

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham

Report to: THE ECONOMY, HOUSING AND THE ARTS POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE

Date: 09/09/2020

Subject: ARTS COMMISSION UPDATE

Report of: Cabinet Member for the Economy and the Arts - Councillor Andrew Jones

Summary

As pledged in the council's Manifesto 2018-2022, Hammersmith & Fulham has established an independent Arts Commission (AC) to ensure that its collective arts and cultural strengths are maximised to deliver greater economic prosperity for the Borough. This report provides an update on the AC's development.

Recommendations

For the Committee to note and comment on the report.

Wards Affected: All

H&F Priorities

Our Priorities	Summary of how this report aligns to the H&F Priorities
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building shared prosperity	The AC represents a significant opportunity for the council to build on its shared prosperity through the harnessing of our creative economies to further the borough's economic growth.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Creating a compassionate council	The AC will further the Council's ability to provide compassionate high-quality services that residents can rely on.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Doing things with local residents, not to them	Through a bottom-up approach taken across the public consultations prior to the AC's inception and the committed representation of residents and stakeholders amongst the Commission's panel, we have sought to enshrine resident engagement from the outset.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Being ruthlessly financially efficient	The commission seeks to generate insights that could produce significant return, both financially and socially for all residents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Taking pride in H&F	The AC will further enhance the council's arts friendly reputation; a key building block of a borough-wide identity that all residents

can take pride in.

Contact Officer(s):

Name: Thomas Dodd
Position: Arts Development Officer
Telephone: 07814239702
Email: Thomas.Dodd@lbhf.gov.uk

1. UPDATE

- 1.1. Since the committee's last update, the council's Arts Commission has transitioned online with a revised programme to address the sector wide impacts of COVID-19. Two sessions have been now held online with the commission's remaining five sessions projected across the next quarter and its findings due for publication by the end of 2020.
- 1.2. With the approval of the EHA committee, People Make It Work Ltd (PMIW) were appointed to manage and direct the process and were awarded the contract for AC consultancy services in August 2019. Since that time the commission has made strong progress, remaining on target for delivery of the commission recommendations in December 2020.
- 1.3. The commission has been working constructively towards achieving the goals set out in the original brief from LBHF, delivering in line with a remit that sought to:
 - Understand the crucial questions it needs to ask in order to explore arts and culture in the borough
 - Examine the arts and culture scene within Hammersmith & Fulham and its impact for the future
 - Bring a broad range of expertise to questions about arts and culture in H&F
 - Gather evidence through primary and secondary research in order to have an informed debate
 - Produce a set of recommendations for the borough

2. STRATEGIC BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Currently underway are two key pieces of policy within the Economy Department, that have directly informed the AC's remit and ensuring its strategic focus.
 - a) The Arts Strategy is built around the three core themes of 'destination', 'creation' and 'inclusion'. Outlining a vision to make Hammersmith and Fulham:

- One of the country's most popular destinations for people to participate in and enjoy the arts.
 - A place in which greater creativity and innovation thrive and the arts are experienced by more people from a wider range of backgrounds.
 - A place where residents and cultural organisations drive more clearly how the council supports the art, ensuring that every penny of arts funding is even more focused than now.
 - A place where the arts are at the centre of a dynamic local economy, fostering local jobs, businesses and economic growth.
- b) The H&F Industrial Strategy, *Economic Growth for Everyone*, reflects the council's ambition to make the borough the best place to do business in Europe. Key areas impacting the Arts Commission can be seen in its objectives to:
- Develop land policy to deliver affordable flexible workspace for STEM, digital and creative industries.
 - Create new co-working and creative spaces, including council guaranteeing leases in exchange for profit share.
 - Review licensing to support a vibrant night time economy and review planning flexibility for pop-up events.

3. ARTS AND CULTURE IN EXTRAORDINARY TIMES

- 3.1 On the 26th May 2020, the commission met to explore the theme of 'Arts & Culture in Extraordinary Times'. Commissioners were asked to report on their observations of the impact of the crisis on Hammersmith and Fulham, and the wider arts and cultural sector.
- 3.2 Commissioners considered the impact of the current health crisis and economic impact of lockdown under three over-arching questions:
- What are the short-term implications of Covid-19 on arts and culture in Hammersmith and Fulham?
 - How are local authorities and arts organisations preparing for a 'new normal' of social distancing?
 - What might a post-pandemic period look like for arts and culture? What might look and feel familiar, and what might be radically different?
 - What are the short-term implications of Covid-19 on individuals and communities, and on arts and culture in Hammersmith and Fulham?
 - How are local authorities and arts organisations preparing for a 'new normal' of social distancing?
 - What might a post-pandemic period look like for arts and culture? What might look and feel familiar, and what might be radically different?

4. APPOINTMENT OF COMMISSIONERS

- 4.1 The AC's independent Chair, Johnathan Church and PMIW took care in appointing commissioners to reflect a broad cross-section of the borough's arts practitioners and cultural stakeholders as well as gender equality and diversity standards. A full list of commissioners and their biographies is included in the attached Appendix 1.

5. SESSION OVERVIEW

- 5.1 To date six themed sessions have convened across the borough. An outline of each session's focus is included below:

No.	Theme	Venue	Speakers	Date
1.	Existing Activity: <i>What cultural activity is happening across the borough, where isn't it happening, how much of it is excellent and what would it take for it to be better supported and developed?</i>	Hammersmith Town Hall	Rosie Whitney-Fish (DanceWest) Sian Alexander (Lyric)	9 th July 2019
2.	Social Impact: <i>What challenges are there in our borough that could be (at least partially) addressed with arts and culture, and what steps would we need to take to make this happen more?</i>	The Invention Rooms (Imperial)	Mellezia Natasha (The Rena Initiative) Sally Taylor (the Koestler Trust)	10 th September 2019
3.	Diversity and Inclusion: <i>How might Hammersmith and Fulham make diversity and inclusion a more central focus of its plans for arts and culture?</i>	Lyric Theatre	Lynette Linton and Lauren Clancy- The Bush John Macneely (Action on Disability)	17 th October 2019
4.	Cultural Hubs and Town Centres: <i>How have other boroughs/cities/countries created rich cultural hubs that are vibrant, relevant and sustainable, and what would it take to create more of these in Hammersmith and Fulham?</i>	3 Shortlands	Susie Grey (Nine Elms) Andy Robinson (FutureCities)	5 th November 2019

5.	<i>Long-Term Strategy: How have other boroughs and places created change through investing in and enabling arts and culture and how long did it take for that impact to be realised? what alternative funding and resourcing models might be considered in this strategy?</i>	Bush Theatre	Patricia Bench (HammersmithLondon)	21 st January 2020
6.	<i>What are the short-term implications of Covid-19 on individuals and communities, and on arts and culture in Hammersmith and Fulham? How are local authorities and arts organisations preparing for a 'new normal' of social distancing? What might a post-pandemic period look like for arts and culture? What might look and feel familiar, and what might be radically different?</i>	Zoom (Virtual)	64 Million Artists	26 th May 2020
7.	<i>Participation. Commissioners begin reviewing a selection of draft recommendations fielded by the PMIW.</i>	Zoom (Virtual)	Arts Commission Panel	8 th June 2020

6.0 LONDON BOROUGH OF CULTURE

- 6.1 A direct result of the AC's formation is evidenced in the borough's participation in the GLA's London Borough of Culture (LBoC) competition, with members of the LBoC delivery team drawn directly from the AC's panel members and steering team, establishing clear oversight of both projects.
- 6.2 The borough's bid resulted in the winning of a Cultural Impact Award announced by the GLA on 11th February 2020. Cultural Impact Awards are granted to boroughs for exemplary individual projects highlighted in their bids to be awarded funding up to £200,000.

6.3 The borough's 'Sounds like Hammersmith & Fulham' programme will mark the start of a new 10-year arts programme to develop the next generation of stars from a talented, local pool of young musicians. The first major output resulting from the work of the commission.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The AC is part of H&F's commitment to do things with residents, rather than to them, and involve residents directly in shaping services and opportunities in the borough. With the delivery of the AC's findings the borough can expect a set of powerful and imaginative ideas and recommendations for improving cultural life in our borough.

7.2 The next session is expected for September 2020 where the panel will begin drafting a set of recommendations that will inform arts and cultural policymaking and investment, setting the course for the council's cultural renewal.

8. CONSULTATION

8.1. Most Council Departments have been directly involved in one or more resident-led commissions, but none have been directly consulted on this report.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1. The report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no equality implications arising from this report.

7.2 Implications verified/completed by: Fawad Bhatti, Social Inclusion and Policy Manager, tel. 07500103617

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1. The report is for information and there are no legal implications arising from this report.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are many and varied potential financial implications of the outcome of resident-led commissions, where recommendations are approved and agreed by Cabinet, however, this report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

10. IMPLICATIONS FOR LOCAL BUSINESS

10.1. The report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no implications for local business arising from this report.

11. COMMERCIAL IMPLICATIONS

13.1 The report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no commercial implications arising from this report.

13.2 Implications verified/completed by: Andra Ulianov, Procurement Consultant, tel. 07776672876.

12. IT IMPLICATIONS

12.1. The report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no ICT implications arising from this report.

13. RISK MANAGEMENT

13.1 The report is for information. There are no recommendations so there are no Risk Management implications arising from this report.

Appendix 1

The full list of commissioners' biographies is included below:

Sarah Ahern	Sarah is the co-founder of Ginza, a start-up that enables hotels to offer their guests unique experiences hosted by local creatives and entrepreneurs. Prior to launching Ginza, Sarah was entrepreneur in residence at travel tech company Secret Escapes. She began her career in the energy industry, working in strategy and finance at Statoil (now Equinor) across the company's offices in Oslo, Bergen and London. She has a double masters in Management from HEC Paris and CEMS, and an undergraduate degree in Economics from the London School of Economics. Sarah is also a fellow of the Centre for Entrepreneurs. She is a keen home cook and an avid consumer of literature and drama - both on stage and on screen. Sarah has lived in the borough since 2015 with her husband and their rescue dog, Florence.
Muz Azar	Muz is an artist and founder of HQI, an alternative and artist-led institution to support and encourage developing visual and recording artists. HQI is based in White City Place in Wood Lane.
Victoria Brignell	Victoria Brignell is a radio producer and has been paralysed below the neck since she was six. She is Chair of Action on Disability, which provides a range of services to disabled people in London. She is a trustee of Magpie Dance that aims to empower people with learning difficulties by giving them the chance to participate in dance. She is also Chair of Hammersmith Amnesty International Group and an ambassador for the international disability charity CBM UK. She has written

	<p>widely about disability issues, including for the New Statesman, where for four years she wrote a regular feature. Victoria has raised funds for several charities and previously served as a school governor and a local board member of Catalyst housing association. In 2013 she was awarded an honorary doctorate by Anglia Ruskin University for being a 'disability champion'.</p>
<p>Nathalie Carrington</p>	<p>Nathalie is a theatre-maker, drama facilitator and arts-based researcher based in Hammersmith & Fulham. She graduated from LAMDA with a degree in Professional Acting in 2011 and went on to work professionally in regional, national and international productions.</p> <p>Following this, Nathalie studied a masters in Inclusive Arts Practice at the University of Brighton and in 2016 founded This New Ground, a performing arts organisation that seeks to elevate the artistic voices of learning disabled people in Hammersmith & Fulham. As founder and artistic director, Nathalie oversees a varied programme of creative activities and projects centred around This New Ground Collective, which is made up of 15 learning disabled people and artists. This New Ground aims to remove barriers & increase access for learning disabled people to lead, make and participate in the arts.</p>
<p>Cinzia D'Ambrosi</p>	<p>Cinzia D'Ambrosi is an independent photojournalist and founder of the Photojournalism Hub and the Hate Hurts project.</p> <p>She has a masters in Photojournalism and Documentary Photography from the London College of Communication, University of London. She is a passionate advocate for human rights and social justice and has covered investigative photo stories on the exploitation of miners in illegal coal mines in China, the impact of hidden homelessness on women and children in the UK and police violence against refugees and asylum seekers in the Balkans. She has worked on many projects in collaboration with international charities, NGOs and extensively with Amnesty International.</p> <p>Through the Photojournalism Hub, she has presented talks, curated exhibitions and Photojournalism Nights in the borough, and has involved the local communities in open forums to help lead change.</p> <p>Her ongoing photography project 'Hate Hurts' is currently an Amnesty International campaign and on a touring exhibition in Czech Republic. Hate Hurts was selected for the European Month of Photography in Bulgaria (2018) and won an award from the Photographers Gallery in London (2017).</p>

Ella Golt,	<p>She has a first-class Fine Art degree from the University of East London, a masters from the Slade School of Art and has carried out extensive research in clowning. Ella directs her own company - Ella The Greats mini Circus - and also works as a workshop facilitator at And Circus in partnership with West London Zone. Ella The Greats mini Circus is an interactive family show, working across London in parks, galleries and community organisations, such as the H&F CommUNITY Day and HF Arts Fest. She also works closely with charities, outreach programmes, refugee groups, festivals - including Mboka in The Gambia - and has over 20 years' experience in social circus.</p>
Rebecca Pelly Fry	<p>Becca originally trained as a sculptor at Northumbria University while working with film, performance and installation art. For the past year, she has been head curator for Elephant West, a new contemporary art space in White City. Previously, Becca was director and curator of Griffin Gallery (inside the Head Office of art materials manufacturer, ColArt International) where she curated the majority of the exhibitions at the gallery between 2013 and 2018 and oversaw an artist residency programme, as well as the annual Griffin Art Prize. Prior to her role with ColArt, Becca worked as an arts development officer for both Kensington & Chelsea and Camden councils, delivering borough-wide arts development programmes, festivals and large scale public art events.</p>
Steven North	<p>Steve is the general manager for UKTV's comedy and entertainment channels which include Dave, W, Gold, Yesterday and Really. He started his career at UKTV in 2001 as a scheduler, before leading the highly successful rebrand of UKTV G2 to Dave. Under Steve's astute leadership, the channel has invested in a raft of brand-defining UKTV shows including BAFTA and Emmy-nominated 'Taskmaster', 'Judge Romesh' and the return of multiple award-winning 'Red Dwarf'. In 2016, Steve led the evolution of pay entertainment channel Watch to W, with a new brand position and target audience. An exciting fresh slate of original content accompanied the rebrand with recent shows such as 'Emma Willis: Delivering Babies' and 'Inside The Ambulance' topping the ratings. Steve has also overseen the growth of original content on Gold, with stand-out hits such as 'Murder on the Blackpool Express' and 'Death on the Tyne'. Prior to</p>

	UKTV, Steve was a Media Planner for the BBC and worked in Presentation at Viacom.
Chris Tranchell	<p>Chris was born in Ringwood Hampshire and trained at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School with the likes of Brian Blessed and Patrick Stewart.</p> <p>He went on to star in the 'Survivors' as Paul Pitman and featured in a number of 'Doctor Who' episodes before being a presenter on 'Play School' for eight years.</p> <p>Chris has played in theatres across the UK and was a founding member of the Margate Stage Company.</p> <p>He is a member of the Hammersmith Society and has lived in Brook Green with his family since 1967.</p>