

**Yorkshire and Humber Tea &…Meeting Notes**

**Thursday 21h May 2020, 3.15-4.30pm via CHWA Zoom**

Attendees: Deborah Munt (Artist, consultant, Ministry of Others, CHWA Regional Champion and Board member), Katharine Boardman (NHLF), Geraldine Montgomerie (Leeds Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network/ practitioner), Victoria Ryves (Heritage Doncaster), Sara Sheerwood (Creative Scene), Bea Wright (Hepworth Wakefield), Hayley Youell (CHWA)

The meeting was chaired by Deborah Munt, CHWA Regional Champion Y&H (arts). These notes have been made predominantly anonymous, reflecting key themes and issues for the sector.

**Observations/ Experiences and Questions**

**Funding, Support and Opportunities**

* [National Lottery Heritage Fund’s Responding to Coronavirus (Covid 19](https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/responding-coronavirus-covid-19)) funding programme is open. They are also helping organisations around what re-opening and social distancing will mean for operations and practice.
* Paul Hamlyn Foundation has been a really supportive funder.
* Leeds Arts, Health and Wellbeing Network (LAHWN) funding has been extended until 2022.
* [Beyond Measure Programme](https://mailchi.mp/87c4c32fc153/cultural-institute-newsletter-12422830), *Exploring Research and Evidence in Arts and Health*, July-November 2020 (tbc)
* LAHWN- interest areas: gender inequality in practice and research. How can we make research more accessible through using the arts?
* GM- What can health learn from arts and vice-versa? Physical and mental health/wellbeing. Is there space for developing a programme in which established professionals can support emerging professionals, across the sectors of art and health?

**Emotional Labour/ Staff Support**

* Doncaster Museums are working with MIND in Doncaster and Cultural Network to develop peer support/supervision mechanisms
* Challenges in cultural organisations if safeguarding leads are furloughed and not around for day to day support- falls to programme leads
* Confidence in safeguarding policies and knowledge in this new context.
* Access difficulties for vulnerable young people to mobile phones, devices and the challenge of checking in with these groups/
* Challenges of determining welfare/safeguarding issues without physical contact/presence- you can’t always tell if someone is okay?
* Many cultural/events based organisations employ casual staff from really diverse backgrounds. How can you support these workers, as they don’t have traditional work structures? And how do you do this without imposing any burden to them?
* Focus has shifted from cultural activity to emergency response- supporting fellow community organisations to deliver food banks and other services. This shift brings new demands and raises questions identity/purpose- how can we be most useful?

**Sustainability and Impact on Practice**

* Big questions emerging for the sector: Is it viable to re-open museums/cultural venues? The ones that have become more resilient with different income streams are now more vulnerable. What does this mean for the future/sustainability of the sector long-term?
* The challenge of different local authorities planning differently- how can we co-ordinate a collective response?
* There is extra pressure on the cultural/community sector to respond matched with an overwhelming community of spirit. Continuing to make the case for heritage, culture and the value they have is essential, yet not positioning the work as a replacement for statutory services
* Access- the digital inclusion gap! How can we support people of all ages without digital access?
* Concerns for museum/cultural professionals that enforced social distancing measures will impact the practice and way that people interact/engage with museums and archives- will it push the practice back? How we adapt – everything is so sensory and tactile- how are we going to run our dementia programme?
* Are there any examples of offline activities that are ambitious beyond Art Packs and telephone services?
* Positive Impact: more engagement from comms and local councillors in practice and the value of culture on health and wellbeing. How can we sustain this?
* Positive impact: time to do some focus groups for audience development
* Positive impact: ownership and reclaiming of outdoor/public spaces- BW referenced the benefit and increased engagement in the community garden space at The Hepworth. The gardener has been working full-time, and interacting safely with people finding sanctuary in the space.
* How do we translate the value, the social purpose of what we do- and make it relevant for participants and the community?\*

**Resources/References**

* \*HY emailed AHSW for Lord Howarth’s speech at International Conference 2013 as referenced by DM
* Post event KB emailed a link to the [Digital Skills for Heritage webinar: Working online with children and young people](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/digital-skills-for-heritage/digital-skills-for-heritage-webinar-working-online-with-children-and-young-people/2020-06-04/14:00/t-oodgkv).

**Next Meeting Dates-**

Thursdays 4th and 18th June, 3.15-4.15pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/93491563838?pwd=a3BuWmt0UWp4MlhydllRNkdSLy8rZz09>

Meeting ID: 934 9156 3838

Password: 063701