



DUNDEE PARTNERSHIP CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP

A meeting of the Dundee Partnership Cultural Development Group was held on Thursday 29 February 2024 in the Conference Room, Level 2, Central Library and via Microsoft Teams.

Present: Claire Dow, Leisure & Culture Dundee (Chair)
Ailsa Cormie, University of Dundee
Anita Taylor, University of Dundee
Annie Marrs, UNESCO
Caishlan Sweeney, Eden Project
Eddie Gaines, Dundee and Angus College
Dave Close, Hot Chocolate
Emma Shea, University of Dundee
Gillian Easson, Creative Dundee
Leonie Bell, V&A
Lorraine Lemon, Dundee Science Centre
Councillor Lynne Short, Culture Sport History Spokesperson
Mark Stewart, EventScotland
Sonia Nowicki, Dundee Museum of Transport

In Attendance: Leanne Smith, Leisure & Culture Dundee

Apologies: Andrew Panton, Dundee Rep
Beth Bate, DCA
Clare Brennan, Abertay
Clive Gillman, Creative Scotland
Emma Halford-Forbes, Dundee Heritage Trust
Fergus Storrer, Dundee Social Enterprise Network
Gregor Hamilton, City Development, DCC
Gregor White, CoSTAR
Isabel Bruce, Science Centre
Jackie McKenzie, Abertay
Jennifer Caswell, City Development, DCC
John Alexander, Leader of Admin, DCC
Judy Dobbie, Leisure & Culture Dundee
Lee Lappin, Dundee and Angus College
Liam Sinclair, Dundee Rep and Scottish Dance Theatre
Peter Allan, Chief Executives Services, DCC
Phil McGregor, DCC Children & Families, Schools Music Service

1. WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND APOLOGIES

CD welcomed everyone to the meeting and around the table introductions were made. Apologies were noted.

2. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minute of the meeting held on 18 December 2023 was noted and approved.

3. **CULTURE STRATEGY UPDATE**

CD advised the Group that all was going well. Workshops with the culture sector have taken place in person and online, with 36 participants. Next steps will be around community groups, focussed workshops and drop ins.

A first write up following these sessions will be submitted to the Steering Group for the meeting to be held on 18th March.

A session with external stakeholders is to be held at the end of March – names to be provided to Claire. The Group to think about those involved and what to include. CD will share list of which organisations are already being invited.

There was a suggestion to consider regional partners and neighbouring ALEOs. CD to consider how to make the most of regional connections. There may be a place where later draft iterations of the strategy are shared with selected peers.

4. **COMMUNICATION AND ADVOCACY**

Discussion was held on a paper CD circulated providing updates on the culture sector over the past quarter. Noted that there will be issues of consistency and benchmarking if different organisations/activity are included each quarter and a general lack of clarity on what the city wants to see. It was agreed that once the strategy is in place there will be defined collective goals set out to measure against and a clear line on how they contribute to city and national goals.

CD to share list of where the quarterly inclusive economic growth slide deck is circulated. Agreed that participation and sector development beyond building walls are important themes to include.

5. **SECTOR GROUPS' UPDATES**

Development group Membership

There was a conversation around the membership which has emerged over the years to its current form. CD and LS have been tidying up the list to make sure invitees are current representatives of their organisations and are still engaged. All asked to consider who is not being represented by the groups and flag gaps. There was a discussion around whether some members might be better classed as observers or may attend less frequently. MS reported that the meetings are very useful for him to attend from Event Scotland point of view, perhaps that becomes a bi-annual invitation rather than quarterly.

There is an ongoing gap around a music sub-group. A group had formed around the development of the Music Strategy but without that work driving it, they no longer found it useful to meet. CD to explore whether there is value for members in meeting, and will speak to Angela Doran in the first instance.

There is a potential gap around Creative Industries, but no capacity to convene it. Design is being considered in context of UNESCO City of Design Dundee's tenth birthday and ongoing review of how to support designers.

Dundee Creative Engagement Group

There has been a first meeting, remit was agreed, membership discussed and additional people will be invited, and dates have been set quarterly.

Dundee Heritage Group Meeting

There has been a first meeting, remit was agreed, membership discussed and additional people will be invited, and dates set quarterly.

Festivals and Events Coordinating Group

There are plans for the new Food Festival with dates 6 & 7 July. In terms of wider landscape Event Scotland are looking forward to the conference on 26th March, and the latest round of funding has just closed.

Performing Arts Group

The group is being established as an extension to the Dundee Dance Partnership, with invitees from Dundee fringe, the Whitehall, the Little Theatre, and Caird Hall. The first meeting will take place in May, where the remit and membership will be discussed. Eddie Gaines, Head of Curriculum and Quality for Performing Arts will convene the meeting in the first instance.

Cultural Agencies Network

The group celebrated the V&A's lavender labels, discussed the plans for the Culture Strategy workshops, discussed Art Workers for Palestine's work, shared round table updates and also discussed Culture Commons.

Culture Commons are planning an open session in April. As part of their research into the future of local cultural decision making UoD and Culture Commons want to hear from those within the Dundee creative and cultural ecosystem to understand:

- the city's perceptions on increased local decision making
- what the city needs to further grow its cultural and creative ecosystem
- our views on Verity House agreements and last year's cultural plan announcements

The membership of this Group was discussed and it was agreed that CD would look at this in order to split attendees and observers along with those who may only be required to attend every other meeting. Discussion was also held on adding minutes of meetings online. This is to be looked at further.

6. ROUND TABLE UPDATES

The Group updated everyone on any events which are taking place in their areas.

7. AOCB

- (1) **Flourish (Rebecca Prescott)** visit 2 days, 24-30 April, workshop and visiting spaces. The aim of Flourish is to explore the role of local authorities have had, and continue to play, in supporting place-based creative initiatives and to identify the key elements in the emergence and development of a successful, sustainable creative sector.
- (2) **Creative Lives** - looking for a project in Dundee, previously has done mapping of creative activity. Have funding for a post so it's an opportunity. CD to arrange follow up call.
- (3) **University of Dundee** – opportunities to engage with students – Students come up with their own plans for their dissertation research proposal or a consultancy project. If we could send over a task brief, just a few sentences, then they would share with Business management and marketing students.

There is also an opportunity for more in depth opportunities to work together – if we have research needs.

- (4) **BSL (British Sign Language) Strategy for Dundee** - urgent response from us to agree actions. CD will share proposed wording.

8. **FUTURE MEETINGS**

Thursday 30 May 2024 - 09.30 – 11am

Thursday 22 August 2024 - 09.30 – 11am

Thursday 28 November 2024 - 09.30 – 11am

Venues to be confirmed. All dates will be issued through calendar invitations.