

Culture Consortium
Minutes of the meeting 31/5/2024
Adelphi Room, Sheffield Theatres

Present

Roger Bateman	Sheffield Hallam University
Sonia Gayle	African Heritage Culture Forum
Annabel Grundy	Sheffield DocFest
Jo Towler	Music in the Round
Olivier Tsemo	SADACCA (Co-Chair)
Wendy Ulyett	SCC/Marketing
Sara Unwin	University of Sheffield
Lesley Webster	University of Sheffield
Ian Wild	Showroom Workstation
Jo Wingate	SCC/Cultural Pipeline Fund

Apologies

Tom Bird	Sheffield Theatre
Kate Brindley	SCC/Culture Strategy
Diana Buckley	SCC
Amy Cooper	Sheffield Children, Youth and Family Consortium
Mojisola Elufowoju	Utopia Theatre
Kirstie Hamilton	Sheffield Museums
Judith Harry	Site Gallery
Neil Jones	SCC/Programmes and Partnerships
Georgina Kettlewell	Yorkshire Artspace
Claudia Lastra	Arts Catalyst
Katie Matthews	Gut Level
Daljinder Singh	Theatre Deli
Rose Wilcox	The Leadmill

1. Minutes and Matters Arising

Actions

- **Share digital survey.** Done

- **Feedback re. Low Carbon Culture grants.**

Feedback given had included the amount of paperwork involved and the limited number of organisations that own their own building. The fact that the grant is retrospective is also a barrier.

Olivier mentioned that SADACCA had applied to LCC grants and recommends applying.

Sonia raised the need for the culture strategy to re-think how spaces are used.

- **Invite Robin Hughes to future meetings, working on a reciprocal basis.** D/line June.

- Minutes of the April meeting were approved.

2. Co-Chair Nominations

Annabel was welcomed as Co-Chair with full support of the Consortium.

3. Reflective session: consortium progress and focus for the coming months

Comments included:

- The need to look at the governance model.
- Consortium changes need to come as a response to the strategy. Role has changed from getting funding as a group.
- Reason we're doing exercise- community not happy, need to look at methodology, structure, transparency and representation.
- Mechanism for tiny organisations (support is available for non-salaried people to attend Culture Consortium).
- Driver to support new cultural organisations to develop and grow needs to be Sheffield City Council, needs a budget.
- Culture driving Sheffield. Do we need to change direction or strengthen what have.
- It was suggested to have a full day of review.

Key areas of discussion included:

Identify the gap, help create growth

- Need critical mass in Sheffield to work in the creative industries e.g. publishing, music; need mechanisms in place, infrastructure to enable careers in the city.
- Issue: how support to grow – starting not so difficult, it's growth that isn't funded. How create opportunities. Struggle for support when graduated.
- It was suggested to work with South Yorkshire Investment Zone.

Private sector

- The Collective was now more involved in fundraising.
- Companies with a Sheffield office often state they have no money. Other ways to support the sector could include encouragement to buy tickets.
- The **tourism tax** was raised in reference to cities such as Manchester and Liverpool.
Need to find a balance with the Convention Bureau's service/meetings sector, also need to establish in accommodation sector's minds. This will take years to establish.
Manchester evidence suggests that the scheme works well.
- Culture Commons ideas include working with property sector - commissioning for social value. % back into sector for art.
- A collective method of working would be exciting – championing equality.
Possibly a risk register with mapping and mitigation.

4. Discussion of Unesco designated International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition. 23rd August.

There was a discussion on ways to mark this Day, but also a reminder that slavery is not eradicated. Points raised include:

- Do we need a monument against slavery / festival / public art?
As the first City of Sanctuary, we have the option to do something bold.
- Strategically, something to debate and talk about - confront what happened in the past. Hidden history – learning examples include Dig Where You Stand. should be visible.
- Include as part of cultural strategy, possibly a competition for artists with a creative brief.

- It was questioned whether there should be something people can participate in.
- AHCF will commission Danaé Wellington to write a piece in celebration of abolition. Looking at how this can be shared in a way we can build from it.
- The words themselves are very powerful, could share for Sheffield.
- LOOK UP project was suggested, there is a small amount of support for digital commissions.

*Action – each member to consider possible options.

5. EDI

Following the REC report recommendations, REP Sheffield was set up and has now appointed a new Chair, Fatima Khan-Shah. Fatima lives in West Yorkshire; she is a non-exec director of Sheffield Children’s hospital has done a lot of work in EDI and racial equality.

The recent Museums Sheffield exhibition Caribbean Footsteps had been very well received.

6. Climate Action – no update at this meeting.

7. Updates and AOB

Annabel gave some DocFest highlights including the opening film Strike: an Uncivil War telling the story of the Battle for Orgreave. Mr Doodle will be in Tudor square doodling over a large dome. Advance sales were strong.

Sara Unwin reported that she will no longer be representing the University of Sheffield on the Culture Consortium, Lesley Webster will now be attending.

The Consortium members noted huge thanks to Sara for all her work and support.

Olivier and Sara commented on the unmissable Music in the Round experience, Sheffield’s Chamber Music Festival.

Jo highlighted that the event enjoyed a high number of sell out shows and 2 x 5* reviews.

Action	Who	Deadline/timeframe
Invite Robin Hughes to future meetings	Jo W.	June Meeting
Suggestions to be brought forward to mark Unesco designated International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition.	Members of the Consortium	June meeting and ongoing for longer term projects.