

## **What Next? Brighton & Hove Meeting 6 August 2020, via Zoom**

### **Theme: Brighton & Hove Arts and Culture Recovery Action Plan**

This project is led by a collaboration between Brighton & Hove Arts & Creative Industries Commission, What Next Brighton & Hove and EPIC. The Management sub-group (Andrew Comben, Louise Blackwell & Marina Norris, and Ian Baird) raised the money to make it possible from Brighton & Hove City Council, Arts Council England and What's Next?

It runs between August and October 2020

#### Introduction to the project – Marina Norris

In these difficult times people have an appetite to work more collaboratively. What can we do together to recover from the impact of Covid-19 on our industry? Epic, the Arts & Industries Commission (formally constituted as part of the city's family of partnerships) and What Next? have come together to lead on the Recovery Action Plan, consulting with a wide sector of industry professionals, freelancers and organizations. The Recovery Plan will work in conjunction with the Cultural Framework for the city ([www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/leisure-and-libraries/arts-and-culture](http://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/leisure-and-libraries/arts-and-culture)), which underpins the thinking behind the Recovery Plan.

EPIC represents commercial producers and the supply chain for events in the city.

At the end of this consultation process we will have an action plan and will be in a position to apply for various funding opportunities. We need to be ready for action as soon as funding becomes available eg Local Business partnership money as well as national/government funding streams.

There are 2 areas to explore:

1. Brighton is a spectacular natural and architectural canvas. How can we re-imagine our public and cultural spaces as we re-emerge with a cultural offering for the City over the next year?
2. What are the opportunities for collaboration and disruption to create inclusive growth for cultural freelancers, organisations and audiences over the next year?

Looking to work with around 100 people who work in arts & culture in the City to help us make the plan. There are a range of roles available for freelancers:

- 4 Facilitators
- 1 Outside Eye
- Arts Community Conversation Participants
- 50 paid freelancers to attend 3 meetings

Plus an additional 25 – 50 people who are salaried and do not need a fee to take part.

The conversations will take place in the last 3 weeks of September. The titles/themes will be created after this conversation and with the facilitators.

THE DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS 14th AUGUST AT 9AM. For more information and to apply click [HERE](#).

If you'd like to speak to someone in advance of applying contact [louise@louiseb.co.uk](mailto:louise@louiseb.co.uk)

Andrew Comben – We need to get the priorities of the framework right and make sure all the voices are represented. Need to have the Action Plan finished and ready to use so that we are in a position to apply for funds as soon as they become available.

Nadia N Q: How will you make sure that everyone is reached and included. How to find evidence from local communities about what is already happening? How can we build on that?

All agree that we must start local and build to the wider community. Crucial to connect with local people/residents and build from there. “Open Up Arts” report was created by BPT as a result of research undertaken with Hangleton Community, and depicts the arts activity taking place there.

Nicky Q: Little Green Pig mostly work in the communities of Whitehawk/Mouslecombe/Hangleton. Is there any way of bringing in Our Place as well as the work that BPT has done?

Andrew: yes, of course

Marina Q:

How do you see the residents being involved with this? Do you think we should involve residents at this point?

Nicky: Yes if we could. There are great spokespeople in these community groups.

Karen Poley Q: Who is this aimed at? Is it local communities or are we aiming to bring visitors back to Brighton?

Andrew: Everyone felt that it’s really important that this is an inclusive plan. We should not lose sight of inclusion over all and make sure of fair and equal involvement of the community. Hope we can also be aspirational and drive local businesses as well as the economy.

Marina: we want to both support visitor economy AND reach residents. Not all the ideas will end up in the action plan. Some will, but others will become part of smaller plans and action groups. It’s important to say we are looking at public spaces that are not in the centre of town.

Michelle Donkin (founder of Iron Clad and supporter of individual creatives) Q: Its amazing that artists are being paid to take part in consultation meetings however if they don’t get selected can they still add their voices to the conversation?

A: Yes of course. The funding will be aimed at those with no regular income. However need to be mindful of numbers and how to manage volume if hundreds of people want to be involved.

Roberta Piazza Q: academic interested in activities of disadvantaged communities. What do we mean by community engagement? What is community? Is there a place where the community can express themselves? Are they being supported to make the work? What do you have in mind involving the community?

Louise: There is the 3 week consultation period in September in order to gather ideas about the next steps to be taken.

Jude, Vincent Dance: It’s helpful to think about this initial process as being very pragmatic and very concise. There is a group of skilled individuals at What next? To come up with the questions. We need to listen to great ideas but also need to shape the action plan into component parts that fit with what the govt is offering in terms of funding/guidelines.

Liz: How can this project enable a collective approach to accessibility issues – marketing and supporting audiences and artists? Could we develop collective standards and resources to support everyone?

A: yes of course.

Phil Sparkes: My involvement in past projects that have involved such wide consultation has made me cynical. My concern is about how do you do everything for everyone? We need to be rigorous and decisions need to be made to ensure clarity and concise projects that stand the test of time. Not everyone's ideas will be taken forward in the end and someone on the team has to be able to say "no" to people.

Marina: Yes of course but this is an extraordinary moment in time when we can listen to a multitude of ideas and voices.

Andrew, Louise, Marina and Ian are leading the process but it's really important that there will be an outside eye.

Lou Rogers: Who is going to decide on who is accepted or not?

Louise: Still working out who will be on the selection panel but will be representative of the 3 organisations involved in running the project

Rachel, SE Dance:

Observation is that this consultation sits between pragmatism/decision making and allowing ideas to flow. It needs to result in clear action points.

Q: Can the shortlisting be parceled out more widely if there are thousands of applications.

A: Does the What Next? Group want to put themselves forward to help out

Richard Freeman:

Is there a way of streamlining the conversations? Also there is so much evidence and evaluations that already exist within companies/organisations. Is there a safe way of sharing this information, and storing it in a safe space?

Jo Smith (arts educator, runs creative learning projects): Comment on safety. She is interested in how we engage audiences virtually and on-line.

Louise: yes, absolutely. Lots of interesting opportunities and possibilities.

Elena Italia: How do you make the consultation accessible and open and equal to all. Do you have quotas to fill? Eg number of residents, community orgs, venues etc

Louise: No quotas for paid consultations. Open to residents of Brighton or people who live of the edge of the city but make work in Brighton.

Marina: We will be looking at what people want to bring to the table for discussion but remember...this is a Covid-19 Recovery Action Plan. The recovery focus will be on skills/jobs/re-engaging people with culture (residents and visitors)

Louise: There is a budget for access needs in the project.

Anna Alvarez: Lot to be learnt from deaf and disabled community about how they have been coping pre Covid.

Nadia – Covid has changed things for everyone, Including deaf and disabled artists.

Sue: Equity has launched a new policy on how to recruit and engage deaf artists/actors. How do we work together? What can deaf and disabled artists offer to the process? Don't go to the big organisations for advice on this; go to consult with individuals but make sure their time is valued. Note: 2/3 people who have died of Corona Virus were disabled.

Louise: very open to learning about access from disabled people.

Slavka (minute taker) had to leave the meeting 15 mins before the end.

**Date of Next Meeting: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> September 11am, Zoom**