

What Next? Brighton & Hove Meeting 10th September 2020, via Zoom

Co-Chairs: Marina Norris (MN) and Louise Blackwell (LB)
Minutes: Slavka Jovanović

National Update

1. Ongoing discussions re Comprehensive Spending Review (update later in the meeting)
2. Lots of great work being undertaken by several national organisations. Look out for:

UK Disability Arts Alliance: [We Shall Not Be Removed](#)

Migrants in Culture: Document on Inclusive Recovery. www.migrantsinculture.com

[Freelance Taskforce](#) : 13 week period has come to an end. Follow them on Twitter and access the website for up to date information and advice.

Local Update

1. Disability Arts Online www.disabilityarts.online

There is funding to support a session to support disabled artists, including advice on how to write about your work and apply for funds. Takes place 9th October 4-5.30pm. Please share the link <https://disabilityarts.online/events/calling-all-sussex-based-disabled-artists/>

2. [The Brighton & Hove Cultural Recovery Plan](#)

There were 9 sessions last week, which resulted in management team meeting to look at the vast range of ideas/proposals and to make connections between them. This week honing in on a range of targeted subjects including: guaranteed income for creative; outdoor work; learning & development; income generation. Following this the final week will be about reflection and what next. Where ideas have legs working groups will be set up to develop them.

3. Dome Update – Kyla Booth-Lucking

Kyla has been working with Eleanor and Michel from Iron Clad on the Open Doors Scheme. Artists are welcome to use various spaces around the Dome venue to develop work (this space in kind can be used to put into grant applications). It's an artist led scheme also working in partnership with Brighton Artist Network (brightonartistsnetwork.com). It will run from 1/11/20 to Spring 21. No restriction re eligibility just get in touch. NB Low tech re resources.

To find out more please contact kyla.booth-lucking@brightondome.org

Special Focus on Freelancers Make Theatre Work (FMTW)

Paule Constable

www.freelancersmaketheatrework.com

This movement was born at the same time as the Freelance Task Force. 8 weeks into lockdown Vicki and Paule got together and called "Town Hall" meetings of freelancers to share concerns. We're not being spoken to, we're not being listened to and we're not being supported. Creating the website was the first move. FMTW is about lobbying, wellbeing/support, provoking unions to be more supportive as well as providing practical advice and resources. It supports ALL theatre arts workers and represents a range of disciplines. They are in communication with ACE and SOLT to ensure that freelancers are not being ignored. More than 8,500 freelancers responded to a survey which informed the Routes to Recovery report (<https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Routes-To-Recovery.pdf>). 65,000 people have had no financial support at all, and are the most vulnerable.

FMTW is run on a voluntary basis but receives a small amount of financial aid:

1. Some grant aid has been raised from trusts to fund the website and social media profile.

2. ACE is worried about freelancers and has put some funding towards the Future Labs project. This is 10 curated discussion panels to look at short/medium/long term scenarios/solutions. The aim is to celebrate good practice, look at what's possible for recovery and provoke a creative response to the possible models of activity (not necessarily around making shows and work). The first three meetings take place on 5th/7th/9th October. The themes are around immediate help and around diversity. Freelancers who attend will be paid. It will be a confidential meeting to allow freedom of speech.

Louse – massive thank you to Paule and the team. This has provided a haven to what's been going on in the world.

Paule – 65,000 people fell off the cliff in March. ACE wants to diversify the arts but is ignoring the freelancers. 3 weeks ago most people visiting the website to look for advice were applying for benefits.

Marina – Thank you for the work you are doing. Brighton's Cultural Recovery Plan is being fuelled by the needs of freelancers at a local level.

Special Focus on Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR)

Laura McDermott

CSR was announced in spring but put off until October due to Covid-19. All department budgets will be scrutinised from period 2021/22 to 2024/25, including capital budgets.

Remember it is led by the Conservative govt so priorities will be:

- Strengthening UK economic recovery (prioritizing jobs and skills)
- Levelling up (innovation, infrastructure and people)
- Health, wellbeing and education
- Scientific superpower (collaborations with science and climate change)
- Strengthening UK position in the World
- Streamlining and making savings running organisations

What Next have been looking at different ways to influence government. Caroline Lucas has attended WN meeting and has represented freelancers in parliament. CL and cross party group are pushing forward to make a difference for freelancers.

As a whole we need to look at influencing the "Red Wall" areas that have recently fallen to the Conservatives. Tell colleagues and family in these areas to lobby MPs.

We also need to influence Local Authorities. Laura has been in touch with Donna Chisholm to see the best way of doing this. B&H Council had 10x the number of applications to their funding programme. Half of these were from local arts organisations with no ACE funding.

The most effective way of lobbying and campaigning is if LOTS OF DIFFERENT VOICES from different angles SAY THE SAME THINGS. Need to connect on some key messages and move forward rapidly on lobbying.

The government want to hear from audiences. Can you get your audiences and followers to lobby their MP's re PANTO and the theatre they are missing. The more voices the better.

If you ever write to someone on the DCMS Select Committee, talk to them as the arts as an INDUSTRY, and the impact on the supply chain. The UK entertainment industry is world beating and brings an enormous revenue and jobs to the UK.

In E Sussex and Kent they have a creative economy network that is excellent at lobbying. They can pull together quickly and respond rapidly to key announcements and developments. Brighton could do similarly with the Coast to Capital network. Marina says we are in this for the long haul. We need to build capacity to respond quickly.

We need to educate the MP's who sit on key committees on what we are doing. Oliver Dowden has no past experience or knowledge to make him suitable for the job, and no

knowledge of the sector.

Claire Soper – need to focus on the cultural economy and how it has a direct impact on the high street. Entertainment venues bring people into town centres, who in turn spend in shops/cafes/bars etc. Won't just lose the shows but everything around them. We need to demonstrate all the positive things theatre adds to the economy. #hereforculture

The note-taker left at 11.50am please watch the recording for the remaining part of the meeting:

Meeting Recording:

https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/Wm_U1L7SenQkGMObnEQgb8Aj6UI9bBI_v1e2PS49txHBDwVFnGazNpitl9Fmc-9Z.mqy0r48u99wHw59u

Access Passcode: Dj!8fM1+

Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 8th October 10am, Zoom

Chat box from meeting:

Marlborough Productions: David Sheppard Marlborough Productions & The Spire

00:29:47 Faith Dodkins: Faith - freelance producer, Co-Director The Spire

00:30:00 Paule Constable - FMTW: Paule Constable - Freelance lighting designer and part of FMTW steering group

00:30:03 Laura McDermott: Laura McDermott - Creative Director - Attenborough Centre for the Creative Arts (University of Sussex)

00:30:11 Sally Scott: Sally - freelance Producer and part-time producer at Brighton Dome and Festival

00:30:24 Claire Soper: Claire Soper - freelance producer / job share relationship manager theatre Arts Council England [south east].

00:30:31 Pip Sayers: Pip Sayers Artist Development South East Dance

00:30:59 Abigail: Hi all, Abigail from Little Green Pig, Development and Partnerships Manager

00:31:03 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Louise Blackwell, Co-chair What Next B & H and indie producer

00:31:09 Slavka: Slavka = Producer Brighton Dome and Festival. Taking minutes

00:34:17 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <http://migrantsinculture.com/culture-sector-recovery/>

00:34:54 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <http://freelancetaskforce.co.uk/>

00:35:08 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Welcome Lou and Steven

00:35:27 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <https://www.weshallnotberemoved.com/7-principles/>

00:35:59 Lou Rogers: Thank you! I have very noisy builders in which are effecting my wifI so here on mute and with no camers!

00:36:07 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Welcome Kyla

00:38:33 Abigail: Is it just artists or can other organisations/community groups apply to use the space?

00:39:34 anne-marie: Will there be a 'tech spec' available that would list what 'extra' things may be on hand ... for example power and access?

00:41:13 Kyla Booth-Lucking: My email is kyla.booth-lucking@brightondome.org if anyone wants to get in touch - beware I'm slow on email :)

00:43:14 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Can everyone go on mute if you are not speaking. Thanks

00:44:18 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/>

00:45:13 Marina Norris: Disability Arts Online info : Calling a meeting on 9 October 4-5.30pm on zoom. We are also offering one-to-one, hour long artist development sessions via skype, zoom, phone or facetime to artists on the following subjects:

Writing about your work

Arts writing/journalism

Developing an artistic project or idea and pitching it to funders

Developing your understanding of disability arts and its history

How to make connections with other artists and organisations (including DAO facilitating introductions and writing letters of support where appropriate)

How to blog on DAO

Setting up and planning your WordPress site/maintaining an artist's website

Social Media as a promotional or artistic tool

Budgeting your project

For details of how to sign up for these opportunities go to <https://disabilityarts.online/events/calling-all-sussex-based-disabled-artists/>

00:46:35 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/Routes-To-Recovery.pdf>

00:48:30 Louise Blackwell (she/her): <https://freelancersmaketheatrework.com/future-labs-faqs/>

00:51:05 anne-marie: Thank you ... sounds fantastic!

00:51:50 Kyla Booth-Lucking: This isn't public per se, needs logos etc but to give you the info for now..

00:52:20 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Thanks Kyla

00:52:46 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Welcome Karen

01:07:56 Laura McDermott: Donna Chisholm report: (from page 401) <https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/documents/g9990/Public%20reports%20pack%2024th-Sep-2020%2016.00%20Tourism%20Equalities%20Communities%20Culture%20Committee.pdf?T=10>

01:08:52 Louise Blackwell (she/her): DCMS Select Committee
<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/378/digital-culture-media-and-sport/membership>

01:09:31 Laura McDermott: The CSR will prioritise:

- strengthening the UK's economic recovery from COVID-19 by prioritising jobs and skills
- levelling up economic opportunity across all nations and regions of the country by investing in infrastructure, innovation and people – thus closing the gap with our competitors by spreading opportunity, maximising productivity and improving the value add of each hour worked
- improving outcomes in public services, including supporting the NHS and taking steps to cut crime and ensure every young person receives a superb education
- making the UK a scientific superpower, including leading in the development of technologies that will support the government's ambition to reach net zero carbon emissions by 2050
- strengthening the UK's place in the world
- improving the management and delivery of our commitments, ensuring that all departments have the appropriate structures and processes in place to deliver their outcomes and commitments on time and within budget

01:09:40 Laura McDermott: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/chancellor-launches-comprehensive-spending-review>

01:12:04 Paule Constable - FMTW: It's amazing what Arts Council Wales and Creative Scotland are doing. In Wales they are talking about a Cultural contract with artists....

01:13:11 Steven British Council: I really appreciate being able to be here today. Thank you to Paule and Laura and indeed all. Of course if there is anything I do to be of use... Unfortunately I need to leave now. Take good care all.

01:13:23 Kyla Booth-Lucking: I'm afraid I'll have to leave early but thanks for the action Paulo and Laura are taking on so many of our behalves

01:13:32 Kyla Booth-Lucking: Paule! (Auto correct)

01:13:34 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Thanks Steven and Kyla

01:15:17 Laura McDermott: ACE report on high streets
<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/news-and-announcements/culture-our-high-streets>

01:19:02 Lou Rogers: sorry my builders are just about to cut my power off! Good to see you all and speak soon

01:19:39 Laura McDermott: Probably Creative Industries Federation also?

01:19:44 Abigail: Hi, got to leave a bit early, thanks so much for a great meet-up.

01:19:58 Paule Constable - FMTW: Yes - CIF did make a case and we've seen the freelance section....

01:20:02 Paule Constable - FMTW: Which was pretty good.

01:20:06 Karen Poley: Good idea

01:20:21 Paule Constable - FMTW: Their data was really impressive - I can probably get the paper to share....

01:20:34 Faith Dodkins: Yes, good idea

01:20:56 Paule Constable - FMTW: The select committee are already asking how much of the funding will reach freelancers....i need to give them an answer by tonight!

01:21:04 Paule Constable - FMTW: Ridiculous when the money hasn't even been allocated yet

01:21:43 Marina Norris: Agree, particularly as no case had to be made for supporting freelancers in the applications.

01:22:14 Laura McDermott: Arts Council questionnaire - to fill in by 12pm Friday 25 September: https://artscouncil.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_6swkdwjrj5gNZRiz?ALB=ACE

01:22:52 Karen Poley: what happens to unspent funds?

01:23:19 Slavka: sorry have to go now. have another meeting.

01:23:32 Paule Constable - FMTW: Hence easier for devolved Arts Councils to do what they want to.....

01:23:33 Louise Blackwell (she/her): Thanks Slavka

01:23:42 Pip Sayers: I also have another meeting starting at 12.00 - thanks

01:23:45 Paule Constable - FMTW: Because not directly answerable to DCMS - unlike ACE

01:24:13 Karen Poley: Thanks you everyone

01:24:14 Paule Constable - FMTW: thank you all

01:24:22 Faith Dodkins: Great stuff all

01:24:27 Paule Constable - FMTW: and forgive moments of brutal honesty!

01:24:32 Sally Scott: Thank you!

01:24:34 anne-marie: Don't forget the action on the seafront We Make Events on 30th

01:24:36 Laura McDermott: I think #WeMakeEvents are also doing a #lightinred action on 30 September