

VAP Meeting

March 12 2021 / 10.30-12

Attending: Rebecca Maddox (Sheffield City Council), Kirstie Hamilton (Museums Sheffield), James Green (Artist), Yuen Fong Ling (Artist), Penny McCarthy (Sheffield Hallam), Tyler Mellins (Yorkshire Artspace), Emma Harnett (Artworks), Dominika Rojewska (Artworks), Janet Jennings (Museums Sheffield).

Apologies: Anna Santomauro (Art Catalyst), Karen Sherwood (Cupola), Cat Powell (Artfelt), Sara Unwin (University of Sheffield), Georgina Kettlewell (Yorkshire Artspace), Sunshine Wong (Bloc), Angelica Sule (Site Gallery),

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1. Minutes

Minutes from last meeting were accepted

2. Inclusivity / Code of Conduct

Welcome and introduction to Dominika from Artworks. Dominika is undertaking research into entry points to the visual arts for artists with disabilities; how do we make the visual arts more accessible, when not just considering audiences?

Need to add this into the statement - think differently about how we approach inclusivity. Need to see the Code of Conduct as an editable, usable document that changes and is updated as needs be.

Emma – would like to see an increase in engagement with Artworks – allowing them to reach out to help provide access information. How might we expand that to others in the city? Do we host and open meeting? How can Artworks help organisations in the city consider accessibility?

Rebecca and Janet can help share Dominika's questionnaire to get responses from people in the city.

3. Code of Conduct / General

A draft document will be prepared for the next meeting.

4. Audience Finder

Georgina talking to Kirstie and Judith about how we share and get this together. Data from Sheffield is not comprehensive... need to think how we can access and share this.

Tyler is doing a training session with Audience Finder in April and will feedback.

5. Freelance Fund Update

83 applications funded with the £77k available. 273 applications received with a value of £276k. Site Gallery are now starting to process payments.

Focus of applications was very much on equipment and software, but also collaborations/working together to support other artists or the wider community and training.

Demonstrated level of need and helped galvanise support for freelancers. Provides evidence to access additional funding and support going forward.

6. Updates

- *Studio groupings*

Studio groups have not met. Georgina at YAS is keen to take forward – and looking to connect with organisations providing studios and collaborate. Consider that YAS are only studio providers on the VAP panel and how best they act as a representative of other provision in the city (Womp, Bloc, S1, etc) Consider what facilities and space each have and investigate a sharing scheme; who can provide what? With a long term aim of exchange partnerships both inside and outside of Sheffield.

- *University Collaboration*

Looking at how data is useful for mapping to plot all kinds of activity and need in the city and what networks exist. Considering a funding bid to build this as an online portal which is interactive, accessible and editable.

Yuen has been asked to research Pipeline progression (the journey from school to being an artist) with YVAN.

- Festival Sub Group

Next steps are considering how sub group progresses the festival idea and moves this forward; what timescale should we be thinking about? What are the final goals for the project?

The group are sharing thoughts about relevance, culture - what it is to be an artist... art fairs, profiling good practice across the city, how do we do this now? And considering models of both other festival and social practice (eg. artist support pledge - Matthew Burrows) and thinking how might we emulate/develop these to create something that is unique to Sheffield.

Themes - festival of the body, but also Making – with a view to get communities doing not just seeing art.

Inclusion - Don't want people to feel co-opted into project... they need to be properly involved and wider project. Grow, embed long term, future strands of activity, existing things that need more profile - in a festival might reach bigger audience.

Accessibility – need to try to address a demystification process of what it is to be an artist and encouraging creativity/ creative communities and value skills – not everyone is an artists but everyone can be creative.

Sharing - Seeing the person behind the artwork makes the art more memorable, although not everyone wants the spotlight out on them and we need to include these people somehow too.

Legacy/development - might be library of resources. This might include the artist mapping/database research (mentioned above in Uni Collaborations) which shows the diversity if practice in the city, but also an archive of downloadable of 'how to' toolkits and workshops.

Events - what is visual art? What do artists do? Why art is essential What is a curator? People have a confused idea of what people spend time doing. Festival about shaping this in the first instance - not about the glorification of an artwork - about artists and the city p getting people to care... why should they value art? How do we attract people who haven't encountered some of this before?

Audience: who is the potential audience – need a strategic approach to who we might reach. Develop a strategy which connects events - a journey of learning and knowledge - think about change. This might be a longitudinal piece of work?

7. Event(s) in/from the Autumn

VAP open event in autumn to bring people together - feedback on what we are what we do, link to wider sector...

Launch of Code of Conduct

VAP Activity plan (Festival plans)

Audience development plan

Aimed at visual artists and arts organisations to reconnect, update and launch Code of Conduct

8. Updates and sharing knowledge

James - making art and looking forward to events starting in September.
Sheffield print fair hopefully in November.

Tyler – YAS have expanded their board successfully from 3 to 9. Currently restructuring from 7 staff to

5, but hiring new buildings manager.

Penny – Hallam lecture series... helps to have sense of artistic community, see people. Degree shows will be online.

Emma - reopening Artworks end of March. International exhibition virtual and projection on windows. June - hoping to have a proper exhibition. New website with staff page being launched.

Yuen - race equality commission - evidence being gathered. VAP can submit good models of practice and share learning.

Kirstie – Museums Sheffield will become Sheffield Museums Trust, with Sheffield Industrial Museums from 1st April.

Next Meeting

Topic: Visual Art Panel

Time: May 6, 2021 03:00 PM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81784710128?pwd=ckxtbXBCSDZaUl1SDJmcEt5TXBLZz09>

Meeting ID: 817 8471 0128

Passcode: 254112