

# Bradford Cultural Voice Forum

## Meeting Minutes

Impressions Gallery - 13th September 2022

4.00pm - 6.00pm

### **4.00pm - 4.10pm Welcome and Introductions**

Co-chairs Kirran Shah and Alex Croft opened the session and attendees introduced themselves. There were 49 attendees.

### **4.10pm - 4.20pm Kick off with Culture**

Guest artist - Bolivian dance maker, **Yuvel Soria**, spoke about his BPH - Make Work commissioned project and upcoming show **Ajayu**. Yuvel shared the show's [trailer](#) which explores and celebrates The Day of Dead, a three day Bolivian celebration in November when people come together to remember lost loved ones.

Yuvel told attendees how Bradford has been instrumental in the development of the project since starting in 2019, and that he's thrilled the show is coming to fruition in Bradford. The next performance will be at Mind the Gap on 29th Sept. Tickets can be booked [here](#).

All tables were decorated with traditional Bolivian table cloths, bread and candles. The significance of the bread is to remember the family - the mortal world connects with those who have passed away and those who are still here today.

### **4.20pm - 5.40pm West Yorkshire Combined Authority (WYCA) Consultation on Mayor's Culture, Heritage and Sport Framework - Facilitated by Jim Hinks**

Jim Hinks opened by explaining that WYCA and the Mayor work with partners across the region and beyond to deliver regeneration and economic development, and co-ordinate the long-term programmes that will transform West Yorkshire. The Mayor also brings the region greater influence within Government at a national level, including on economic recovery, the power to shape Government policy and access further funding. Further information on WYCA can be found [here](#)

Jim went on to describe WYCA's developing framework for Culture, Heritage and Sport and how important the feedback from this session would be for the consultation process. The finalised framework will be presented to a panel of local and national individuals and organisations, at a later date, who will have final decision on the outcomes.

Attendees were given 10 minutes at their tables to discuss 2 of the key themes - People and Place. The discussion was lively with lots of feedback shared by members - written feedback and proposed framework can be found in this [dropbox folder](#).

Some key points from the discussion were:

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- People wanted to see a more targeted approach to community engagement - identifying areas, communities and groups with little or no connection to Cultural, Heritage and Sports locally rather than targeting “Everyone”
- WYCA having a clearer understanding regarding local identity, the needs and ambitions for each of the 5 authorities within the combined authority.
- Fair and equitable communications around opportunities, funds and resources amongst the authorities.
- That a cross-sector strategy was needed to fulfil the framework ambitions linking in Health, Transport, Benefits, Education, etc.
- The need for investment in skills, jobs and pathways into the sector from education.

This consultation will be fed into WYCA's ‘You Said, We Did’ report for this framework. It will give people the opportunity to see how their feedback has influenced the framework process.

If you have further feedback regarding the proposed framework, members are encouraged to contact Jim Hinks at [Jim.Hinks@westyorks-ca.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.Hinks@westyorks-ca.gov.uk)

### **5.40pm - 5.50pm CVF Update from Sarah Shead, CVF Coordinator**

This is an update reflecting on the demographics of those who have signed up to CVF and how the data is influencing some of the actions we are taking.

The registration data tells us that:

#### **Young people**

- The network is significantly dominated by those who are age 35+. There's a real lack of representation under the age of 35 but particularly under the age of 25. To tackle that, we are connecting with the training and education institutions across the district to let them know that they are really important to us and that we want them to be part of these conversations.
- Last week we met with Leanne Burnley from Bradford College and have started to create a plan about how we engage with the students there. To give you an example:
  - Visits into their setting - introduction to the cultural sector and invite to join CVF
  - Visits to cultural organisations

If anyone has any information they want to reach that demographic, or if you're an organisation who would like a student visit, please get in touch with Sarah at

[hello@bradfordculturalvoiceforum.com](mailto:hello@bradfordculturalvoiceforum.com)

#### **Ethnic Diversity**

- The network is majority white British with significant representation from South Asian backgrounds, there are some ethnicities where there is no representation at all. To tackle

*For more information and ways to get in touch head to [The Bradford Cultural Voice Forum website](#)*

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this CVF are picking out specific people who have proven themselves to be culturally active in those communities and taking the time to invite them and support them to play a more active role in the network and wider cultural sector.

- Daniel from Roma CIC was present for the first time at a CVF meeting. Daniel, introduced himself and the work he does at [Connecting Roma CIC](#).

### Community Representation

- The majority of members are people who consider themselves to be 'working' in the cultural sector. There's under-representation from those who are volunteers or working in the Community & Voluntary sectors but are delivering cultural outputs. To tackle this, CVF are in the early stages of forming a strategic partnership with The Leap who have committed resources to look at how we can tackle this through grassroots knowledge exchange and learning networks, with the hope that these people can not only share skills but develop their confidence and understanding in the cultural sector to infiltrate these rooms more often...and vice versa, that we'll be invited into community settings more often.

### Freelance Representation

- In terms of sign-up, there are more people who are in employment in organisations than there are freelancers. CVF recognises that it's not always representative of who ends up in the meetings but it flags that there is still work to be done to connect independents into CVF, particularly volunteers.
- On that note, Coordinators have been trying to meet with as many people as possible to feed into the future strategy for CVF. The organisations have been more forthcoming with that (likely due to being in paid positions). Unfortunately, CVF doesn't have the resources to pay freelancers for their time for meetings, but it's something we're mindful of when putting together the strategy for the future. If there are freelancers who have the privilege of time and resources to spare CVF 1hr then the coordinators would be really grateful for those conversations to ensure freelancers voices are represented.

### Access

- A quarter of people signed up have caring responsibilities. There is an increased calling for hybrid models for the meetings.

### The Strategy

The consultation for the strategy is ongoing. There are online sessions coming up:

**Session 1 - 26th Sept - 6-7pm** - This session will focus on the vision, mission, aims and objectives of CVF in the lead up to Bradford 2025.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85095140295?pwd=TEIRQjIiOQWNtNGFMdjJiWFJzQnI5Zz09>

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Meeting ID: 850 9514 0295  
Passcode: r3jxJ1eqxk

**Session 2 - 29th Sept - 10-11am** - This session will focus on how an enhanced CVF could be managed and governed - including membership rights and benefits.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/88014513118?pwd=NEVWMVJHK0tKeVF4MHhwWEZWRFZ1Zz09>

Meeting ID: 880 1451 3118  
Passcode: JY9G5qUrOS

### Newsletter and Website

Laura Brooks, Assistant Coordinator has worked hard making changes to our communication platforms (Newsletter and website). We hope you like them. If something is not working for you, can you please let us know.

You can now submit your cultural content via the [website](#) and we will get that up on the website ASAP and then draw from that for the newsletters - hopefully meaning you can communicate with one another more efficiently and effectively.

### 5.50 - 5.55pm Other News

**Cat Scott** - Cat Scott is excited to share that she is currently working for Bradford and Shipley Town Council as an Evening Rep for Shipley, alongside reps for Bradford, Bingley, Keighley, and Ilkley. Her role is to collect research to create a manifesto for Shipley from (approximately) 18-30 year olds who live or socialise in the Shipley area in the evenings, to find out what Shipley needs to boost the evening economy.

If you're a local resident, working in art and culture, a community centre, or a local business etc, please fill out and share this short survey before Friday 30 September, 5pm

Click here to [Have Your Say](#)

### 5.55pm - 6.00pm Alex Croft and Kirran Shah Close Meeting

Members are thanked for their attendance and encouraged to input into consultations and to email Jim Hinks with further feedback.

Next Meeting will take place in late November, date to be confirmed.