

**What Next? meeting
Thursday 9 April 2020
on Zoom**

Co-Chaired by Marina Norris & Louise Blackwell

Marina – update on national issues

What Next DCMS impact survey - please complete
1 May deadline

<https://committees.parliament.uk/work/250/impact-of-covid19-on-dcms-sectors/>

Nationally – who do we want to hear from?

What Next Young Vic – considering changing their meeting to an open webinar
Who would we like to hear from? Culture Secretary?

Andrew Comben – attended What Next London / Young Vic
Richard Russell spoke to give ACE update – reiterating points that are already public in the ACE guidance and urging people to fill in the DCMS impact report

Francois Matarasso – presented a thoughtpiece – available to read on his blog:
<https://parliamentofdreams.com/2020/04/08/lets-leave-no-one-behind/>

Andrew commends this “gloomy in some ways, inspiring in others” take on how all things are changed.

How can culture sector focus on ways to correct current inequalities of current society? If anyone is expecting return to normal they may be misguided in their thinking.

Louise asked to hear from someone around education at a future What Next? London / Young Vic meeting and Marina suggested we should hear from the Culture Secretary.

Marina mentioned DCMS homeschooling links / resources that have been published are all science and maths - no arts content at present

David Sheppard asked about accessibility of Zoom spaces – is there captioning at these What Next? meetings, audio description? David has been in dialogue with Sarah Pickthall about steps to make Zoom and other online spaces more accessible.

Louise

What Next? has taken paper about impact of COVID-19 on disabled artists – has been taken to DCMS

David mentioned disabled artists are well adjusted to living in similar circumstances to those triggered by COVID-19 pandemic - there is much to learn from them

Laura McDermott – Moira from Paul Hamlyn Foundation would be a good speaker for What Next? She is also also Chair of Clore Leadership Programme – leading through and out of crisis, other forms of funding and philanthropy

Karen – £750 million allocated to charities. So large compared to arts pot – does it represent differential value placed on arts and culture.

Marina – pointed out ACE are using own reserves – no extra funding from government. Should What Next? Take a lead advocating for role of ACE in future post COVID-19 society

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Louise – updated on local issues

Issues raised and fed back on in this meeting **are** being acted upon. This is encouraging!

Andrew and Maddy Wilson feeding back about ACIC (Arts and Creative Industries Commission)

Brighton Dome & Brighton Festival and music service have been heavily impacted by the pandemic – cancellation of the festival etc. Has left little space for Andrew as Chair of ACIC to be as involved.

Maddy has kicked off updates on the website with a statement and links to resources <https://cultureinourcity.com/>

Collective voice and ability to support each other. The resource will grow and evolve. Invitation to contribute is open.

ACTION for all organisations to Link to website (<https://cultureinourcity.com/>) from our own COVID-19 statements

Maddy (on the website)

Emergency / relief funds and resources are there. Only what could be found quickly. Please email with any updates or suggestions.

Google doc has been created. Add links to this – Maddy can add to the document.

Maddy will update website periodically – probably weekly.

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1GqYFciyRoKBFyCgKNx1PobtphYmgTGzJHGuo_9esGfk/edit?usp=sharing

SE Dance notes and Louise and Ruby Glaskin ACE surgery sessions notes – added to website. Cambridge Junction running sessions – will be added.

Virtual events added to the site will be limited to local only (events run by local artists and organisations)

Is there a good solution to people who don't have digital access?

Marina

BPT Brighton People's Theatre are sending postal letter version of newsletter who don't have digital access but have been participating / are active engagers. BPT are also trialing sending tablets out to some people to act as digital advocates in their community.

David – ACE applications

Other parts of UK – organisations are consortium bids to access elements of emergency funds. Non-NPO emergency funds in Brighton – competition. Is there a way of coordinating – which round are people applying to?

Spire 1st round Marlborough 2nd round.

Marina

Call for collaborators. BPT will apply ACE second round – main issue to address is what happens in a few months' time.

Marina & David

Problem for many comes a few months down the line once current project funding elapses. Producing new work in 6 months time.

ACTION Marina and David to meet (with others) to discuss shared approach to ACE bids and what might be possible together

Faith

The Spire – concern is mainly what happens post autumn.

Impact of funds people were planning to apply for going on hold – eg: Heritage Lottery Fund. It feels like it will like it get worse before it gets better in terms of available funds.

Louise – is a member of ACE area council will attend meeting Weds 15 April. She will feedback key points. One point she will make: ACE please reinstate project funding ASAP

David – national arts fundraising school webinar coming up. Free of charge. How to approach fundraising in COVID crisis:

<https://www.nationalartsfundraisingschool.com/find-out-more/our-plan-b/>

Ruby – syndicate applications – an approach being taken to individual project grants. A website proposing how people approach this:

<http://makeitclear.eu/posts/sol-syn/>

Karen – first round – they had just submitted a bid 2 weeks before lockdown kicked in and funding went on freeze. They have lost everything. If emergency funding is granted – does it exclude you from project funding later on?

Faith – her understanding is that emergency funding from ACE will not impact your ability to apply for future project grants Louise concurred. This is about survival not projects.

Andrew – waiting for guidelines on ACE emergency funds for NPOs. Concern for those non-eligible for ACE funds. Danger of fragmentation and dislocation of the

sector. Haves and have nots – can NPO pot encourage collaboration / consortium approach? Andrew / Brighton Dome & Festival keen to discuss this once guidance is published.

Many venues in Brighton are not eligible for ACE support and have expressed concern in a recent meeting about events and music sector in Brighton.

Marina

A time for us to build as a community and trust each other. Smaller companies that can be open about circumstances have a chance to collaborate to survive this. No solution but comfortable to discuss BPT situation openly. People who are worried about the next year in terms of organizational resilience / survival. How to work together to work on bids / help each other.

Maddy

Culture in our City – Maddy reiterated online surgeries can be advertised on site – forecasting and survival planning – open to offers from people to host the surgeries.

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Louise

Platform 9 event ** recording available need link
Peter Kyle response

Andrew gave summary of the meeting that occurred on 8 April

Meeting was male dominated, which felt strange.

We are an events based city – but we need to hold onto it and push for it, whilst being alive to innovating and thinking differently – about short and long term changes, keeping the sector alive – how to get Brighton back on the map.

Not a huge appetite evident in the group discussion for this idea.

How best can we make use of creative talent in the city?

5G testbed? Other opportunities?

Pete – view of Public Health England – useful but sobering update. “Normality” will not resume any time soon. Autumn is a challenge – lots happening / planned – flooding the market. An approach to stop-start lockdown

Platform 9 meeting pane – events and music industry

- [Alex Murray](#) Founder of One Inch Badge
- [Andrew Comben](#) CEO of Brighton Festival & Brighton Dome
- [Donna Chisholm](#) Assistant Director - Culture, Tourism & Sport, Brighton and Hove City Council
- [Ian Baird](#), Brighton E.P.I.C
- [Julian Caddy](#) CEO of Brighton Fringe
- [Nancy Platts](#) Leader of Brighton and Hove City Council
- [Peter Kyle](#) MP, Hove & Portslade
- [Rory Bett](#) CEO of MAMA Festivals & Director of The Great Escape

- [Sarah Cole](#), Director of Talent at AEI Group, Booker Land Beyond and Boundary Festivals
- [Tom Naylor](#) MD of Grounded Events & Brighton Marathon

Watch a recording of the event [here](#)

Louise mentioned Platform9 are a good convener for gatherings and discussion – can they host other online meetings? Can we feed ideas?

Andrew confirmed Platform 9 are open to this.

Platform9 plans to work to represent freelance sector in the city – looking for representatives of the sector to work with.

Andrew will feed ideas in to Seb at Platform9

ACTION send suggestions to Louise or Marina to pass on to Andrew/Seb

Faith

Questioned ethics of planning for autumn – as discussed last week. Giving artists dilemmas, putting artists and organisations at further risk. Audiences also worried about health and finance.

Andrew

Peter Kyle said he will push for clarity at a political level in government. Decision can be taken at a higher level – not left to individuals to make these decisions, not left in limbo. Peter managed expectations - asking for certainty in an uncertain world is unrealistic.

Donna Chisholm BHCC – aware of this issue. Ready to put resources and support for either re-emergence of arts and culture sector after lockdown, making sure all voices are heard. Or different package of support if reopening is not likely.

Louise

Work as a city to collaborate on a shared “we are open” moment would be powerful.

Faith

Brighton Fringe has left decisions to companies about festival and if they want to take part. Don't want to put pressure on artists to make decisions if public gathering is not to right thing to do.

Marina – should Julian Caddy join the What Next? Brighton meeting? Invite him to join.

Decision making support is crucial. It is exhausting making so many decisions so quickly in the face of ambiguity. Larger orgs and bodies need to lead and support others through this difficult process. How can we do this collectively.

ACTION: Marina/Louise to invite Julian Caddy to take part in a WN meeting soon.

Maddy

When researching for website was struck by the huge success of crowdfunding platforms elsewhere.

Freelancers fund raised £52k in LDN when target was £10k

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/fundsforfreelancers>

<https://masterclass.org.uk/news-view/crowdfunders>

Karen

Should we facilitate an artists' forum of some kind?

Laura

Comment again on SE / Brighton crowdfunder for freelancers, an idea raised last week. It feels we are living amongst ethical shifting sands about funding priorities as things develop. Other crowdfunders exist eg: for frontline workers like feeding NHS staff.

Good idea to look at medium term.

For now it feels like we are doing the right thing by signposting to funding that is definitely available (eg: ACE) and offering support / guidance / surgeries / FAQs about how to access this. Especially since deadlines are imminent.

Marina

Could we look for support to facilitate a Crowdfunder as part of a bid to ACE?

Concerns about who would access funds once they are accrued.

Freelance technicians and box office – as much of the lifeblood as artists.

Next meeting Thurs 16 April at 11am

Zoom details for meeting:

Producers Zoom is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: What Next Brighton & Hove 16 April

Time: Apr 16, 2020 11:00 AM London

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/457526663?pwd=Y2MralRzcXNISEI0eWY4VUR5WGROUT09>

Meeting ID: 457 526 663

Password: 571419