

CVF Members Meeting Minutes

Date: Friday 29th November 2024

Venue: Southbank Odsal Conference & Events (Rooley Ave, Bradford, BD6 1BS)

Carolyn Mendelsohn – Artist and Portrait Photographer

- Comes from a background in theatre, trained as an actor and did performing and directing, enjoying the storytelling aspect of the latter.
- After moving to Bradford, discovered a passion for photography and taking family documentary portraits. Telling stories from home ultimately led to multiple commissions to do commercial and editorial photography, collaborations with artists, authors, musicians, businesses and cultural organisations, and winning several awards.
- Passionate about pursuing projects that align with personal values – putting people at the centre of their own story. One of these projects included working with care home residents living with dementia. Another – using the camera as a tool to explore stories of teenagers, capturing portraits that make them look authentic in their unique styles, boosting their confidence. These photographs have been exhibited at the national and international scale, amplifying the stories of the people in them.
- See a gallery of Carolyn's work: <https://www.carolynmendelsohn.com/>.

Shaun Flynn – Education Officer at Bradford Bulls Foundation

- Bradford Bulls is a charitable foundation working with young people. It is mainly volunteer led, with 26 staff and volunteers running sport activities for a total of 25 000 children to date.
- The foundation has recently secured a heritage award to create a virtual rugby museum. The heritage fund starts in the new year and awards £93 000 over the next 2 years to showcase the history of amateur rugby league in Bradford District, featuring 12 local rugby leagues.
- The virtual museum will exist both online and in the form of a 3D visualisation capturing information on every local rugby club.
- The Foundation has just established a Steering Group for the project and is actively looking for collaborators. For more information on the project and ways to get involved, please get in touch at shaun.flynn@bullsfoundation.org

Estelle Cooper, Creative Health Manager, and John McMahon, Director of Skills, Volunteering and Wellbeing, Bradford 2025

- Bradford 2025 plans to build community and practice around the arts in health and create wellbeing-centred commissions in the District, and has just announced a social prescribing funding opportunity.
- Launched a Steering Group in the past 7 months, with partners such as the District Health and Care Partnership, the Council's Public Health team, MIND, VCS Alliance, Bradford Producing Hub, and Displace Yourself Theatre.
- Social Prescribing award is now live on the Bradford 2025 website, submission form can be found on the Opportunities page - <https://bradford2025.co.uk/opportunity/bradford-2025->

[social-prescribing-awards/](#). It is open to artists, community groups, researchers, other creative practitioners, and partner applications. There are smaller awards of £6 000 and larger grants of £30 000. An online Q&A session to be hosted at midday on Tuesday 10th December.

- Bradford 2025 outlines the following priority demographics, but the list is not exclusive, if applicants wish to make a case for another priority group: people with long-term illnesses, dementia, mental health conditions, refugees and asylum-seekers, Gypsy and traveller communities, those experiencing homelessness, and young people 15 – 24 years old. With any questions on the award, please email creativehealth@bradford2025.org.uk.
- Next phase of the project is leveraging local networks, such as CVF and BPH, to bring together creative practitioners and healthcare professionals. This will also include training and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.
- In the future, the aim is to go beyond the original £500 000 fund and invest in building legacy activities. Bradford 2025 is part of WYCreate health programme board, co-chaired by Tracy Brabin and Rob Webster, Chief Executive of the Integrated Care System for West Yorkshire and Harrogate. There is currently a partnership being formed with Healthy Mind, commissions to map existing arts in health activities across the District, and plans to hold 2 conferences – one in May to coincide with the Wellbeing Week, one in autumn to focus on supporting mental health for refugees and asylum seekers. Bradford 2025 has also been invited to submit a second stage application for a new Centre of Excellence for Music in dementia.

Guenievre Jacobucci – Engagement Manager

The National Lottery Heritage Fund

- National Lottery Heritage Fund supports projects that connect people and communities with heritage, focussing on history and storytelling. The submission has to outline a specific project, with a clear beginning, middle, and end. Applications are accepted from not-for-profit organisations and partnerships – freelancers cannot apply directly and need to source a partnership with a relevant organisation on order for their application to be considered. In the past, NLHF has funded proposals focussed on restoration, oral histories, museums and archives, cookbooks based on community recipes, natural heritage, and others.
- Applications need to respond to all of the following, although can focus primarily on one or two: saving heritage, protecting the environment, organisational sustainability, inclusion and access in Bradford. It is worth including past grants secured, and aligning with the NHLF ambitions if applicable.
- There are smaller grants of £10 000 to £250 000 per application. These cover projects of up to 5 years, with the decision made within 8 weeks of application. Upon success, funding is released in 3 stages: 50% upfront, 30% upon receipt of a progress report, and final 20% after receiving the evaluation report.
- Larger grants cover amounts of £250 000 to £10 million, and are open only to not-for-profit organisations. The application process includes a mandatory Expression of Interest, an evaluation stage application for 2 years, a delivery phase application for 5 years, and the decision will be reached in 12 weeks. Match funding contribution is also required for large grants, with 5% matched for applications of under £1 million, and 10% for applications for over £1 million.

- NHLF are interested in the process for connecting people with heritage, less so in the production process – how you work with people to produce the output is more important. Applications need to be risk conscious, and contextualise need and demand – outline whether there is a community who would benefit from seeing this project come to life.
- Before applying, refer to guides and strategy documents on the NLHF website – <https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/>, attend a free webinar, and consider submitting a project enquiry for practical feedback.

Chemaine Cooke – Producer, Facilitator, and Artist

- Chemaine leads on the Bradford Young Curators project. Bradford native, returned in 2019 after living in Newcastle. Has a background in dance, engaged in dance in disability practice before it was officially recognised as a creative strand.
- Before leaving Bradford, saw John Street Market shutting down in 2003, was surprised to see the same upon return. Led on projects showcasing the market today, small collaborations, guided tours, and others. Aims to empower people to change lives through creative practice.