



## Culture Durham Partnership

### Minutes of Board Meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> January, 2018

#### Present

Roger Kelly	-	Chair
Nicholas Baumfield	-	Arts Council
Liz Fisher	-	Auckland Castle
Angela Thomas	-	Auckland Castle
Sally Dixon	-	Beamish Museum
Jane Whittaker	-	The Bowes Museum
Andy Jackson	-	Cobweb
Eileen Atkins	-	Culture Bridge North East
Ruth Robson	-	Durham Cathedral
Clr Ossie Johnson	-	Durham County Council
Stephen Howell	-	Durham County Council
Jane Shaw	-	Durham Creatives
Mike Summers	-	Durham Music Service
Keith Bartlett	-	Durham University
Frank Wilson	-	Event International
Tony Harrington	-	The Forge
Ivor Crowther	-	Heritage Lottery Fund
Matthew Jarratt	-	North East Cultural Partnership
Chris Woodley-Stewart	-	North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Michelle Gorman	-	Visit County Durham
Jane Hedges	-	Culture Durham Partnership

#### Apologies

Genevieve Adkins	-	Auckland Castle
Adrian Jenkins	-	The Bowes Museum
Richard Dowson	-	Durham County Cricket Club
Nicky Harrison	-	Historic England
Gary Campbell	-	Locomotion
Martin Wilson	-	TIN Arts

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

<p>RK welcomed everybody to the meeting and thanked Liz Fisher for the Auckland Project providing the venue for the meeting.</p>	
<p>Apologies (above) were noted.</p>	
<p>Liz Fisher welcomed the group to Vinovium House and provided updated the group on the Auckland Project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have benefited from significant HLF funding</li> <li>• Aim to regenerate Bishop Auckland by developing it as a visitor destination</li> <li>• Focus of the first few years has been capital projects</li> <li>• Also addressing community engagement and development by working with community groups to identify how they would like to be involved in regeneration</li> <li>• Apprenticeship programme</li> <li>• Mining Art Gallery opened in October 2017 – based on visitors so far it is anticipated that there will be 10,000 in the first 6 months. There has been a very good response from local community.</li> <li>• Auckland Tower to open summer 2018 Auckland Castle, December 2018</li> <li>• Faith Museum and Spanish Art Gallery to open in 2019</li> <li>• 2020 Walled Garden will open</li> <li>• 2 hotels Queen’s Head and Post Chase</li> <li>• Zurbaráns have been on loan in the US and are now being exhibited by the Wallace Collection.</li> </ul> <p>LF invited Board members to visit the Mining Art Gallery with the Assistant Curator, Angela Thomas, after the meeting.</p>	

2. Minutes of the meeting, 14th September 2017 and matters arising

<p>The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record, subject to noting that Keith Bartlett had attended the meeting.</p>	
<p>Matters arising:  <u>Cultural Passport</u> – the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership has paused work on Cultural Passport while an exercise to map partners’ activity with schools is carried out by Anna Siddall. This will be completed in April.  <u>Commemorative Plaques</u> – the proposed scheme is being taken to committee week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> January. SD to report back to the Board.  <u>Evaluation methodology</u> –circulated as agreed. To be discussed at a future meeting.</p>	<p>SD SD/JH</p>



<p>The target audiences are teachers and parents.  Communications support will be needed to develop a social media presence, prepare press releases and organise photo calls. The cost would be in the region of £3.5 - £4k.  TH noted that the starting point was to promote, celebrate and raise awareness of arts and culture through the CDCEP, doing something collaboratively that could not be done individually by partners.  RK asked for the issues and ideas to be set out in a note to resolve funding outside of the meeting.  KB informed the group that DU is having talks with partners in the city about running an arts festival after exams and that the timescale is complementary.</p>	<p>SD/JH</p>
---	--------------

6. Discussion: Rethinking Relationships: Inquiry Into The Civic Role of Arts Organisation, Phase 1

<p>RK introduced the Inquiry which had been carried out by the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in 2017.  The Inquiry into the Civic Role of Arts Organisations <a href="http://civicroleartsinquiry.gulbenkian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Civic-Role-of-Arts-Phase-1-EXEC-SUMM-5-7-17-1.pdf">http://civicroleartsinquiry.gulbenkian.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/Civic-Role-of-Arts-Phase-1-EXEC-SUMM-5-7-17-1.pdf</a> seeks to increase awareness of the valuable civic role that arts organisations play – or could play – nationally and locally. The goal is to create a strong and growing movement of organisations committed to demonstrating ‘next practice’ by embracing their civic role by 2025. The stated aspiration is for these organisations to improve the lives of large numbers of people across England.  The Board discussed the document and views expressed included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The document is useful reminder but does not say anything new;</li> <li>• Thoughtful document that and that it is useful to reflect on the ideas addressed;</li> <li>• The civic role of organisations is not always reflected in the atmosphere of place;</li> <li>• Effectively it is advocating the importance of communicating the civic role of arts organisations;</li> <li>• The main function of arts organisations is arts and sometimes organisations can find themselves taking on an unpaid social work role. This type of broader role should not be adopted without genuine awareness and appropriate training.</li> </ul>	
---	--

7. Vision and Action Plan Progress

<p>a) Events Forum – covered under item 4</p>	
---	--

b) Education – covered under item 5.	
c) Art Forms – process underway to identify a date for the task group meeting. This task group will also cover collections (13.03.18 subsequently agreed)	JH
d) International – process underway to identify a date for the task group meeting. MJ informed the board that NECP has carried out a survey which has shown that, despite Brexit, work with the EU is continuing. Work with partners outside the EU appears to have reduced by 40%. He asked that board members send him information about international work to inform forthcoming promotional work. NB advised the board that ACE would be publishing a report at the end of January on the impact on the arts of leaving the EU. Concerns relate to funding and the movement of artists. ACE has tried to secure agreement to waive the requirement for incoming artists to have visas.	KB  All
e) Collections – Forms – process underway to identify a date for the task group meeting. This task group will also cover art forms (13.03.18 subsequently agreed)	JH
f) Festivals – Meeting to be organised by SH	SH
g) Churches and Chapels – potential to take forward through Northern Heartlands – RK/Jill Cole (meeting subsequently took place 01.02.18)	JH/RK/Jill Cole
h) Website – live from November 2017 – <a href="http://culturedurham.org.uk">culturedurham.org.uk</a> - feedback requested by JH. On-going maintenance - JH	All/JH
i) Cultural Audit – ‘finalised’ and included on website November 2017. On-going maintenance - JH	JH

## 8. Member Updates

RR – Open Treasure exhibitions: currently, Sainly Sisters; Tudors: The Family and Faith in Spring 2018; Miners: Pitmen, Pride and Prayer in Summer 2018; Armistice: Living with the Peace in the Autumn 2018. Forthcoming events include: a major Parry concert with the University; St John Passion in March; Holocaust Memorial Day talk, in partnership with DCC.	
LF – the Zurbaráns are currently in the US and will be opening at the Frick at the end of January. Trying to maintain the footfall in Bishop Auckland by running tours of the Castle so that visitors can see the construction work underway. Looking at holding a winter festival when the Castle reopens in December 2018.	
EA – Culture bridge is launching Artsmark schools training events for partners.	
JW – The Bowes Museum will be announcing its Summer fashion exhibition on 5 <sup>th</sup> February; Spanish paintings from the Bowes collection have been	

exhibited at the Wallace Collection; creative spaces now available on site.	
IC – 2018-19 will be a transition year for HLF. Trying to rationalise 16 programmes and initiatives to be manageable. Will be consulting on its role, vision and funding priorities for the next 5 years from 31 <sup>st</sup> January ( <a href="https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/we-want-hear-you-hlfs-future-direction-and-funding">https://www.hlf.org.uk/about-us/news-features/we-want-hear-you-hlfs-future-direction-and-funding</a> ) The consultation will run until 22 March 2018.	
MG – Outdoor campaign – video with Anita Rani on walking and dark skies	
KB – DU cultural strategy is going through the internal agreement process; current Palace Green Library exhibitions are on Dante and fairy tales/folklore; future exhibition on skeletons of Scottish soldiers; DU art collection is being brought together in one place.	
MJ – IPPR is currently working with NECP on funding for /expenditure on culture in the North East for presentation to the next NECP board. It is hoped that this will lead to a parliamentary presentation to engage MPs.	
TH – Delivery of Artsmark with Culture Bridge; work on festivals for DCC; quality assessment with DCC Children and Young People; finalising NPO agreement; Connections – artists into schools; developing Northern Writes to 2020 – centenary of Tommy Armstrong; Year of Wonders; 2 year action research project with Paul Hammond on using lenses to develop writing.	
SH – in-house production of Talking Heads at the Gala; Ps moving to Bishop Auckland; DLI touring exhibition; History Centre – archives, museum storage, will be publicly accessible; festival and events announcements shortly; exploring how to use the arts support the health and wellbeing agenda	
CW-S – William Smith 1815 original geological map on display in Bowlees Visitor Centre March – June; working with DU to explore the use of geological surveys; ACE grants for artists to work with children on invertebrates; commissioning Steve Messam for a project in Weardale in 2019; initiative with schools in Weardale.	
MS – Vocal Festival 27 <sup>th</sup> January to 10 <sup>th</sup> February with events at the Cathedral, the Gala and Ushaw – includes 5 short operas written for children.	
FW – work in Beijing for Chinese New Year; working with TIN Arts in North Tyneside on an inclusive arts initiative; project with prisons/courts.	
AT – changing exhibition at Mining Art Gallery twice a year – next exhibition will be Bevan Boys; training process on-going for Visitor Services team.	
SD – Re-making Beamish – HLF funded – progressing; 1820s Quilters Cottage; launching patrons’ scheme for large donors; STEM themed work with schools.	
OC – continuing work with the Science Museum on Locomotion; collaboration with local authority partners on the Stockton-Darlington Railway anniversary.	
AJ - Cathedral concert with DMS; concert at the Bowes Museum in February and at Ushaw in June.	
NB – ACE – developing new strategic framework for 2020 -2030 – consultation includes workshops and online; streamlining funding	

programmes; funds will be open to museums which means more competition for resources; will support more creative media – new forms of digital art and culture; strategic touring funds will end; fund for individual artists and practitioners for career development; Creativity Commission – ACE and DU partnership – to be launched shortly – fresh look at what creativity is and how it can be part of children’s lives – aim is to influence government policy .	
JH – update sent in by Historic England – 2 new Heritage Action Zones confirmed for the North East, both in Durham – Stockton – Darlington Railway and Bishop Auckland.	
RK – Ushaw increase in visitor numbers – 38,000 in 2017, 21,000 in 2016 and 7,500 in 2015; this year celebrating 450 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of Douai; 70-80 events (concerts/exhibitions etc.) planned for 2018; converting convent into artists’ studios and space in the main building into offices for rent; developing a Music Education Centre in the Infirmary.	

9. Any other business

RK – suggested that a review of membership of the partnership would be timely and will bring a paper to a future meeting.	RK
RK – proposed a Review of the Vision and Action Plan and priority actions. A paper will be brought to a future meeting.	JH
MJ congratulated the board on the strength and progress made by the partnership. It is important to tell the story and increase knowledge of it.	

10. Dates of future meetings

29 <sup>th</sup> March 2018	
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2018	
9 <sup>th</sup> July 2018	
JH to circulate future dates in due course	JH