

## South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN)

12<sup>th</sup> November 2019, 11am – 1pm.

Innovation Centre, Knowledge Gateway – University of Essex

Present:	<b>(Chair)</b> Lorna Fox O'Mahony (LFOM)	University of Essex
	Alison Fogg (AF)	Colchester BC/Colchester Amphora
	Alex Riley (AR)	SELEP
	Celia Davies (CD)	Consultant on SECEN Prospectus
	Ellie Clow (EC)	SELEP
	Emma Wakeling (EW)	University of Essex
	Hailey Dixon (HD)	Focal Point Gallery
	Joe Hill (JH)	Towner Gallery, Eastbourne
	Julia Payne (JP)	The Hub, Colchester
	Leila Musavian (LM)	University of Essex
	Lisa Ricketts (LR)	Thurrock Council (and SECCADS)
	Mathew Brown (MB)	Colchester Borough Council
	Marina Norris (MNorr)	Thurrock Council
	Matthew Norwell (MNorw)	Thames Gateway Kent Partnership
	Rachel Brown (RB)	SPACE Studios
	Rebecca Hawkins (RH)	UAL
	Sarah Dance (SD)	Sarah Dance Associates
	Stephanie Humphries (SH)	University of Essex
	Sarah Wren (SW)	Kent County Council
	Vanessa Von Heydebreck (VVH)	SPACE Studios

Apologies:

### 1. Introductions and apologies

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

### 2. Welcome to the University of Essex Innovation Centre and Studio X

2.1. Attendees were introduced to the Innovation Centre and Studio X and a tour of the facilities was given by Lauren Graeve (Enterprise Officer, University of Essex).

### 3. Review of previous minutes

3.1. The minutes from the last meeting were agreed.

### 4. Essex Co-Chair replacement

4.1. **LFOM** announced she is stepping down as Co-Chair of SECEN and would welcome the learnings from those involved with the appointment of the new Co-Chair.

4.2. **SD** noted that the governance of the group may benefit from further consideration and that Co-Chairs must be pan-LEP and represent the entire region.

4.3. It was suggested that those wishing to stand should submit an expression of interest and an anonymous vote should take place if more than one person does stand.

4.4. **JP** noted it would be helpful to know more about what the role involves and queried if the new Co-Chair needed to be from within SECEN. **SD** advised there is a flexible view to this –

the role requires knowledge of the way the group works and its ambitions, but a fresh perspective is also appreciated.

- 4.5. When selecting a new Co-Chair, **LFOM** suggested leadership capacity and broader thinking around governance as key areas for consideration.

**[ACTION: Co-Chairs to put out call for expressions of interest. Dave to run an anonymous review of taking votes on nominations.]**

## 5. SECEN response to the Local Industrial Strategy

- 5.1. **MNorr** and **CD** provided an update to the LIS, its key messages and the Prospectus. **CD** explained the next steps for the Prospectus: to finalise data and evidence and make the case for the direction of travel, with March 2020 as the proposed launch date.

- 5.2. **AR** provided an update from SELEP to outline the purpose of the LIS and present timelines. With the evidence base and review produced in September, and the emerging priorities and interventions being drafted and tested, **AR** expects the LIS to be published around March 2020.

- 5.3. Some additional comments and questions were raised by the group, including:

- How do we make sure creatives have longer term securities re: workspace?
- The importance of linking the creative industries with space and regeneration issues – more than just housing growth.
- How do we get a balance between enabling growth potential businesses to be sustainable while also introduce higher growth value businesses? Are we doing any work on the supply chain – where are the gaps and how to we be purposeful in supporting other parts of the ecosystem?
- We know the subsidised sector often feeds innovation and ideas to the commercial sector.
- There are 37 other LIS. What is distinctive about ours? What is the competitive advantage?
- The Prospectus is an advocacy document and a clear list of demands.

## 6. Strength in Places bid update

- 6.1. **RH** gave an overview of the UAL-led Strength in Places bid: Performing Productivity. The bid centres on activities to support stage, screen and immersive performance and technology innovation. Successful bids will be announced in April 2020.

## 7. Sector Support Fund proposal for the Creative Connectivity Skills Development Programme

- 7.1. **SH** provided a brief overview of the SSF proposal, Creative Connectivity. Due to limited time, it was agreed: members of the group would email questions to **SH** by the end of the day on 13<sup>th</sup> Nov; **SH** and **EW** to respond to questions by 14<sup>th</sup> Nov; electronic endorsement for the project to be sought on the 15<sup>th</sup> Nov.

**[ACTION: Members of the group are invited to send questions to SH ([s.humphries@essex.ac.uk](mailto:s.humphries@essex.ac.uk)) by the end of the day on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> November. SH and EW to respond by Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November. Electronic endorsement to be sought from SECEN on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November.]**

## 8. CLOSE