

MINUTES

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| Meeting: | York Culture Forum |
| Date, Time: | 19 July 2022; 3.00 - 4.30pm |
| Location: | Zoom |
| Co - Chair: | Helen Apsey, Make It York |
| Secretary: | Bethan Gibb-Reid, Make It York |

| No | Item | Lead |
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| 1 | <p>Welcome and Housekeeping</p> <p>Summer social will be rescheduled.</p> | |
| 2 | <p>Nominations open to the Executive Group</p> <p>Over the next six weeks, anyone wanting to stand for an elected position on the Culture Exec should submit a nomination form.</p> <p>Any member of the Forum is eligible to be nominated, and a description of candidate experience guidelines and the duties of the Executive Group is available on the MIY website, in the Forum's Terms of Reference.</p> <p>There are two routes to nominate for election, the first option is to self-nominate and ask another member of the Forum to second the nomination, or the second option is that a member can nominate another member in the Forum. Seconds may not come from members of the same organisation as the person standing. If required, the Culture team can help you contact a second by emailing culture@makeityork.com</p> <p>Nomination forms for both routes are available by request from the Make It York Culture Team. The Make It York Culture Team and Portfolio holder from CYC cannot vote or second any candidate.</p> <p>We strongly recommend, if you haven't already, getting in touch with the Culture team for an informal conversation before requesting a nomination form.</p> | |

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| | <p>If multiple people from the same organisation stand for election, we will ask the individuals to decide between themselves who can represent for election up to a maximum of two.</p> <p>This is to promote a balanced set of experiences and professional interests and ensure no institution has too great a voice in the Executive Group.</p> <p>Nominations close on the 30 August. An online husting on the 1 September will provide all the candidates with time to make a case for their election, and online polls will be open for two weeks, closing on 14 September.</p> <p>The hustings will be recorded for people to watch on catch up when casting their vote.</p> <p>Our next Forum meeting on 15 Sept will be when results are announced, and the new Executive will begin their term.</p> | |
| 3 | <p>Make It York Updates</p> <p><u>Visit York Tourism Awards</u></p> <p>Applications are now open, with two new categories for the culture sector to enter:</p> <p>Cultural Venue of the Year</p> <p>Event or Festival of the Year (this could be any event or festival taking place between October 2021 and August 2022)</p> <p>Apply by the 26 August online. The awards take place in Spring 2023:</p> <p>https://www.visityork.org/members/events/visit-york-tourism-awards</p> <p><u>YCF Discussion Board / Member Directory</u></p> <p>Responding to the request from Forum members for a way to share info and collaborate - this is a new resource for the Forum to register an online directory of members' contacts and call out for / offer resources to the sector.</p> <p>Please register yourself using the same contact details we have for your Forum membership:</p> <p>https://www.makeityork.com/culture/discussion-board/</p> | |

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| | <p><u>St Nicholas Fair Bauble Design Competition</u></p> <p>This year is the 30th anniversary of St Nicholas fair in York, and to celebrate it, we're running a competition for the design of a Christmas bauble – with a £500 cash prize for the winner.</p> <p>Call out for artists and makers to enter the competition – please apply by the 5 August, or share with your networks:</p> <p>https://www.makeityork.com/news/2022/07/york-christmas-market-anniversary-bauble-competition/</p> <p>CE – can children take part in the bauble comp? Or could there be a children's version alongside the main comp?</p> <p>HA- aim for this one is to support a professional artist, but we will investigate options and get back to you.</p> <p>Action – MIY to respond to CE</p> | MIY |
| 3 | <p>Updates from the Forum</p> <p>Chris Bailey, Guild of Media Arts and UNESCO update</p> <p>Guild of Media Arts</p> <p>1. Creative Growth - coming out of lockdown discussions and projections in CYC economic plan around digital sector, the Guild is developing a series of 2-hour sessions aimed at creative individuals and organisations that will help them sustain and grow their business. Advice on content would be appreciated to know what businesses need.</p> <p>The first three events have taken place in various venues, and the series continues based at Guildhall from September. Looking for funding to sustain events administration going forward.</p> <p>2. Guild supported Wagon Plays - a little bit financially, but mostly physically!</p> <p>Thanks to those who helped and who came to watch.</p> <p>3. September feast will take place on the 22 September – a celebration of culture. Save the date!</p> <p>UNESCO</p> | |

1. CB presented City to City 2020 and 2021 at International Symposium on Electronic Art 2022 in Barcelona. York profiled as one of organising cities.
2. ACE seeking to expand bilateral contacts between York and Viborg arising from our engagement through Drawings of Hope and Immersive Assembly V2. REACH and Jorvik actively involved in discussions. Others interested in getting involved please get in touch with Chris.
3. UCCN Annual Conference currently taking place in Santos, Brazil.

We expect to participate in subnetwork meetings today and Thursday. Anyone wishing to view webcast please use this link: <https://eventos.net.br/unesco/>

Tom Higham, Mediale

Halfway through Immersive Assembly Volume II, with Lydia Cottrell one of the artists (also present at the meeting). Collaborative creative projects between York and Viborg, grouping Yorkshire and Viborg artists together produce a new commission. Support for the connection is strong on both sides.

Esther Richardson, Pilot

Pilot have moved into the Guildhall, back to hybrid rather than all home working, which has been a great transition.

Come and visit the space and see the workspaces - get in touch for a tour!

Monoliths, a VR piece incorporating another Pilot project, Northern Girls, has just shown in a Berlin Festival and Sheffield festival.

Reviving 2019 production of Noughts and Crosses – showing week of 16 Sept at YTR, with rehearsals in York over the summer.

Sanctuary Seekers project, supported by CYC, is ongoing, which builds on recent production The Bone Sparrow.

Chris Edwards, REACH and Explore

REACH

1. Have now appointed Alison Freeman as the REACH manager. Based at YTR but will also have workspace to access at YSJ, CYC and Explore. Get in touch to find out more about what she'll be doing, she starts next week!

2. Partners meeting with approx. 30 attendees, talking through engagement plan and getting task-and-finish groups.

Need for five more creative organisations who deliver creative education work to partner with one of the 12 schools in the pilot programme.

Action – if you are interested in finding out more or getting involved, please contact Chris Edwards on chrisedwards51@hotmail.com

Explore

Fiona William's farewell party is taking place next week– Rowntree Park, 28 July. If you would like to attend, please get in touch with the libraries to RSVP.

Explore York's Summer Reading Challenge is Gadgeteers. Pick up information from the libraries!

Erin Burbridge, Riding Lights

RLTC is a touring theatre company.

100-seater theatre venue in the city centre - would love to host more events and performances, building back programme post-covid. A best-kept secret, but would like to be better known in the city!

First national tour since the pandemic was My Place by Bridget Foreman, just finished its run.

Acting Up is a youth theatre for YP with additional needs. Performed the crucifixion play in the Wagon plays. Now aiming to restart a younger group, as the current group is 19-30s.

Restarting Right Here Right Now, free regular comedy improv night, beginning this Friday.

Summer Theatre School returns in person for the first time since 2019, at Queen Margaret's school. Four plays in a week, anyone aged 14-90 can apply to take part.

Upcoming schools tour of Nearly the Goat at Christmas. Aim to get into York and North Yorkshire schools, currently looking for schools/venues across the region, any help on this would be ideal.

Please come and say hello, visit the theatre.

erin@rltc.org

Rebecca Newman, York Proms

York Proms took place on 10 July, with a lot of obstacles to get to this point post-Covid, including staff shortages and volunteer shortages.

Raised £1300 for charity.

Next year will be a musical theme. Hope to begin a children's proms – looking into funding / sponsorship options.

If you'd like to be involved, we are recruiting a stage manager and marketing roles, and always looking for volunteers.

rebeccanewman@hotmail.com

Tom Bird, YTR

Kyiv Ballet – thanks so much for all help and support. Especially to MIY and York's hospitality sector for so much in-kind support with accommodation.

The Coppergate Woman begins next week, with a 100 plus volunteer cast. Please come and see it!

Busy autumn and panto season ahead.

Sarah O'Brien, YSJ

1. Y Street Band performing on 5th October and Prototype Theatre performing on the 12 October at the Creative Centre – these will be open to the public and will be advertised on our YSJ webpage soon.

2. Our Fine Art Saturday Club starts this Autumn and is free for young people aged 13-16. For more information see YSJ webpage.

3. Following 'It's not OK', our work funded by the NSPCC continues with a second project addressing the issue of domestic violence. We plan to take the project on a national tour.

4. The Co-create Festival will be running again this academic year on 3 February 2023. We currently have 80 young people signed up but have a capacity of 125. The young people will make work for our stage in the Creative

Centre and our students will attend their schools to work with them as part of the process.

5. We have just completed a AHRC funded project called Suitcase Stories led by Dr Catherine Heinemeyer, working with Batley Girls High school who performed their stories of climate adaptation. Please see appendix for more information and to submit feedback.

6. We will have a new head of the School of the Arts starting in October – Professor Helen Minors, a musicologist, previously from Kingston University, London.

7. Professor Claire Hind – women and walking – just produced a walking and wellbeing book. Like to channel this into York next year in 2023 – possibly in the form of ‘walkshops’ for people who feel displaced. She is looking for a city-based stakeholder/partner to help her realise this as an arts project to enhance wellbeing and the local environment.

Lydia Cottrell, SLAP

Incubator scheme – two have received arts council funding, with one in residence at YTR.

The Work of Art workshops restart in September in Spark, partnership with York Creatives.

Currently looking for funders/supporters for the 2023 scheme, please get in touch!

If anyone would like to support an artist with space / time / money get in touch - Lydia@slapyork.co.uk

Cllr Darryl Smalley, CYC

Heatwave management is going well in the city.

York Central good news coming up in the press tomorrow (Weds 20 July), government announcement expected.

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| | <p>Recruitment completed for Charlie Croft's role; announcement should be forthcoming. The new person will contact the sector and do visits when they begin in post.</p> <p>Devolution progress for the region has stalled a bit as the relevant minister left their post, Civil Service are caretaking for now. Hoping not to have too many delays.</p> | |
| 5 | <p>Future Meetings:</p> <p><i>1 Sept – extraordinary meeting for election hustings, polling opens (online, recorded for catch-up)</i></p> <p>15 Sept – Forum meeting, elections results for Executive Group announced (in-person)</p> <p>25 Nov – Forum meeting</p> | |
| 6 | <p>HA - How does the Forum meeting format work for you all? Anything we're missing?</p> <p>CB – city wide issues, eg CYC's economic plan. Could we consult on that?</p> <p>HA – that is open for consultation now so we will share the link. MIY will co-ordinate a response, but individual responses are very welcome to be made directly to CYC.</p> <p>https://www.york.gov.uk/big-conversation/10YearStrategies</p> <p>TH - can we have external presenters/ talks to vary the programme?</p> <p>HA – yes, please nominate/suggest speakers to us.</p> <p>Action – any ideas/ suggestions for external speakers to be made to the MIY Culture team.</p> <p>AOB</p> <p>Chris Sherrington, York Music Venues Network</p> <p>YMYV has launched an investment scheme to community own music venues. Will share details via MIY.</p> | ALL |

Appendix – York St John call for feedback:

SUITCASE STORIES – exploring climate adaptation through participatory storytelling with young people

We are delighted to share with you the [project film and initial findings of *Suitcase Stories*](#), a YSJU pilot project funded by NERC [Creative Climate Connections](#), which explored climate adaptation through participatory storytelling with young people. Based in secondary school and youth/community settings in West Yorkshire, this approach started from the questions, ‘Who is already suffering the impacts of climate change?’ and ‘What can we learn from them?’ Young people researched and connected with the stories of those on the climate frontlines, and created short performances that packed into suitcases.

We found that this approach focused young people’s minds on climate justice and practical solutions to build community resilience, rather than generating climate anxiety. It also empowered many participating young people as researchers, advocates and storytellers within their communities. As this may offer promising avenues for climate education, we have also provided short **resource packs for educators or youth workers** wishing to run a Suitcase Stories project in their own school or setting:

[Suitcase stories | York St John University \(yorks.j.ac.uk\)](#)

We would be very happy to hear your thoughts or feedback on the resources, or to answer any questions you have about the project. Please do share them with any drama and arts practitioners, teachers or other educators in your network.

With best wishes from the Suitcase Stories team: Matthew Reason, Olalekan Adekola, Cath Heinemeyer, Natalie Quatermass, Natalie Wood