

Minutes CVF Meeting 23rd March

Date & Time: 23rd March, 10.00am - 12.00pm

Location: Norcroft Auditorium, University of Bradford

50 Members Attended

Minutes:

10.00am - 10.10am (10 mins) - Alex Croft and Kirran Shan, Co-Chairs, welcomed members and facilitated brief introductions.

10.10am - 10.30am (10 mins) - `Kicking Off With Culture - Screening of [YEAH, IT'S BRADFORD](#) by AllStarz and Healthy Minds Appreciates - Introduced by **Richard Cracknell, Child-Friendly Bradford. The project was created to launch The Child-Friendly Bradford Initiative supported by Reel Street Productions.**

10.20am - 10.50am (30mins) - Panel presentations

Featuring:

- Actively Engaging Under 25's with **Dance United Yorkshire (DUY)**
Helen Linsell, Artistic Director Dance United Yorkshire
- DUY is a charity that especially works with marginalised communities - from young children to adults.
- Their USP is bringing together young people over a 5 weeks period to develop and create a professional dance performance,
- Many children are referred to DUY as they have advanced needs, health issues etc
- Initially, the young people they engage with often don't want to dance.
- DUY's job is to uncover their potential so they can realise their own ambitions.
- They have developed new classes giving adults (mums) access to the same opportunities
- 4-year programme in Holmewood - parents and toddlers, older people and various young people's groups
- They offer collaboration and artist training

Sayyid - is a young person who has been working with DUY for the last 6 years.

Sayyid said "I have no formal training, I was referred because of behavioural and anger issues and everything changed when I JOINED DANCE UNITED.

Over 6 years I have grown in confidence and emotional maturity, it's helped with my mental health, has cared for and nurtured me, made me feel listened to and understood and ready for new ventures

- **Child-Friendly Bradford** Introduction with **Richard Cracknell**

Richard asked members what child-friendly means to them.

Responses - "Including young people" "Having things for young people to do"

Richard explained some of the United Nations Convention for Rights for a Child including the Unicef article 31 right of children and young people to have access to play and cultural experiences.

He asked "How do we give voice to children and young people? A quarter of the population is under 18 - cultural services are their services.

Pupil's voice is now being recognised - children have been involved in the recruitment process for their new headteacher.

He stressed how important it is to involve young people in policies, strategies and democracy - giving young people ownership over services.

Richard invited members to reach out and work together in the future.

- **HAF Introduction with Kamran Hussain**

Kamran explained the HAF programme provides opportunities and spaces for children to play and learn through a variety of activities. They want artists, cultural organs involved and connected to HAF providers to give the best offer cultural and experiences to our young people across the district - mainly free school families who have very little access to the cultural sector - Everyone has the same access to opportunities

Kamran invited people to get in touch with him or their local HAF provider to create more opportunities and a fulfilling programme

Bringing Communities and Culture together is really important right now to give our young people the best start.

10.50am - 11.20am (30mins) - Q&A with panel and sharing best practices - Engaging Young People In The Cultural Sector

Questions Set By Child Friendly Bradford

-What are the biggest barriers to engaging children and young people in the Cultural Sector?

Responses from The Panel -

- Letting young people know that is something for them and bringing culture and interest together
- additional benefits for children
- the preconception that arts and culture isn't for them
- Breaking down stereotypes of male dancers etc
- Costs
- Families not allowing children to take part in activities from a cultural and religious perceptive
- Statutory services i.e. youth services, care-leavers support not understanding what is available locally - bringing children services and Culture together to gain a better understanding
- Language and translation around arts and cultural activities
- Having the confidence to overcome the barriers society and family put on young people
- The barriers are trapping the young in a cycle of disconnect and misinformation
- Not remembering what it was like to be young
- Not giving young autonomy to make their own decisions from toddlers to 25s

- Without schools and other services, communities wouldn't know how to find out about projects and opportunities.
- Cultural barriers - South Asian Children less likely to access activity
- More families accessing services as a unit will promote a greater offer to families and young people
- Providers need to recognise and make allowances for cultural differences

-What opportunities could City of Culture 2025 present to break down these barriers?

Responses From The Panel -

- Will provide more access to activities for your people
- Placing work/projects/artists in a community will build interactions
- Activities taking place on people's doorsteps
- Arts and Culture will travel to people and not expect them to come to us - It's Here, It's On Your Doorstep and It's Free.
- Children's rights are acknowledged by means of independent travel, giving children more independence and autonomy over what and how they interact with services.
- People are prepared to walk 15 mins - making sure for 2025 there are activities within 15 mins of people's homes
- Work aimed at age-appropriate groups etc
- Capturing children at primary school, so culture is the norm rather than something seen as not for them.

-Are there ways that the CVS and member organisations can give young people more VOICE AND INFLUENCE over the cultural sector in the district?

Response from The Panel:

- Is this an opportunity to lift the notion of who is providing and designing these activities
- Shared opportunities - youth voice groups - school councils
- Young people need to be involved in the creation and development of projects to feel ownership and connected - opposed to expecting them just to be a part of it because it exists
- 2025 should not be the only thing we're working towards this is about building systems now so future generations are exposed and integrated with culture - Building legacy
- Outside of culture what is the secondary impact?
- Evie Manning, Common Wealth and Common Space are prime examples of how working and engaging with young people can create incredible work
- Placing value on the work that everyone does - artists being underpaid to work with young people, it is expected that artists will work with young people for free.

11.20am -11.30am (10mins) - Comfort Break

11.30 am - 11.40 am (10mins) - BPH Update - New Opportunities and Recent Developments

Lisa Mallaghan, BPH Project Director, -

- [Culture Club with Nick Ahad](#) - A new monthly in-person 'book club' – but for online theatre! Hosted by award-winning broadcaster, journalist, and writer, Nick Ahad.
- [Empowered LGBTQIA+](#) - a wide-spanning programme of projects, workshops and events focusing on artist and ally empowerment, training and development.
- **Alison McIntyre** has been appointed the new BPH Visual Arts Instigator.
- BPH are recruiting a [Wellbeing and an Environmental Champion](#)
- Coming Soon - Be A Great Storyteller and Burn Bright, Don't Burn Out

11.40 am - 11.50 am (10mins) - AOB

Karina Croucher, Senior Lecturer - University of Bradford.

"I and Mark Goodall and have established a Culture and Identity Research Group at the University of Bradford, which spans the different research areas across the University. We are in process of bidding for funds to enable some seed funding of projects/project development, leading to 2025 (and beyond), that recognises artist/community time in developing bids. More to follow when we have confirmation of funds. Karina encouraged members to [get in touch](#) if they want to know more about the research group.

Laura Brooks shared information from Cat Scott in their absence - The Visual Art Social will take place on Tuesday 2nd May at Impressions Gallery from 1 pm - 4.30 pm - booking info coming soon

Laura also shared information on [The Leap Heritage Showcase](#), co-produced by CVF, taking place on Tuesday 28th March from 10 am - 4 pm at Fountains Church.

Al Dix, 509 Arts, is looking for people to share their stories of Bradford's Heritage as part of a new writing competition.

Richard Warburton, TiM, shared updates from Theatre In The Mill - [Bussing Out](#) by Shabina Aslam is now on display in Gallery 2 at the University of Bradford. [The Women's Weekender](#) has been rescheduled and will now place 19th - 21st May.

11.50am - 12.00pm - Networking Opportunity

Alex Croft and Kirran Shah thank members for attending the meeting and encourage them to vote in the co-chair election.