

CVF Members Meeting Minutes

Date & Time: 18th January 6:00pm - 8:00pm

Location: Online (Zoom)

Introductions from CVF team and overview of the agenda.

Phil Hargreaves (Head of Creative Programmes at Bradford Council) - Council Budget Proposals

- Budget proposal: A proposal to cut the service area budget, and that cut was proposed to be the small and the large grants. Put forward due to set of budget restrictions put on everyone across the departments, so decisions had to be made on what to propose.
- Their status as proposals for the 2024-2025 financial year are emphasised. Proposals do not affect publications of any grants or activities for 2023/2024 (current financial year). The budget proposal will start from April 2024 i.e. the next financial year.
- Emphasis that they are proposals at this stage therefore there is time for people to have their say.
- The proposal is very specifically to the small and the large grant pot.
- Proposal was made based on the current situation that Bradford is in – looking ahead over the next 12 months. Felt at the time, this was the best proposal to make for the cultural ecology to continue to thrive. There's been a significant increase in opportunities in the cultural sector in Bradford compared to a few years ago i.e. Bradford 2025, BPH & The Leap have and will have more commissions and funding.
- If no feedback is received, proposal will proceed.
- Phil is developing plans for other options in the event of the proposal going through i.e. Are there other proposal that can be made?
- Decision not made lightly; decision made based on what they knew about the sector at this moment in time.
- You can have your say about the proposal - that feedback will be heard and looked at. There are options for them to look at what they can mitigate to help the sector continue to thrive.
- If people do not think this proposal is the best way for us to move forward as a culture sector – it is strongly advised to provide feedback – all of which will go back to political parties and decision makers.
- There is a call for a collective and united voice in responding to the proposal.

Call out to CVF members to provide feedback to gather responses before the proposal deadline in mid-February:

https://www.bradford.gov.uk/your-council/have-your-say-on-the-proposed-financial-plan-and-budget-proposals/have-your-say-on-the-proposed-financial-plan-and-budget-proposals/?utm_source=Twitter&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=Orlo

Start with Art:

Shy Burhan (Photographer) - Exhibition at Cartwright Hall Art Gallery: Women in Uniform.

- Research & development started in 2020.
- Wanted to develop a project around celebrating women of colour, but particularly in sectors where they are underrepresented.
- Importance of representation of people from global majority communities.
- Originally launched in 2023 on International Women's Day in Lancashire at Haworth Art Gallery. Bradford Museums and Galleries saw it and invited her showcase it in her hometown of Bradford at Cartwright Hall.
- 84 portraits in total.
- Showed a few examples of portraits.
- Diverse women from different backgrounds. Unique stories and professions were highlighted and the use of symbolic elements in within the portraits, such as the Ashoka Chakra.
- Process explained – from Zoom interviews to studio shoots.

- Specific backdrop with colour gels tailored to each woman’s favourite colour.
- Varied professions and backgrounds, including civil engineers, equestrians, psychologists, train drivers, farmers and many more.
- Emphasis on breaking stereotypes.
- Each woman contributed to the creative process, adding personal elements to their portraits. Stories of resilience, personal growth, and future aspirations.
- Encouragement to attend and experience the powerful stories.
- Women in Uniform Exhibition:
 - Cartwright Hall Art Gallery, Lister Park, Bradford, BD9 4NS.
 - On until Sunday 12th May.

[Learn More.](#)

Haigh Simpson (studio director of Out of Place) – new “What’s On” platform.

- Showcase of the “It’s On In Bradford” website. A new platform for event promotion in Bradford.
- Platform aimed at everybody but will also actively aim to target harder to reach, less engaged audiences.
- Key Features:
 - Independent platform for event promotion.
 - Inclusivity in showcasing various events and venues.
 - Simple, user-friendly interface for event searching.
 - Venue directories with accessibility information.
- User Engagement:
 - Users can easily add events and venues to the platform.
 - Customisable search filters for personalised event discovery.
 - “Be Inspired” section for curated event suggestions.
- Demonstration of Platform:
 - Live demo showcasing event search, venue profiles, and user-friendly features.
 - Integration with Google Maps for easy event navigation.
 - Easy sign-up process for event organisers.
 - Dashboard to manage and track added events.
 - Streamlined event submission process.
- Anticipation for the official launch this spring.
- Additional info from Q&A Session:
 - Users can post job and volunteer opportunities on the site.
 - Aiming to broaden engagement within the cultural sector.
 - Efforts focused on getting venues and events signed up before the official launch.
 - Plans to reach out to districts, conduct site demos, and encourage sign-ups.
 - Ability to manually add venue spaces for non-permanent or informal venues.
 - Ensuring inclusivity for various types of events and spaces.
 - No integrated box office for ticket management. Platform links to external ticketing systems based on the link provided by the event organiser.
 - Image upload process includes guidelines and recommendations for dimensions. Alt text feature to be included when uploading images for better accessibility.
 - Events submitted to existing venues require venue owner approval. All events undergo site admin approval before going live.
 - Considering insights into event locations and audience engagement for targeted campaigns.
 - Long-term plan includes API links for venues to pull events from the platform. Encouraging larger venues to list their events, making the platform a central hub.
 - Visit Bradford is regional and national focused - destination marketing essentially. “It’s On In Bradford” is by and for the people of Bradford, more community-driven, audience-led, and sector led.
 - Two newsletters planned - for venues/promoters and audience members.

Lisa Mallaghan (Director) - Bradford Producing Hub

Showcased video - "Bradford Producing Hub: Then, now and tomorrow":

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lo8cwboRFI>

- Explore Fund:
 - Offering a £3,000 R&D grant, 7 available through a partnership with BD25.
 - Information available on the website, with a deadline on Sunday 28th January.
 - Recorded information session for those who missed it available.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/explore-fund/>

- Propel Program:
 - Focused on in-depth, on-the-job learning.
 - Open to early-career producers and production managers.
 - Placements with Sheffield Theatres, Quarantine, Deer Shed Festival and more to come.
 - 50-day placements, paid at £160 per day.
 - Open to anyone; no prerequisite training required.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/propel/>

- Leeds Cultural Institutes Partnership:
 - Networking opportunity for artists and academics.
 - Event on 28th February at the University of Bradford.
 - Exploration of collaboration and sharing of new work.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/bradford-arts-and-research-networking-event-new-collaborations/>

- Leeds Creative Labs: Paid opportunity pairing artists with academics. Deadline on 12th February.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/leeds-creative-labs-x-bradford-producing-hub/>

- LGBTQIA+ Creatives Gathering.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/lgbtqia-creatives-gathering/>

- Spare Bob and Mentoring:
 - Anticipated opening at the end of January or early February.
 - The delay is due to the ongoing website relaunch.

Yvonne Carmichael & Nayan Kulkarni - New interactive digital art commission for the Sound & Vision galleries.

- Yvonne Carmichael (Project Manager for Sound + Vision at the National Science and Media Museum) & Nayan Kulkarni (Artist).
- The National Science and Media Museum is currently closed for refurbishment.
- Improvements include gallery renovations, accessibility enhancements, new lift installation, and roof repairs. Showcase of the new works being done at the museum.
- Showcased sneak peek of what's in development: the "gig zone," featuring a Midas mixing desk for visitors to experience sound engineering, recreation of BCB studios where visitors can be radio presenters, a dedicated section on storytelling, an area looking at special effects in films. Theme focuses on the history of sound and vision technologies, celebrating the museum's collection and local stories.
- Nayan introduces recent projects, including a temporary light work for the Sir John Soane's Museum and construction phase images of an architectural sound installation at Dalby Forest.
- New project for the National Science and Media Museum in collaboration with artist Nayan Kulkarni.
 - The piece that's developed for the museum comes from strand of work and research centred around video projectors and cameras feeding back into the space. Image of the space becomes the image projected.
 - The work being developed looks at architecture and the process through which space and body become image.
 - Working title - "Circus,." The project aims to create an immersive and interactive experience. "Circus," inspired by Charlie Chaplin's film.
 - Explores the concept of disappearing technologies and their integration into daily life.
 - Brief for project: was asked to think about the implications of the statement "The most profound technologies are those that disappear, weaving into everyday life."

- Showcased ideas board, concept stage, sketch of proposal.
- Two project phases outlined: experimental in spring and collaborative installation next year.
- *Invitation for artists, filmmakers, and dancers to the prototype workshop on 7th March 2024 at Exa Networks, 100 Bolton Rd, Bradford BD1 4DE. 13.00pm - 14.30pm. Contact Yvonne if interested: 01274 203415/ Yvonne.Carmichael@scienceandmediamuseum.org.uk*

Jenny Harris (Head of Producing) - Bradford 2025

- Overview of the past year and plans for 2025.
 - Highlights include collaborations with Bradford Producing Hub, professional talent development with Freedom Studios, international artist exchange, residencies as part of Venice Biennale fellowship scheme and international work.
 - Significant investments in commissions, R&D projects, and micro-commissions for deaf and disabled artists.
 - Shared plans for monthly surgery sessions focusing on specific areas such as development & support, marketing & comms, or sustainability.
 - Fundraised for £250,000 to go into their call outs programme. Working to get all the criteria set up for these grants programmes - they will be announced in February.
 - There will be more talent/professional development, drop ins, opportunities to connect and get advice to come.
 - One of biggest investment programmes will be a big socially engaged practice piece. 50% of its cost goes to artist and creatives in Bradford. Deep engagement alongside communities. And alongside it will be a large professional development and support programme.
 - Announced plans for Beacon, a temporary touring venue. The Beacon will be a key performance space for local communities and touring projects. Will tour across the summer months.
 - Youth panel recruited. Young Creatives programme and apprenticeships announced.
- <https://bradford2025.co.uk/2024/01/22/the-uks-youngest-city-counts-down-to-2025/>
- Future meetings may focus on how Bradford 2025 will be engaging audiences.
 - Bradford 2025 have around 70 members of staff with ongoing recruitment efforts for various roles - encouraging reapplications.