

Medway Arts Forum | Meeting Minutes | Monday 8th June 2020 | Zoom

Attended by:

Name	Organisation
Heather Burgess	Sun Pier House CIC / Medway Open Studios / Tiller & Wheel Ltd
Xtina Lamb	Intra Arts / Medway Fine Printmakers CIC
Beth James	Square Peg Arts
David Stokes	Halpern Charitable Foundation / Nucleus Arts
Lucy Medhurst	Ideas Test
Genevieve Tullberg	Nucleus Arts
Jane Pitt	Artist, The Tack Room
Rikard Österlund	Hulkes Lane Darkroom & Studio
Wendy Daws	Mess Room
Christopher Sacre	Mess Room / See & Create
Louise Bodycombe	BSL Interpreter
Margherita Gramegna	51zero
Päivi Seppälä	LV21
Allison Young	Rochester Art Gallery

Agenda

- Introductions
- Covid-19 survey of creatives
- Medway Open Studios
- Medway Print Festival
- Medway Pride
- Creative Estuary
- Black Lives Matter
- Any other business

Introductions

All present introduced themselves and their organisations.

Covid-19 survey of creatives

David Stokes updated us on the Medway Creatives Survey developed with Imogen Robertson and with support from Ruth Melville Research.

There were 17 entries, with answers suggesting there isn't a large upturn in audience engagement online, but with hope for development in the future. Some creatives felt they may have to give up their practice, and the vast majority said their mental health had been affected.

David will do some analysis and share this with the group. The survey will remain open for an extended time so that it can be shared more widely.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/MedwayCreativesSurvey>

Medway Open Studios

Heather Burgess told us how this year's Medway Open Studios & Arts Festival will be online only from July 4th - 12th. It will be free to participate, with the MOSAF website directing people to a social media campaign, inclusion of artists who may not have taken part before, tagging creatives active during the festival period, sharing posts and seeing how much of a buzz can be created online. No printed brochure will be produced.

<https://medwayopenstudios.org/>

Medway Print Festival

Allison Young updated us on the Medway Print Festival 2020 Lockdown, which runs June 6th - 21st. The festival has been a lot of work, co-ordinating with artists, commissioning print-themed videos, producing content covering a wide range of print techniques, and programming dates for content to be released so there is something new every day.

<http://www.medwayprintfestival.com/>

Christopher Sacre asked if in future, extra planning time and funding could be sought so that subtitles could be added to video content shared in online festivals. <https://www.rev.com/> offers a transcription service for video, costing just \$1.25 per minute.

Creative Estuary

Creative Estuary (part of the Government-backed Thames Estuary Production Corridor project) have commissioned their first four lead partners from arts communities across South Essex and North Kent to contribute to the Associated Programme for Estuary 2021 next spring.

<https://creativeestuary.com/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2020/07/Estuary-Commissions-Press-Release-22nd-July-2020-2.pdf>

Sun Pier House is collaborating with Intra Arts as lead partner for the Chatham Intra area between Sun Pier and Star Hill. Throughout the Estuary 2021 festival period, the partners will work with local creatives to deliver a programme that draws on themes such as estuary explorations, recording living memories of the river's industrial heritage, and bringing Chatham Intra's previously hidden histories into public view.

LV21 is the lead partner for Gravesend, and will be examining the theme of SILT: "...soil that is carried along by flowing water and then dropped at a bend in a river or at a river's opening..." The LV21 commission will explore the town's boundary at the edge of the River Thames, by sifting through silt and in so doing, dredge deeper into the layered sediment of untold tales left behind by the rushing tides and strong currents passing by.

The Essex-based lead partners are:

EVEWRIGHT - Tilbury Bridge Walkway of Memories, an installation representing the lives of Windrush pioneers and descendants.

The Other MA (TOMA) and The Old Waterworks (TOW), 'Precarious Straits', an exhibition and workshop series focussing on climate change.

The Associated Programme for Estuary 2021 expression of interest form was closed during lockdown, but will reopen and you'll be able to register here:

<http://www.estuaryfestival.com/index.php?/associated-programme.html>

Black Lives Matter

We had a discussion about events following the death of George Floyd and protests relating to the Black Lives Matter movement, and how as organisations we might look to address our policies, programming, networks and educate ourselves to become more comfortable with this topic, and how we can combat racism and discrimination through our work.

Some local organisations to connect with:

Lyrici Arts

<http://www.lyriciarts.com/>

Medway African & Caribbean Association (MACA)

<https://macacharity.org.uk/>

Kent's Diversity Arts Network (DAN)

admin@diversityartsnetwork.com

Cohesion Plus (Gurvinder Sandher)

<http://www.cohesionplus.com/>

North Kent Caribbean Network (Michelle Bramble)

<https://www.facebook.com/nkcaribbeannetwork/>

Any other business

Päivi Seppälä

Päivi shared safeguarding resources she has found useful:

Digital Culture Network - Safeguarding resources

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/developing-digital-culture/digital-culture-network>

Online Safety webinar

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HVwx6AIlMBY&t=133s>

Lucy Medhurst

Lucy highlighted the Medway Cultural Strategy consultations.

Ideas Test are developing a bid with Medway Voluntary Action and other voluntary partners to reach those not online and to realise some kind of

outcome to foreground voices at this time, especially those who are shielding and socially isolated.

David Stokes

Nucleus have contacted KMTV to see if they could have a craft show to reach people who are not online.

David told us about the Canterbury Arts Conference themed on Art: Building Bridges. David is delivering a section about art in lockdown 'Arts to the Rescue'.

<http://www.cartcon.com/>

Medway Pride are planning to take their festival online this year, with hopes that the street based festival can take place in 2021. Hilary Cooke is joining forces with Gravesham Pride and there is a call out for artists for this event to take place in August.

<https://www.facebook.com/graveshampride>

Wendy Daws

Wendy is working on projects 'Out of sight, not out of mind', and 'Sensing Culture' (with The Beaney, Canterbury), exploring ways that she can work with sight loss groups online.

Margherita Gramegna

Margherita is mapping artists and creative practices in Medway, with amateur and professional and is looking for additions to her map.

mgramegna@51zero.org



Chaired and minuted by Xtina Lamb.