

Culture Consortium Meeting
23 February 2024
Adelphi Room, Crucible Theatre

Present

Olivier Tsemo	SADACCA - Co-Chair
Laura Clarke	Arts Catalyst – Co-Chair
Tom Bird	Sheffield Theatres
Kate Brindley	SCC/Culture Strategy
Sonia Gayle	African Heritage Culture Forum
Annabel Grundy	Sheffield DocFest
Judith Harry	Site Gallery
Rebecca Maddox	SCC/Culture
Jo Towler	Music in the Round
Jo Wingate	SCC/Cultural Pipeline Fund

Apologies

Roger Bateman	Sheffield Hallam University
Diana Buckley	Sheffield City Council
Amy Cooper	Sheffield Children, Youth and Family Consortium
Hilary Coulson	SCC/Libraries
Christopher Cutforth	SHU/CYF Consortium
Mojisola Elufowoju	Utopia Theatre
Kirstie Hamilton	Sheffield Museums
Neil Jones	SCC/Programmes and Partnerships
Georgina Kettlewell	Yorkshire Artspace
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. Review of minutes from January meeting and matters arising

Place Partnerships Bid

Rebecca updated the group that the bid did get submitted and is currently being assessed. There is a planning meeting on 7th March with all partners involved. SP3 funding is confirmed and so there will be some showcasing activity whatever the outcome. The EDS committee met on Wednesday and are very supportive.

Tom asked about priorities for the Cultural Development Fund.

Rebecca explained that SCC has allocated SYMCA project feasibility funding to the Harmony Works development.

2. Sheffield Cultural Strategy – progress so far and engagement opportunities

Kate outlined the progress points since last meeting:

- the [Engagement Portal](#) has launched. The engagement plan document is on the portal. The pre-engagement survey helped inform the second phase.
- We're now at Phase 2. The cultural audit is also online. It is a snapshot document, not the total picture.
- March/April is about engagement. Invitations to the events will look at a diagonal slice, especially in relation to smaller conversations. Larger workshops will have a more open call.
- Tom Agar is refining the priorities and draft visions, and continuing research.

The portal isn't an open forum, there is limited capacity to manage activity, though this may change.

Jo suggested placing a statement to this effect, which would pre-empt comments.

- Themes for engagement:

Connected and Co-ordinated

Give and Gain (private and non-profit)

Big and Bold (collaboration)

Living Life Better (health and wellbeing)

Possibilities and Pathways (young people)

Climate Crisis

Laura commented that involvement should be based on best expertise and that we shouldn't have people signed up for multiple groups.

Specialist Groups fall under the headings:

Business; Universities, FE; Nighttime economy and Health.

The team will also be targeting particular communities.

There will be one-to-one interviews and case studies.

Olivier asked about communications plans for engaging young people online.

Laura suggested asking Create about how to push the information out.

Kate added that the ambition is to have a draft strategy available in April.

Laura commented that we need to think about core priorities and vision eg Young People, Climate, Investment.

Tom stated that the purpose involves sorting out the massive discrepancy in support. Having one priority is incredibly powerful – the investment will follow. Focus on investment will also help with engagement of artists and grassroots organisations.

Whoever is leading workshops might want to have a context.

Rebecca mentioned that whilst there is some cynicism, others have been asking for a strategy.

Jo reported that the Labour party have stated that, if they come into government, they will be looking for each city to have a cultural strategy.

3. Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion

- REPS launch and how can arts/culture groups best link in?

Sonia explained that the REPS launch was during Race Equality Week.

Olivier added that following the Millennium Gallery launch, the REP is now established and looking to appoint a Chair and VC.

Sonia is on the interview panel.

Sonia added that the challenge for the culture strategy is to show some solutions, with true engagement and authentic voices. It's on the right track, still some work to be done.

- MOBOS – reflection and legacy

Olivier commented that Di Buckley, the team and all involved in the steering group, worked hard to deliver the events and they were outstanding.

Tom added that the Crucible event had gone really well.

Social media comments had been very positive.

- Create Sheffield consultation event inc. marketing strategy for young people

Rebecca reported on an inspirational event by Create Sheffield, they had delivered a piece of work with care-experienced young people to consult with other young people re. barriers to engaging. The report is available on their website under '[useful research](#)'.

Judith felt really excited by what Create were doing, they took a strong strategic lead and it felt very important.

Laura added that the work needs resourcing.

Sonia asked whether there has been a decision about the Central Library.

Kate explained the work is in progress, Sheffield City Council have committed some money to do repairs on the existing library.

They are waiting on resources for the next part; development of a business case for a new library/art gallery.

Rebecca updated the group that the council had committed to a small number of repairs and are working out what they need to do first – no one wants to do repairs that become redundant.

Pieces of work are being commissioned around what a 21st C library looks like.

Later this year there will be enough information to make decisions re. viability and sustainability.

Sonia added that there are a lot of voices for an African and South Asian cultural heritage centre, bringing communities together. Need to be joined up.

There is an argument the library should be with the archives.

***Sonia offered to have a chat as part of the process.**

4. Climate emergency response.

The group are discussing city-wide options and other great strategy work going on.

The Low Carbon Community and Culture Project information had been circulated but the process had proven complex for those who had signed up.

There is scope to simplify the process.

***Judith would feedback to the funders.**

5. Adoption of Sheffield Heritage Strategy by SCC and UNESCO Intangible Heritage consultation

Rebecca introduced Joined Up Heritage Sheffield; the University of Sheffield and City Council worked to create a heritage strategy. The strategy that was formally adopted highlights that Intangible heritage overlaps with culture very strongly. For different communities of the city, this felt like a real change - hearing the importance of heritage. Looking into how a heritage officer could be supported.

UK government want to sign up to UNESCO Intangible Heritage Charter.

Communities are being asked to nominate things they'd like recognised as intangible heritage.

Kim Streets took a look at how to support that process.

Sonia added that it talks of equality implications and that a narrow definition can be exclusive.

Intention is to be open and celebrate all Sheffielders, which is a fantastic foundation.

Heritage Sheffield recognise the world has moved on and the need for more voices round the table. Would be good for it to come to the consortium, should comment and feed in, has a natural fit with culture.

***Arrange a follow up discussion on culture and intangible heritage.**

6. Consortium organisation:

- **MOU with Sheffield City Council**
- **Chair arrangements for 2024**

Rebecca introduced the MOU, a framework for a relationship between scc and consortium. This includes:

Officer support – half a day a week. In principle the city council offers some time on agenda development. Plus financial support of up to £5k per year.

After the consortium became a company, it was envisaged it would have a bank account and £5k running costs were offered, but Sheffield Theatres manage an account on the consortium's behalf. Rebecca submits the confirmation statement each year and Site Gallery file the accounts. Might be a bigger role in future.

Tyler Mellins from VAS has been editing the website for the consortium, ensuring the consortium is accountable. The website may change.

There is just under £10k in account – may be used for transition support and additional admin support.

Laura suggested the account has a little flexibility.

Points raised included

- adding in a note re. relationship with Culture Collective.
- clarifying the structure of the consortium and a statement re. purpose of the officer support; whether this is advisory.
- including responsibilities/alignment of the consortium to the council.
- Consortium has independent Chairs. Need to be clear of boundaries.
- Stating that it is a holding MOU to cover the interim, ready for the next phase of work.
- Needs to be made public.

***Rebecca will update the document.**

Sonia asked, if the company is brought back to life, who are the directors; governance should be looked at. Rebecca felt this needs to be a conversation for the future.

Judith added that it took a lot of work to set it up and it could be re-purposed.

Laura thought it may be an amalgamation with a bigger working group.

Rebecca explained the idea was that there was no overall control; but that other members signed up to it - can be made appropriate in future.

Judith explained it the directors were about ensuring the business was kept alive. Not that work took place within that group.

Sonia suggested a committee structure – actual decisions by an executive board not directors.

***carry over current role and arrangements for consortium Chair.**

AOB

Sonia noted that Windrush Day takes place 22nd June in the Winter Gardens.

Summary of Actions:

*** Sonia offered to have a chat as part of the review for the library and discuss a joined-up approach to plans for a heritage centre.**

- *Judith would feedback to the funders on the Low Carbon Community and Culture Project.**
- *Heritage Strategy: follow up re. discussions on intangible heritage and culture.**
- *Rebecca will update the Consortium MOU.**
- * Carry over current role and arrangements for consortium Chair.**

Date of next meeting:

9:30 – 11:30am, Friday 22nd March, Adelphi Room, The Crucible Theatre.