



Peterborough Cultural Alliance Meeting Minutes 30th Nov 2023 | Lakeside Meeting Room | 10am – 12pm

In attendance:

Sughra Ahmed – Managing Director, Peterborough Cultural Alliance
Stephanie Peachey – Head of Visitor Engagement, Nene Park Trust
Kate Hall – Creative Producer, Jumped Up Theatre (Co-Chair)
Ivan Cutting – Consultant, Eastern Angles
Rob Hill – Service Director of Housing and Communities, Peterborough City Council
Jamie Fenton – Partnership Manager, Culture, Sports and Leisure, Peterborough City Council
Ruth Campbell-Ekins – Director, Metal Peterborough
Sarah Wilson – Heritage Manager, Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery
Caroline Wallace – Relationship Manager (Engagement and Audiences), Arts Council England
Laura Hensser – Executive Director, Metal (online)
Karima Shah – Director, Diaspora Arts and Education (online)
Cllr John Howard – Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Corporate Governance and Finance, Peterborough First Group (arrival: 11:30am)

Apologies:

Adrian Chapman – Executive Director, Peterborough City Council
Jan Armitage – Chief Operating Officer, Peterborough Cathedral
Jake Smith - Artistic Director / CEO, Eastern Angles
Penny Hansen – Head of Commercial Activities, The Cresset
Sarah Haythornthwaite - Programme Director, Peterborough Presents (Co-Chair)
Liz Knight – Academic Director, University Centre Peterborough, IEG
Natalie Phillips – Head of Content, Landmark Theatres
Emilia Zirker – Peterborough Collective
Ally Oberrotman - Festival Connect & Create Senior Manager, Norfolk & Norwich Festival

Minutes by:

Hana Sayeed – Peterborough Cultural Alliance

Chair of Meeting – Kate Hall

Item	Details
	Welcome and refreshments <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introductions• Overview of agenda

<p>Director's Update:</p>	<p>Sughra Ahmed congratulated everyone on submitting the ACE PPF bid. Through the depth of collaboration that was needed, we were able to model the PCA values right from the very beginning of this work and thus bring authenticity to a city-wide bid where communities have been central to considerations.</p> <p>Peterborough is now at a turning point and the work of the PCA is to drive priorities for those who live, work and play, here, international and national recognition of the city is important. Developing the infrastructure and growing the PCA team, including governance will be fundamental in achieving our goals.</p> <p>PCA will be exploring future funding – new partner support will be needed for this. Members expressed their views on their experience of working together and proposed to continue the close partnership. Sughra confirmed that the PCA will be stronger, moving forward as a united Alliance.</p> <p>It was proposed and agreed that the PCA will meet quarterly in the future with the next meeting scheduled for March 2024.</p>
<p>Heritage</p>	<p>Sarah Wilson gave an update on Peterborough Museum, confirming that this year, museum has had the highest visitor figures in October and across the year and the school visits have doubled across the board. These figures indicated commitment and vision for everyone to feel represented and encouraged to participate in heritage across the city.</p> <p>The museum rely heavily on their 85 active volunteers, offering 3292 hours of support. They make up a cross section of people across the city who support many different activities, with a clear focus on diversifying – including new exhibitions on climate change and extinction. The museum is making space for growing communities and wants individuals and communities to come to the museum and see for themselves what is changing.</p> <p>More focus will be on developing friendships, collaborations and partnerships with research institutions, Natural History Museum, schools and PhD projects. Sarah mentioned a few projects already in the planning, including working with ARU students on object handling training, collaborative bid looking at the Norman Cross prisoner of war piece of work, Must Farm (a discovery made in 2011 showing a window into life 3000 years ago).</p> <p>The museum are working hard to maximise the knowledge of their staff and focus on how they can help others and make the museum more reflective. They are looking to write a NHLF bid, (due in January) which will help them ensure what they do is relevant and accessible to local audience, test ideas and design methodologies on how to do that.</p>

	<p>ACTION</p> <p>Sarah will share her initial thoughts on their bid and would like PCA members to share what they think outcomes could be, over Teams.</p>
<p>Commitment to Culture & Q&A</p>	<p>Jamie Fenton confirmed that the new administration is now set up. The administration were keen to offer support where they can. He acknowledged the passion and commitment of people in the city and supporting this Alliance is important, especially the heritage and culture in our city. Jamie recognised there were financial challenges ahead, but the importance of continuing to achieve as much as possible, including each other in their work.</p> <p>Members discussed the lack of culture at the table in the Council, Jamie agreed that politics can sometimes interfere with progress but it was important to bring the intentions of PCA to life. He confirmed the Council were stabilising, with culture and heritage growth a key part of moving forward.</p>
<p>AOB</p>	<p>Sughra thanked all Members in the work they continually do for the city and with their involvement with the bid, overcoming difficult times and conversations. She recognised their commitment to date and excited for what the future brings.</p> <p>The Members thanked Sughra in return.</p> <p>Next meeting – 25th of March 2024, Lakeside Meeting Room 10am – 12pm.</p>
	<p>END</p>