

ARTIST NETWORK MEETING 10 FEBRUARY 2011 @ LEAMINGTON PUMP ROOMS

Meeting Notes

Apologies:

Chris Bradley	film
Fareed Siddiqui	music
Keira Martin	dance
Kate Mason	dance
Joanne Lole	visual arts & Chair of ArtAlert

In attendance:

Clare Mitchell		claremitcheall@warwickshire.gov.uk ADO
C. Ravenhall		cathrynravenhall@warwickshire.gov.uk ADO
Dave McKenna	dance	Rubeingfrank@aol.com
Matt Shaw	sculpture	matwoo@yahoo.co.uk
Jo Bryan	installation	sandjbryan@btinternet.com
Alan Gill	theatre	themadhousetheatre@sky.com
Tessa Lukehurst	writer	tess@lukehurst.com
Emma Price	conceptual	charkha_yarns@hotmail.com
Stuart Phillips	graphic/illustrator	kickawowa@hotmail.co.uk
Lee Atkins	youth arts	lee.atkins@wayc.org.uk
Sybil Roberson	murals	syb_lime@yahoo.co.uk
John Commane	ceramics/rakuj	commane@talktalk.net

Action: Those with apologies please let Clare know if you are happy to share your contact details

The meeting was held informally in the annexe of Leamington Pump Rooms and Museum

Clare M and Cathryn R welcomed everyone and a short round of introductions.

CM and CR explained the reason for the meeting is based on the possibility of significant changes in local authority funding of arts development. Although no decisions have yet been made as yet it is very likely that Youth Arts Development Post (Clare's Post) will no longer exist within the new structure. Similar changes are taking place with Heritage Culture and Libraries and it is likely that there will be reduced support for community arts development as well.

While there are schemes for supporting the arts still in existence, they seem to be focussed on the support for the larger agencies in the sub region as opposed to freelancers and small organisation.

This is a concern for ADO's as inevitably support for individual arts practitioners in Warwickshire will be reduced. In particular, for those working in participatory arts as with the loss of WYAN and Ado posts that support this sector there will be no conduit through which agencies/individuals can seek appropriate advice support and networking.

Once decisions at council are made WYAN (Youth Arts Development) is likely to have until September 2011 in post (in relation to due process etc), there may be funds to further this work on a part time basis for a further 6 months. It was suggested that the sector look to address what they will need in the absence of ADO support and explore possibilities of becoming a self sustaining network that would act as a voice for the sector, seek funding, offer support to individuals and organisation in terms of participatory practice.

CM/CR proposed that as a group of artists we explored possibilities

A general discussion ensued about the issues involved key aspects of the discussion covered

- Fund raising potential, commissioning and tendering power
- Sponsorship and corporate links
- Flexibility
- Collaboration
- Cross art form working
- New programmes
- Cpd and training (talks, skill share)
- Creativity and idea generation (hot housing)
- Apprenticeships (supporting emerging artist)
- Resource share
- Marketing support
- Attracting audiences

As a group we also began to discuss what we get back from participatory work, comments included

- collaboration,
- creativity,
- projects,
- skill share,
- community benefit,
- putting something back,
- duty,

- seeing achievement ,
- curiosity,
- feeding into our own practice.

The general consensus was that we should see this as an opportunity and should take time to explore the possibilities further to ascertain what shape any network should take.

Actions

- Each artist to produce a short (no more than A5) piece of text (Please see attached format for ease) and return to CM – CM will collate and circulate
- CM will send out email addresses to all (as above)
- We meet again - 2 events have been suggested

Friday 18th February 2011

7pm

Wild Boar Pub

Lakin Road

Warwick

PURPOSE : Social event to get to know each other and discuss any thoughts informally

Thursday March 3rd March 2011

6pm – 8pm

Pump Rooms Annexe (TBC)

Leamington Spa

Warwickshire

PURPOSE: To explore formally the possible governance structures that we could adopt i.e., social enterprise , Co-op etc etc.

CM and CR to invite speaker on Governance structures

- CM to explore networking funding opportunities A-N