

Minutes from meeting at 2pm on 11.12.19

Brighton Cultural Framework

Brighton Experience working group

Attendees:

Dom Bailey, [Baxter & Bailey](#)
Simon Bannister, [Brighton & Hove City Council](#) (Communities Equalities & Third Sector)
Sarah Davies, [PHOENIX](#) gallery
Maddy Wilson, Brighton & Hove City Council (Arts team)
Donna Chisholm, Brighton & Hove City Council (Culture, Tourism, Leisure)
Richard Wolfstrome, [Wolfstrome](#)
Karin Janzon, [Hove Civic Society](#)
Gavin Stewart, [Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership](#)
Nicola Coleby, [Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove](#)
Jenni Lewin-Turner, [Urbanflo](#) (via Skype), Producer ([Cultural Summit 2020](#))

Apologies:

Nick Stickland, [Design Brighton](#) & [Stickland Wright](#)
Liz James, [University of Sussex](#)
Adam Harris, [Millimetre](#)
Mita Patel, [ONCA](#) & Brighton & Hove City Council
Julia Gallagher, [Visit Brighton](#)
David Sheppeard, [The Marlborough Theatre](#)
Adam Joolia, [Audio Active](#)

1. Welcome

Welcome to Donna Chisholm, new Assistant Director of Culture, Tourism & Sport at Brighton & Hove Council.

2. Recap of minutes from last meeting (June)

- £15k given to Brighton Experience working group is being put to good use - updates to follow.
- All other cultural framework groups have activity underway. Waiting to hear more from [Bursting The Bubbles](#) (focusing on home workers and freelancer activity within the city). [Creative Coast](#)
Dom and Donna contributed to ideas through a recent workshop hosted at ACCA.
- Preparation for the 2020 Cultural Summit is underway, this year it will focus on inclusion/ Inclusive Arts Practice.
- Two locations proposed for Public Art (in relation to the Public Art Strategy which is underway): Plaza to west of i360 & bottom of Holly Gardens/The Old Steine. Strategy and focused conversation needed to work out what can be done in those areas, lots of input/ideas but this needs to be clearly coordinated and biodiversity needs to be considered.

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership: RE: i360 area, we are in the preparatory stages of looking at improvement along the seafront, from i360 down to Pier, to include businesses/ restaurants. Security, promotion & events down there are considerations. Also, Public Art & other projects potentially. Action will occur July 2021.

BHCC (Communities Equalities & Third Sector): RE: Valley Gardens Phase Three development - different stake-holders are currently looking at various aspects of the project (via Transport/Projects team at Brighton & Hove City Council). Would it be helpful to put the Brighton Experience group forward, to be the contact point for any Public Art happening, as one of our specific tasks at present is to work up a public art strategy for the city?

ALL: Yes

ACTION: BHCC (Communities Equalities & Third Sector): will suggest Brighton Experience group support to BHCC Transport/Projects team and sign-up up to Phase 3 information list. (Completed)

Hove Civic Society: The second sculpture is being made for the Hove Plinth, currently. We are now looking for a permanent space for the original sculpture. This is an ongoing process, sculptures will be removed seasonally and made permanent elsewhere. There is an advisory group to look at how this is managed.

Dom Bailey: Good for BHCC (Arts team/ Branwen Lorigan) to be made aware of this.

3. An introduction and update from Donna Chisholm, BHCC new Assistant Director Culture, Tourism & Sport.

Dom Bailey: Would be great to hear your first impressions of Brighton / your role?

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): I was based in Inverness/ the Highlands, Scotland. Originally as an Arts Manager, then Economic Development - in this current role I sit across both with three parts to my responsibility: Culture, Tourism & Sport including Brighton Centre, Visit Brighton, Seafront & Museums. It's a large, broad portfolio that is likely to shift and change. It's an interesting time: we're currently under Labour representation but only by one councillor. There's a strong Green representation also.

First impressions of city:

- Extremely vibrant and diverse.
- Packed in - there's an intense level of activity.
- More diverse than the Highlands, many voices but not all speaking in the same way.
- However, there is a strong developed sense of the future cultural aims of the city.
- Many points of energy here.
- There's not as much international thinking here as I expected. More collaborations and cooperative thinking would be useful.

My role is to listen/observe, currently. I have a diverse set of responsibilities. Culture is a third. Commitments divided. I'll need to be ruthless with time to make a difference.

Interested in: Economic development, the commercial end of culture, wealth creation for Artists. I'm taking an eco-view of the area. Looking at opportunities and gaps. In amongst noise, seeing what really matters and needs to be done. I'm here to make sure role of Culture is heard by Senior Council. I will be direct in my opinion: keen to focus on energy points and where opportunities are. Council is constrained financially but does have assets and responsibilities.

PHOENIX Gallery: From my point of view, we have communities overlooked by society, which is causing anti-social behaviour. PHOENIX is actively working with those groups, young & older people. In Brighton we are 'Cheek by Jowl', different communities are just streets away from one another, which is very interesting. Initiatives working with those groups are exciting (e.g. Dome). [Lemn Sissay](#) is Festival director for 2020 Brighton Festival, good choice.

Dom Bailey: There is a desire to find a shared narrative across groups within the city. But it's challenging. I definitely want to find shared themes and a narrative at city level. Highlands have diversity too, were you able to achieve inclusion?

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): Difference in diversity - actually not so much in Highlands. Many Brightonians have actively moved here and are vocal. Highlands less so & less vocal in its sector view. However, similar themes in both areas: Artists want their work to be shown, practice to be shared etc.

In terms of Economic Development it was about creating wealth in one form or another: we used to take artists abroad and on exchanges / trading knowledge and hence increase their ability to make sustainable money, not earn only £12k per year. We were less focused on *quality* of practice (Arts

Council remit) and much more about points of intervening and assisting the sector to make money, implement spaces.

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership: Were you using Scotland as a brand when sending artists abroad, or the Highlands?

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): Depends on audience - sometimes wouldn't mention. Depends on nature eg. if craft yes - relevant to image/brand, helpful to craft makers.

Brighton & Hove Economic Partnership: We're not quite there with Brighton brand - as there are a number we could have.

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): I do think there is a Brighton brand, currently underused in the promotion of the area, as well as culture. You don't want to be known as the party town - you want to be known as the artist town.

Dom Bailey: Again, it's finding a brand and narrative that everyone feels represents the city well. The work is in finding alignment with all city stakeholders.

4. Update on The Cultural Summit 2020 - Jenni Lewin-Turner (Runs Diversity & inclusion strand of cultural framework - Skyping-in)

Producer (Cultural Summit): Happening Monday 30th March 2020, daytime, Attenborough Centre and will be responding to previous summit feedback, e.g. underrepresentation and not much creative content within. Comments around lack of clear action previously (too much conversation).

ACTION - Producer (Cultural Summit): to send out schedule for the day. Waiting on budget confirmations prior to confirming artists.

Aims:

- Focus on Inclusion.
- Solution-focused activity.
- Clear short & long term action plan at the end of it.
- Conference format but punctuated with workshops, performances & social-engaged activity.
- Producer (Jenni) working with a number of diverse groups who will present in-person/via videos.
- Attenborough Centre (host venue) to provide 5 break-out spaces, avoids noise pollution.

Programme outline:

- International keynote speaker.
- Panel (including person who developed Arts Council England, Creative Case for Diversity) // sustainable social inclusion in the arts.
- Workshop delegates will be from diverse groups.
- Speed dating - long table, informal conference tables.
- Vox-pops and videos from groups = socially engaged across the city.
- Theme is Inclusive Arts Practice.
- Each working strand group ideally to present (via representative).

All programming tbc pending confirmation of funding request: waiting on further funds to support community group travel/ food etc. Any additional funding suggestions welcome.

Dom Bailey: How can this group contribute to the agenda – e.g. could we help find people for pitching sessions on the long table?

Producer (Cultural Summit): Yes - advisors could be at any level. But need practical experience. I have a list of specific roles that I'd like people to help with within pitching tables / speed-dating / or if anyone feels strongly about speaking about the work they are doing.

Planning group details purpose and theme document - happy to share and all working group representatives can respond to any items on there?

The Summit must reflect our intentions to support/ work with community groups: risk of the event is that we don't deliver the points that we spend the day discussing...

ACTION: Brighton Experience group welcome to contact Producer (Jenni) via Branwen Lorigan at Brighton Council - with any ideas – which are all pending confirmed funding. Any thoughts / solutions around lunch funds/format would be welcomed, this is a large cost and potentially these funds could be re-distributed.

ACTION: BHCC (Arts team/Maddy) to send Brighton Experience group up-to-date Save The Date info, with clear date on when this is ready for public consumption.

Feedback (post-Skype)

Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove: It's a very busy agenda. Is the pitching meant to be marketing? Is there a danger of repetition?

Dom Bailey: Previous feedback is suggested that some attendees were a bit bewildered/unclear about what the 2018 summit was for. There was a sizeable drop-off in terms of numbers after the lunch.

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): The Action plan is unclear. Agenda needs to ensure action. What were the action points from 2019 summit?

Dom Bailey: Arts & Creative Industries Commission group agreed the summit would bring the city together three years in a row as a touchpoint. The summit itself was a tangible activity.

Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove: In a way we, the working groups, are the action points. Maybe it's about reporting back, year on year? Contextualisation of framework, setting the scene of where we are? There is danger that we just keep adding more action points. Also, with so many voices in the room risk that too many fight to be heard.

5. Recap on Public Arts Strategy (Dom Bailey)

- Funding secured.
- Ran workshop = which led to drafting of the *Brighton Experience group* public strategy brief, this has been approved and deadline for submitting interest was yesterday (10th Dec 2019).
- The brief was sent to 11 people. 3 have confirmed they will be submitting.
- Interviews could be for up to 5 people, scheduled for morning 10th Jan 2020. Appointment will be 20th Jan, deadline for final draft strategy is 17th April. (Needs to go through this group & Arts Creative Industries Commission group).
- Good to be moving this forward. Has substance.
- Budget covered: facilitator, workshop and writing of the brief
- Final piece will be electronic and online.

6. Group discussion: how do you feel Brighton Experience group meetings are going? Shall we continue in a similar format over the next year? Ideas on areas we want to look at?

Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove: I've been really impressed by this group and what we've achieved in terms of a tangible public art strategy for the city. The group is a great cross-section of people, of private and public sectors. The Public Art strategy workshop was really useful, lots of enthusiasm from participants. For me it has been very successful. Meshing Council & Arts is helpful. Would be great to have fresh input from new voices, each year.

Dom Bailey: It feels like we have a core group of 8-10 regular engaged attendees, contributing in meetings and also out. Then an outer group who drop-in. I like that the outer group can move and shift. I've tried to set it up with a mix of skills, perspectives, level of commitment. If format was more casual it

may not work so well – we've moved things forward. Having meetings in a variety of locations is useful: e.g. Whitehawk Football Club, ONCA gallery, Marlborough Theatre, PHOENIX. We've been on tour and maybe further afield would be good? Regarding fresh voices, I agree, especially guest speakers (Sarah Dobson, Graham Allen). I'd like to retain this element.

Hove Civic Society: It's a useful forum to share information and thoughts about what needs to happen citywide. The first part of the year was spent creating vision, the second part on a tangible public art strategy. If we're going to move forward and continue it's important that we look at the outputs and what we are aiming for clearly. What are we looking to achieve next?

BHCC (Culture, Tourism, Leisure): Clear outputs are very important in terms of attendance - you're likely to get a higher level. I'm aware that there are four reps from the council here, but there should be more from other parts of Brighton and Hove. Perhaps it will help if they need to be here to contribute to output?

Dom Bailey: I agree, we need clear aims to progress, otherwise people will drift away. We have clear objectives as a group - I hope we get a great response from the Public Art brief. But yes, what next?

Royal Pavilion & Museums, Brighton & Hove: Initially we were trying to get a brand for Brighton and unity of vision. It's not just about the council being able to provide money, which it can't.

Hove Civic Society: Taking the strategy forwards is about creating viable partnerships.

PHOENIX Gallery: We need greater diversity of groups we work with e.g. many artists with learning difficulties in the city, would be good to create greater visibility.

BHCC (Communities Equalities & Third Sector): PHOENIX & Communities team would like to raise profile of Street Art in the city, respecting its value and articulating it more clearly. Other cities have made more of their Street Art. At the moment we get the 'cleaning up/ complaints' at the council. We'd love to develop a flagship street art programme. Make Brighton the best in the world.

PHOENIX Gallery: We would be happy to host a Street Art festival for Brighton & Hove (to celebrate Street Art and to create a distinct Street Art strategy). We could also host the Cultural Summit 2020?

7. Agreement to publish minutes on Culture in The City [website](#), for general public to access?

ALL: Happy to agree to this.

8. Dates/process for next year

ALL: Agree to run with below.

2020 Meetings

Wednesday 18th March, 2-4pm, venue TBC

Wednesday 24th June, 2-4pm, venue TBC

Wednesday 30th September, 2-4pm, venue TBC

Wednesday 9th December, 2-4pm, venue TBC

Dom Bailey: I'd welcome the chair position to rotate if group members are open to this?

9. AOB

- **BHCC (Communities Equalities & Third Sector)** "100 Years of council housing" is a new initiative @ the council providing pots of £250 for residents within local estates to bid to do something creative: e.g. a mural / piece of art / centenary flower bed. Just about to go out. May be of interest to get on March agenda. To discuss what bids are coming in across the city. Multiple pitches are permitted.