



CYNGOR BWRDEISTREF SIROL
RHONDDA CYNON TAF
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

**A virtual meeting of the STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP
will be held on TUESDAY, 17TH JANUARY, 2023 at 10.00 AM**

**Contact: Hannah Williams - Council Business Unit, Democratic Services
(07385401954)**

LIST OF ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

To receive disclosures of personal interest from Members in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

Note:

1. Members are requested to identify the item number and subject matter that their interest relates to and signify the nature of the personal interest; and
2. Where Members withdraw from a meeting as a consequence of the disclosure of a prejudicial interest they **must** notify the Chairman when they leave.

2. MINUTES

To approve as an accurate record, the minutes of the meeting of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group held on 22nd November 2022.

(Pages 3 - 6)

3. YOUTH MUSIC PROVISION

To receive an update in respect of the youth music provision within the Arts Service.

(Pages 7 - 14)

4. 'ALTERED IMAGES' HERITAGE PROJECT

To receive information on the 'Altered Images' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant and led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council library service.

(Pages 15 - 26)

5. MEMBERSHIP OF THE GROUP

To receive an update in respect of the proposed changes to the membership of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group, in line with the priorities of the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023.

(Pages 27 - 32)

6. URGENT BUSINESS

To consider any items which the Chairman by reason of special circumstances is of the opinion should be considered at the Meeting as a matter of urgency.



Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication

Circulation:-

Members of the Committee:

County Borough Councillors Councillor B Harris (Chair), Councillor A Crimmings (Vice-Chair), Councillor R Lewis, Councillor J Brencher and Councillor D Grehan

Mr A Owen-Hicks – Arts Council Wales

Ms L Davies, Director, Public Health, Protection and Community Services
Mr C Hanagan, Service Director of Democratic Services & Communication
Ms C O'Neill, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Ms A Gould, Theatre Programme and Audience Development Manager
Ms A Hayes, Arts & Creative Industries Manager
Mr N Kelland, Principal Librarian
Ms A Friel, Graduate Officer



RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNCIL STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

Minutes of the virtual meeting of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group held on Tuesday, 22 November 2022 at 10.00 am.

County Borough Councillors - Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Members in attendance:-

Councillor B Harris (Chair)

Councillor A Crimmings Councillor R Lewis
Councillor J Brencher

Officers in attendance:-

Ms C O'Neill, Strategic Arts & Culture Manager
Mr A Williams, Theatre Operations and Development Manager
Ms A Hayes, Arts & Creative Industries Manager
Ms A Friel, Graduate Officer
Mr A Owen-Hicks, Arts Council Wales

1 Welcome and Apology

The Chair welcomed attendees to the meeting of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group and an apology for absence was received from County Borough Councillor D. Grehan.

2 Declaration of Interest

In accordance with the Code of Conduct, County Borough Councillor J. Brencher declared the following personal interest in respect of the items pertaining to the agenda: 'I am Trustee of the YMCA in Pontypridd, which may be referenced in discussions'.

3 Minutes

Members **RESOLVED** to approve the minutes of the Strategic Culture and Art Steering Group held on 14th February 2022.

4 Work Programme 2022-2023

The Principal Democratic Services Officer provided the Steering Group with the draft work programme for the 2022-2023 Municipal Year.

Members were informed that at the Cabinet meeting on 7th November 2022, the Leader reported several changes to his Scheme of Delegation, one of which was the updated Terms of Reference for the Steering Group. It was explained that the Steering Group now had a broader remit, to consider libraries and heritage, which would be reflected in future reports.

The Officer advised that the Work Programme was a fluid document which could be amended to reflect any changes to business needs throughout the year and asked Members to note its content.

Members **RESOLVED:**

1. To provide comment as appropriate on the draft work programme; and
2. To approve the draft work programme as a basis, which can be amended to reflect any changing priorities throughout the year.

5 Arts Council Investment Review & Business Plan

The Interim Strategic Arts & Culture Manager informed members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of the RCT Theatres' intended application to the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023 and its proposed focus for the future.

The Chair noted the impact the pandemic had had on the Arts and Culture service but was pleased to note the ambitions outlined within the report in relation to the Treorchy Cultural Hub and the Coliseum developments.

The Cabinet Member for Education, Youth Participation & Welsh Language echoed the Chair's comments and was pleased to note the ambitions of the service, which he felt should be applauded. The Cabinet Member spoke of the work of the service over recent years, which had been viewed favourably by the Arts Council of Wales and reflected within the revenue settlements received by the Local Authority. The Cabinet Member acknowledged the current financial climate but hoped that funding would continue and praised the in-house service, which makes link across all services within the Council. The Cabinet Member concluded by emphasising how valuable the service was and its importance in the upcoming Eisteddfod, which would be held in RCT in 2024.

The Cabinet Member for Environment & Leisure spoke positive of the content of the report and the exciting developments. The Cabinet Member praised the team for their pro-active thinking and for linking in with

important topics such as climate emergency.

One Member spoke of the positive developments in Pontypridd such as the library, the Muni Arts Centre and the YMCA and praised the Arts & Creative Industries Manager for her work. The Member spoke of a vibrancy in the town centre and was pleased to note that the service is so welcoming and diverse when engaging with young people and bringing forward talent.

The Arts Council of Wales (ACW) representative commented that RCT was among one of the most culturally dynamic Local Authorities in Wales and spoke of the vibrant cultural sector both professionally and voluntarily. In respect of the upcoming investment review, ACW commented that RCT were well placed given the work undertaken over recent years and explained that the theatres were hitting many of ACW priorities with desire shown by the Local Authority to meet more. Members were assured that more in depth discussions would take place between ACW and officers regarding the application process as soon as the final documents and guidelines were published.

The Chair thanked ACW for the comments and prior to concluding the meeting, informed Members that an aspiration of the Rhondda Arts Festival Treorchy was to share the event throughout RCT moving forward and looked forward to working towards it in the future.

Members **RESOLVED:**

1. To consider the contents of the report and comment on the proposed key priorities.

This meeting closed at 10.28 am

**Cllr B Harris
CHAIR.**

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

17TH JANUARY 2023

REPORT ON YOUTH MUSIC PROVISION WITHIN THE ARTS SERVICE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS

Author(s): Adrian Williams, Interim Strategic Arts & Culture Manager - 01443 570031

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to update members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group of Youth Music provision within the Arts Service

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group:

- 2.1 Consider the contents of the report and comment on the information provided.
- 2.2 That the feedback and comments of the Steering Group are reported to Cabinet to inform their decision.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 This report provides an opportunity for the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group to consider the Youth Music provision within the Arts Service.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 The Arts Service's Youth Arts and SONIG Youth Music Industry (YAS) programmes are commissioned by the Resilient Families Services Families First programme.
- 4.2 The Arts Service's Youth Arts and SONIG programmes deliver a range of projects for young people between the ages of 8 and 25 which aim to:
- Raise Self Esteem & Wellbeing
 - Develop Resilience

- Build skills through the arts

5. KEY SONIG PROJECTS

5.1 Fortitude through Music

5.1.1 This eight-week pre-employability programme was delivered during 2022/23 for young people aged 16+ not in education, training or employment.

5.1.2 The programme engages participants in self-development techniques and music activity, from learning instruments to song-writing and performance, and in doing so, supports them to realise their potential, improve their confidence, work with others, be creative, and explore future career opportunities.

5.1.3 12 young people participated in the 2022/23 Fortitude through Music programme, with 7 young people showing improved emotional and mental wellbeing, showing positive changes to lifestyle-behaviour, and improved resilience.

5.1.4 This year Fortitude saw a transformation in confidence for all members and two members of the Fortitude group will be participating in peer tutor training in February. They have also been signposted onto new opportunities within the creative industries.

5.1.5 Fortitude also benefits from a successful partnership between YEPS and the Arts Service with two new referrals to the YEPS mental health workers, as well as new music projects planned for the final quarter of 2022-23.

5.1.6 This year's Fortitude was completed in December, with a sharing for friends and families at Jacs in Aberdare.

5.2 Hot Jam Rock Schools

5.2.1 This three-day project was delivered at the Park & Dare Theatre in August 2022 for young musicians aged 11 – 18 years.

5.2.2 Participants were coached by Hot Jam's expert tutors on a variety of music techniques specific to their instrument, improvisation and song-writing.

5.2.3 Many of the young people who participated in 2022/23, reported improved emotional and mental wellbeing, as well as positive changes to lifestyle behaviour.

5.2.4 100% of participants indicated that they were proud of their involvement, whilst 80% said they felt better about life as a result of the project.

5.2.5 Hot Jam is planned to return to the Coliseum in February half term 2023

5.3 SONIG Rap collective Project Prosper

5.3.1 In 2021 the Rap Collective wanted to create an identity for themselves and the name 'Project Prosper' was chosen and a logo designed

5.3.2 Project Prosper has been resident in Ty Gwyn working with 11 – 15 year olds. In collaboration with YEPS, the project has been working with Young Neets from the Step 4 programme (for young people with antisocial behaviours) at Treorchy Comp

5.3.3 Sonig commissioned the rap tutor for Ty Gwyn 13 – 15 year olds, which culminated in a recording session and the recording was sent out to RCT services and will be on the YAS website.

5.3.4 Sonig were successful in an application for funding from Ty Cerdd to focus on the development of a project for the younger age group, 11 – 13 years, to provide a safe and age appropriate context for them.

5.3.5 These young people participated and performed as part of the project and expressed outcomes of improved emotional and mental wellbeing as well as indicating they had made positive changes to lifestyle behaviours.

5.4 Young Promoters Network (YPN)

5.4.1 This network creates opportunities for aspiring young promoters, photographers and music artists aged 14-25 years old to develop their skills and knowledge of careers within the music industry through providing supported live experiences in performance, photography and event promotion.

5.4.2 A significant feature of YPN is that it has always been run by young people who have come up through the range of pathways created by Sonig and/or the Forté Project

5.4.3 During the COVID lockdown with no opportunity for Live gigs, Callum Lewis and Ethan Duck worked with Rob Jones the Arts Service's Technical Manager to design "The Box", a mobile recording kit which could be loaned to young people at home to record their songs and music. The recordings were then returned to Callum for upload onto the website

- 5.4.4 At the age of 14, Callum and Ethan first engaged with Sonig on a Hot Jam workshop and as a result, with two others, set up a band, The Pitchforks, who later journeyed through YPN and the Forté Project.
- 5.4.5 Whilst participating in the YPN, Callum also followed an interest in Sound Tech and joined the RCT Tech Team. Later, both Callum and Ethan attended college (Cardiff & Bristol respectively) and took over a job-share running YPN. They have now moved on into further employment.

6. Partnership Projects

6.1 Forté Project

- 6.1.1 Forté project supports the development of emerging young music artists aged 16-25 years old throughout Wales with major funding from Arts Council Wales (ACW)
- 6.1.2 From its inception within, and with support from, RCT Arts Service, the Forté Project has now expanded to play an integral part in shaping a new future for the arts in Wales. The project operates in the context of Beacons Cymru which is in its second year of funding from Creative Wales (WG) and continues to be managed by Spike Griffiths. The service is utilising its project skills and expertise in order to nurture our young people and help them to identify career pathways within the music sector.
- 6.1.3 Forté is now in its eighth year, and 10 young artists/bands participate in the project each year. They access sessions led by experts in areas such as personal development, interview techniques, professional identity and songwriting.
- 6.1.4 One of the sessions held focuses on mental health, and a band member reported that it was “good to learn how to relax, what to do if things got too stressful...nice to connect with everyone.”
- 6.1.5 Many artists have the opportunity to perform at Young Promoters Network events, high-profile festivals such as Green Man, and have also succeeded in being selected for Arts Council of Wales / BBC Wales Launchpad funding and/or becoming a Horizons 12 artist.
- 6.1.6 Future ambitions include the use Stiwdio 1 at the Park and Dare and YMa in Pontypridd

6.2 Beacons Cymru

6.2.1 Beacons is now in its second year of funding from Creative Wales (WG) and is a Wales-wide organisation supporting the next generation of young people aspiring to work in the music industry.

6.2.2 Beacons has recently created a new, bilingual, music industry magazine (Crwth) with a focus on Welsh music industry news, profiles and opportunity. Crwth is designed and delivered by young emerging industry personnel, and shines a light on the music industry, culture and art in modern Wales.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

7.1 An Equality Impact Assessment is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

8. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

8.1 No consultation exercise has been required.

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

9.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the recommendations in this report.

10. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

10.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the recommendations in this report.

11. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

11.1 As the projects are funded by Families First, we are supported to not only contribute to the delivery of the Wales Government priorities but also the Council's corporate priorities, 'Economy', 'People' and 'Place'.

11.2 The Arts Service contributes to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities.

11.3 The programme and our involvement is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – enabling us to co-create work, engage with our communities and build partnerships that seek to achieve a more resilient and sustainable arts and creative industries provision within the County Borough;
- Prevention – by understanding our community’s needs, concerns, opportunities and aspiration, we can provide engagement, participation and performance opportunities that address the early intervention and prevention agenda;
- Integrated – through community engagement work with key partners and contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way;
- Collaboration – through creating and working with our communities in collaboration with key artists and arts organisations whose values align with ours and with whom we can work in partnership to achieve our goals;
- Involvement – developing our creativity and community engagement through consultation, feedback, advisory groups and professional networks.

12. **CONCLUSION**

12.1 This report informs members of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group on Youth Music provision within the Arts Service

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

17th January 2023

**REPORT OF DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND
COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER
FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS**

Report on Youth Music Provision within the Arts Service

Officer to contact: Mr Adrian Williams, Interim Strategic Arts & Culture
Manager

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

17th JANUARY 2023

UPDATE ON THE 'ALTERED IMAGES' HERITAGE PROJECT

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS

Author(s): Nick Kelland, Principal Librarian

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To receive information on the 'Altered Images' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) grant and led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Library Service.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group:

- 2.1 Note the contents of this report regarding the project, progress so far and next steps.
- 2.2 Consider whether they would like any further information.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the members are updated on the project.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 As a NLHF Priority Area, Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council received a solicited invitation to apply to the NLHF for grant funding towards a project of our selection, that would look to rebuild capacity within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the community in relation to heritage. The 'Altered Images' project was developed as a result of this

approach, and was awarded a National Lottery Heritage Fund grant of £250,000 for a three-year project in August 2021.

4.2 There are two main parts to the project:

- The first involves working with volunteers of all ages and abilities, providing them with an opportunity to develop their skills to enable them to photograph and record memorials and monuments, and capture the stories and memories of local people;
- The second part involves the development and formalisation of a Cultural Heritage Strategy for Rhondda Cynon Taf, creating connections with the sector to gain a fuller understanding of the borough's heritage and those involved in its management.

5. THE PROJECT PURPOSES

5.1 Prior to the commencement of the project discussions were held with the NLHF and the following project purposes were agreed upon:

- Improved partnership working both internally within RCTCBC and externally with community volunteers and groups across the 7 neighbourhood networks, involving a wider range of people in heritage
- Development of a formalised heritage strategy that will build upon both existing and new partnerships within the heritage and cultural sectors
- Merge the Library Service's existing heritage websites to create one all-encompassing website that showcases, records, preserves and promotes the culture, history, and heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf, thereby making the collections more accessible and attracting more and a wider range of people online
- Identify, provide narrative text and photograph RCT memorials and statues to produce a comprehensive, accessible online resource
- Produce an oral and visual history resource recording the stories of a diversity of older people throughout RCT
- Deliver a range of activities including workshops, surgeries, training sessions and performance/interpretation opportunities to engage diverse audiences
- Contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of target groups of local people through their participation in the project

- Enthuse and motivate a wider range of people throughout RCT to get involved with their local heritage, thereby widening horizons, raising aspirations, and challenging our assumptions about the past
- Create enhanced opportunities for volunteering and learning.
- High visibility acknowledgement of the NHLF on site, online and in all activities
- Create an evaluation plan at the start of the project, hold evaluation reviews throughout the duration and provide an Evaluation Report on project completion

6. PROGRESS SO FAR

6.1 Following a recruitment process Hannah Buckmaster was appointed as the Heritage Project Co-ordinator in February 2022.

6.2 Following advice from the NHLF, it was agreed that an external Evaluation Consultant should be appointed. In May 2022 a number of identified people known to have experience and knowledge in writing Evaluation Plans and reports for the delivery phase of a National Heritage Fund Project were contacted and invited to submit an evaluation proposal. Each potential candidate was supplied with an evaluation brief outlining the background of the project and the scope

of

the work. The brief also outlined the requirements of their submission and the skills required by the successful applicant. At the end of the application period and following an evaluation process Ruth Garnault was appointed as the project Evaluation Consultant.

6.3 Several community conversations, workshops/creative sessions and activities that align with the project purposes have been held throughout the County Borough. These have resulted in 21 volunteers being recruited; 299 people engaging in workshops and creative activities; and 19 schools and community groups engaging with the project. For a more detailed progress report on these sessions and activities, see Appendix 1.

7. FUTURE PLANS

7.1 To widen the range of people engaging in heritage by developing new heritage-based activities, immediate plans for January 2023 include two new workshops:

My Own Story – Family History workshops that incorporate local history to give personal stories a national context. Participants will

produce presentations to share the information they have learnt during the workshops.

History Detectives – The following 3 workshops fall under this banner:

- Members of Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Equality and Diversity Youth Forum will research local and national LGBTQIA+ history before working with a local artist to produce pieces of art which will be exhibited at the Cynon Valley Museum during LGBTQIA+ History Month
- A group of young people from Treorchy Comprehensive School will research the people behind some of the Blue Plaques within their catchment area and bring them to life in a short film.
- A group of children will research some of the borough's archaeological sites and work with an animator to produce a short film using the information they've learnt.

7.2 Work will be undertaken with the NLHF to re-draft the Cultural Heritage Strategy Brief to allow the Operational Manager of the Council's Heritage Service to engage with key stakeholders, communities across the borough, and develop a formalised Cultural Heritage Strategy.

7.3 Evaluate the proposals submitted in response to the Digitisation Activity Brief, and appoint a supplier who will work with the Project Team to merge the Library Service's existing heritage websites to create one all-encompassing website.

7.4 Continue to create opportunities for volunteering and engagement with community groups to further our intended purpose of:

- Identifying, providing narrative text, and photographing RCT memorials and statues to produce a comprehensive, accessible on-line resource;
- Producing an oral and visual history resource recording the stories of a diversity of older people throughout RCT.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

8.1 An Equality Impact Assessment including the socio-economic duty is not needed because the contents of the report are for information purposes only.

9. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from the content of this report.

10. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

10.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

11. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

11.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

12. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

12.1 There are no legal implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

13. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

13.1 This project further supports the delivery of the Council's corporate priorities: 'Prosperity', 'People' and 'Place'.

13.2 The Library Service will be further enabled to contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities.

13.3 The proposal is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – providing volunteering, learning and heritage engagement opportunities that look to rebuild capacity within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the community in relation to heritage;
- Prevention – by understanding our heritage, sense of place and belonging, alongside our community's knowledge, understanding and needs, we can provide engagement, participation and volunteering opportunities that address the early intervention and prevention agenda;
- Integrated – through community engagement work with key partners and contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way;
- Collaboration – through creating and working with our communities and heritage professionals with whom we can work in partnership to achieve our goals;
- Involvement – developing opportunities to learn, record, understand and experience the rich heritage of the borough.

14. CONCLUSION

- 14.1 This report provides information on the 'Altered Images' project, supported by the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NHLF) grant and led by Rhondda Cynon Taf County Borough Council's Library Service.
- 14.2 The project provides the opportunity to rebuild capacity within Rhondda Cynon Taf and the community in relation to heritage.
- 14.3 The programme activity seeks to work to deliver the project purposes through engaging with a wide range of partners and individuals across within the borough.

Appendix 1

Altered Images – Progress Report (Period covered: 01/09/2022 to 16/12/2022)	
Approved Purposes	Summary of Progress
Improved partnership working other Council Services and externally with community volunteers and groups across the seven Neighbourhood Networks, involving a wider range of people in heritage.	The Heritage Project Co-ordinator has continued to engage with groups across the seven Neighbourhood Networks. Community Conversation workshops have continued to be held with community groups across Rhondda Cynon Taf. A total of 299 individuals have taken part in these workshops since December 2021. To widen the range of people engaging in heritage, the Co-ordinator has worked in partnership with the Council's Youth Engagement and Participation Service and the Cynon Valley Museum, to set up a project specifically aimed at young people within the LGBTQIA+ community. The project aims to research the 'hidden history' of the community which will culminate in an exhibition of the art the group produces in response to the information they gather. The project sessions will continue into 2023.
Development of a formalised Cultural Heritage Strategy that will build upon both existing and new partnerships within the heritage and cultural sectors.	A meeting was held with the NLHF in August, where it was proposed that the development of a community-led Cultural Heritage Strategy would be led by the Operational Manager of the Council's Heritage Service. The proposal was agreed in principle, pending the re-drafting of the Cultural Heritage Strategy brief, the submission of the Heritage Service Team's CVs, and a plan outlining budget commitment. The Chair of the Project Board plans to meet with the

	project's NLHF Consultant to clarify statutory obligations which may include conservation and planning before the brief is re-drafted.
Merge the Library Service's existing heritage websites to create one all-encompassing website that showcases, records, preserves and promotes the culture, history, and heritage of Rhondda Cynon Taf; thereby, making the collections more accessible and attracting more, and a wider range, of people online.	The Digitisation Activity Brief has been completed and approved by NLHF. Eight Digital Asset Management Solution suppliers have been approached. Two suppliers have expressed an interest in submitting a proposal for the work and have confirmed that they are able to offer a solution for both the front and back end of the new website. The deadline for proposals has been set as 20 January 2023.
Approved Purposes	Summary of Progress
Produce an oral and visual history resource recording the stories of a diversity of older people throughout RCT.	Following their attendance at an Introduction to Oral History course in June 2022, six of twelve volunteers have now undertaken at least one interview, with the project being in receipt of nine interviews. Edited clips of the interviews have been used to publicise the project via the RCT Libraries Facebook page. They will also be featured on local radio. A refresher course has been held for volunteers who still felt nervous about using the recording equipment. One new volunteer attended an online Introduction to Oral History course in November 2022. They are now practicing with the recording equipment and will begin interviewing in 2023. Three members of Taffs Well and Nantgarw History Group have put themselves forward to volunteer for the project and will attend a bespoke introductory course in February 2023.

<p>Deliver a range of activities including workshops, surgeries, training sessions and performance/interpretation opportunities to engage diverse audiences</p>	<p>A 'Community Collection' pilot session took place at Lee Gardens Pool, Penrhiwceiber, which invited community members to bring along personal objects which could also tell us something about the history of the area. The objects were photographed and the stories behind them recorded for a potential online exhibition. Further sessions will take place across Rhondda Cynon Taf in the year ahead. Under the 'History Detectives' umbrella, members of the Council's Equality and Diversity Youth Forum are undertaking research into the history of the LGBTQIA+ community. They will then move on to work with a local LGBTQIA+ artist to create pieces of art inspired by their research, which will produce an exhibition at the Cynon Valley Museum to celebrate LGBTQIA+ History Month in February 2023. A further two projects for children and young people will begin in 2023, e.g. a group of pupils from Treorchy Comprehensive School will research the people behind the Blue Plaques within their catchment area, to produce a short film.</p>
<p>Approved Purposes</p>	<p>Summary of Progress</p>
<p>Create enhanced opportunities for volunteering and learning.</p>	<p>The project is developing learning opportunities for individuals and groups of people through the offer of training and educational courses. A</p>

	<p>free, short local history course took place in August and September which encouraged participants to discuss, research and explore the historical significance of the memorials, statues, and monuments of Pontypridd. The LGBTQIA+ Creative Heritage Project is giving a group of young people the necessary tools to research the history of the LGBTQIA+ community, from a local and national perspective. Library staff have been on hand to support their research. An introductory course to oral history was attended by a new volunteer. A course for another group of volunteers is scheduled for 2023.</p>
<p>High visibility acknowledgment of the National Lottery Heritage Fund on site, online and in all activities.</p>	<p>The Heritage Fund logo is being used on all documents, (email signature, registration form, volunteer log, advertising posters, confirmation letters, etc.), and all articles associated with the project. New marketing materials - A5 flyers and pop-up banners - have been designed and include the NLHF logo.</p>
<p>Create an evaluation plan at the start of the project, hold evaluation reviews throughout the duration and provide an Evaluation Report on project completion.</p>	<p>Ruth Garnault, the project's Evaluation Consultant, has produced a Baseline Report and an Evaluation Framework. The Baseline Report concluded that there is a limited amount of baseline information against which to measure progress, and therefore, the project will build a body of information as it progresses and will measure each year's achievements against previous ones. The Evaluation Framework has provided a structured approach to data gathering for each indicator. Data gathering tools including Google Forms and Wellbeing Umbrellas are being utilised to capture participant feedback. A project visit and focus group session will take place early 2023 and feed into the interim report which is due in</p>

March 2023.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

UPDATE ON THE 'ALTERED IMAGES' HERITAGE PROJECT

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION
AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET
MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB
HARRIS**

17th JANUARY 2023

Background Papers:

[National Heritage Lottery Fund Projects Update, Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Meeting, 27th September 2022](#)

Officer to contact:

Nick Kelland, Principal Librarian

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

None

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RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP

17th JANUARY 2023

A REPORT OUTLINING THE PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE STRATEGIC CULTURE AND ARTS STEERING GROUP.

REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PROTECTION AND COMMUNITY SERVICES IN DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH & COMMUNITIES, COUNCILLOR BOB HARRIS

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1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 To receive a report in respect of the proposed changes to the membership of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group, in line with the priorities of the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group:

2.1 Approve the proposal for changes to the membership of the Steering Group; and

2.2 Subject to 2.1, the Service Director of Democratic Services and Communication provides an update to the Leader on the membership recommendation for the Leader's endorsement.

3. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

3.1 Increasing community involvement in the service builds upon the service's work with Lisa Baxter of The Experience Business following participation in her 'Designing Public Value with Purpose' programme funded by the Arts Council Wales, , supporting arts venues, artist and communities to develop a deeper understanding of their locality and realise the potential of creativity in helping local communities to flourish.

3.2 These proposed changes to the membership of the Steering Group will ensure that the service and its offer consider the communities needs, with a particular focus on the Park & Dare Theatre, and the Cultural Hub,

fully embedding the service within its communities, involving audiences and individuals in its decision making, and are seen as exemplars and leaders in their field.

- 3.3 The Arts Council of Wales is due to commence an Investment Review of its Arts Portfolio programme in early 2023. RCT Theatres is currently an Arts Portfolio Wales client and is intending to apply for continued funding to strengthen its engagement work with communities and increase the public value of its theatres in Rhondda Cynon Taf.

4. BACKGROUND

- 4.1 At its inception in 2019, the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group membership included two co-opted members: one from the Arts Council of Wales and one openly-recruited from the wider arts world working externally to the council.
- 4.2 Following a staff work programme review at the Arts Council of Wales, this co-opted member has changed; and due to personal reasons, the other co-opted member has taken the decision to resign from the membership of the Steering Group.
- 4.3 As part of the next Arts Council Wales Investment Review of its portfolio clients, commencing January 2023, the Arts Council have proposed focusing on the following six priorities: Creativity; Equity, Diversity and Inclusion; Welsh Language; Climate Justice; Nurturing Talent; and Transformation.
- 4.4 Central to the Arts Council thinking, informed by the Covid-19 pandemic, the events leading to the Black Lives Matter protests, and the We Shall Not be Removed campaign, there is now an increased emphasis on art that is representative of local communities and, that leads to communities having access to pathways and resources to make and experience art on their own terms.
- 4.5 The Investment Review is also requesting that their funded organisations are responsive, innovative, relevant, and accountable, and will look to interrogate organisations on how they make decisions, who they involve, and the inclusiveness of those decisions.

5. RATIONALE FOR CHANGE

- 5.1 In response to the forthcoming Arts Council of Wales Investment Review, and following the resignation of one of the co-opted members, the Steering Group has the opportunity to consider its membership and either change the role of its external co-opted member or increase the membership of the group to include one or more community voices.

6. PROPOSAL FOR CHANGE OF MEMBERSHIP

- 6.1 It is proposed that a member of the borough's Citizens' Panel, RCT Wide Youth Forum and Older People Advisory Group be invited to join the Steering Group, with consideration given to the ways in which additional community representation can be sought in the future.
- 6.2 The Arts Service is exploring the development of a Community Panel that will include many community voices. It is proposed that the Chair of this panel, once established, also become a member of the Steering Group.
- 6.2 It is also proposed that an external arts professional is openly-recruited as a member of the Steering Group, following the resignation of the co-opted member who undertook this role.
- 6.3 The Arts Council of Wales member will continue to be co-opted to the membership of the Steering Group.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS / SOCIO-ECONOMIC DUTY

- 7.1 This report provides a proposal for the Steering Group to agree the change of membership, seeking to ensure it is representative of the communities of Rhondda Cynon Taf.

8. WELSH LANGUAGE IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 There are no Welsh Language implications arising from the content of this report.

9. CONSULTATION / INVOLVEMENT

- 9.1 There are no consultation implications arising from this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATION(S)

- 10.1 There are no financial implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

11. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS OR LEGISLATION CONSIDERED

11.1 The Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group is listed within Section 3A of the Council's Constitution, the Leader's Scheme of Delegation of Executive Functions.

11.2 There are no legal implications aligned to the proposal in this report.

12. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES AND THE WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS ACT.

12.1 As an Arts Portfolio Wales client, we are supported to not only contribute to the delivery of the Arts Council of Wales' priorities but also the Council's corporate priorities, 'Prosperity', 'People' and 'Place'.

12.2 RCT Theatres will be further enabled to contribute to the seven national wellbeing goals, particularly:

- A Wales of vibrant culture and thriving Welsh language;
- A prosperous Wales;
- A healthier Wales;
- A Wales of cohesive communities.

12.3 The proposal is consistent with the sustainable approach promoted by the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act through the five ways of working:

- Long-term – enabling us to co-create work, engage with our communities and build audiences that seek to achieve a more resilient and sustainable arts and creative industries provision within the County Borough;
- Prevention – by understanding our community's needs, concerns, opportunities and aspiration, we can provide engagement, participation and performance opportunities that address the early intervention and prevention agenda;
- Integrated – through community engagement work with key partners and contributing more effectively to a range of local, regional and national strategic priorities in an integrated and coherent way;
- Collaboration – through creating and working with our communities in collaboration with key artists and arts organisations whose values align with ours and with whom we can work in partnership to achieve our goals;
- Involvement – developing our creativity and community engagement through consultation, feedback, advisory groups and professional networks.

13. CONCLUSION

- 13.1 This report proposes changes to the membership of the Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group, in line with the priorities of the Arts Council of Wales Investment Review 2023.
- 13.2 It is proposed that a member of the borough's Citizens' Panel, RCT Wide Youth Forum and Older People Advisory Group be invited to join the Steering Group, followed by the Chair of the, yet to be established Arts Service Community Panel.
- 13.3 It is also proposed that an external arts professional is openly-recruited as a member of the Steering Group, following the resignation of the co-opted member who undertook this role.
- 13.4 The Arts Council of Wales member will continue to be co-opted to the membership of the Steering Group.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972

AS AMENDED BY

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

RHONDDA CYNON TAF COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

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Background Papers:

[Arts Council Investment Review and Business Plan, Strategic Culture and Arts Steering Group Meeting, 22nd November 2022.](#)

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