

**Notes from Networking Meeting
18th June 2015**

Present:

Rachel Rowett, Julia Knight, David Grant, Andrea Townshend, David Wing, Gillian Wing, Carol Parker, Rosie Redzia, James Mayle, Liam Robinson, Jane Wells, Helen Webber, John Gray, Elaine Knight, Dennis Bell, Nick Jones, Sarah Ekins, Sally Harrison

Purpose of the Meeting

- For artists and creative practitioners who live and work in Boston and South Holland to come together and network
- To consider current opportunities for sector networking in Boston and South Holland
- To share plans and consider the form for an Artist's Directory
- To identify interest in further network developments
- To identify any other areas of need from training, to mentoring, advice (including advice on fundraising) and marketing
- To explore how those needs can be met (sources of support and investment for network development and artists development)
- To consider how the arts and creative sector in Boston and South Holland might lead future networking opportunities

What do we want to achieve in the long term?

1. Communities are empowered and skilled to commission
2. There is Increased demand for arts
There are more opportunities for artists
3. How will the sector respond to increased supply and demand?

Current Arts Sector Networks

Lincs Artist Forum	Lincolnshire Arts Society	Lincolnshire Senior Culture Officers Group	NODA	Lincolnshire One Venues
Transported	Contemporary Dance Network	Design Network	Arts and Crafts Societies	Individual networks
Local Authority Arts Officer	Spalding and Boston Folk Scene	Sound Lincs	LCVS	Music and Arts Hub - County
Art on the Map	Singing networks	Museums	Heritage Forums	Regional Dance Agencies for Dance 4

Future Needs of the Network

- Is Arts Directory the right way to go? Seeing work has more impact, could then take Directory away as a resource
- Empowered and skilled artists
- Introducing communities to new art forms
- Speed dating/showcasing/fresher/trade fair type event
- Profile raising
- Artists need to invest time to make it work
- Funding
- Resources
- Active participation of leaders
- Co-ordination role – creative industry enabler (paid)
- CPD/mentors for artists
- Local bases for visual artists to make
- Spaces for touring shows
- Empty shops
- Greater cultural awareness

Who are the buyers/consumers:

- Community leaders
- Empowered communities
- Schools
- Youth Club Leaders
- Venues

Making it Happen

- Invite people from other areas to be a consumer?
- Need Directory so consumers can then book artists
- Initial personal face to face meetings work better than web based initiatives
- Self-organising
- Should we be developing an existing network rather than developing a new one?
- Do we need money to do this?

Artist's Directory

- Is it a digital directory or a physical document?
- Where will it be housed if Transported aren't here?
- On line book with photos
- How do you promote the digital directory?
- Trade Fair to launch directory
- Rather than one person being labour intensive could it be self-sustaining, password based website
- Needs to be connected to other networks
- How do we edit content?
- Cultural data base, not arts database?
- Just go with what we've got as a starting point to be ready by September

- Rachel and Andrea to act as 'steering group'. Melissa to come up with meeting date.
- Trade Fair – Sally, Julia, Liam and James, Elaine and Nick working group
- Make sure both groups feed into each other
- Next meeting to take place in September to look at directory and update on Fayre
- Trade Fayre – provisional date January or March
- Is everyone happy to part of an email group – Melissa to check and set up.

Next Steps

- Establish two new working groups, 1 for Directory and 1 for Trade Fair
- Establish Email Group
- Set date for next meeting