

Visual Arts Panel Meeting Minutes

7 July 2020 / 11.30-1.30

Zoom

Attending: Rebecca Maddox(SCC), Karen Sherwood (Cupola Gallery), David McLeavy (Bloc Projects), James Green (Artist), Emma Harnett (Artworks), Laura Clarke (Art Catalyst), Angelica Sule (Site Gallery), Penny McCarthy (SHU), Yuen Fong Ling (Artist), Cat Powell (ArtFelt), Georgina Kettlewell (Yorkshire Artspace), Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), Janet Jennings (Museums Sheffield).

Apologies: Sara Unwin (University of Sheffield)

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Introductions

People identified the following areas as important them for the VA Panel to address:

- Continuing/building on connections between organisations,
- sharing knowledge, content/ideas
- Developing opportunities
- actively be involved in shaping the future of visual arts,
- Identifying support for commercial approaches
- Support and strengthen strategic plans
- Raise funding for activity
- Innovate and develop new models
- How artists-led initiatives are involved in new strategies
- Signposting activity

Discussion

Priority strategic areas for discussion going forward

1. How the visual arts has a role in recovery.

This panel allows us to have a strong voice and help identify where we want to focus going forward. The legacy of Making Ways gives us a strong base to work from and potentially support applications for funding.

2. How the VA Panel fits with the Culture Consortium and City

What is the Culture Consortium (CC)?

The CC is a group representing the larger arts organisations in the city, set up in 2010. Meets monthly with the task of adding value and raise funding for culture in the wider city (not just individual organisation represented in the panel) – for example funding for Making Ways and Cultural Destinations Programmes which supports festivals, Our Favourite Places and projects such as Phlegm's Mausoleum of the Giants.

What is the City Collective?

The Culture Collective is a new multi-sector group set up with support from ACE, to respond to the 'Cultural Cities Compact' Report. Our Collective is a compact! It brings together cultural organisations with non-arts sector organisations and private sector businesses, to position culture at the centre of all aspects of the city's life. The Collective is working out a draft action plan, which will be consulted on, but it will have a role in shouting loudly for Sheffield on the national stage and looking at different ways of getting the resources which Sheffield needs.

Working together - VA Panel + CC partnership

- The Visual Arts Panel will report back to the CC and visual arts organisations are well represented on this group, providing direct channels of communication.
- The CC will be informed that the VA Panel will receive detailed updates on any relevant discussions, such as High St bid etc.

- Judith from Site is currently chair and Kim from Museums Sheffield will take over in September – and discussions are already happening about the importance of visual arts in recovery and for the city generally.
- CC should be seen as a partner to help us achieve the VA Panel priorities – the conversation is about informing them and asking for help.

Links to documents that might be useful:

Culture Consortium - <https://www.sheffieldculture.co.uk/what-we-do/>

Minutes - <https://www.sheffieldculture.co.uk/meetings/>

City Collective - <https://www.thestar.co.uk/business/sheffield-city-leaders-join-forces-demand-more-government-funding-culture-581306>

Cultural City Compact Report -

<https://www.corecities.com/sites/default/files/field/attachment/Cultural%20Cities%20Enquiry%20%5Bweb%5D.pdf>

3. **How things have changed...**

Lost social cohesion through working in isolation – no shared social experiences, exhibitions and events. How can we address this in a way that isn't too tech heavy (ensuring it's as inclusive as possible)? How can the dialogue be transported to a new model? Not about growth or expansion but about recognising the richness of what we have and working with this.

4. **How can we support each other?**

What help do people currently need, or what can we offer?

5. **Black Lives Matter**

Do we create a set of standards for the city's VA organisations which can be adopted? A collective resource that connects also includes other areas of policy including pay or ethical issues for example. Sharing good practice / guides.

Thoughts around BLM need to be more than use of language – how do we make this bolder and more pro-active? Do we need a 'glossary' which identifies and makes explicit the problems? It is important to commit to make changes not just have a statement allowing us to simultaneously learn and do – what are organisations trying to achieve and how do we start to do this? Share and get feedback.

Need to learn what the barriers are and ask how we might remove them.

ACTION:

- Rebecca to share info with Yuen about SCC group discussing renaming streets and what to do with controversial statues.

6. **Who is missing in the VA discussion?**

Questions about how to engage with Create Sheffield or Social Arts Network etc. Important to keep in touch with these groups but there are lots of crossovers with organisations via Culture Consortium etc., but also there are opportunities for discussions with them as it becomes apparent we need to do this.

Create Sheffield – <https://www.createsheffield.co.uk/>

Other

Visual Arts Exchange / ACE led meetings

Discussions bi-monthly until the end of the year.

Sign up by emailing **Caroline Courtney** - Email: caroline.courtney@artscouncil.org.uk

Session 60-90 mins. Topics outlined below:

Life online ?	5th August
How is the way we work in ' Place ' changing, from local to international ?	2nd September

How are audiences, learners and participants behaving ?	7th October
What does ' reset ' mean for a greener, more just New Normal ?	4th November
What are the Changes in Funding landscape including Project Grants, Trusts & Foundations ?	2nd December

Next meeting

Meet in a month so we can start to get the discussion rolling further, as today has been more of an intro and thoughts in C-19 and current priorities.

Agenda

After the meeting it was agreed that Agendas for the meetings going forward will be based on the key strands identified in the strategy:

Communication and Collaboration; Investing in Talent; Raising Profile; Civic and Community Impact and Repositioning the Visual Arts within the City.

ACTIONS:

- Janet to doodle poll dates and send through minutes and agenda
- Janet to develop agendas for future meetings
- everyone read the document to update ideas and consider which key strand is priority – which we discuss first
- Janet to send print copy of the strategy to Georgina. (Please email me if anyone else wants one – I have about 4 at home ☺)