What Next 21.5.20

The meeting was chaired by Marina Norris and Louise Blackwell. In partnership with the Arts & Creative Industries Commission and EPIC the discussion included our City's three MPs: [Caroline Lucas](https://louiseb.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b257cd33bcb01c8b82bd413d&id=fd77f8a8b2&e=ce6fd49ee9" \t "_blank), [Peter Kyle](https://louiseb.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b257cd33bcb01c8b82bd413d&id=9ddfb46480&e=ce6fd49ee9" \t "_blank) and [Lloyd Russell-Moyle](https://louiseb.us17.list-manage.com/track/click?u=9b257cd33bcb01c8b82bd413d&id=3b74b1c8db&e=ce6fd49ee9" \t "_blank). This is an example of the ways in which our industry is collaborating and finding ways to work together. Recording, notes and the chat will be sent in follow up email.

**First speaker: Ian Baird, Brighton EPIC**

His presentation focused on effectiveness of current packages and future needs.

Glad of MP engagement in government shortfalls. Welcome support available through national packages – some good elements which has supported some businesses

* Gaps remain that are damaging to sector
* Big issues in B&H 40-50% freelance in Brighton and highest no. of home workers in country

**Self employed support**

* v limited and excludes 50%+ earners, based on profit not income (affects those who buy stuff), maternity leave etc. not reflected in the package, no recognition of 2019/20 tax year especially high growth business in between 18/19 to 19/20 tax years
* Particularly relevant is directors of limited company, not having dividends recognised and difficulties of self furloughing in 1 director businesses
* low level of support and long duration of impact
* LEP for SMEs has been brilliant for some sectors e.g. you need 5 employees which is rare in small arts plus 2 years operation, with project on annual basis doesn’t cover what we do

**ACE support**

* welcome but recommend MPs push government to up support ACE can give, ACE could offer better opps if resources to do so

**Leisure grants and small business grants**

good for some not all

**Council Discretionary fund**

* The discretionary 5% to spend is a great step forwards
* Appreciate support to help represent cultural sector as vital to Brighton within discretionary fund
* Small grants could go a long way to support a longest affected city, preserve what many of us love about this city

Case studies followed from

**Case study 1: Josh Carr, Otherplace productions** (produce The Warren with Brighton Fringe)

* Almost all our work depends on us operating in May – facing a huge £ hole
* Trying to develop concepts that will allow events in Fringe if conditions were relaxed but not normal
* Want support from council and govt
* Need guidelines to allow decisions about what might be possible to run
* Despite some rates relief and some ACE £, with no staff and huge £ hole the outlook for OP is bleak

**Case study 2: Ruby Glaskin**

Freelance theatre producer

Ruby explained a number of shortfalls in the self-employed support scheme, especially the disparity to the Job Retention Scheme

* Getting 42% less than if I was a member of PAYE staff but still incurring expenses like subscriptions, training etc.
* freelancer still needs to maintain work to generate new work
* the self employed support is only 3 months not 6 like furlough
* this is also if you have had consistent evidence of income
* paternity or sickness lowers your average, less than 50% through
* adversely affects early career individuals and rely on PAYE work to pay rent, can include zero hour work which is also at risk
* many early career creatives have high start up expenses so would not be eligible for support

Advocated these changes

* Calculation on income not profit
* Drop in earnings are not included in the averages
* 2019/20 newly registered people be eligible
* most of all extend the scheme until at least October 2020 as last return to business as usual and with high proportion. This extension is vital

**Caroline Lucas response**

All 3 MPs pushing govt on awareness of support to s/e

Concern that s/e have to wait for support, to wait for date of package, that there are too many gaps and loopholes e.g. newly s/e, people starting out etc.

* Should be able to pick the highest year not averaging
* Should be extended to include PAYE and freelance
* Pushing govt on dividends for Director led companies

We should look at other countries like Germany – a specific rescue package for this industry. There is current injustice! Not just current issues but the fact you’ll be left till the end to reopen. Mindful of creative and cultural sector isn’t just a nice to have, vital to economy and wellbeing. At a time of pandemic people need the arts! Recommend that spending on festival of Britain is redirected to grass roots arts and culture. Govt are changing things so there is hope, do keep lobbying

**call to action:**

lobby your MPs to sign Early day motion 389

**Peter Kyle MP**

Agreed with every word of Caroline L

Attending this meeting is good to listen and learn to be better advocates

Grateful for furlough scheme and then small business grants and loans etc. all out the door v quick and really pleased about them

Wish after that they’d found the people falling through the cracks, echoing Ruby’s points

Annelise our shadow chancellor and MP for Oxford and Tracey Braybin put issue to Rishi Sunak about industry freelancers and performing artists. We didn’t get the response we needed. I promise we are trying our absolute best.

We cannot aspire to return to business as normal but business as better.

**Lloyd Russell-Moyle**

Already sectoral deals for tourism and transport. Need one for events due to seasonal impact

£50m deficit in council because of support put out

How can council best support you, not necessarily cash but to think about doing things differently going forwards

**Other issues about redressing issues arising from inequality were raised**

* Amplified needs of multi marginalised people e.g. carers, lack of broadband, legal status against govt support
* Children and young people
* Vulnerable children not accessing school,
* Children with special educational needs not getting support

Cultural orgs can play important part in reaching those

**Case study from Mabel, Lookout project**

Mabel is in year 13 about to leave college

* Lookout connects artists, young people and business through creativity
* Existing grants from ACE and BHCC we are reimaging programme of 1-2-1 mentors with professional artists and young people e.g. Andy Field and Beckie Darlington – news reports in own home
* ‘Take the temperature’ national youth report <https://www.beatfreeksyouthtrends.com/take-the-temperature>
* 1800 people involved - reveals disparity in education experience
* Worrying concerns especially mental health
* schools want resources at home - creative industries can help
* Young people feel questions are unanswered - Govt should set up a response group

**Naomi Alexander, Brighton People’s Theatre**

Want to change way theatre is made and consumed to reflect wider society

Positive impact but unequal access

66% of residents in city attend cultural stuff but this drops to 33% attend from housing estates

BPT conducted research with people in residential accom in Hangleton, Knoll and East Brighton awaiting publication. The findings are in depth but there are 4 headlines

i) Over 50% of people considered themselves creative, 35% felt confident to share skills with other residents

ii) people want opps for children and yp to develop their skills, needs to be regular sustained and affordable

iii) people face multiple barriers

iv) everyone we spoke to had quiet unspoken creative dream

**Lloyd response**

Importance of a forum about rebuilding the arts afterwards

Uni sector has been awarded money to support planning for going forwards

Campaign in the Argus to garner wider Brighton support?

**Peter response**

We shouldn’t wait for crisis to wait for this, can’t assume public mood will automatically be liberal as a result

Think creatively about how we become more accessible

Spaces that have been alienating – outdoor spaces

Speak with clarity

**Caroline response**

Agree with the others. Arts essential to recovery but must be inclusive response.

**Andrew Comben, Arts & Creative Industries Commission**

We have an incredible arts and cultural sector in the city

The will is here but there are inequalities in the way funding has been directed -

I speak as Chair of ACIC but also CE of Brighton Dome

What makes Brighton, Brighton is the ecology and mix of scales here

Issues that are about place not just sector

Recovery/emergency Funding streams don’t acknowledge place as they ought to

Celebrate BHCC and ACE response. MPs please lobby for additional support for ACE contribution to sector

Social distancing will create near impossibility in short term for re-opening

3 things result – need for clarity about re-opening (should be nationally delivered, govt task force may help) e.g.

venues kite marks - consistent scheme needed to ensure public confidence

Members of EPIC have been talking about redeploying their skills into a beacon of hope for arts and culture reinventing cities.

How can we engage with other cities cultural in their make u e.g. Bristol, Manchester as they depend on cultural ecology in similar way. Can we expose that to govt

As far LA 5% discretion – this is minimal. Govt almost devolving the axe yet again. There must be additional support coming down the line. We stand ready to collaborate in whatever way is most useful.

**Caroline**

Consistency of kite mark approach

Important to link with other cities, more powerful if finding ways of finding alliance elsewhere. Put together something propositional

**Questions and comments from attendees**

* **David Sheppeard, Marlborough Productions**

People of colour – disproportionately impacted – must be noted!

What will the relationship be between oppositional MPs to the cultural task force?

**Response:**

Peter – not informed about the plans. We hope this is a govt that might listen to constituency MPs

Lloyd – less hope about cultural task force, no music person, no one who has run a venue or visual arts, Nick Serota is only arts person!

Marina – What Next nationally is holding roundtables with DCMS, will share link to impact of Covid19

* **Karen Poley, producer**

Thinking outdoor arts will be first back on the scene. Current impact looks like last income Oct 19 and next will be May 21. How can outdoor arts be helped in meantime?

Response:

Peter - Work with us, working as advocates for your industry. You can count on the 3 of us

Lloyd – Some communities that will be overwhelmingly affected by C19 e.g. people of colour, poorer communities. There is anger and upset about those bereaved. Arts may be able to help all understand what people have gone through with this

**Louise Blackwell closing statement**

No shortage of ideas, conversation but there is shortage of funds and resources

Will draw up ideas and equip members on how to lobby councillors and support MPs to make arguments for the sector

Want to continue to diversify the voices in this group

**Call to action:**

Who do you want to hear from next as speakers?

Respond to the survey about strain of metal health [INSERT LINK]

Thank you to everyone, we know not everyone is paid for their time to be here we appreciate you using your time here.