

Wednesday 22 July 2020

ZOOM

2.00pm – 3:30pm

### **NEIDN Meeting Minutes**

#### **Attendees:**

Martin Wilson (MW) – TIN Arts, Frances Arnold (FA), Becki Parker (BP) – NEIDN Ambassador/Dance Artist, Rachel Jean Birch (RJB) – NEIDN Coordinator/Moving Art Management, Hannah Moreno (HM) - NEIDN Coordinator/Moving Art Management, Kelly Turnbull (KT) Liberdade and Gosforth Civic Theatre, Frances Castle (FC) – Headway Arts, Jessica Leaman (JL) – Dance City, Patrick McGeough, Lissie Connor (LC) – Dance City, Susie Batey (SB) – Creative Producer at Helix Arts, Lynn Campbell (LC) – Arts Connect, Patrick McGeough (PG) - ParaDance UK, Frances Arnold (FA) – Visual Artist and Creative Producer for BATE Museums Northumberland.

#### **BSL Interpretation:**

Caroline Ryan (CR) – Hands Up

#### **Apologies:**

Rob Huggins (RH) - Liberdade and Gosforth Civic Theatre, Alex Anslow (AA) – Dance City, Amanda Drago (AD) – Greencroft Studio.

#### **NEIDN Meeting Agenda**

- Welcome/apologies & short updates from all attending
- Approval of last meetings minutes (meeting took place at Dance City on 28/01/20)
- NEIDN Ambassadors, Exchange and Kala Premi donation updates
- NEIDN Tech Pack update - wider discussion on access/barriers
- Verbal sharing of wider movements occurring nationally including #weshallnotberemoved
- Discussions about how the Network can support each other and work together to address barriers to dance for all
- Next meeting date and location
- AOB
  
- **Welcome/apologies & short updates from all attending**

As this was our first NEIDN meeting via Zoom we tailored the introduction and housekeeping rules for the online platform. Each attendee was invited to introduce themselves with an inclusive description describing their appearance, their location and also their role. We also had BSL Interpretation from Caroline Ryan of Hands Up and we made all attendees aware of how to pin Caroline to their screens.

Following the meeting we received positive feedback that actually using Zoom allowed attendees to the meeting to be involved more easily around their busy schedules and it opened up the opportunity for those who can find attending meetings in person a challenge.

- **Approval of last meetings minutes (meeting took place at Dance City on 28/01/20)**

All previous NEIDN Meeting Minutes are on the NEIDN Website under Useful Links and Documents. Most actions from the last meeting hadn't been completed due to Covid-19 so were back on the agenda for this meeting. We were also aware in our discussions that most things are still paused currently so progress on actions may be slow.

Since the last NEIDN Meeting we have received an update from Amanda Drago:

- *It looks like most of our postponed work is now getting pushed back to Easter 21 leaving a hole in Oct - January. I hope everyone else is managing okay.*
- *Mindful movement classes are going really well as are the DVD's we are sending out.*
- *We are putting a temporary floor in the barn (it's a roll out mixed martial arts matt) and we are opening up for day/hike yoga retreats. it is also open to artists who would like to use it to make work or test something out if they feel they need a bit of a different vista and their own rural retreat. We are up for anyone pre-booking it, if it is free between now and if and when building work starts...autumnish?. We have a risk assessment unfortunately our composting toilet is not wheel chair accessible however the onsite parking is next to the barn. There is a space to camp if people bring their own tent if they would like to stay over. Happy to have a conversation for those interested.*

- **NEIDN Ambassadors, Exchange and Kala Premi donation updates**

The planned NEIDN Ambassador activity for them to attend events and meetings to advocate for the network has been paused for now. We welcome invites for the NEIDN Ambassadors to attend events as soon as activity begins again.

The NEIDN Exchange initiative offered opportunities for members to share knowledge and create connections. The three offers which we did receive from network members were launched, however again the exchange is currently on pause and we hope to reinstate the opportunities as soon as possible.

The discussions around the generous Kala Premi £500 donation have developed since the last meeting with the NEIDN Tech Pack initiative being posed as a possibility.

- **NEIDN Tech Pack update - wider discussion on access/barriers**

The plans for the donation from Kala Premi were reconsidered in relation to the pandemic with a focus on digital exclusion. We looked at the opportunity to provide tech packs to people who may be struggling to access the current increase of digital activity in the form of data devices to combat the barriers of digital access. We had a general call out to assess interest and even though we had some initial responses it was felt that more support was needed for access to the technology itself and we don't feel we have reached the right audience who may have the requirement. The NEIDN tech pack initiative is still under review and we welcome any further interest and the offer is open for now. The donation may be used for other reasons eventually as discussions develop further as a network.

- **Verbal sharing of wider movements occurring nationally including #weshallnotberemoved**

MW shared a film about the #weshallnotberemoved movement: <https://youtu.be/4yIfqqVNzoA>  
Further details can be found on their website: [www.weshallnotberemoved.com](http://www.weshallnotberemoved.com) and organisations and artists are invited to join the network and communications are currently being held on the Slack platform.

- **Discussions about how the Network can support each other and work together to address barriers to dance for all**

The meeting divided into three groups to facilitate small discussion opportunities to highlight the current:

1. Challenges posed by the pandemic
2. Knowledge share of the solutions that have been found
3. If there were any opportunities for the network to support in any way

#### Group 1:

LC is doing work over Zoom, however the initial interest has tailed off and general Zoom fatigue is setting in. Delivering some activity for one family at a time to encounter a musician/dancer/aerial. FA delivering Art Boxes on Tuesdays and has travelled around Northumberland delivering activities and resources.

BP has begun a pro development programme with Company of Others where the artists teach 4 classes each. A positive is that it allows them to have social time as well as training. Also undertaking online yoga teaching course. Proactively contacting Boris Johnson through online platforms to highlight and advocate for change.

Challenges they found were: high quality engagement and digital online zoom engagement? / how is co-production and ownership present? / how this digital interactive world is a transition back to face to face, dance is an interactive art form?

Suggestions were: could there be a separate chat about experiences delivering live on Zoom.

#### Group 2:

Discussions around the challenges we are facing and some provocations around inclusive practice at this time.

- Confidence around shielding and how people will feel to come out of the restrictions
- Devolution of guidance across the nation isn't helpful
- We are all aware of the financial implications and hardship suffered but what are the longer-term impacts going to be?
- There is a vulnerability about making decisions at this time and the implications if errors are made.
- Communities are disconnected by their individual experiences of lockdown.
- How we can all make reintegration as inclusive and accessible as possible.
- Conflicts of personal and professional priorities
- PM discussed a piece of work recently developed by Inclusion London which can be found on their website: [www.inclusionlondon.org.uk](http://www.inclusionlondon.org.uk)

#### Group 3:

We talked through some of the projects people are delivering (such as Falling on your Feet - Helix Arts) and shared notes around common barriers and solutions.

Discussions included:

\*Through 'extreme' times its important to keep working to the orgs vision/mission and not to react into delivering activity outside of the orgs core skill area / expertise

\*Working digitally offers ways of reaching new audiences / participants but most effective when seen as a step on the journey back to 'somewhere near normal' face-to-face activity and not as a standalone element.

\*No further actions arising from discussions for network at present

- **Next meeting date and location**

October 2020 was discussed as a possible next meeting option, however no firm plans were made as to the date, time, location and style e.g. in person or online. Information will be circulated closer to the time once a decision has been made.

- **AOB**

None