

CREATIVE DARLINGTON BOARD

Friday 23 February 2018, 10.00am
Darlington Hippodrome, John Wade Lounge

MINUTES

Present:

| | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Eileen Atkins | Seth Pearson |
| Ada Burns | Jo Potter |
| Laura Case | Mike Summers |
| Heather Carter (presenting item 5) | Bill Vince |
| Charlie Kemp (TVCA) | Sarah Wilson (presenting item 5) |
| Chris Lloyd | Stephen Wiper |
| Sharon Paterson (chair) | |

Councillor Carson - observer

Apologies:

Ivor Crowther
Caroline Darnbrook
Lynda Winstanley

1 Minutes of last meeting

- 1.1 Minutes of the last meeting on Monday 18 December 2017 were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting. AB welcomed Charlie Kemp from Tees Valley Combined Authority (TVCA) to the Creative Darlington board meeting. Some discussion was held around the process of consultation with the creative sector around 2025 opportunities, scheduled to begin 7 March 2025.

2 The Hullabaloo & Theatre Hullabaloo forward plans

- 2.1 Laura Case gave a presentation on the above. Board members asked to note organisation Theatre Hullabaloo based in The Hullabaloo. Opened for invited guests 11 Decembers 2017, open to the public 12 December 2017. A period of exciting firsts, including first making show, first school visits, first visiting companies, research work undertaken around the Enchanted Forest Creative Play programme extended to April 2018 and great public engagement with and response to this experience. The board noted an average play time of 1 hour 40 minutes recorded to date engaging young children and adults. Opening programme testing variety of approaches. Very positive reaction from public and lots of local, national and international coverage.
- 2.2 Theatre Hullabaloo Great Place programme projects have progressed, expecting to work in three Tees Valley settings at least two of which within Darlington, and to work with the storyteller, Richard O'Neill. Theatre Hullabaloo is also developing practice within the Creative Fuse programme

and engaged in research around the impact of creativity on babies and children within their first 1,000 days. They are also involved in the development of an MA course in applied theatre for children and young people and have met with commissioners involved in children's services in Darlington. The My Hullabaloo audience development programme of work in Darlington is scheduled to begin in 2018/19.

- 2.3 Board members welcomed the presentation and noted the positive public response to The Hullabaloo, the level of public interest and engagement and the excellent response to programme to date.

3 Town Centre events programme 2018/19

- 3.1 This item will be added to the agenda of the next Creative Darlington board meeting. Ada Burns advised Darlington Borough Council planned to allocate one of investment to two areas over the next four years which may be relevant to Creative Darlington's action plan, these being Tourism/Culture/2025 (rail bi-centenary programme, UK City of Culture 2025 Tees Valley programme, culture and tourism development in Darlington) and the Town Centre (events programme and appearance).

- 3.2 **Action 1:** SW to invite MC to present Town Centre events programme 2018/19 to next Creative Darlington board meeting.

4 Darlington Arts Festival 2018 and small arts grants

- 4.1 Jo Potter gave a presentation to the board. The Festival is now in its sixth year, the format has been revised (dates 19 May – 2 June 2018, previously held over 5 weeks) and particular focus will be allocated to promoting the festival within and beyond Darlington. Plans are in place to promote through print, digitally and via banners in Darlington Town Centre, and discussions are underway regarding opportunities to promote the festival in Yorkshire (Northallerton, York) and elsewhere in Durham via the rail network. Activities within the 2018 Darlington Arts Festival are expected to address the centenary of some women securing suffrage.
- 4.2 A mini music festival/bands day has been scheduled 27 May 2018 at St Augustine's in Darlington. Jo advised that support for events management capacity to grow Darlington Arts Festival would be helpful and that annual budget of £5,000 may assist with this and promotion.
- 4.3 Darlington for Culture small arts grants scheme was introduced in April 2017 at the, then, outset of Darlington Arts Festival. Jo advised that around £6,170 allocated by a business to this small arts grants programme has been committed to date, and that some adaptations to the criteria of the scheme have been made. The scheme has supported activity in a range of art-forms, and on occasions, has helped artists/organisations secure additional budget.

- 4.4 **Action 2:** The print deadline for events/activity in the Darlington Arts Festival 2018 programme will be in March 2018. All board members invited to provide information on events or activity they wish to promote within Darlington Arts Festival 2018 to Darlington for Culture.

5 Women's suffrage centenary discussion

- 5.1 Chris Lloyd gave a presentation on the heritage of particular Darlington women and men in campaigns which secured suffrage for some women in 1918, including the efforts of particular Quaker campaigners.
- 5.2 Heather Carter advised the board of planned activity within Darlington Arts Festival 2018 relating to the centenary of some women securing suffrage in 2018. An event is proposed for 21 May 2018, involving the National Council of Women, with a variety of activity proposed, including presentations and cultural activity, and the event will also seek to encourage people to engage with suffrage today.
- 5.3 Sarah Wilson advised the board of the success of Tracks Grants for the Arts proposal, which will support a variety of activity in Darlington, including a Noisy Daughters event in March and a Last Train Home music festival, expected to be held 22 September 2018. Sarah recognised support from Tees Music Alliance in supporting the development of this Tracks proposal and from Darlington Borough Council.
- 5.4 Sharon Paterson advised of the board of the programme of their 18th CAKE event, held on International Women's day, running 10.30 – 12.30 at The Curve on 8 March 2018. The event will recognise the contribution the cultural sector has made, and is making, to exploring issues around suffrage, gender and cultural identity, and feature contributions from Zende and the Young Women's Film Academy.
- 5.5 Ada Burns advised the board that further events and activity are being planned to mark the centenary of some women securing suffrage. The board noted the role of Clara Curtis Lucas the first Lady to become a Councillor for Darlington Borough Council (1915 – 1919) who was dedicated to work in education and to securing the vote for women.

6 Creative FUSE Tees Valley update

- 6.1 Sharon Paterson advised the board of the current programme, which is entering its third phase of scaling up products (following a process of mapping and action research through creative innovation pilots, the programme is a collaboration across the five NE universities, focused on creative, digital and IT development, including two ERDF projects and support from Arts Council England via their Creative Local Growth Fund programme). Over 100 applications were received for pilot activity, with 31 pilot programmes supported. Organisations including Theatre Hullabaloo, The Sage Gateshead, Unfolding Theatre, Tees Valley Arts and the Festival of Thrift are

currently engaging with the programme. The universities involved in FUSE have recognised the role of programmes of this type in building capacity to have a thriving cultural and creative sector in the North East, and have responded to the AHRC call for proposals seeking Creative Cluster programme support. Successful proposals appear likely to secure significant support although the programme is still at bid stage, with the North East universities emerging proposal amongst 22 which have got through to the second stage of application, and 8 awards expected to be made.

- 6.2 **Action 3:** Bill Vince to report back to future board meeting on learning secured from current Creative Local Growth Fund programme following event in Birmingham, March 2018.
- 6.3 **Action 4:** Ada Burns and Sharon Paterson to discuss how learning from the Creative FUSE programme to date may inform ongoing activity in Tees Valley.
- 6.4 Board members were advised to contact Wendy Parvin, Innovation Manager – Creative FUSE, in Teesside University's Department of Academic Enterprise, T: 01642 738726 www.tees.ac.uk/theforge W.Parvin@tees.ac.uk to find out more about the programme.

7 Cultural Commissioning Proposal

- 7.1 A paper was presented to the board outlining Darlington Borough Council's work in developing a proposal to support the development of cultural commissioning in Tees Valley. Discussion identified the value of exploring cultural commissioning across the Tees Valley. The importance of building understanding of access to evidence of impact, including the social value act, and leaving a legacy to inform commissioning beyond any programme was recognised.
- 7.2 **Action 5:** SW present cultural commissioning as an agenda item at Tees Valley authority culture group meeting 27 March 2018 and approach Wendy Parvin, Innovation Manager, at Creative FUSE, regarding the proposal pre submission to Arts Council.

10 Any Other Business

- 10.1 The board discussed the scale of opportunity presented by 2025 (rail bi-centenary and Tees Valley UK City of Culture) and opportunities to inform the development of activity allied to current cultural strategy. A role for a sub group focused on creative opportunities for cultural activity within 2025 and for proposals allied to Cultural Strategy ambitions, including board members other parties (artists/programmers) was discussed
- 10.2 **Action 6:** SW to invite board members to a meeting in advance of the next Creative Darlington board and for suggestions re other programmers, experts to invite.