



CULTURE CONSORTIUM UPDATE

- Monthly strategy meeting: wish to broaden out with digital, music and dance...
- Top priorities: 1) Support and new development 2) Sustainability of Organisations 3) City of Festivals 4) Young people
- Creative Guild/Little Mesters website Arts Council Application: if you are interested in helping to create this bid, please email bareprojecttheatre@gmail.com and I will pass your details on. Will also post meeting date on this website (once decided).
- Recently won Arts Council grant to develop Sheffield cultural offer: one strand is tourism: improved tourism data, Our Favourite Places website
- Another strand is festivals in Sheffield: Focus will be on Sheffield Doc/Fest, Off the Shelf, Tramlines, Festival of the Mind. Bringing in professionals from other cities for learning exchange.
- Many small grants for Tour de France: 100 days (<http://www.welcometosheffield.co.uk/visit/tour-de-france-2014/cultural-festival>)
- **Questions for Culture Consortium:**
 - o How can we get events advertised on the Our Favourite Places Website?
 - o What learning opportunities will be in place for smaller festivals hoping to grow from opportunities given to bigger festivals? Is there an action plan for the 'trickle down' of development and learning?

ROUND TABLE DISCUSSIONS:

Question 1: Who do you work with and how?

The Universities are important partners:

- Arts Enterprise
- Festival of the Mind
- Research Projects (eg. Music Dept in audience research: <http://www.sparc.dept.shef.ac.uk/>)
- Societies (eg. Platform Performance Festival)
- Architecture Week: 23rd June

- Artists teaching within Universities (eg. 100 Objects project at Hallam <http://sheffield100objects.org/2013/12/12/green-lane-works/>)

Working across disciplines of art:

- Through festivals (eg. Art Sheffield)
- Open Spaces
- Printmakers: running workshops leads to working with many different artists
- Libraries, used as service
- Brass bands in theatres (Paul Allen)
- Culture Consortium: partners from numerous disciplines and local gov't.

Small Collectives:

- Spaces (eg. Victoria Quays, Hagglers Corner, Bank Street Arts) work with many different artists from variety of forms
- Organisations: Festivals, Art in the Park, Various artist collectives

Within one discipline

- Music in the Round: work with a variety of professional/non-professional music groups
- Dance Network Sheffield: providing professional classes and workshops for dancers.

Outside the cultural sector

- Music in the Round: work with schools
- Creative Partnerships... has this work been continued?
- Health sector: Mental Health Week
- Ruskin Mill Trust (Freeman College <http://rmt.org/freeman/>): Fusion Café, Biodynamic site (High Riggs) and art galleries, Merlin Theatre (<http://www.lonlineb.i8.com/theatres/MerlinTheatre.html>)
- Third Sector: Cavendish Cancer Care (Platform Performance Festival), SOAR and Green Estates (Yorkshire Arts Space)



- CAPEUK: work with schools.
- **Local Enterprise Partnerships:** little representation from cultural sector! Debora Egen.
- Festivals way to create local connections. Eg. Off the Shelf and local libraries
- Within environmental movement: eg. Grow Sheffield or <http://www.tippingpoint.org.uk/> Knowledge Exchange

- Culture Action Europe
- Platform International Europe
- Participation and Knowledge Network (Leeds: Leila Jancovich)

Funders:

- University projects
- ACE (funding and learning opportunities)

Question 2: Who else could you work with and how?



Outside the cultural sector:

- Victoria Quays: want to meet more from cultural sector, we have lots of space. Especially organisations who want to work on the waterside, in a space full of history, help to create some ‘meanwhile spaces’ (pop-up boats?), Gateway to tourists!
- Not just the universities: there are students in the university! Connect with better communication, clearer messages.
- Music in the Round: digital partners to make live stream concerts/new film/media projects
- Different generations
- Councillors!
- MPs!
- Sports groups/football clubs: Young Vic meeting had talk from footballer, inspiring community work.
- More work across departments within Universities needed: developing relationships and understanding how it can be mutually beneficial.
- **WANT TO WORK WITH BUSSINESS:** forge partnerships between cultural and local business sectors. (comes up several times)
- Want to work with third sector or social services: eg. Health, Environmental, Schools, Unemployed, Housing... “I want to regenerate Sheffield”

Within cultural sector:

- Small theatre companies want to connect with local theatres/ others on same scale
- Other artists from different disciplines for events, promotion and workshops
- Intergenerational work!
- Want to draw in more diverse audiences: other ethnicities, socio-economic backgrounds, age range.

How (in general):

- Look out for individuals, not just organisations
- Be generous
- Make introductions
- By listening: where we share common goals and where we don't



- Collaboration
- Respond to environment
- Not just doing what we've done before: how can we do things differently?



- Go beyond economics.
- Look for the gaps and where there is need.

SO...WHAT NEXT? (Outcomes)

- Building across demographics needed: could Little Mesters have a role to play in this?
(Sign up to be part of the application process for the Little Mesters funding bid. More info to come)
- Voice of culture needed on Local Enterprise Partnership: **Connections between arts and culture and business recurring theme**
- **Health and Wellbeing agenda:** Art therapy prevalent (could be made more of?), Arts and Health Network (Freeman College), Mental Health Week (Sara Hill)
- May 28th: New Connections: A vision for arts & health in Sheffield.:
<http://www.storyingsheffield.com/2014/03/may-28th-a-vision-for-arts-health/>
- Wellbeing not only about health!



- Potential theme around Wellbeing and the role of arts and culture for What Next?
- Also theme of education came up a lot: work with schools.
- Theme: Unlikely Alliances



- Fabio's final thoughts: *Need to step into uncomfortable zone for true cross sector collaboration.* Highlighting theme of **GIVE and GET.**

Visual minutes by Joseph Houlders