

VMM 30/09/2024 - Minutes

Attendees: Brighton Fringe (Rich Watkins, Sarah French, Amy Keogh, Ben Pearson, Duncan Lustig-Prean) Venue Managers (Ironworks, Half A Camel, Newtimber Church, The Old Market, Roger Kay, Waterbear, Toy Museum, Platt9rm)

1. **Introduction to Rich Watkins, Artist and Venues Services Manager and update on staff changes**

Inc. changes to capacity over upcoming months; Maddie Lock departure; intro Sian Willett

2. **Updated Venue Agreement**

- New agreement stipulates a requirement to provide up to date accessibility requirements. Most venues will be transferred into the 2025 season, on the condition that it's all correct and up to date, otherwise we can support venues in updating the information
- BF want to provide more information about this
- [Newtimber church] asked if not being accessible precludes you from participating in Brighton Fringe. Confirmed this is not the case, just need to be able to communicate this with audiences and artists

3. **Registration Launch Event**

- Launch event on same day as registration form being open on 9th October
- Venues can still register after this date

4. **Venue Bursaries**

- Venue bursaries will be made available again this year to support 10 venues
- [toy museum] asks about whether charity venues do a more favourable rate for hiring, Sarah to follow up directly
- [the old market] asks what the venue bursary constitutes, Sarah confirmed that this is tailored more on a venue by venue basis to see what specifically we can provide to support, and work from there, but it mainly revolves around marketing
- Venue bursary form will open October 9th

5. **Changes to Venue Managers Meetings**

- Potential to reduce the number of venue manager meetings in order to increase attendance, maybe in a quarterly basis.
- Roger Kay suggested having them at key moments in the year, such as in the run up to the print deadline

6. **Board Updates from the Chair**

- Settlements were sent out within 3 and a half weeks of festival end, way ahead of schedule
- BF is running under a very strict budget, and earned more income than expected
- Budget will be set by board tonight, and will be focused on building marketing and also building up reserves that were used up during covid
- Looking to bring back more print materials as we have found a very cheap printer, currently have a proposal to a BF sponsor to bring back the brochure
- Olde Steine is not available as an outdoor site for this year and next year, meaning outdoor sites are severely limited for BF 2025.
- Registration fees are changing, broadly, this will include increasing the cost for the venues that are larger and typically turn a higher profit, while reducing the cost for those that are

community focused events, charity events, unticketed, or playing in smaller venues. This is going to be done in an effort to support smaller artists who may not be able to cover the fee through their events.

- Ben Carter suggested having an extended early bird deadline, to allow people to update their events after finalising. Confirmed that changes can still be made to events after being finalised and these changes will be made on website

7. **Venue Manager Updates**

- No major updates from venues.

8. **AOB**

- Question raised by Ben Carter about when we will know if a brochure is happening, Amy confirmed that we hope to know as soon as possible
- Fringe City: tentative talks about bringing it back to be held on Jubilee Square, but this is still up in the air and down to costs