

What Next? Meeting Thurs 7th May 2020

Meeting Notes

Welcome from Louise & intro to the group and shape of the session.

The What next? B&H Chapter is growing and there is a great cross section of arts orgs across the city representing the diversity of the arts & culture offer in Brighton & Hove.

Welcomed Lou Williams from Coast to Capital who is the speaker today.

National Update - Louise

All saddened to hear that the Nuffield Theatre Southampton has gone in to administration. Worth noting that it's an NPO. This might form part of the discussion today.

What Next? National DCMS survey - coordinating responses to DCMS survey to help understand the impact of Covid 19 on organisations in our sector. Focus on relevance of Government support currently available.

This is a short survey that takes around 10 mins to complete, deadline is 15 May https://dcms.eu.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_9oXRfgNvZZUn3gh

The other survey is open until 19th June and we are collating responses from What Next B&H members to share with the national team. Please send your responses to Louise or Marina by 29th May. Questions are here:

- What has been the immediate impact of Covid-19 on the sector?
- How effectively has the support provided by DCMS, other Government departments and arms-length bodies addressed the sector's needs?
- What will the likely long-term impacts of Covid-19 be on the sector, and what support is needed to deal with those?
- What lessons can be learnt from how DCMS, arms-length bodies and the sector have dealt with Covid-19?
- How might the sector evolve after Covid-19, and how can DCMS support such innovation to deal with future challenges?

Meeting at Young Vic. ACE feedback – moving from emergency support to recovery support=

1. Implications of reopening
2. How our arts economy needs to adapt
3. Planning for investment progs to reopen – eg Project funding
4. Making a case for further investment from Government to prevent widespread redundancies & closures.
 - How can we reopen
 - Lobbying government to support the gap
5. Lessons learnt from this phase – move in to a new way of working
6. Reworking the 10-year strategy delivery plan

Local - Marina

A reminder that the BHCC website Culture in Our City is full of information regarding access to funding etc. Also, a call out to share any work you are delivering online so there is good evidence of the how the sector is adapting in terms of delivery. <https://cultureinourcity.com/>

Always Possible are offering latest advice, resources, webinars funding & support as well as 1:1 surgeries. They are all full but there is a waiting list.

Ian at Epic – focus on commercial producers and workers within that supply chain.

Business Improvement District <https://www.brilliantbrighton.com/about/> meeting last Monday to discuss ways cultural & creative sector can contribute to the reopening of the local economy.

Spoke about possibility for commissioning outdoor activity. Use of open spaces empty shops etc

Andrew Comben (BDBF), Marina and Louise (What Next) and Iain (EPIC) have written to the 3 local MP's to invite them to attend the WN Brighton meeting on Thurs 21 May so that they fully understand the issues of our sector and enable them to advocate on national level.

Nicky – Provision Children 7 Young People - Richard Beales - Artworks discussion at 11am on Weds 13th May incl Adam Audio Active – a few more orgs working with CYP

Marina - Amendment to one of national grant schemes for those in Shared offices. Local authority Priority industry. Discretionary grants including Arts & Culture. More guidance next week from national government. Currently unclear regarding grant amounts & who is eligible. Freelancers – covered by the self-employed package but some not. **Please send case studies if you as a freelancer who has fallen through the gap.**

Lou Williams Coast to Capital

Lou until now was not aware of the What next? Group so is very pleased to make contact.

C2C <https://www.coast2capital.org.uk/> is the LEP for our area. CEO Jonathan Sharrock working with Government on Local Industrial strategy now a recovery strategy.

Branwen - re Government Fund all the LAs are struggling - announcement but no criteria. Not a huge amount about £1m per LA. Not a lot of grants available.

CtoC Free 1:1 clinics until 15th May – see attached doc for summary of all Coast to Capital support available. <https://www.c2cbusiness.org.uk/filter/high-growth-business/coronavirus-covid-19#directory%20>

Tech

Funding

Finance

Experts on hand to answer questions

May be extended after 15th May but focussing on recovery

All free so everyone urged to log on.

Growth Hub Covid 19 Emergency 1:1 clinics for SME's

- Collaborating with Uni of Brighton Free webinars on:
- Opportunities for innovation
- Managing yourself & building Emotional resilience
- What hard & software around

Working with Chichester Hot House – There are Grants you can apply for Chichester Uni portal link to some small grants available <https://www.chi.ac.uk/business-services/business-hothouse>

- Leadership & Management workshop
- Young People
- Finance
- Webinar – survival, revival & thriving

Ada, Worthing & Chichester Group similar to What Next? research on the plight of sole traders micro businesses etc those that might slip through gaps in terms of support

Bounce back loans – on the Growth Hub website

Actively now looking at a recovery programme

Employed new diagnostic tools to give us the clearest idea on where businesses are suffering most.

Integrating thinking with local authorities, local Chambers and local LEPS

Trying to be a joined up as possible.

Q&As

Q. Criteria for backing business fund 5 or more employees

How does emerging talent get supported?

Q. The City of B&H our sector = 40% of the economy. Lots of freelancers. Is there going to be a response to city wide need

Lou - Part of the growth is to integrate with policy part of the government. No more info currently but will find out from Strategy & Policy team.

Why this criteria?

Covers a broad area. Brighton to Chichester and up to Croydon. Looked at most profitable sections. Where would we get the most economic value for the £2m investment. Can't help everyone so had to have a set of criteria. If you work with contractors or volunteers can include them in your team.

Start Ups – Hot House covers start-ups. There is a strand dedicated to start-up businesses.

Q Is it too late to input to survey John Trigg from Freedom Works is running . 300 responses very representative of Arts & Culture

No – fill in the survey here: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/sussexbusinessCOVID>

Q. In terms of recovery 6 – 12 months. Timescale of developing new programmes..

LOU – will do what's appropriate but need feedback from sector. To ascertain what is most needed.

What new skillsets might be required?

Anything as group please feedback to Lou and she will ensure it reaches the right department.

Q. Has anyone received a government grant?

The Spire Small Business Grant based on rateable value £10k BHCC Maddie Wilson from BHCC hugely helpful

Ian – EPIC also received a small grant BHCC

New Bounceback loan scheme - Lloyds - £ in account really quickly as a Safety net repay within 12 months

Branwen – case studies - new derivation of the existing grant scheme and how you might be able to apply to new grant scheme.

Ian Baird - EPIC will share case studies re:

- Shared Office
- Home working
- Temp venue – e.g The Warren

Please send case studies to Lou to feedback to government with particular issue.

Branwen - Business Grants rate relief BHCC - outstanding grants to be given out. Please look at opp and see if you are eligible

Q: Karen Poley question for Lou at C2C is there a way we can input into the conversation about recovery?

A: Feedback to Lou about recovery activities that Brighton orgs are doing.

Louise: Self Employed eligibility – HMRC website – eligibility checker.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/claim-a-grant-through-the-coronavirus-covid-19-self-employment-income-support-scheme#eligible>

Faith – self-employed grants. Based on Profit over last 3 years. Maternity or adoption leave will seriously impact that grant.

Josh - outdoor event update Government support is holding organisation in a frozen place but need to know the support from government moving forward. Anticipate a collapse of the sector over the summer as the loss of the season will see instability and many companies are nervous over taking out a loan.

Q. Are social enterprises eligible, we know that charities are not?

A: Social enterprises eligible. Charities are not.

Other points

Proving difficult to work with DofE. Is there anything we do to lobby government re work with Families and young people? Connections between Arts & Culture & the educations sector important not to forget this area.

Jonty Claypool Head of Arts at BBC Keen to know about anything to do with creative activity going on now. Jonty.claypole@bbc.co.uk

Bridge Organisation working with Teacher of year? - to co-ordinate response during lockdown.. Let's Create Packs.

If you have digital activities taking place please shout about them as it's important to share with the stakeholders. We need to show we are a creative sector that are active and adapting

Amanda Jones from Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival said If there is anything the Finance or HR Teams at Brighton Dome can do to help with any financial, funding or employment questions please contact us directly. The staff who are not furloughed would be delighted to do whatever they could to help. Please contact our Head of Finance and HR Director directly. Relevant email addresses: amanda.jones@brightondome.org; andrew.caddy@brightondome.org (Finance); laura.keogh@brightondome.org (HR)

Gavin Stuart from Business Improvement District– will be speaking next week

Suggestion to invite someone to speak from the Brighton Chamber.

Thanks to Jane McMorrow from Creative Future for taking notes.