



YORK@LARGE
the city's cultural partnership

Minutes

Date: 9 December 2015
Time: 4pm
Venue: West Offices

Present: Chris Bailey (Chair), Charlie Croft, Cllr Nigel Ayre, Stuart Goulden, Joan Concannon, Portia Simpson, Ben Porter, Robert Powell (in attendance), Lisa Power, Liz Wilson, Steve Brown, and Rosanne Morris (note taker)

Apologies: Cherie Federico, Claire Antrobus, Nina Baptiste

Item		Action	
1	<p>Welcome Minutes of the last meeting agreed as a true record of the meeting.</p>		
2	<p>Minutes of last meeting and matters arising Chris Bailey welcomed everyone to the meeting. Apologies were acknowledged. <u>Item 6. Useful Knowledge 2015 series.</u> York St John University funding for this series of workshops had to be suspended following an announcement from the Funding Council. They expect the issue to be resolved in the New Year, when further details of the series will be sent out.</p>	CB	
3	<p>York Culture Awards Steve Brown advised that the launch event for approx 150 people will be on 14 January at the Hotel du Vin. The first York Culture Awards will be presented in late 2016. There will be 11 categories and nominations will be for the period 2015-16. Benenden have agreed to be the main sponsors and more than half the categories now have sponsors signed up. The event is timed to coincide with the anniversary of the UNESCO accreditation. A media company will collect and edit video footage to show a cultural artistic review of the year. Chris Bailey will chair the judging panel and other members include representatives from Hiscox, The York Press, both Universities, Colin Jackson and Gill Greaves. The website will be open for nominations by the date of the launch. The Awards event is not intended to resemble a traditional black tie dinner. Instead it will be an enjoyable social occasion in a memorable location with elements of performance alongside the presentations. Chris requested that York@Large bear in mind potential nominations when attending or participating in arts activities and positively encourage others by spreading the word about York's Culture Awards.</p>	ALL	
4	<p>Illuminating York Portia gave an update on Illuminating York 2015. The event ran over four nights through October Half Term and was well</p>		

	<p>attended. Around 8,000 tickets to the piece in Museum Gardens provided sufficient income to balance the budget. For the first time professional curators oversaw the event. Hazel Colquhoun and Andrew Knight built the programme around newly created work. From feedback received, it was thought that it felt stronger artistically. There will be a report available to share soon which will show that around 50,000 people attended. Local businesses felt it was great to work with the local environment and the mirror balls in Shambles were very well received. Portia reported that every year there is feedback that people would like the Minster to be part of the event and Hazel and Andrew are doing some work post-festival regarding engagement of partners in projects such as a new co-commission involving York Museums Trust, York Theatre Royal and the National Rail Museum. Portia reported on her work with the Arts Council supported Lighting up the North network which is aiming to develop light based festivals in a number of cities. Lumiere in Durham is biennial and costs £1.5m yet the local authority has evidence that the return on investment is around 10:1. Elsewhere in Europe Eindhoven (Netherlands) and Helsinki (Finland) are setting a high standard. In Portia's view York's distinctiveness lies in commissioning new work rather than buying it in as Durham and others do. York's budget is very small compared to others, so the sponsorship of TalkTalk in 2015 was extremely important. Members commented on the positive reactions they had encountered. Cllr Ayre pointed out that there are opportunities to see Illuminating York in the context of a city-wide lighting strategy including lighting the city walls all year round.</p>		
5	<p>UNESCO York City of Media Arts</p> <p>The first anniversary of UNESCO accreditation was held at the new Hiscox building on 1 December. Around 200 guests attended and heard a review of the year and for the Mediale, an international media arts festival to be held for the first time in York in 2017 or 2018 and then every two years.</p> <p>The festival will be held over 20 days and is expected to have a budget of around £1m for the first festival. Fundraising programme now in place to secure match funding and sponsorship building on the substantial commitments already secured from the Council and the Universities. Ambitious partnerships with global companies such as Stage One, in conjunction with major sponsorship contracts will enable the realisation of projects such as Mediale Pavilion.</p> <p>Activity with and for young people is a central part of Mediale. An education consultant, Colin Jackson, has been working with schools and in the region to explore the potential for a new Arts Award that will build on the success of the work of arts organisations so far.</p> <p>Another aspect deals with strengthening businesses in the sector. The Arts Council's Creative Local Growth Fund has a deadline in July 2016 which Portia is aiming to meet with a proposal worked up with a wide range of partners in York, North</p>		

	<p>Yorkshire and East Yorkshire.</p> <p>The Anniversary also saw the launch of the Guild of Media Arts. Its first meeting is planned for February when it is expected that 100 members will have signed up. The annual membership fee has been set at £25 so permit as many to participate as agree with the objectives of the Guild. The existing York Guilds have been extremely warm in their welcome and invited its Acting Master Chris Bailey to attend their annual Carol Service and their business meetings in 2016.</p> <p>Chris asked York@Large members who have not done so to consider becoming Founder Members of the Guild, and to encourage others with relevant interests to join.</p>	ALL	
6	<p>The Arts and Place - discussion</p> <p>Robert Powell, Associate Director of BEAM, attended to discuss this initiative. The Arts and Place is a sector-led national initiative operating under the umbrella of the Place Alliance. The initiative has its origins in the Farrell Review of 2014. The aim is to promote the role of arts in place-making through lobbying, networking and information sharing and facilitating debate and creative events. The manifesto was launched in October. Robert circulated handouts about the initiative with contact details for further information on the Farrell review including the manifesto.</p> <p>Members noted that the Manifesto was very broadly drawn and asked what its specific application might be in York. Cllr Ayre commented that the development of the Local Plan offered opportunities to test the values and approaches Robert had outlined.</p> <p>Chris Bailey pointed out to members that a previous multi-disciplinary study of York had included culture and had resulted in a highly regarded report 'York: New City Beautiful' on which it is possible to build. The sector must engage with the opportunities represented by York Central, funding for which was announced in the Chancellor's Comprehensive Spending Review, and the 'Southern Gateway' which incorporates major cultural assets.</p> <p>Stuart commented that there is an opportunity to link this initiative to the York Design Awards. He offered to make the connection. Rob said that a conversation between York and the national project would be welcomed.</p>	SG	
7	<p>Review of Without Walls Partnership</p> <p>The debate is still ongoing as to whether the WoW Board will be wound up. Chris in discussions with Phil Witcherley and Alice Rowley about how the views of the Cultural Sector should be articulated in the plans of the City and its partners, particularly in respect of Health and Wellbeing Board and Education.</p>		
8	<p>Any Other Business</p> <p>Items for the next agenda which were suggested by members included The Blank Canvas project involving Stonebow House</p>		

	<p>and other venues, and the continuing successful development of Aesthetica.</p> <p>Emily Harvey (Skipkko) is to be invited to attend and make a presentation.</p> <p>Cherie Federico is to be asked to make a presentation.</p> <p>Portia circulated leaflets on the Ice Trail at the weekend, part of the Christmas Festival being organised for the first time by Make It York.</p> <p>Charlie commented that CYC colleagues were currently exploring distribution formulae that apply to Council responsibilities, such as libraries. He recommended a discussion with a colleague to explore the cultural dimension.</p> <p>Chris reminded members that they are always welcome to discuss with him potential items for the agenda.</p> <p>Chris closed the meeting by wishing everybody a Merry Christmas and thanking them for their contribution to the successes of the sector during the year.</p>	<p>RM</p> <p>RM</p> <p>CB/CC</p>	
	<p>Next Meeting: 9 March 2016</p>		