



## County Durham Cultural Partnership

### Minutes of Board Meeting, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2017

#### Present

Roger Kelly	-	Chair
Nicholas Baumfield	-	Arts Council
Genevieve Adkins	-	Auckland Castle
Sally Dixon	-	Beamish Museum
Helen Barker	-	Beamish Museum
Jane Whittaker	-	The Bowes Museum
Eileen Atkins	-	Culture Bridge North East
Ruth Robson	-	Durham Cathedral
Clr Ossie Johnson	-	Durham County Council
Clr Tracie Smith	-	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
Gary Campbell	-	Locomotion
Jill Cole	-	Northern Heartlands
Michelle Gorman	-	Visit County Durham
Jane Hedges	-	County Durham Cultural Partnership

#### Apologies

Richard Evans	-	Beamish Museum
Adrian Jenkins	-	The Bowes Museum
Andy Jackson	-	Cobweb
Richard Dowson	-	Durham County Cricket Club
Ivor Crowther	-	Heritage Lottery Fund
Alexandra Watson	-	Historic England
Peter Bromley	-	North East Cultural Partnership
Chris Woodley-Stewart	-	North Pennines Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
Martin Wilson	-	TIN Arts

1. Welcome, introductions and apologies.

RK welcomed everybody to the meeting, noting that this was the first meeting for Cllrs Ossie Johnson and Tracie Smith. He thanked Jill Cole for attending the meeting and Tony Harrington for providing the venue.	
Apologies (above) were noted.	
<p>Tony Harrington welcomed the group to The Stanley Education Centre and provided a briefing on the work of The Forge.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over the last 3 years The Forge has worked with 40,000 children. Partnership projects have included working with DCC on Brass, DMS, Beamish on the Pitmen Poets and Durham Cathedral on Defiant Requiem.</li> <li>• Training for Artsmark award has been delivered on behalf of Culture Bridge North East and ACE.</li> <li>• Currently in the process of agreeing 4 years funding as a NPO.</li> <li>• Now represented on the boards of East Durham Creates and Northern Heartlands.</li> </ul>	

2. Minutes of the meeting, 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and matters arising

The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as a correct record.	
Board members were reminded to volunteer for the task and finish groups on 1. Audience Development and Different Art Forms and 2. Increasing Accessibility of Collections Across the County. JH to remind by email.	JH

3. Northern Heartlands Update – Jill Cole, Director of Northern Heartlands

<p>Jill Cole briefed the group on the Northern Heartlands project. It is one of 16 pilot Great Place Schemes, each of which were awarded grants of £1.489m by ACE and HLF. Total expenditure for NH will be £1.8m. The project runs to the end of May 2020.</p> <p>NH has adopted a cultural landscape perspective and will use the arts to engage targeted communities and communities of interest in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• understanding the past and how that has transformed the landscape and its people;</li> <li>• understanding what people value in their communities;</li> <li>• identifying and exploring new challenges;</li> <li>• Influencing their own future.</li> </ul>	
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Focus is on the Upper Dales and ex-mining communities. NH is learning from East Durham Creates and Cultural Spring regarding how to engage people and communities not currently involved in cultural activities.

Work with communities will include discussion and enhancement of the role of heritage, culture and the arts in shaping the future of landscapes and communities. Local organisations will be facilitated to work with artists and university researchers to explore the relationship between people, heritage and landscape. The team will initiate and work with partners/communities to organise community events, performances and exhibitions in under-used public buildings and seek to work with local people, through discussion groups, to influence policy, with the aim of persuading local councils, civic organisations and businesses to invest in and put culture at the heart of their thinking.

A Community Initiatives Fund will be established, in partnership with County Durham Community Foundation, to fund organisations to run their own activities on the NH themes.

Staff have now been recruited and the team includes consultation with communities is underway.

As well as Jill, the core team includes:

- Head of Learning and Influence, Emily Diamand;
- Community Facilitators Tariq Imam and Anna Collins;
- Administrator, Jayne Bradley.

The team will be supplemented by a number of commissioned artists and academics who will work with the staff and with local communities.

RK thanked JC for her presentation and invited her to attend again at some point in the future to update the Board on NH progress.

#### 4. Cultural Passport – Eileen Atkins

Eileen Atkins presented the paper, previously circulated, which provided an outline of the conclusions and next steps agreed from the Cultural Passport concept development day held by the County Durham Cultural Education Partnership (CDCEP) in July. It had been agreed that, at this stage the concept was unclear and that work was required to understand what was needed/would be most beneficial to children and young people. The group then explored the underpinning values, the outcomes and impact required, initial ideas, decisions on how to move forward (subject to agreement from the wider partnership), next steps and immediate actions.

Full details are in the paper but in summary:

<p><u>Decisions made</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The work of the partnership is for the benefit of children and young people living in County Durham and we want to encourage and support them in accessing and engaging in arts and culture in general;</li> <li>• There are 284 schools in County Durham (not including FE Colleges, the University and nurseries) and mapping current engagement in arts and culture to identify where the ‘cold spots’ or priority areas are in the County should inform the direction taken.</li> </ul> <p><u>Next steps discussed were</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The partners will share intelligence/data around current engagement with County Durham schools so there is a pool of data to work from;</li> <li>• Exercise to analyse data to pull out the stories behind it – decision to be made regarding resource to carry out the work;</li> <li>• Once an evidence base of schools cultural engagement is established, decision can be made about how to target future work;</li> <li>• It will then be possible to work with appropriate schools to identify barriers to increased engagement. This can then be a powerful tool for conversations between the partnership and organisations/people who could affect change e.g. travel companies if transport is a real barrier, the Council and/or other local businesses if it is about financial constraints etc.</li> </ul> <p><u>Immediate actions</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek views of the wider partnership on the discussion notes and direction of travel before the next CDCEP meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> September.</li> <li>• If agreed, this becomes a priority area of work for the partnership alongside the agreed priority for 2017/18 of advocacy of arts education: shared language and shared commitment, an advocacy tool with case studies.</li> <li>• Intention is for data to be secured by January/February 2018.</li> </ul> <p>The Board noted the report and agreed to devote a meeting to this work in the Spring and asked the CDCEP to let the Board know what was needed from CDCP members.</p>	<p>EA/CDCEP members</p>
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5. Commemorative Plaques – Stephen Howell

<p>SH provided an outline of the proposed scheme and asked the Board to consider the criteria included in the previously circulated Blue Plaque Nomination Form.</p> <p>NB asked that the criteria reflect people who have ‘disappeared’ to address diversity.</p> <p>SD said that Beamish would be interested in supporting that and will be</p>	
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able to work through community groups and archives to identify a broader range of people to be commemorated. SH to ensure criteria include this.	SD SH
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6. Festivals and Events – Stephen Howell

<p>SH gave a presentation exploring the intelligence and information needed to develop this work stream. He addressed the following points: <u>Content and context</u> - need to be balanced; <u>Information</u> - have to be clear about what we know about audience profile, festival/event experience, perception of place, economic impact and wider social impact; <u>Audiences</u> - DCC’s information is good on numbers, varied on demographics, basic on reach and on segmentation, which funders require, it could be better; <u>Experience</u> - information is collected on whether place and experience is considered good/bad/etc; <u>Economic Impact</u> – information on contribution to GDP and GVA is good, information on multiplier effect, output, employment and income less good; investment is significant but ‘suppliers’ are often coming from outside the county; <u>Social impact</u> – wellbeing, developing skills, nurturing innovation, fostering group development, improving productivity; <u>Evaluation</u> – evaluation method developed with DU enabling comparison of DCC events; it would helpful if this model could be adopted by partner organisations in the county.</p> <p>It was agreed that the evaluation methodology would shared electronically. A special meeting will be organised for CDCP together with the Economic Partnership and those measuring health benefits.</p>	SH SH
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7. Annual Conference Preparations – Jane Shaw

<p>JS tabled a draft programme for the Culture Meet 2017. The programme was welcomed and agreed by the Board. JS, JW and JH to progress the plans.</p> <p>It was noted that DCC was contributing £1,000 and The Bowes Museum was making a £900 in-kind contribution. It was agreed that RK will write out to Board members requesting contributions towards the event.</p>	JS/JW/JH  RK
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8. Great Exhibition of the North and Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund

<p>Details are being shared about GEN when they become available to the Partnership. The GEN website includes a e-form to sign up for information alerts. It was noted that little information is available so far.</p> <p>JH and NB briefed the group on the Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund. A call for applications is imminent and the deadline for applications to the NELEP will be tight as they will have to select one project to submit to DCMS by 30<sup>th</sup> November. The fund will make 3 or 4 capital grants of up to £5m over three years. Projects should encourage sustainable cultural and creative regeneration and benefit areas that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment.</p> <p>JH to circulate details of the call when received. Information about projects to be shared with JH.</p>	<p>JH All</p>
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9. Discussion: Rethinking Relationships: Inquiry into the Civic Role of Arts Organisations

The paper (previously circulated) was noted.	
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10. Vision and Action Plan Progress

a) Events Forum –	
b) Education – covered under item 4. Report progress to next Board.	EA
c) Art Forms – Task and Finish to be established – JH to email to remind partners to express interest	JH
d) International – Further meeting to be arranged	KB
e) Collections – Task and Finish to be established – JH to email to remind partners to express interest	JH
f) Festivals – Meeting to be organised by SH – covered under 6 above	SH
g) Churches and Chapels – potential to take forward through Northern Heartlands – RK/Jill Cole	JH/RK/Jill Cole
h) Website – JH to finalise for soft launch at Culture Meet in November	JH
i) Cultural Audit - JH to finalise and include on website by time of Culture Meet in November	JH

11. Member updates reports

MG – VCD autumn campaigns to focus on walking, food and drink and star gazing.	
GC – Flying Scotsman will be at Locomotion over the coming weekend; final stage of integration with the Science Museum reached yesterday; November 2017 to January 2018 Tom Peakes Space Shuttle will be exhibited	

at Locomotion.	
SH – next big events for DCC are the Book Festival in October and the Pantomime at the Gala.	
GA – Mining Art Gallery opening on 1 <sup>st</sup> October. Zurbaráns are currently on loan in Dallas and will return in the Spring.	
RR – new Cathedral Master of Choristers and Organist, Daniel Cook, has started and has appeared on the One Show; Harry Potter screenings sold out in 12 hours; Treasures of St Cuthbert permanent display is now open in the Great Kitchen as part of Open Treasure; the Group Travel Officer is going to a trade show in China to promote the Cathedral.	
FW – Event International commissioned by Hull to rework ‘Rush’ as part of the Freedom Festival in September; taking two groups to China.	
JW – The Bowes Museum has loaned 12 key Spanish paintings to the Wallace Collection in September; extending Christmas Market this year.	
KB – DU has held a very successful conference with OECD on cultural and creative education; Time Machines exhibition has just closed; Dante and Fairy Tales exhibitions opening in November.	
TH – The Forge is working on taking artists into schools and involved with Prevent.	
NB – ACE – Creativity Conference; negotiations with NPOs on conditional offers is a lengthy process; Strategic funds will be reduced, reflecting reduced money to distribute; GFA bids are very competitive.	
JS – Durham Creatives as well as working on the Culture Durham Meet, currently working with East Durham Creates and 5 <sup>th</sup> Size Book with Newcastle Central Library.	
RK – Ushaw - Chuck Close Tapestries exhibition extended into October; visitor numbers increased by over a third already this year.	

12. Any other business

RR raised Northern Saints work scheduled for 2020 – future discussion item.	
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13. Dates of future meetings

30 <sup>th</sup> November 2017	
25 <sup>th</sup> January 2018	
JH to circulate dates for future meetings	JH