

## South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN)

12 February 2020, 10.30 – 12.30

Jasmin Vardimon Pop Up Space

### Present:

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| (Chair) Sarah Dance | Sarah Dance Associates          |
| Alex Riley          | SELEP                           |
| Alison Dewell       | Southend BC                     |
| Alison Fogg         | Create                          |
| Ben Morgan          | South East Creatives            |
| Claire Bunyan       | UAL                             |
| Jo Nolan            | Screen South                    |
| Jo Simmons          | SELEP                           |
| Joe Hill            | Towner Gallery, Eastbourne      |
| Jon Linstrum        | Arts Council England            |
| Jane Harris         | UAL                             |
| Jane Kirby          | Wealden                         |
| Katherine Stout     | Focal Point                     |
| Katie McGown        | Canterbury Christ Church Uni    |
| Lisa Ricketts       | Thurrock Council                |
| Lizzie Jackson      | London South Bank University    |
| Lorraine Cox        | Creative Estuary                |
| Megan Saunders      | Jasmin Vardimon Company         |
| Melanie Norris      | SE Creatives                    |
| Michael Timkin      | University of Essex             |
| Mo Tomany           | Wise Birds Network              |
| Peter Alder         | East Sussex County Council      |
| Phillippa Wall      | SE Creatives                    |
| Rachel Brown        | Space                           |
| Richard Holdsworth  | Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust |
| Stephanie Humphreys | University of Essex             |
| Tony Witton         | Kent County Council             |
| Victoria Pomery     | Turner Contemporary             |

### Apologies:

|                 |                                     |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Chris Pallant   | Canterbury Christ Church University |
| Emma Wilcox     | EW Associates/ Thames Estuary CDF   |
| Heather Walker  | Royal Opera House, Purfleet         |
| Helen Markwick  | Wealden DC                          |
| Julia Payne     | The Hub, Colchester                 |
| Liz Moran       | Gulbenkian Theatre Canterbury       |
| Matthew Norwell | Thames Gateway Kent                 |
| Paul Cowell     | Medway Council                      |
| Peter Bolton    | Kent Music                          |
| Rob Singh       | University of Essex                 |
| Rob West        | CCSkills                            |
| Susan Oliver    | University of Essex                 |

## 1. Introductions and apologies

1.1. **SD** welcomed attendees and delivered the apologies; round table introductions were made.

## 2. Welcome to the JVC Pop Up Space

2.1. Megan welcomed colleagues to the Pop Up Space which is a unique partnership between JVC and McArthur Glenn with support from ACE and KCC to place experiential activities into a shop unit as part of the retail offer. JVC tours nationally and internationally. The Pop Up Space hosts a variety of classes is an opportunity for them to develop local audiences and carry out consultation in advance of opening a new production space in Ashford in 2021. Building local offer. A special events programme with other creative partners will also be run from the space. Megan invited everyone to encourage use of the Space for different opportunities.

## 3. Review of previous minutes

3.1. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed and a request was made to get them out in timely manner so people had the opportunity to review them and complete actions in advance.

## 4. Essex Co-Chair replacement

4.1. Joe Hill reported that, following Lorna Fox O'Mahoney's resignation, expressions for interest had been invited. Catherine Stout, Director Focal Point had been nominated.

## 5. SECEN Prospectus

5.1. Marina introduced the Prospectus and progress on the process of refresh. The Prospectus is our calling card and all are encouraged to engage. The first prospectus was published in 2015 and was instrumental in establishing SECEN as a sub group of SELEP. It has had real impact with South East Creatives, Cultural Coast, Talent Accelerator and a draft workspace

strategy emerging from it. The refreshed document will be a manifesto to progress future ideas. Key messages relate to LIS work and the refresh timetable has been accelerated to align with LIS.

- 5.2. The refresh aims to update the priorities and provide key messages for LIS which now form foundation for the Prospectus. LIS aims to drive productivity and growth, it is a gov doc. The Prospectus is to share the ambition a collective view across SE but should also influence the LIS. The value of the current prospectus was acknowledged as giving SECEN a mandate, credibility and presence which had enabled them to seize national opportunism and secure significant funding.
- 5.3 The refresh is being led by Celia Davies who has been working with a steering group to carry out consultation with members. The core of the Prospectus is built around the five pillars of productivity – ideas, place, people, infrastructure and business environment. A jigsaw of content is being pulled together which includes ideas and case studies from the membership.
- 5.4 The clusters in the current draft were identified from SECEN membership. There is much detail still in development and for discussion. Input is needed from members so we can show geographic balance across the content of the document. Our worth as a group is our pan LEP collective voice. More info is needed, especially games companies in the region and a stronger set of images to show variety and diversity. Send directly to [celiadavies01@gmail.com](mailto:celiadavies01@gmail.com). Sarah thanked Marina, Celia and members of the steering group for their work to date.

## **6. London South Bank University – R&D 4 SME's**

- 6.1. Lizzie R&D for SMEs Development of a 3.5yr ERDF project to deliver editing and post production pilots. This is a European Regional Economic Development Fund proposal to deliver a network of editing and post production specialists across the SELEP region. Developed over the last two years, it is a £6.7m, 3.5 year project, funding is to be confirmed. The partners are London South Bank University (Leading), Screen South, Creative Folkestone, and Canterbury Christchurch University. We are also currently in discussion with Maidstone Television Studios. The project had first been presented to SECEN 2 years ago and since that time Screen South had become a partner.
- 6.2 Three innovation hubs with studios, edit suites and coworking space will be established in Folkestone, Canterbury and Maidstone. Work will also take place in Havering (at LSBU's Campus), Southend (in The Hive), and Hastings. The aim is to bring together SMEs with University Researchers skilled in applied research. The project will also be supported by a conference programme.
- 6.3 Benefits to the SELEP region are;
  - Widening of the Screen Industry SMEs client base outward to other industries (health, pharma, agriculture for example).
  - the adoption of new technologies and techniques.
  - extending the use of cloud-based production, storage and delivery of media.
  - the development of innovative products, services and experiences.
  - The establishment and consolidation of new facilities to enable future networking and R&D between applied researchers and industry in the SELEP area.
  - measurable expansion of the economic activity for Editing and Post Production in the SELEP area.
  - strengthening of partnership working between universities in London, Kent, and Essex and SMEs to support the development of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor.
- 6.4 The project can help SECEN members target SMEs and aims to create an open knowledge base which will expand beyond television and film and aims to enable cross sub sector collaboration and create national links. 3 Project managers in hubs and three community managers (who will collect info) and technology managers will be recruited. Contact Lizzie Jackson for more information [lizzie.jackson@lsbu.ac.uk](mailto:lizzie.jackson@lsbu.ac.uk)

## **7. University of Essex – Sector support fund bid**

- 7.1. UOE gave a concise overview of Connecting Creativity, a bid to SELEP sector support funds. The bid aims to upskill creatives ready to adopt 5G creative technologies into their practice to become more efficient. It originated through conversations with networks and will provide a lab, a technical environment for testing ideas rather than a product to take to market. The

context is about testing 5G to develop a better understanding of its create and technical capabilities. The project is a partnership with BT. The project will fund travel and time and a toolkit will enable wider upskilling.

- 7.2 Sector Support Fund applications need to be endorsed by SECEN (applications can only be received by sector support groups) and must be pan LEP. It was felt that a number of questions raised in a previous meeting had not been addressed. The meeting felt that there was not enough evidence that the project would reach people in all areas of the LEP. The bid was taken to a vote and it was not approved for submission.
- 7.3 It was confirmed that the bid was at draft stage and could be reworked to address some of the concerns. It was highlighted that UoE should also explore skills funding and that links with Digital Skills Partnership should be explored.

## **8. University of Arts London Strength in Places Bid**

- 8.1 Jane Harris UAL reported on a £29m bid submitted to the Strength in Places Fund, a competitive funding scheme from UK Research and Innovation (UKRI). The bid has been submitted by Jane as an academic on the basis of her own research and is under review. The outcome is expected in April 2020. The scheme takes a place-based approach to research and innovation funding, to support significant local economic growth and will focus on TEPC.
- 8.2 The Performing Productivity strand of the bid aims to unite the creative and visitor sectors under the banner of the experience economy and establish the Thames Estuary Production Corridor as a world leader in performance led experience economy delivery by:
  - Contributing to an increase of £11bn in GVA across the region by 2025;
  - Enhancing knowledge among businesses about the mechanisms to protect IP and capacity to generate that IP with significant applications for patents or equivalent;
  - Creating an uplift of 50,000 experience economy jobs, alongside an increase in the number of people from disadvantaged backgrounds equipped to apply for such jobs.
- 8.3 Project deliverables are
  - Invest in R&D and IP creation, including supporting risk element industry projects:
    - Advance creative computing, digital imaging and immersive technology aesthetics;
    - Testing these in novel performance applications;
    - Develop the next generation of AI-led creative experience.
  - Commission large scale R&D beacon projects across the TEPC:
    - Resulting in dynamic collaborations in screen, sound, immersive experiences and live performance technologies.
    - Support integration across the experience economy;
    - Test new ways to measure impact and maximise value;
    - Create connectivity between industry led investments and audience engagement;
    - Improve dialogue between businesses across the value chain.
- 8.4 It is important to the success of the bid that SECEN can collaborate. The sector can feed in through content creation and providing a network to enable delivery, the bid cannot work in isolation. Leading the way in creative thinking. Ideas are great but you need to be able to deliver them.

## **9. Workspace Masterplan**

- 9.1. The plan was shared on behalf of Sally Staples. The masterplan is being developed as a workstrand from the original prospectus to explore key interventions that could make a difference to protecting and increasing availability of creative workspaces. Consultants will be appointed to explore the feasibility of implementing a cultural infrastructure map as a stepping stone to the masterplan.
- 9.2 Working through SECEN, the masterplan aims to Identify a minimum of three Creative Enterprise Zones and create a pipeline of projects through an investment strategy and toolkit. It will research and present existing and new options for financial and governance models for workspaces and develop cultural planning policy that can be adopted by local authorities to support the inclusion of creative workspace in new developments and the re-purposing of under-used buildings as creative workspace. The overall objective is to create a SELEP-wide open workspace property portfolio.

- 9.3 A steering group has been established and is looking for 2 or 3 more members with relevant experience of workspace development. The role of the group will be to monitor progress, act as first point of contact for 3 sub-regions, supply local information and advice and act as a sounding board and critical friend. Contact Sally Staples [sally.staples@eastsussex.gov.uk](mailto:sally.staples@eastsussex.gov.uk) or Sarah Wren [sarah.wren@kent.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.wren@kent.gov.uk) for more information.

## **10. Local Industrial Strategy**

- 10.1. A draft has been published and will be circulated. It is still an evolving document and will need examples of case studies. The aim is to publish in the summer.

## **11. AOB**

- 11.1. Jane asked for intel and top line stats on sector to inform what has changed since the Strength in Places bid was submitted. It was suggested data from the Prospectus and LIS could be referenced.
- 11.2 South East Creatives closes in December this year and needs to engage with as many businesses as possible. Succession planning is being discussed.
- 11.3 A skills audit is being developed for the Kent Creative and Media Guild. Jo Nolan reported the map can be sent out for a response.

## **12. CLOSE**