



**Arts & Heritage Alliance of Milton Keynes**

**Registered Charity: 1158874**

**[www.aha-mk.org](http://www.aha-mk.org) / @AHA\_MK**

**Arts and Heritage Alliance-MK Open Meeting**

**Wednesday 27th March 2024, 10am-12pm**

Attendees: There were 72 attendees at the meeting.

<p><b>Introduction to the AHA-MK team and Cultural Apprentices</b></p>	<p>Intro from Director, Hannah Ellams. Learning and Inclusion Manager, Camille Poole</p> <p><b>Cultural Apprentices</b></p> <p>Intro from Evie Spillings, Events Apprentice at Bletchley Park Intro from Joshua Yon, Digital Marketing Apprentice at MK Gallery</p>
<p><b>Introduction by Councillor Shanika Mahendran</b></p> <p>Labour &amp; Co-operative Councillor for Loughton &amp; Shenley ward, Cabinet Member for Climate, Sustainability and Innovation</p>	<p>Background degree in Art History, exciting arts and culture in MK, but sometimes this work is hidden.</p> <p>Opportunity from the identity as a new city. Born and raised in MK. Many early to mid 20s individuals move away, people may be more inclined to stay if they were fully aware of how vibrant the city is.</p> <p>Misconceptions around MK, it is NOT soulless.</p> <p>SM's remit covers Culture, Innovation and Tech, MK is a tech forward city.</p>

	<p>Doing this in partnership, if anyone would like to invite SM to see what they do, she would love to hear about your experiences and what you'd like to do as a city</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Share SM's email with notes</p> <p>Shanika Mahendran &lt;Shanika.Mahendran@milton-keynes.gov.uk&gt;</p>
<p><b>Handover to Fiona Boundy, Creative and Cultural Manager Milton Keynes City Council</b></p> <p><b>Presentation and discussion</b></p> <p><b>[Slides to be attached?]</b></p>	<p>Thanks to Bletchley Park for hosting and mention of Business Award.</p> <p><b>Refreshing Strategic priorities</b></p> <p>Useful to do this to maintain relevance A fantastic opportunity has been presented with city status, this will hopefully unlock further opportunities.</p> <p>Brought together internal cross party workshop, We consulted with the cultural sector in a 3 hour workshop.</p> <p><b>Current Vision and Priorities</b></p> <p>Discussing what we can come together and work on</p> <p>“Culture for All’ and Cultural Inclusion at forefront.</p> <p>Not everyone has an AHA, brilliant way of bringing the sector together.</p> <p>Cultural Infrastructure provision is there. Celebration of culture and the city’s USP.</p> <p>Spotlight on CMK - Interventions in the city centre eg. Midsummer Festival 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2024</p> <p>It’s a tough climate, and hard to have ambitious thoughts - we know we need to find extra resource where we can.</p> <p>Culture is within MK’s Planning Frameworks MKIS (Milton Keynes Infrastructure Study).</p> <p>We’ve commissioned a Culture Infrastructure Plan.</p> <p>We have unlocked support for philanthropy and working to unlock support from private sector.</p> <p>Tourism Strategy has just arrived, will go immediately into delivery Wider communications to communities.</p>

	<p>New Technology - will be opportunities to join arts and technology. Vehicle for creative delivery.</p> <p>Implementation Plan Together author a doc to set out a direction of travel, but also some blue sky thinking</p> <p>Three Priority Project Examples</p> <p><b>1. MK'S 60th Birthday, 2027</b></p> <p>(MK50 was a fantastic opportunity to support people, wonderful spirit of celebration. We'd like to build on that.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cultural Heritage, Co-created with communities. Make sure it's properly resourced</li> <li>- Longer term aspiration for City of Culture</li> <li>- Apprenticeships - thrilled to fund it, after the pilot, evaluate and look to secure another round</li> <li>- Youth led programming</li> <li>- Tech/ Innovation</li> </ul>
<p><b>Shane Downer - Heritage Lead at MKCC</b></p>	<p><b>Presenting 2 slides to highlight projects which see the city coming together.</b></p> <p><b>2. New City Archive 2- 3yr activity on Design Heritage: USP</b></p> <p><u>Archives Project</u> Up to £400 000 investment dependent on National Lottery Heritage Fund bid. 4 major Archives at Bucks Archives, MKCDC, Living Archive and MK Museum Wolverton Works Archive</p> <p>Add in other important archives e.g. OU, MK Heritage Association Members, other archives within community.</p> <p>New City Archive to be fully representative of the communities who make up MK. E.g. Funded projects 2023/24:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.Roda and African Diaspora Foundation work</li> <li>2.Anouar's work (MKIAC) with Young People and Refugee stories</li> <li>3.Nana's work around Black History Month</li> </ol> <p>PARTNERS to bring together collections and programme in one physical place.</p> <p>SEE SLIDE</p>

	<p>New City Archive Activity Programme has 3 Parts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. CDC working with the OU on Planning and Design Identity</li><li>2. Living Archive lead on resident and community estates</li><li>3. Bucks Archives lead contemporary collections strand</li></ol> <p>Vic Gibb's work with Offset projects and Young People, re-inventing what is meant by archives.</p> <p>Project will use the New Town Heritage Toolkit created in a previous project so communities can articulate the heritage value of their spaces. See <a href="https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk">New Town Heritage Explorers   Milton Keynes City Council (milton-keynes.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Activity Project informs capital project and £500,000 Tariff ring fenced for the archives facility, but more capital funds needed.</p> <p><b>3. CMK Design Heritage Trail Pilot</b></p> <p>Partnership project across Central Milton Keynes (CMK)</p> <p>Recommendations Report concluded that separate heritage, public art and green trails were one design heritage trail and to test this with audiences.</p> <p>Heritage Area - Design heritage trail, 6 week project using signs with QR codes to link to web content at <a href="http://www.lookagainmk.city">www.lookagainmk.city</a> Targeted at specific audiences to 'Look Again'.</p> <p>MK Forum running a set of tours. SD welcomes feedback on this and the website has a survey on 'Feedback' button.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● <b>Late 2024-5 MAIN PROJECT</b></li></ul> <p>Evidence from a successful Pilot will unlock further investment into a Main Project.</p> <p>Understanding what young people want from our city. Young People actively adding content.</p>
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**Events Clash Calendar (Will also feature in our newsletter)**

<b>March</b>	<b>29</b>	SLQY Jam Night at Midsummer Tap, 7pm
<b>April</b>	<b>3-6</b>	MK Lit Fest <a href="http://www.mklitfest.org">www.mklitfest.org</a>
	<b>19-23</b>	StonyWords Measure for Measure
<b>May</b>	<b>early</b>	Exhibition of Photography by Fernando Matoso Arts Central, Kiln Farm
	<b>11</b>	Business in the Market: Outdoor Exhibition at MK Market
	<b>9-15</b>	Parks Trust Walking Festival
<b>June</b>	<b>8</b>	Networking Power Breakfast
	<b>22</b>	MK Gallery MK Calling Summer Exhibition
	<b>22</b>	ID:MK
	<b>23</b>	Midsummer Festival
<b>July</b>	<b>6</b>	African Diaspora Day
	<b>13</b>	MKIAC Art in The Park Arthur Ellis Summer Festival
<b>September</b>	<b>14</b>	MK Pride
	<b>19</b>	MK Disability Awards 2024
<b>October</b>	<b>6</b>	Living Archive 40th Anniversary Concert
	<b>12/13</b>	Black History Month Art, Culture and Business Exhibition, Middleton Hall
<b>2025</b>		
<b>January</b>	<b>11</b>	Ethnic Minority Awards
	<b>17</b>	Stony Words
<b>February</b>		Youth Excellence Awards