

South East Creative Economy Network (SECEN)

18 Sep 2019 – Towner Gallery, Eastbourne

MINUTES

Attendees:

AF	Alison Fogg	Colchester BC / Colchester Amphora	LR	Lisa Ricketts	Thurrock Council (and SECCADS)
CD	Celia Davies	Consultant on SECEN Prospectus	MN	Marina Norris	Thurrock Council
DEt	Damian Etherington	Hastings Borough Council	MP	Melanie Powell	Rother District Council
DEv	Dave Evans	East Sussex County Council	PC	Paul Cowell	Medway Council
EW	Emma Wilcox	E W Associates / Thames Estuary CDF	RBe	Richard Beales	Artswork South East Bridge
JH	Joe Hill	Towner Gallery Eastbourne	SDr	Stewart Drew	De La Warr Pavilion
JP	Julia Payne	The Hub, Colchester	SS	Sally Staples (CHAIR of meeting)	East Sussex County Council
KMc	Katie McGown	Canterbury Christ Church University			

Apologies:

AB	Adam Bryan	South East LEP	LSm	Lorraine Smith	Folkestone & Hythe District Council
BPS	Beatrice Prosser-Snelling	Artswork South East Bridge	LSt	Lindsey Strange	Essex County Council
CB	Collette Bailey	Metal	MD	Marc De'ath	Chelmsford City Council
DH	Dawn Hudd	Medway Council	PB	Peter Bolton	Kent Music
GFS	Gabrielle Forster-Still	Royal Opera House, Purfleet	RBr	Rachel Brown	Space Studios London
GY	Gillian Youngs	Canterbury Christ Church University	RC	Roxie Curry	Royal Opera House, Purfleet
HBS	Helen Browning-Smith	Eastbourne BC / Lewes DC	RH	Richard Holdsworth	Chatham Historic Dockyard
HD	Hayley Dixon	Focal Point Gallery	RW	Rob West	CCSkills
HM	Helen Markwick	Wealden District Council	SDa	Sarah Dance, Co-Chair	Sarah Dance Associates
JC	Jenni Cresswell	Activate Learning	SL	Suzanne Lowe	DCMS
JN	Jo Nolan	Screen South	SP	Sharon Phillips	GFE South
KMt	Kelly Matthews	Royal Opera House, Purfleet	ST	Stephen Taylor	Thurrock Council
KS	Katharine Stout	Focal Point Gallery	SW	Sarah Wren	Kent County Council
LFOM	Lorna Fox O'Mahony, Co-Chair	University of Essex			

1. Introductions & apologies

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

2. Review of previous minutes

- 2.1. **SS** ran through the actions of the previous SECEN minutes, noting that all had been completed or are covered in today's agenda.
- 2.2. Regarding action 5.3, **SDr** confirmed that DCMS is definitely interested in what we're doing in the SECEN group, particularly our input into the Local Industrial Strategy, so the door is open for continued engagement. DCMS was actually invited to today's meeting but unfortunately couldn't make it.
- 2.3. The minutes were approved by the group as an accurate record of the meeting.

3. East Sussex Co-Chair replacement

- 3.1. **SS** announced that she's standing down as Co-Chair of SECEN as currently she is not in a position to travel across the region due to health reasons. As the group does not have formal governance procedures, **SS** explored the most appropriate options for standing down and nominating a replacement Co-Chair from East Sussex, and with the support of the other two Co-Chairs she recommended **JH** for the role. The Towner Gallery is one of the hubs for SECCADS and is involved in England's Creative Coast, and **JH** himself was previously at Essex so has a good broad knowledge of the Cultural & Creative sector across the region.
- 3.2. **SS** formally proposed **JH** as the new SECEN Co-Chair for East Sussex; the proposal was seconded by **SD** and was unanimously approved by the group.
- 3.3. On the subject of governance, **SS** noted that arrangements have been relatively informal to date. However, as the group has progressed and grown, it's probably now appropriate that we give more thought to this area and write/agree formal governance arrangements (perhaps when the work of the Prospectus and Local Industrial Strategy are concluded).

[Action: the Co-Chairs to give some thought to creating more formal governance arrangements for the SECEN group once work on the Prospectus is concluded]

4. Workshop: SECEN Prospectus and Local Industrial Strategy

- 4.1. **SS** advised that work on refreshing the SECEN Prospectus is now underway. The refresh is part of a wider programme of work, utilising funding secured through the SELEP Sector Support Fund. The original schedule involved creating a Workplace Strategy first, in order to provide a strong evidence-base to inform the Prospectus refresh; however, as the timetable for developing the SELEP Local Industrial Strategy (LIS) has evolved, it's become clear that we need to have a revised Prospectus now to ensure the sector is properly understood when feeding into the LIS.
- 4.2. Work on refreshing the Prospectus is being led by **MN** and **CD**, with a steering group established which includes the Co-Chairs, SECEN members with a role on SELEP (**SDr** is on TES and the SELEP Investment Panel, **CB** is on the Essex Business Board) and funders (**SW** for Kent County Council, **SS** for East Sussex County Council, **LSt** for Essex County Council). However, it's crucial that *everyone* in SECEN is involved.
- 4.3. **MN** ran through a presentation on the aims of the refreshed Prospectus, alongside the aims of the LIS, noting that the existing Prospectus was way ahead of other sectors in terms of pulling together and coordination through the SECEN group. We can use the revised version to share the direction, ambition and priorities of SECEN moving forward, as well as to act as a 'calling card' for investment and to influence the LIS with key SECEN messages to be included.
- 4.4. In feeding into the LIS, we need to ensure the Prospectus acknowledges the *5 foundations of productivity* and *4 grand challenges*. The 5 foundations should be thought of as 'drivers', and **MN** offered a series of key questions to be considered for each of those drivers.
- 4.5. **CD** divided the room into smaller groups to 'workshop' the above, along with any other key messages to feed into the LIS development, in more detail. *A summary of the main workshop discussion points is attached to this document as an Appendix.*
- 4.6. Some additional comments were made by the group, including:
 - We must consider image/graphics early on in the development of the Prospectus.
 - The Prospectus doesn't need to be as prescriptive as other strategies, as the sector demands a little more 'creativity'. Consider other mediums rather than a simple document, such as film/video (which doesn't necessarily need to be costly if we use our wider SECEN contacts).
 - We need to keep in mind that this Prospectus must look different to other areas and stand out as unique. It should recognise what assets and USPs we have, not just what's needed.
 - The current LIS Evidence Base report includes Cultural, Creative & Digital but mostly listed under 'Place', and whilst that's not altogether surprising we must urge SELEP to acknowledge that CCD is much broader than that.
 - We should all take a look through the Evidence Base report to ensure it includes everything we'd expect, and flag anything we think is missing. We should also advise SELEP on which particular areas we think they should dive deeper into (e.g. they have access to all the Arts Council England figures but do they necessarily know what to do with them?); that goes for all the evidence they've been provided with.
- 4.7. **MN** and **CD** advised that they'll circulate a questionnaire to the wider SECEN group in the coming days to ensure that everyone's views are captured. An additional survey may also be sent out sometime later to clarify/confirm the overall findings. **MN** added that SELEP will also be holding sectoral engagement events on the LIS through November, so she and the Co-Chairs will ensure the SECEN group is represented.

[Action: MN and CD to circulate a questionnaire for the group to feed into the SECEN Prospectus and LIS development]

5. Updates on work packages

- 5.1. No additional updates were given due to time constraints.

6. AOB

- 6.1. **JP** queried the timings of meetings, as it's far more expensive to travel in the morning than the afternoon, and asked whether the meetings could be pushed back to later in the day. It was noted that SECCADS meetings take place in the afternoons to make best use of travel times.

[Action: the Co-Chairs to consider whether SECEN meetings ought to be pushed back to the afternoon]

- 6.2. **MN** advised that the next meeting in Essex may have to be rescheduled because of a clash; **LFOM** will confirm this.

[Action: LFOM to reschedule November's meeting if necessary and advise the group ASAP]

Summary of actions

- 3.3 the **Co-Chairs** to give some thought to creating more formal governance arrangements for the SECEN group once work on the Prospectus is concluded.
- 4.7 **Marina Norris** and **Celia Davies** to circulate a questionnaire for the group to feed into the SECEN Prospectus and LIS development.
- 6.1 the **Co-Chairs** to consider whether SECEN meetings ought to be pushed back to the afternoon.
- 6.2 **Lorna Fox O'Mahony** to reschedule November's meeting if necessary and advise the group ASAP.

Appendix

See separate document "*SECEN 18 Sep 2019 APPENDIX – workshop feedback*"