

Visual Art Panel Meeting Minutes

January 15 2021 / 9am – 10.30am / Zoom

Attending: Yuen Fong Ling (Artist), James Green (Artist), Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), Angelica Sule (Site Gallery), Tyler Mellins (Yorkshire Artspace), Rebecca Maddox (SCC), Karen Sherwood (Cupola Gallery), Emma Harnett (ArtSpace), Anna Santomauro (Art Catalyst), Sunshine Wong (Bloc Projects), Janet Jennings (Museums Sheffield).

Apologies: David McLeavy (Bloc), Penny McCarthy (Sheffield Hallam), Georgina Kettlewell (Yorkshire Artspace), Cat Powell (Artfelt), Sara Unwin (University of Sheffield).

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1. Minutes

Minutes from the previous meeting were agreed.

2. Updates of previous meetings

Studio Groupings: No meeting has taken place but Yuen spoke at the ACE Exchange online event yesterday and discussion for greater provision for cohort of students graduating in Covid and starter studios for graduates are being considered by SHU and YAS. No final decisions on offer has been agreed but Yuen and Tyler will continue to update.

Festival: A report will be delivered after the next Festival sub group meeting.

University Collaborations: A report will be delivered at the next meeting.

Newsletter/Website: VAP Panel information is now in the website and an overview of this and link was included in the newsletter. Minutes are only uploaded once approved.

Action (everyone): Please check you are happy with details included.

Action: Send a paragraph to Rebecca about the newsletter and website for her culture update. Add Anna, Tyler and Angelica to the Mailing List to receive this.

3. Freelance Art and Cultural Worker Funding

A new fund for freelancers in the city has been developed following research by University of Sheffield into this group and the impact that Covid has had on them. This is a pot of £52k and will offer grants of £500, £1000 and £2000. Funding has been contributed by the Business Recovery Grant, SCC, Sheffield Museums, Sheffield Theatres, Site Gallery, Sheffield Hallam University and the University of Sheffield. The fund will specifically be for freelancers who are based in Sheffield and work in the arts/culture. Guidelines are being developed and the fund will go live ASAP.

Action (everyone): Members of the VAP will be sent information and are asked to circulate to their networks.

4. Culture Consortium

The Culture Consortium is now set up as a Not for Profit / Limited by guarantee company. This will mean it is a legal entity and can apply for funding in its own right, potentially creating more opportunities for the future.

5. Code of Conduct

The main discussion of the meeting was to consider a Code of Conduct for the Visual Arts in Sheffield.

Angelica reported that the organisations offering Unconscious Bias Training that she was researching have gone silent and not responding to emails, but she will report back once research in to others has been undertaken.

She shared Site Gallery's working draft of their Code of Conduct. This is attached. This has been developed through a process of research and consultation with staff and other members of the Site

Gallery community (board members, artists, young people, freelancers etc). Consultation asked for three points that they felt were of importance for inclusion. This is currently being reviewed and should be launched in a week or so on website.

who the Code of Conduct is for?

Initial thoughts:

- A document for artists, studio group and arts organisations in the city to use in parallel with their own, and might be seen as forming a bridge between artists and organisations.
- A collaborative model, not a hierarchical statement, but more inclusive – a collective document that we all put our thoughts into, coming from everyone
- The VAP could/should sign up to it and show leadership, to parallel, bigger ambition that Culture Consortium sign up to... connect directly with them, mirroring the cross organisational approach
- Should be an evolving document – responsive and remain relevant

Site Gallery main areas of focus are:

- Privilege
- Access
- Communication
- Climate
- People

Comments/links:

Angelica - Nathan Gearing is an artist who does audio description for images and video – see rationalmethod.com

Sunshine - may be able to share Bloc's safer spacer policy - more about the space

Emma – ArtSpace would be happy to be involved with organisations to help develop their accessibility. This could be either as practical feedback on things like communication, signage, toilets or advice on working with people and artists who have disabilities. The ArtWorks group would be happy to collaborate on practical session talking about how this – either via Zoom, or visiting venues in future.

How do we approach this?

Consider top three important things to include. might take into consideration the things included on example Code of Conducts previously shared or use Site's as a starting point, or share ideas that aren't currently included in either. Look for gaps. These might be relevant to organisations or individuals.

Action (everyone); send through their top three points to Janet by **Friday Feb 5th** and these will be shared on a google doc in advance of the next meeting.

6. AOB

Emma - Exhibition call out for International Exhibition by artists with learning difficulties and autism - [Artist Submission | ArtWorks Together](#)

Yuen – BA students online exhibition site launching soon

7. Next meeting

February 12 / 10.30am – 12 noon