Leadmill).

1. Matters arising

- Check re. SY Innovation Programme - in-kind offer or grant.

The Fund is a rolling programme, check [website](#) for details. Offers grants rather than in-kind. [Chris Baker](#) is the lead. Chris is open to initial discussion about whether ideas are appropriate.

- Group to consider potential partnership projects that could pitch to SY innovation fund.

Action: book in a discussion with Chris.

- Share the draft Facilitator brief as a Google Doc. The information had been shared.

- Look at Cultural Calendar and bookings within SCC. SS met with equalities team, discussions are ongoing.

- Invite Fatima Khan- Shah (REPS) to a future meeting.

To be invited to April meeting.

- Organisations to share examples of good practice re. reporting on diversity in their teams.

Ongoing.

- Share more information about the SY Innovation Programme to wider networks.

Further info [South Yorkshire Innovation Programme | Sheffield Hallam University](#)

Will also share on Culture Bulletin.

- Check about provision for community and EDI within Innovation funds (ie Business Sheffield).

Can be part of future discussions, a bigger meeting on EDI.

- Report back if there is progress on SYMCA transport initiative.

Positive signs that this could come into place but wouldn't be until 2027/2028.

- Share 2022 notes from prior facilitated exercise with group.

The notes were now outdated.

- Invite Karen Harrison (Creative Health) to a future meeting.

Suggest interested group members attend Creative Health Sheffield event on 26th March.

The Minutes were approved.

2. Consortium Review

a) update on recruitment of consultant

b) discussion on consultation process

Discussion of the Hub and Spoke model. Idea emerged from engagement report for the strategy. Central Hub has new title Culture Connect group.

New action group will be a vehicle for comm.s between Hub and the sector. New group will distribute comms back into networks. The group will have representation of all areas in Sheffield – freelancers and sme's, as well as large institutions. Very clear, open and transparent selection process, a direct response to people feeling unrepresented.

FS and SS have been looking at best practice in other settings including Bristol. Here there are bimonthly facilitated meetings. We can pilot 18 – 20 places and go from there.

Culture Sheffield will have Hub role communicating efficiently, gathering and monitoring data. Spokes are mission driven networks – delivering strategy on the ground. Might include existing networks but there will also be new spokes.

Ongoing projects and timebound projects to feed in.

Questions and points included:

- What's the application process and criteria in order to be recognised as a spoke?
FS there will be a set of blanket principles - certain criteria need to be met e.g. transparency and inclusion.
- Diagram/visualisation to be shared.
- Suggestion that spokes should embed inclusion and diversity as values.
- Is there a limit on number of spokes?
FS -There is currently no defined limit.
- Request for inclusive practice in language and naming, moving away from acronyms.
- If the 'Hub' will be feeding information out as well as bringing it in, how would opportunities be assigned? E.g. if there's a new Place Partnership bid, would a spoke be tasked with making the application? How would you decide who?
- We understand that spokes are more thematic/networked than single organisations, and that they can start and stop or be time limited. For time limited spokes, what's the process for winding these down?
- Are there any resources from SCC for groups, especially grass roots, that successfully apply to be a spoke? Smaller, emerging could do a great job but need capacity.
- Does there need to be a direct link/communication between spokes, how do they share and link back in?
- What is the gap and what can the group deliver to be constructive.
SS sees that as key question for facilitation.
- Can Consortium members be invited to the launch event in March?
FS to send information.
- Point re. trust – will they want to step forward. Need to be values driven.

FS - strategy is about co-delivery, feeling informed about what is going on and accurately reporting whether achieving strategy through data gathered.

Feedback on H&S model at the Collective meeting:

Diana Buckley, Director of Economy, Skills and Culture, felt SCC can't deliver a central hub of info.

Two-way process – delivery and co-ordination.

FS - Activation event in March will focus on the group; how it operates, what it might look like and scrutinise ideas.

Some might just want to operate outside of Hub and Spokes. Idea is for a register of strategy delivery partners – recognised for their work but don't necessarily have to feed in. To be recognised, need to do a basic report on an annual basis.

a) update on recruitment of consultant

Three candidates were interviewed, and James Gough was appointed. There was a strong field. James has very relevant experience, strong knowledge of cultural compacts and devolution. Can liaise with Tom Agar (Culture Collective's consultant) and integrate with Collective. Another candidate was very connected in the community, can help with facilitation and will be involved in activation events.

b) discussion on consultation process

Process will now see a series of smaller meetings rather than one big survey. Plan is for meetings with Culture Sheffield team; reps from Collective; members of Consortium not coming to the table. Fold all into a larger group meeting. Might shift timeline.

There will be a short questionnaire, a ready reckoner – as a starting point. Will share for comment.

A question in mind is about the gap being met. Eg being accountable body for funding – Collective moving into an aligned space with arts council and lobbying function – what expertise does Consortium bring? is it creative, programming or representation – need to start to become clear.

3. Culture Collective update

Communication is strong between both groups, committed to discussion between Tom Agar and James. Collective bridge to the business community, better understanding of Compact. Consortium needs to know where going.

Collective are meeting to review a similar piece around mission and purpose – there is now a subgroup.

Collective vocal on representation in devolution, keeping conversation constructive.

RB collective action, along with universities for more support for culture and creativity in city.

RH - this is a common cause between culture and heritage.

SGr - Oliver Coppard, Mayor of South Yorkshire, is a guest at the SYCCIN Create event next month.

4. Climate Action Group

JH – the group are organising a half day symposium as an Activation event at Site Gallery. Speakers include Julie's Bicycle, Attitude is Everything – curators and artists.

Interested to work as a city network and give guidance.

- Suggestion to speak with Manon Euler at Film Hub North.

5. Finances

AG – there is still £9,000 in reserve, some of which will be used on consultant. Cost will be about £3,000.

Need to speak re filing accounts. Sheffield Theatres offered to file. Action: to follow this up.

Question: how replenish the pot.

- Find out with work on mission e.g. do we want to fundraise.

6. AOB

- EDI – at a future meeting Fatima can give an update on REP has some great ideas will give a good steer.

- Issues around equality are relevant to values of Spokes.
- AG Co-Chair until March.
- SGr - SYCCN 5pm, 26th February - guests include Jon McClure (Reverend & the Makers).
- KH - SMGT opening same night as SYCCIN event on 26th February. Openings at Graves and Millennium Galleries. KH to connect to the clash diary group.
- SGr - Victoria Firth starts as new Showroom Workstation CEO on 3rd February. Happy to make any introductions.
- The Culture Bulletin had good feedback.
- Death and the Kings Horseman opens next week. Few tickets remaining.
- AG to share a link to the group – C4 GEN Z audiences – rise of populism.

| Action | Who | Deadline/timeframe |
|--|------------|--|
| RB to broker introduction for a SY Innovation Programme speaker at a future session. | RB | TBC |
| Share Hub and Spoke visualisation. | SS/FS | Early March |
| Members to share best practice or examples of reporting within the group. | All | Ongoing |
| Invite Fatima Khan-Shah (REPS) to a future meeting. | Co-Chairs | April meeting |
| Consortium review: share short questionnaire for comment. | AG | End of February |
| Report back if there is progress on SYMCA transport initiative. | SS | Ongoing |
| Discuss accounts filing with ST. | AG/ST | March |
| Invite Karen Harrison (Creative Health) to a future meeting. | | Update: KH will attend the Activation event with a focus on Creative Health. 26 March. |
| Share C4 Gen Z programme link. | AG | Done |