



Bristol One City Culture Board

Date/ time	10 th July 2024, 10:00 – 12:00 midday	Venue	St Georges Bristol
Co-Chairs	<p>Cllr Tony Dyer – Leader of Bristol City Council and Chair of Bristol City Council Strategy and Resources Committee</p> <p>Charlotte Geeves - Executive Director and Joint CEO of Bristol Old Vic</p>		
Attendees	<p>Board Members Sid Boyer (Rising Arts Agency), Makala Cheung (Filwood Community Centre), Izzy Cross (Noods Levels Radio), Euella Jackson (Rising Arts Agency), Martha King (Knowle West Media Centre), Lucie Martin-Jones (WECIL), LaToyah McAllister-Jones (St Pauls Carnival), Samir Savant (St Georges Bristol), Professor Judith Squires (UoB), Ben Phillips (The Hippodrome (Ambassador Theatre Group)).</p> <p>Bristol City Council Carly Heath (Nighttime Economy Advisor), Elise Hurcombe (BCC Arts Development Manager), Paul Martin (BCC Chief Executive), Councillor Ani Stafford-Townsend, Philip Walker (BCC Head of Culture)</p> <p>City Office Karen Blong - Operations and Stakeholder Engagement Manager Imogen Oxley – Partnership and Events Assistant</p>		
Agenda			
10 – 10.15am <i>15 mins</i>	<p>1. Welcome & Introductions, Charlotte Geeves, Co-Chair</p> <p>Board members were welcomed to the meeting and CG introduced the Board to the new Co-Chair, Councillor Tony Dyer.</p>		
10.15 – 10.20 <i>5 min</i>	<p>2. Welcome from host, Samir Savant, St Georges Bristol</p> <p>SS welcomed the board to the venue and provided insight into the history and business model of St Georges Bristol. SS also introduced members to the diverse and vibrant program of events and activities taking place at St Georges. This includes St Georges’ Sing for Happiness program which supports mental health. SS highlighted some of the key collaborative work and community engagement that St Georges does in Bristol as well as their work with the University of Bristol to map out culture engagement in the city.</p>		

	<p>OFFER: Board members were encouraged to contact SS if any individuals or organizations would like to collaborate with St Georges.</p>
<p>10.20 – 10.25am 5 min</p>	<p>3. Actions from Culture Board – 17 04 24, Karen Blong, City Office</p> <p>KB from the City Office shared the actions from the last meeting which were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Culture Board Member refresh • Culture Strategy for Bristol <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning meeting to be arranged. <p>KB noted that these actions are being picked up at today’s board meeting.</p>
<p>10.25 - 10.40am 15 mins</p>	<p>4. City Office Updates, Karen Blong, City Office</p> <p>KB provided an update on One City Goal 58 (Gender, race, ethnicity and disability pay gaps are decreasing due to improved skills pathways and mentoring with routes to access senior employment opportunities (part-time and flexible)). This update focused on the work being done by the Pay Gaps and Career Progression Working Group which has members from the Culture Board, the Economy and Skills Board and external stakeholders. Work has also focused on how Bristol’s Race Equality Group’s H.R. Data product can be used to help support the delivery of this goal by providing a data base on pay gaps within Bristol organisations.</p> <p>OFFER: Board members were asked to let KB know if they would like a more detailed briefing on One City Goal 58 and Bristol’s Race Equality Group’s H.R. Data product.</p> <p>ACTION: LMJ and AST asked to join the Goal 58 Pay Gaps and Career Progression Working Group.</p> <p>The board discussed Goal 58 and the complexities of tackling pay gaps in the culture sector and highlighted the importance of sharing good practice across all the sectors in the city, including the private sector.</p> <p>City Office is planning a Board Membership refresh across all the One City boards, including the Culture Board. The board member refresh will hopefully improve attendance and board meetings and help broaden the membership of the board.</p> <p>Board members discussed bursaries and the importance of supporting smaller organisations so that they may have the resource to be a part of this board.</p> <p>OFFER: Board members were asked to contact KB or City Office if anyone would like to join a working group to shape the membership refresh process.</p> <p>KB shared that the City Gathering will be taking place on the 9th November, 9am –1pm at the University of Bristol. The key theme of this gathering will centre around collaboration.</p>

	<p>OFFER: Board members were asked to contact KB or City Office if they would like to join a working group to shape the next City Gathering.</p> <p>ASK: Board members were asked to contact KB or City Office with any recommendations for hosts for the next City Gathering.</p>
<p>10.40 – 10.50am <i>10 mins</i></p>	<p>5. Bristol City Council Committee System – Update, Karen Blong, City Office</p> <p>KB provided an update on the new administration, highlighting that in the new committee model all parties are collaborating as decision makers. Every member of the committee across parties has an equal vote and an equal voice, the role of the chair is to help achieve consensus.</p> <p>KB shared that all the committee chairs have accepted their roles as Co-Chairs for the relevant One City Boards. TD added that the new administration is keen to work collaboratively and is committed to continuing the One City Approach with the boards in place. TD also gave an update on the full council meeting on the 9th of July and shared that the atmosphere was positive and collaborative.</p>
<p>10.55 – 11.45am <i>50 mins</i></p>	<p>6. Culture Strategy for Bristol, All</p> <p>EH and PW introduced the board to the emerging culture strategy. The previous strategy was developed in 2017 and is no longer as useful for Bristol as it could be. However, the previous strategy did have three key themes which aimed for Bristol to be a city of Openness, Imagination and Originators that were used to inform the aligned investment strategy. These themes were suggested to be useful and could be used to inform the new culture strategy. PW noted that the investment strategy that went alongside the previous culture strategy will also be reviewed.</p> <p>The new Culture Strategy will aim to be more action focused and will consider recent changes that impact Bristol including the pandemic, Brexit and the All Black Lives Bristol protest in June 2020, as well as recent organisation changes within Bristol’s culture sector.</p> <p>To achieve a long-term vision the culture strategy will have an action plan with key milestones. The culture strategy will also be coordinated with existing strategies including West of England Combined Authority and central government strategies. The essential nature of the culture sector means that the culture strategy will need to be embedding into as many existing strategies as possible.</p> <p>The culture strategy will have a working group made up of councillors, led by AST to look at culture in Bristol and work alongside the One City Culture Board. This will secure political buy-in for the strategy and will mean that the strategy will be jointly owned by the council and the Culture Board.</p> <p>EH and PW outlined the steps for creating the culture strategy and highlighted the role of the culture impact survey which will produce useful data to support the development of the</p>

strategy. The timescale will be roughly 18 months until the strategy is complete, but the action plan will be active earlier. The board discussed the need to stick to this timescale and avoid slippage. It was also highlighted that the process of creating the strategy, which will involve collaboration and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders and citizens, will in itself be valuable for the culture sector in Bristol.

The board also discussed the limitations of culture and that while culture is embedding in everything it also can't solve all issues in the city. The board suggested that the strategy should be ambitious but realistic and expectations for what culture can do should be managed.

The board also discussed the action plan and EH and PW suggested that the action plan will be active and regularly refreshed whilst the strategy will be more long-term, providing a vision for Bristol that can be checked but will not be refreshed as regularly.

LMJ shared the role of the citizens assembly in taking grassroots and person-centred approach to looking at how a culture strategy would look if created by citizens. The West of England Combined Authority have agreed to use the outcomes from an upcoming citizens assembly to update the regional culture strategy. LMJ highlighted how this citizen's assembly will ask citizens what they would like from the culture sector and will provide real engagement to have real impact on the regional culture strategy. The citizen's assembly is due to be delivered in February/March of 2025 and will use a unique model that is more creative rather than academic than previous citizen assemblies.

ACTION: SS and LMJ plan to meet offline to discuss mechanisms for the assembly.

Board members were then split into 3 working groups to answer 3 questions to support discussions around the culture strategy. The summaries from each discussion are below:

Question 1: What does culture feel like in Bristol?

This group began discussions by looking at emotions connected to what culture feels like in Bristol, such as excitement, joy, pride and powerfulness.

Discussion then moved to considering the diverse offerings of culture in Bristol from larger to grassroot organisations and how people can access this wide ecology. The group discussed the disparities in access to culture in Bristol and its connection to location, transport and property. The group also highlighted the many options that are accessible and free in Bristol including the carnival and street parties. The group discussed how culture is often invisible and ordinary and how one does not need resources to access and experience culture.

The group talked about the challenges that smaller culture organisations compared to larger culture organisations face in Bristol and the need to plug infrastructure and funding gaps. This group also highlighted the importance of building relationships between the larger and smaller organisations.

The group concluded by emphasising that there is lots to celebrate in Bristol, including how it is one of the most liberal cities, and highlighted how extraordinary the culture sector is.

Question 2: Where does culture take place and who is it for?

This group talked about the definition of culture which can have many different meanings. The group discussed how some think of culture as being in venues and institutions, as something to consume, whereas culture actually happens everywhere; in schools, streets and homes. The group also highlighted that culture is not something that you receive or consume and that everyone can be a maker of culture.

This group also discussed issues surrounding access to culture including physical, resources and time barriers. The group highlighted the impact of lockdown on culture suggesting that online spaces can provide more accessibility to culture and facilitate connections. The group discussed how culture can play a role in improving health and wellbeing but added that culture does not have the resources to solve all issues.

The group suggested that placemaking and urban planning play an important role in where culture can take place and who it is for. Culture also plays a role in connecting us to local as well as international communities.

Question 3: Why is culture important to Bristol?

This group begun by discussing how while culture is a part of everything it can't solve all of Bristol's problems. The group discussed inward investment and the importance of finding one's identity and networks through culture. The importance of culture for the region's economy and investment was also highlighted.

Culture's role in supporting health and wellbeing was also discussed, such as at St Georges' sing for happiness group.

The group also highlighted the impact of grassroots organisations on the city. Grassroot organisations and networks can have a ripple effect, evolving and growing into a larger ideas and movements.

What is not working for the culture sector in Bristol was also discussed. The group shared that there is a need to build trust and improve the relationship between the council and the city.

Board members then discussed the strategy as a larger group. Members suggested that there is a need to define what is meant by culture from the beginning. Culture was highlighted as being not just venues and buildings but rather the way that we live our lives and our sense of belonging. The board agreed that the culture strategy also needs to encapsulate the whole culture ecology, not just the artists. Members suggested that the strategy should consider the history of Bristol's activism and counterculture whilst also celebrating new Bristol artists.

It was suggested that the strategy needs to be authentic to Bristol by considering what makes Bristol unique and how it can make sure that each area of Bristol is celebrated but connected.

	<p>The board also discussed the importance of the strategy being about the city not the council or the Culture Board members. Additionally, members highlighted that the council are enablers and decision makers that can impact the city’s culture sector. The council can support and facilitate culture while also knowing when to not be involved in the sector.</p> <p>The board discussed how the process of formulating the strategy can be used to build trust and relationships with the council. The strategy will be a wholistic vision that uses collaboration and partnerships but also recognises when the council should intervein and when it should step back.</p> <p>The next steps for the culture strategy will involve a co-designing process with the city and partners.</p>
<p>11.45 – 11.50am 5 mins</p>	<p>7. Economic and Social Value impact questionnaire – update on progress, Elise Hurcombe, Bristol City Council</p> <p>EH shared an update on the Economic and Social Value impact questionnaire. Bristol City Council Arts Development, West of England Combined Authority, Bath and North East Somerset and other internal Bristol City Council teams, including sustainability social value procurement officers, met with consultants BOP in early May 2024. The pilot survey, developed by BOP, is incorporating feedback from these groups and One City board members.</p> <p>Eh highlighted that Social Value for the survey will be assessed against national Themes Outcomes and Measures and so will be comparable nationally. Each organisation that fills in the survey will have their own economic and social value impact report as well as the picture of the wider city.</p> <p>The survey aims to build data and evidencing of individual organisations to support future funding bids and advocacy in general. This was highlighted by EH as being especially important as the new government has indicated that economic growth is a priority.</p> <p>EH also shared that there will be a sliding scale of what data is collected and whilst ambition is to support organisations to gather data and their own evidence, this will be balanced with what is achievable by smaller organisations especially.</p> <p>The group of 21 organisations for the Pilot Survey were recruited in June by the Bristol City Council Arts Development team. All were offered £300 fee towards supporting involvement. BOP consultants will then collate the feedback and incorporate in discussion with Bristol City Council.</p> <p>EH suggested that the next stage depends on how much feedback is received as to how long it will take to collate, but the timeline is roughly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • July/August 2024 – Collate feedback and make any revisions. • August 2024– Online version sent out to pilot group for functionality testing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • September/ October 2024- Agree working model. • November/December 2024- Survey live. • January 2025 – Survey closes. • January/February – Analysis. • March – Present findings <p>EH highlighted that this survey will also be used to feed into the new culture strategy.</p> <p>Board members discussed the relationship between the West of England Combined Authority, Bath and North East Somerset and Bristol. Bristol was highlighted by board members as having its own unique cultural identity. The West of England Combined Authority are working with Bristol on a regional framework. The board suggested that Bristol and West of England Combined Authority need to work collaboratively but that Bristol will need to have final ownership of strategies and surveys that relate only to Bristol.</p>
<p>11.50 – 11.55 am 5 min</p>	<p>8. AOB, All</p> <p>KB highlighted that Bristol Pride are selling wristbands and more details will be sent around to board members.</p> <p>LMJ shared that St Pauls Carnival are hosting a summer crowd funder with exciting prizes.</p>
<p>11.55 – 12 midday 5 mins</p>	<p>9. Future Meeting dates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 9 October 2024 • 15 January 2025 • 23 April 2025.