

CVF Members Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 24th February 2025

Venue: Online (Zoom)

People Powered Press – Antony Dunn

- Showcased People Powered Dress film.
- PPP is one of the world's largest letterpress printing presses and is based in Bradford.
- Focuses on community-led printing projects, creating large-scale public artworks using words and phrases sourced directly from local people.
- Three major installations are being developed, each shaped by community engagement.
- Emphasis on hyper-local representation to ensure Bradford's communities see themselves reflected in public art.
- [People Powered Press Film](#).

Legacy Session – Mark Dobson

(Commissioned by Bradford Cultural Place Partnership to 1. Suggest an approach and methodology to legacy planning for 2025 – 2030 and beyond and 2. Identify the capacity needed to deliver this work)

- Attendees asked for transparency on how consultation groups were selected and whether there was an open call for input.
 - Mark clarified that at this first stage and with very limited time he had spoken to and listened to 80 stakeholders many of whom were involved in the creation of Culture Is our Plan.
 - At present, no further legacy planning work has been commissioned.
 - Mark has recommended that further legacy planning should follow a consultative and engaged approach, particularly with the cultural sector.
- A point was raised by an attendee regarding the visibility of the Cultural Place Partnership (CPP) and its ability to lead Bradford's post-2025 cultural development.
 - Mark responded that CPP has a defined role and remit to provide join up and overview and was the group that commissioned Culture Is our Plan.
 - He has suggested that both CPP and CVF are due for a review and that CVF is already looking at its future legal structure

2028 Headlines Activity

Task:

- Groups were asked to imagine a headline they would like to see about Bradford's cultural scene in 2028 and to provide context for their choices.

Feedback from attendees:

- "Bradford Leads the World in Cultural Regeneration"
- "Bradford Wins Bretton in Bloom – Trees & Green Spaces Flourish"
- "Bradford Becomes the Cultural Hub of the North, Overtaking Leeds"
- "Bradford: The UK's Happiest City"
- "Bradford's Community Arts Scene is Thriving"

- "All Bradford Children Have Crayons; The Opera Can Now Open" (*Commentary on access to culture*)
- "Bradford's Cultural Industry Sees Jobs & Investment Boom"
- "Ilkley Residents Demand a Bradford Postcode" (*Light hearted reference to city pride*)
- "BAFTA's Break Out of London and Come to Bradford" (*Proposal for major awards events in Bradford*)
- "Bradford's Creative Economy Thrives with Skilled Academies & New Cultural Jobs"
- "Bradford Becomes a Blueprint for Cultural Enterprise & Innovation"
- "Bradford Celebrates a Decade of Creative Success Since BD25"

Bradford 2025 Volunteering Programme – John Strawson-Rooney

- BD25 initially aimed for 1,780 volunteers but increased the target to 2,500+ due to strong interest.
- The programme focuses on creating accessible pathways into volunteering, particularly for underrepresented communities.
- 1,592 volunteers signed up, representing every postcode in the district, with 25% aged 18-27 (above the national average).
- Training includes a three-hour induction covering customer service, health & safety, and safeguarding, plus optional courses in sight-guiding, mental health support, and sustainability.
- Expenses provided: £5 for travel per shift and £5 for food on longer shifts.

Corporate & Legacy Volunteering

- Aiming for 2,000 corporate volunteers through partnerships with businesses offering employees volunteering days.
- BD25 has secured long-term access to Rosterfy (volunteer management system) until 2029, ensuring continued access for cultural organisations.
- A monthly Volunteering Legacy Group has been set up to ensure the programme continues beyond 2025.

Social Value Impact Assessment – Rachael Higgins (Making Impact Matter)

What is Social Value?

- Measures cultural impact beyond economics.
- Focuses on well-being, community connections, inclusion, job creation, and identity.

Research & Engagement Plan

- Four Co-creation workshops (March-April) to develop a Bradford Social Value Framework.
- A Social Value Toolkit will be provided to help organisations demonstrate impact for funding applications.

Upcoming Workshops & Engagement Opportunities

- "Knowledge is Power" Event (27th March at BPH)
 - Focus on cultural sector challenges, funding impact, and legacy.
 - 65 spaces available.
- The survey remains open for feedback: [Survey Link](#).

Members' Updates

Graham Relton (Yorkshire Film Archive)

- New project: "A Moving Image Legacy for Bradford", funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.
- The project aims to preserve contemporary digital film from 2025 to ensure a visual record of the city and its people.
- A Legacy & Engagement Officer role will be recruited soon.
- Seeking film contributions: If anyone has digital moving images from recent years, YFA wants to archive them.

Alan Dix (509 Arts)

- "Unspun Stories" at The Loading Bay (March 28-30), a spin-off of "Unspun" from last year.
- "Life Class" (Autumn 2025) will explore ageing and the lives of older people, also at The Loading Bay.
- "Lost Mills & Ghost Mansions" project has been completed, with an interactive Learning Zone now live on the 509 Arts website.

Kirsty Smith

- "This Girl Did" – a play about Bradford's forgotten female cricket players in the 1930s.
- Script-in-hand performance at Kala Sangam (March 29th).
- Directed by Aisha Khan, developed with Henry Duckworth, and supported by BPH & Kala Sangam.

Richard Rhodes (Bingley Little Theatre)

- "She Writes" – Scratch Night for International Women's Day (March 8th).
- Eight new short plays by female writers performed at Bingley Arts Centre.
- Tickets £5 via [Bingley Arts Centre](#).

Tahir Shah

- Appearing in "A Thousand Splendid Suns" at Leeds Playhouse (May 14 - June 14).
- Touring in Leeds, Birmingham, and Nottingham.
- Running drama workshops in Trident (16-18-year-olds, fully funded, 10 spaces available).

Andrew Wilson (Bold Bradford)

- Next Bold Scratch Night – March 14th at Underground Bradford.
- Featuring work from:
 - Kenzo J (music & poetry performance).
 - Lydia Della Marie (autobiographical comedy).
 - Dhamaka Arts (queer sci-fi theatre piece).
 - Shivani Jatar (Katak dance deconstruction).
- Tickets from £6 via [Eventbrite](#).

Sonja Kielty (Bradford Industrial Museum)

- "Weave & Spin" - International Women's Day event (March 9th).
- A volunteer-led free event celebrating textile heritage, weaving, and community participation.
- Seeking more volunteers in weaving, printing, and gardening.

Kala Sangam

- Archive Adventures project launched, digitising their archives and sharing content.
- Weekly archive content released every Friday across social media.

Carl (1in12 Club, Bradford)

- Home of Metal & 1in12 Club collaboration to document the club's history and impact.
- More details at [Home of Metal](#).

Bradford Producing Hub

- Funding & training opportunities available:
 - Music Development Lab (March 13th).
 - Nairobi Producer Exchange for African Diaspora producers.
 - Spare Bob micro-funding (next deadline March 17th).
 - Upcoming Masterclasses: Goal Setting, Disability Awareness, LGBTQ+ Awareness, Sustainability Best Practices.
- Links:
 - [Music Development Lab](#)
 - [Nairobi Producer Exchange](#)
 - [Spare Bob funding](#)