

Town of Culture Advisory Group Meeting 1

March 6th 2024

Notes

ideas to promote town wide collaboration:

Crowdfunder and their funding partners (British Airways/ Aviva) would be interested in engaging with ToC activity with the prospect of match funding opportunities. Nick Goldsmith, Bank of Dreams and Nightmares, has good experience of securing crowd sourced funding and is keen to engage with ToC.

Important to make **early contact with Bridport businesses** to allow time and flexibility to work up ToC opportunities together and jointly explore funding needs.

Important to allow businesses and creatives to engage – One good way of doing this would be to select a few **ToC themes** and invite businesses/ organisations to respond. Possible themes could be around aspects of Bridport heritage? (Flax/ Hemp for old and new uses?) or Nature (see [Swift Town?](#))

Idea of creating a **digital hub** that could promote and drive ToC collaborations – a place where young people and businesses could find out about training and mentoring opportunities (possibly part of the proposed Bridport Learning Hub)

Call for a **physical hub** for ToC to work alongside the online version and to encourage face to face meetings and showcasing of what Bridport has to offer in terms of arts and culture.

A physical hub could be based in an existing venue (Café/ pop up shop/ youth centre/ Clocktower Records). Would be a place for ToC activities, news and meeting space during the ToC programme.

To capture young peoples interest ToC should look to **develop a strong AI/IT offer?** virtual reality sessions?

Offers:

- **LSI building** offered as a possible venue for ToC activity, especially young people led events.
- **Sladers Yard** already have a programme planned for 2024 but keen to find ways of connecting to ToC, especially if themes could be identified that allow businesses to engage.(see themes idea above)
- **Allington Hillbillies** Welcome Area.
- **Clocktower Records** - Anything?

ideas to engage with Young People

Recruitment / engagement thoughts:

- ensure access for all – consider timings and spaces for meetings / training – be clear and welcoming to all lived experiences.
- connect with existing youth provision including sports clubs and schools alumni (Colfox, Hardys, Beaminster, Woodroffe) and Weymouth College arts courses.
- connect with businesses (eg Rise where young people are working) and young businesses (eg Luke Hayter P/T) and Leisure Centre gym.
- find returning graduates.
- find influencers to inspire YP.
- go to their spaces – eg Gore Cross Skate Park.

Instigate a YP event / forum – what do THEY want ToC to be for them?

- Any questions event for YP
- Invite YP to ‘gala’ events.
- Ensure YP have really responsible jobs – are centre stage eg Film Festival hosting
- Connect with Clive Stafford Smith & others working with YP – Youth Dance, bacStage, Skate Park.
- Create space that works for YP – sit in circles.

Be clear what’s in it for them.

Establish range of opportunities to share with them.

Support events THEY want – eg drum & bass.

Festivals – identify opportunities for YP

- e.g. business sponsorship campaign team
- fringe events around different themes at festivals (eg Hat, Literary)
- social media content
- join up co-promotion of festivals going forward – links to each other’s websites.

Ideas to provide elevated product from ToC:

Quality is crucial - do less but do it really well.

ToC programme should aim to profile the art and culture that young people value, that stimulates them and their creativity.

Research old festivals and consider bringing them back to the Bridport calendar – Lantern festival (1st Oct – Feb), kite festival.

Consider events/festivals that are **thematic and multi-venue**. For example; about distinctive local birds, Swift Town.

Consider adding to the existing programme (i.e. Hat Festival) through organising linked/ fringe events. **These fringe events** could be run by the existing organisers or by new/others, and if ToC is about doing more for festivals in Bridport, then **should ensure that this happens in areas like Skilling, West Bay and Bradpole**.

Limited capacity/ resources is an issue – some existing groups are open to the ToC opportunity but couldn't offer more without additional help.

ToC should democratise/outsource the artistic brief/ commissions process to contribute to existing spaces/ festivals, giving the money to artists.

Offers - Kites for Schools; outreach workshops for community groups to make banners and use the Christmas tree holders above shops to display these original works.

Other Ideas and thoughts about ToC

these

Lots of Clubs and societies across Bridport area – all hit by covid and looking to re build

Lots of New people attracted to the town. Idea of holding a “Freshers Fair” type event to bring people together.

Good opportunity to “big -up the enlarged Bridport Town Council and unite the parishes.

Find one Legacy project for the town from ToC – Move to buy the MoD land/ buildings for extension to BYCC. We have to look outward as well as inward - inviting culture in as well as celebrating what we have.

Engage to get commercial cross-over – something that every local business can engage with? E.g.; an oral history of Bridport, A spoken book of Bridport, poems or stories from each business.

What does our community need from ToC? What could ToC address:

- Breaking down age barriers;
- Allowing young people the “can-do” opportunities.
- Re establishing old favourites – Kite Festival
- Proms in the Park?
- Festival of lights;
- Mental Health – eg mind Fest
- A seminar series – Democracy, climate, mental health
- Engage current groups with fringe events – Apothecary
- Andrews Music House – a permanent collection and space for musical instruments.
- A Bridport version of the Stound “Long Table”.
- Create a “library of things” donations that can be loaned.

Offers:

Opera Circus - 5 spaces @ Embercombe event 12-17 August on democracy, Peace and Planet for 18-30 yr olds,

14-16 September – Youth led cultural weekend for International Day of Democracy,

Day of presentation at performance pilot on creative healing.

Kite for Schools - Workshops to make banner flags to decorate the whole town. People designing their own tether and we run a co-operative sewing event for all ages to make them happen.