**Volunteer Briefing**

**Humber Street Gallery**

**Jan 2017**

**Introduction**

**OVERVIEW**

Our aim is to be forward-thinking in our choice of exhibitions, and to present the best of all aspects of art and design to our audience by including a range of contemporary visual art.

Without losing our artistic integrity we will often include a focus on popular culture and social history to broaden the appeal and accessibility of our exhibitions. We aim to ensure Humber Street is a venue where people can learn, engage and become inspired.

We want to create an environment that instils a sense of confidence, enjoyment, understanding and a desire to return again and again by providing an exhibitions programme that appeals to a wide cross-section of people regardless of age, background or ability.

We hope to generate debate, expand boundaries and encourage change and development, both for those familiar with the arts and those new to this arena.

Humber Street Gallery will primarily serve as a showcase for major commissioned exhibitions and loans from established lenders, creating strong working relationships with such institutions as the Tate, Magnum, Film and Video Umbrella and the Crafts Council.

**AUDIENCE**

Humber Street aims to enhance the quality of the visitor experience whilst also raising its profile as a credible venue for exhibitions of importance. Over the next five years we will look to strengthen existing relationships and develop new collaborative commissioning partnerships.

Although we will strive to raise the cultural aspirations of our audience, we also want to attract new audiences into the gallery environment and encourage lifelong learning amongst local people, visitors, educational groups and those already interested in the arts. For this reason we aim to present a programme of exhibitions that is relevant and accessible to all.

**VENUE CONTEXT**

Humber Street Gallery is a contemporary visual arts centre positioned in Hull's cultural quarter, the Fruit Market. It comprises a contemporary visual arts led gallery space and a vibrant café.

The gallery has been created for its community - as an asset and resource for it to enjoy, embrace and benefit from. All aspects of the venue are underpinned by the following charitable objectives:

* To advance the education of the public through the promotion of artistic and cultural events and exhibitions
* To provide or assist in the provision of facilities in the interests of social welfare for recreation or other leisure time occupation for the purposes of improving the conditions of life
* The relief of unemployment for the public benefit in such ways as may be thought fit
* The retention, conservation and preservation of Humber Street for the purpose of furthering the objects and the conservation and preservation of other such buildings of historic and architectural importance.
* Such other charitable purposes consistent with the objects above for the benefit of the inhabitants of Hull, and the public at large.

**VISION**

Our vision is to become *‘An extraordinary destination for the arts’.*

This journey will see us achieving the following objectives, to:

* Become a leading visual arts centre in the North of England
* Be cemented firmly at the heart of Hull’s  cultural offer
* Be alive with creativity and full of energy
* Have a thriving local audience base
* Be a key organisation in supporting and developing creative practice in the region
* Become a nationally renowned  exhibition commissioning venue.

In this forthcoming period we need to cement the foundation that the five year vision will be built upon. This requires a sensitive balance between the need to ensure continued artistic excellence and sustained development whilst also growing the commercial arm including the retail and food and beverage offer of the business to strengthen the core resilience of the organisation.

For this five year period we will focus on the following:

**Development of the artistic programme**

* Exploring and developing new approaches to delivery to refresh the offer to audiences
* New artistic partnerships & collaborations
* Increased  commissioned residency programme and support package for emerging artists

**Development of the artistic programme**

64 Humber Street opened with The City of Culture with an exciting arts and cultural programme for the year and celebrated the unique character of the city, its people, history and geography. In 2017, the programme ran from early February to 31 December. We have a responsibility therefore to ensure we both offer audiences a range of high quality experiences and also that we play our part in supporting the local arts and creative sector to thrive and grow.

Our audiences will vary due to the exhibition and to the age of our venue and they are drawn from local communities, educational establishments and the exhibitions have a national appeal. As the creative hub for the city and a venue that is instrumental in providing for its community, we must ensure we develop our offer to reach the broadest demographic of people possible and break down the perceived barriers between us and them. Development of audiences is vital to our existence, growth and the future of our organisation.

64 Humber Street intends to explore best practice around capturing, curating and disseminating knowledge about the crucial importance of cultural heritage and the visual arts. We hope to bring together museums, galleries, artists, funding bodies and donors to examine and provoke discussion around the importance and long-term impact through collaborative partner.

**Exhibitions and Artists**

**COUM – Wreckers of Civilisation**

**3 February – 22 March 2017`**

First retrospective of COUM transmissions and a series of live shows, talks and one-off events and new live art commissions, creating in effect a two month long festival celebrating and exploring the spirit and continuing global legacy of COUM.

Curated in association with Cosey Fanni Tutti and Andrew Wheatley from Cabinet, with archived loans from TATE and personal collections

**Sarah Lucas -POWER IN WOMAN**

**3 February – 22 March 2017**

Three sculptures will be displayed each depicting a female figure in cast plaster. These works were first shown last year as part of Lucas’s acclaimed commission by the British Council for the British Pavilion at the Venice Biennale

On loan from Sadie Coles HQ

**Re-Rooted (Hull Time Based Arts Mini Festival)**

**24 -26 March 2017**

Two day creative event / closing party with a new program of performances, film events and site specific interventions by artists originally part of ROOT Festival /Hull Time Based Arts and contemporary artists both influenced and now emulating values of experimentation and risk.

A network of activities in cultural institutions, civic space and living environments will include: art and media installations, performances, film program, social events and creative information exchange.

New Commissions, informal symposia and publication investigating how current practice has been informed through radical and practical interventions of embodied and performative improvisation pioneered in Hull.

The event will be revelatory, radical and entertaining, ROOT set in a contemporary setting and within a new agenda of talent development and retention.

Curated in association with Mike Stubbs

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