**Museums East of England**

**‘Collaborative Working’**

**Minutes of meeting**

**Wed 12 July 2017, 10.30am – 12.45pm Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse**

**In attendance**

Tony O’ Connor (TOC, chair)

Jayne Austin (JA)

Linda Brooklyn (LB)

Kate Brown (KB)

Jenny Cousins (JC)

Jamie Everitt (JE)

Vanessa Gayton (VG)

Robin Hanley (RH)

Liz Hide (LH)

Joe Hoyle (JH)

Elie Hughes (EH)

Laura Lewis (LL)

Anna Mercer (AM)

Mary Muir (MM)

Eleanor Root (ER)

Jo Warr (JW)

Nick Wickenden (NW)

Sarah Wilson (SW)

Carolyn Wingfield (CW)

**Apologies**

Jasmine Allen

Lance Alexander

Ros Alwood

John Brown

Emma Calver

Kate Carreno

Gordon Chancellor

Kathy Fawcett

Chris Garibaldi

Alicia Gurney

Lisa Harris

Tom Hodgson

Karen Perkins

Tom Perrett

Bill Seaman

James Steward

Claire Walsh

Jo Ward

Glenys Wass

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| **Agenda item** | **Actions/deadline** |
| 1. **Apologies and introductions**  * Apologies – see above * The group welcomed Vanessa Gayton (Assistant Museums, Heritage & Culture Manager, Epping Forest District Museum) and Mary Muir (Arts Officer, Norfolk Arts Service) |  |
| 1. **Minutes of last meeting and matters arising**   The minutes of the last meeting were agreed as an accurate record. All actions have been completed. Including:   * New MEE members accepted (Ely Museum, Hertford Museum, Leiston Long Shop, Norris Museum, Stained Glass Museum) * SHARE funding for 2018-22 confirmed – JE meeting with Kathy Fawcett on next steps for business planning imminently * SHARE *Understanding Museums* course to run in current form this autumn. Format of course to be reviewed at later date * Deadline for the National Paralympic Heritage Trust exhibition expression of interest extended – contact JE * Raw 2015-16 Benchmarking data now on SHARE website at <http://sharemuseumseast.org.uk/benchmarking/> * JE to speak to British Museum re National Partnerships – including Ready to Borrow projects | MEE to contact JE re: training programme ideas, including Understanding Museums replacement  ALL contact JE re: Paralympics exhibition  JE to contact Maria Bojanowska at BM |
| 1. **The new regional funding landscape – how can we maximise impact? (Tony O’Connor)**   TOC opened the floor for discussion on the regional funding landscape following Arts Council funding announcements (NPOs & MPMs) – any thoughts or concerns? The key points were:   * Net influx of regional funding is a positive. The group should be optimistic, keen to build SHARE and to support regional museum development * SHARE received increase in grant money of £20,000 p.a. Increase due to number of Accredited museums in the region, but partially offset by increases in core costs including salaries. Draft activity plan as submitted in application retains key successful projects, plus new programmes for needs identified by ACE and sector. * Draft Activity Plan includes:   + unlocking potential of collections programme (‘hidden histories’)   + audience development programmes (with Audience Agency and South West Museum Development)   + digital development programmes   + business-like museums programme   + conversion of unincorporated charities to CIOs   + trustee board development programme   + sustainable learning programmes   + comprehensive training offer (as current programme) * Programme needs revision based on feedback from ACE and further * Support for practical conservation needs to be developed. * Summary of SHARE plans to be sent to MEE group. * **What is the focus is for each NPO? Series of short presentations with simple notes from each, to disseminate to MEE group would be helpful? In advance of next meeting** * **JC –** Museum of East Anglian Life will be NPO working with contemporary collecting and local partnerships. (Alongside Esmee Fairbairn funded project, ‘Fake News in the Age of the Horse’). General thematic contemporary approach across East Anglia – looking to other organisations.12 year olds in mid-Suffolk. Mental health motivation and attainment gaps. * Creative Case for Diversity – could there be useful work we can share across the region? Helpful to join up programmes? ‘New Audiences Day’ will be held at Colchester Castle on 21 September. * **KB –** HLF Resilient Heritage Fund and Conservation projects – museums not as good as other groups in applying for conservation work. Audience work being undertaken with lottery players. Internal planning - new framework should simplify. Museums should hear from HLF towards end of year. * Opening up of arts funding streams. Encouragement for museums to think about wider arts projects including collaboration * **TOC –** charitable Development Trust set up at Epping – local authorities can be limited in applying for funding. Increasing number of resilience funding to set up trusts. | JE to send out summary of plans and request for comments in August |
| 1. **Arts and museums collaborative projects**   ***Together to the Workhouse Door (Mary Muir, Norfolk Arts Service)***  Mary Muir gave an update on the collaborative strategic development work that Norfolk Arts Service delivers across the county, including *Together to the Workhouse Door,* a community choral project held at Gressenhall Farm & Workhouse.  **Contact:** [mary.muir@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:mary.muir@norfolk.gov.uk)  ***On the Move (Vanessa Gayton, Assistant Museums, Heritage & Culture Manager, Epping Forest District Museum)***  Vanessa Gayton gave an update on the creative ways that Epping Forest District Museum engaged in a collaborative dance project, which ran alongside the re-opening of the museum and new exhibition.  **Contact:** [vgayton@eppingforestdc.gov.uk](mailto:vgayton@eppingforestdc.gov.uk)   * **KB** noted how HLF can also fund these types of heritage projects, and that working with Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) could be beneficial. * **LL** highlighted how Luton’s theatre and schools programme had a similar impact and potential to grow. | Slides circulated to MEE Group & uploaded to website |
| 1. **SHARED Enterprise – What next? (JE for Miranda Rowlands)**   Questions were put to the group about the SHARED Enterprise programme  **How has the fundraising situation changed in the last 3-4 years?**   * Aspirations have grown. Diversification of funding streams. Need to bolster commercial strengths. * Arts funding increasingly open to museums (e.g. through Arts Services or development trusts). Commissioning (through LCEPs and public health agencies). Corporate sponsorship. * Funders are more business-focused. Increasing professionalism of applications and institutions.   **What are the biggest challenges now and in the next two years?**   * Resources * Local authority expectations * Increased customer expectations * Brexit * Funding cycles / timescales * Political / economic climate * Energising and engaging trustees * Putting theory into practice (need for practical support)   **Barriers to fundraising?**   * Funding cuts can mean original fundraising intentions can become invalid * Lack of wider understanding of what fundraising is (especially trustees’ understanding) * Lack of invaluable 1-1 tailored support with an expert   **Further support required?**   * Regular dialogue / consultancy with trustees * Peer support and sharing experiences * 1-1 tailored support * Networks (but limited time to attend and must be practical)   **Which kind of areas need further support?**   * All areas. Support is best when it is tailored 1-1 * Capital projects * Tax efficiency * Putting into practice what you have learned * Technological infrastructure for fundraising – avoiding ongoing costs, free software and support |  |
| 1. **Round table updates**  * **LB** reported on UCM’s new Museums & Gallery Technicians apprenticeship. Proposal It has passed Department of Education’s gateway. Trailblazer group will meet on 24 July. Commercial individuals on group, smaller museums. |  |
| 1. **AOB**  * SHARE Conference 6th November, Bedford * Benchmarking survey – aiming for 80% response by end of August | MEE group to complete Benchmarking survey, and to encourage others to do so |
| 1. **Theme, date and venue for next meeting**  * Date TBC - Wednesday 22nd November (TBC) * Venue – TBC * Themes – NPO business plans, Creative Case for Diversity | JE to arrange venue |