

Town of Culture Advisory Group Meeting 3

May 1st 2024

Notes

Update on skills and leadership for young adults:

Recruitment sessions have been held in Rockburn Climbing Centre and Tortilla Cantina to introduce programme to interested people - x11 so far

Another open session planned for Tuesday 21 May - Clocktower Tower Record Shop, South Street at 7.00 pm.

ToC ideas emerging from young people include:

- Sustainable fashion - with photography
- Using empty shops to exhibit
- Establishing blank spaces for street art - linking to sculpture trail
- music, music, music - profiling and platforming young musicians in existing festivals, venues and new pop ups
- Creating a networking and support collective to share skills, link to opportunities and communicate with festivals, organisations - NOTICE US!
- Themed events in different spaces
- Social media.

Programme for Young Adults will run from June - December (fortnightly meet ups as team / company supported by Senior Mentor) and includes more formal sessions / training in Inclusion - Equality Diversity etc and Sustainable Responsibility as well as live briefs to 'do stuff' and opportunities for collaboration.

Alongside recruiting young people, we continue to look for mentors. We are particularly interested to ensure our mentees reflect the differences and colour that makes up the Rights Respecting Town that is Bridport.

Invite sent for initial social meet up of potential **established and emerging creative mentors / leaders** scheduled for **Wednesday 22 May in BAC 7.00 p.m.** who are willing to offer time to support younger adults and create community of artists, committed to celebration of place and people and keen for connectivity, collaboration and collective exchange.

We will be encouraging this group to reach across the demographic through their activities. Any suggestions for who to reach out to / connect with gratefully received. Please do share this info.

New post of freelance Senior Mentor / Facilitator for this young production company (name to be decided) has been circulated - deadline **Friday 10 May; to start beginning June.** See:

<https://www.bridport-tc.gov.uk/bridport-town-of-culture/>

What does Collaboration mean for Bridport 2024

Question? What do we want greater collaboration to achieve for arts and culture in Bridport?

- Enhancement/ extra shine to existing activities.
- More resilient arts and cultural actors?
- More events and activities?
- Developing the skills and confidence of young people/ creatives to get involved,
- A greater diversity of events and activities?
- Avoidance of the 'silo' approach?

If we see Bridport Arts and Culture as an ecosystem it is the richness of the various symbiotic relationships across the system that promote mutual thriving. How can ToC kick start more co-operation and support across the spectrum of Bridport culture? Marketing and publicity is a key aspect that ToC can develop.

Bringing existing groups and organisations together through ToC and supporting young people to develop skills and confidence to grow their contribution. The process of creative development deserves support and resources.

Activities that would build collaboration might include:

- Promoting safe places for creatives to meet and network;
- A 'platform' for arts and cultural collaboration –a place to go to find out about emerging ideas, offer and receive support.
- Use social media as a space to encourage collaboration - A 'Facebook' Bridport collaboration page?
- Working to make the creative process more transparent and more open to ideas.

ToC has a key BROKERAGE role to play, creating project opportunities and bringing existing and new creatives together and channelling support and funding to develop and grow activities in the town.

What will collaboration look like after ToC 2024?

Learning from what happens during ToC – documenting collaborative activities – Bridport 2024 should offer the town that succeeds as the next Town of Culture a ‘gift’. A gesture of collaboration beyond Bridport.

Important that collaboration continues to grow beyond Bridport 2024 – it does not end in December ! Need to build on ToC activities and use it as evidence for future funding bids.

It is also important that collaboration helps bring the world to Bridport and Bridport to the world.

Need to be mindful to avoid our young people feeling abandonment in 2025 after the ToC investment in 2024.

ToC Advisory Group – options to continue

Hosting open Advisory Group meetings as part of ToC development was one of the innovations we agreed to pilot this year. The meetings have been well attended and welcomed. We will continue to use the Advisory Group mailing list to keep people informed about ToC delivery over the coming months. In June we will circulate a draft of the ToC main programme for comment by the group.

There was support to continue open, informal monthly meetings during ToC delivery – perhaps social drop-ins at various venues across the ToC programme.

Perhaps supporting a young adult to organise, promote and attend these informal meetings.

We will re visit the more formal Advisory Group meetings in December and January to assist with the evaluation of Bridport 2024 and ensure positive actions continue into 2025 and beyond.

ToC Programme Development

During May the ToC Producer will be gathering proposals for the Main ToC programme – If you haven’t already presented your offer or idea then do send information (a side of A4) explaining your event/ activity, how it delivers for ToC – opportunities for young people/ new collaborations or just a great idea. Please make it clear what, if any, support or funding you are looking for from ToC. Email: Town of Culture Townofculture@bridport-arts.com

During May we hope to hear the outcome of the funding bids we have submitted and can start to draw on any new funding to support the ToC programme. A draft of the ToC programme will be circulated to Advisory Group members for comment in early June.