

VAP Meeting

Feb 12 2021 / 10.30-12

Attending: Rebecca Maddox (Sheffield City Council), James Green (Artist), Karen Sherwood (Cupola), Cat Powell (Artfelt), Sara Unwin (University of Sheffield), Penny McCarthy (Sheffield Hallam), Tyler Mellins (Yorkshire Artspace), Georgina Kettlewell (Yorkshire Artspace), David McLeavy (Bloc), Sunshine Wong (Bloc), Angelica Sule (Site Gallery), Alison Morten (Museums Sheffield), Emma Harnett (Artworks), Janet Jennings (Museums Sheffield).

Apologies: Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), Anna Santomauro (Art Catalyst), Yuen Fong Ling (Artist).

-

1. Minutes

Minutes from last meeting were accepted

2. David's Last Meeting

Thanks to David for all his contributions to the Panel and to the Making Ways Steering Group. David has said that where possible he is happy to continue attending the Festival sub group.

Good Luck in Hull!

3. Subgroup Reports

- **Studio groupings update**

Not much to report back.

Studio holders at YAS are interested in the potential for an international exchange programme once Covid restrictions allow. Discussion to take to sub committee.

- **University Collaboration**

The last meeting had to be postponed. New dates will be planned for March.

- **Festival**

Report back at the next meeting.

4. Code of Conduct

Suggested priorities to consider included:

- **Payment for artists**

pay is important but organisations have different capacities to offer a standard amount. Different benefits can be offered and be useful. Therefore this might not mean a standard rate but an emphasis on transparency – Clear guidelines to enable the ability to be successful in applying for awards/commissions/exhibitions; a sense of genuine support; information is published in advance, time frames etc

What is the most useful thing? Artists having free exhibition with support might be more useful than fees for some people.

- **Empowering artists**

Artists can feel like they can't ask for money for things. People are asked to do things for free and this is good for their profile, but how we empower artists and word this is important (you can say no, you can ask for pay).

- **Artforms**
Ensure different forms of art practice are recognised and we are not privileging one over the other.
- **Be inclusive**
How we include everyone – both specialists along with artists.

Not all organisations have the capacity to be as supportive as a Code of Conduct would like us to be?
How do we address this?

We need to recognise no ones going to get it entirely right first time... some organisations don't approach Artworks as they worry they might do the wrong thing. But its better to give it a go and learn, not ignore the issue.

Action: Dominika Rojewska who works at Artworks is undertaking some research into this as part of her MA. Can we invite her to the next meeting?

- **Funding for Access**
Can we start to automatically build support (easy read documents, etc) into funding apps? It might be that we have a policy to automatically build provision to support this into funding applications – if funds are appropriate for organisations. This might be a learning curve and something we share and develop together.

ACE should be expecting this. Its at the forefront of their strategies – and we should take advantage of this as organisations and as a panel.

- **General**
Important to consider who the Code of Conduct is for and who signs up
Is it public? Is t about organisation being held to account? Will they be happy and confident to do this? Organisations need to know what they are signing up for / universal approach

- **Going Forward**
Site's Code of Contact is broad enough to encompass different groups, acting like an ethics check list and would be easier for some organisations to sign up to this.

It was agreed that a document for the VAP would be drawn up using Site Gallery's Code of Conduct as blueprint, with additional comments and priorities feeding into this.

Action: To prepare a draft document for the April meeting to allow for time to develop after the Freelance Fund delivery. Sunshine agreed to help.

5. Guest speakers

The Group was asked if there was a need to invite people to the panel from time to time to help with development and give a broader view of the Visual Arts nationally?

There was a concern that this might slow down the process, but there was a call for more open communication with sharing of external interesting things and round ups of things people had attended. (see '7. Sharing Knowledge' below).

It was also suggested that – outside these meetings – we could set up a wider event and invite artists, arts organisations and other across the city. This would assist with transparency and help the Panel be a more public entity. Maybe plan the first for autumn time?

Sara suggested hosting the CVAN campaign – Art is essential – would be a good way to bring people in from outside of the city, with discussions around the national campaigns and reports.

Action: Agenda for next Panel

-

6. Training - What training might VAP need?

- **Anti-Racism Training**

Angelica reported that Site Gallery will be undertaking anti-racism training. This will be provided by MA Educational Consultancy based in Sheffield. A full day training course which accommodates 15-20 people is £2000. They also do other training + half days etc. so this might be something the VAP Looks into.

Action: Angelica to report back in April.

- **Audience Finder**

Tyler commented that information on Audience Finder in Sheffield seems lacking. YAS hasn't contributed to this as it seems that Museums Sheffield provide most data for the city.

Can we build a better picture of audiences? Especially as data is tied into ACE Reporting for NPOs.

Chris Harvey (Museums Sheffield) might be happy to share his knowledge.

Action: Alison mention to Chris.

Action: If you are interested in finding out more about Audience Finder send details through to Janet.

7. Sharing Knowledge

Can we start signposting people to training and activity that might be relevant?

Informal sharing between ourselves of relevant books, reports, TV programmes etc

Opens more questions and allows thinking and rethinking.

How best to share, gather, list?

Sunshine suggested Bloc's Harsh Light webinar with Action Space which addresses working with artists who have complex needs and who need a robust support system around them.

[Bloc Projects 'Harsh Light' Webinar - actionspace](#)

Action: As a start members of VAP will be added to the Making Our ways Newsletter if not already on this.

8. Organisation Updates (note – this was before Government Statement)

Cupola – The difficulty in planning anything is really hard and having an impact on the gallery, artists and visitors.

Site – Hoping to open at the end of May, if allowed but with the first exhibition in June.

Hallam - SHU degree shows will be online. International student are unlikely to be allowed back into the UK until at least after Easter.

YAS – Planning a summer reboot. An exhibition for a studio holder project has been postponed twice, and this is now planned for April – as having an online element as well as street level window exhibitions.

Museums Sheffield - will open as soon as possible. Matt Conduit's exhibition has only been seen online so far – looking the potential to extend dates. The touring show from Hayward will close before opening to the public. The National Portrait Gallery Cecil Beaton will be installed for 1 April but has to leave by 4 July, so might get a shortened public opening for six weeks.

Sheffield galleries and Museums Trust and Sheffield Industrial Museums Trust are merging on 1 April – to become Sheffield Museums Trust. A lot of work and focus is on this right now. The Graves won't open as it is undergoing refurbishment.

Bloc – mostly online until June with webinars, and one year residency. Still recruiting for a new director / extended deadline until 19 Feb.

9. AOB

Freelance Fund

£55k available for freelance arts and cultural workers in Sheffield with a deadline of 21 February. Lots of applications have already been submitted with visual art being well represented in these. Selection will take place in early March.

10. Next Meeting

12 March / 10.30am – 12 noon

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81444396578?pwd=bHFva1B1UE9NMmJ5R01FS09xMkgzZz09>

Meeting ID: 814 4439 6578

Passcode: 027912