

Minutes of Cultural Consortium Executive Meeting

Monday 7 January 2008 5pm

Room 2.25, School of Art, Design and Media, Eldon Building

Welcome, introduction and apologies

Happy New Year to All

Present: Stephen Morgan (SM) (Chair), Peter Wainwright (PW), John Phillipson (JP), Steve Pitt (SP), Peter Moutray (PM), Martin Chalk (MC), Jonathan Fost (Secretary) (JF) & Sharon Watling (SW)

Apologies: Barbara Milligan (BM), Brandon Prince (BP) & Mary Vallely.

Minutes from the last meeting and matters arising

One alteration was required. A rewording of the LSP City Vision document paragraph.

Matters Arising

Brandon fractured his arm before Christmas in a fall. SM to send a get well card on behalf of the Executive.

Performance Review Report

There are some key themes in the report they are;

- Marketing
- Guildhall operations and its management
- Partnerships - Cathedral, University of Portsmouth and PUSH
- Funding for the future
- Box Office / online sales
- Performance Venue Forum

The initial questions to ask yourself about the report and the views of the Cultural Consortium Executive are as follows.

- What are the strengths of the report?

Exposed the weakness of the Guildhall and its management.

Identified the lack of access to venue space.

Reasserted the Cultural Strategy priorities

Highlighted fragmented information on venues and the marketing used.

Exposed the insular nature of the existing performance spaces not looking further than the city in terms of audiences.

It was felt that one of the recommendations of the report was to create a Performance Venue Forum to work on the fragmented marketing aspects of venues, and that this is already in existence with the City of Festivals group.

- What are the areas for improvement?

Creative Thinker process identified overall environment and climate important not just performance space, these two projects need to be connected, along with the web development project.

The report looks at the venues in isolation whereas the location of the venues has an effect on the venue, such as Guildhall Walk and the New Theatre Royal and the Guildhall.

There is an assumption about the development of the Unicorn building - what is the way forward to make this happen?

The Cultural Consortium was disappointed that there was only one mention of the Consortium itself and no mention of the theatre's culture matters session and follow up papers which was held in April 2007.

- Are we confident with the recommendations of the report based on the research / consultation carried out?

The consultation was restricted to a small number of venues, did not include other venues such as Eastney Cellars or the Alma Arms.

The consultation only included two local practitioners and two theatre groups, Groundlings and Victoryland Theatre, what about Portsmouth Players, South Downes, Southsea Shakespeare, CCADS or Humdrum Amdram?

The consultation did not include the general public, the potential audience. Mention of audience development in the document is weak.

No mention of further education proposals e.g. consultation with Highbury College, over the new 120 space performance venue, or Portsmouth College that have a new performance space.

The report does not offer solid enough recommendations based on users, non-users and local groups.

- What can the Consortium do to support the report findings?

Find out the views of the Consortium's members on the report and its recommendations. We can do this by sending out a questionnaire to the venues and our members. We can do this by using the website, our bi-monthly newsletter and by the meetings that we attend and by contacting all our members.

- What are the next steps?

The Cultural Consortium will action the questionnaire as indicated above. The questions for the survey will come from the recommendations in the report and asking people if they agree or disagree with each one and rate their response from 1 Strongly Agree to 5 Strongly Disagree. This will then be used to feedback to the Culture Group the views of the Consortium.

Cultural Consortium Action Plan 2007/8

SM is due to meet with Steve Baily re funding for our action plan.

Bank account still needs to be sorted out.

SM and JF need to work on communications. It was suggested that the newsletter should be sent out bi-monthly in January, March, May, July, September and November, with a deadline for copy the Friday before our Executive in February, April, June, August, October and December. Outstanding items for the January newsletter are, comment from Sarah Cheverton re the Cultural Blueprint, comments re the Creative Thinker process, SP for a paragraph about the Literacy Campaign and the Music Festival 2008.

Creative Thinkers - SP has created a summary of the full document given out by SM, this summary could be put onto the website.

Report from Exec representations

Community Involvement Partnership Board - JP

| No update the next meeting to take place 30/1/08.

Economic Wellbeing Partnership Board - PW

| -No update PW was unable to attend the meeting 4th December

City Growth - PW

No update.

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Cross Sectoral Seafront Strategy Group – BM

There has been no update from this group as there have been changes to management. PW suggested a letter from the Executive to Cllr Hall. SM to follow up concerns.

Portsmouth Festivities – SM

No update as this is a bi-yearly meeting. SM to meet with team at Grammar School.

CIBAS - JF

No update, JF to contact Steve Fisher from CIBAS.

City of Festivals - SP

No update as SP was unable to attend the last meeting due to staff sickness.

JP and PW met with Paul Edmondson-Jones and John Craven from the LSP re the Vision for Portsmouth document. PW made a strong case for culture to be included in the vision document. The debate on culture seems to be left out. The LSP will make a decision on the document on 8th January and the Council will sign off the document on 1st April, if we feel that Culture is still not included we can make a deputation to Council.

Cultural Matters – Culture in the City Centre

Please read the document created by SW and updated by PW and SM, any changes required send to SW by Friday 11th January. The document will then be shared via the newsletter.

Meeting closed at 7.10pm

Agenda setting and dates of future meetings

Next meeting Monday 4th February 2008 and Monday 3rd March 2008 all at 5pm in room 2.25, Eldon Building, Winston Churchill Avenue.

Please email all agenda items to JF secretary@cultural-consortium.co.uk

Agenda items so far, Creative Thinkers report & what to do with outcomes of Culture Matters.