



CHIEF CULTURAL & LEISURE OFFICERS ASSOCIATION

AGM Chair's Annual Report

Colleagues,

I'm delighted to report that CLOA has had another good year and is in good shape to move forward in 2013/14.

It has of course been a unique year for the sector. The momentum of the final sprint to the line for the Torch Relay, the legacy planning for the Games, the breadth and creativity of the Cultural Olympiad movement locally and nationally, and the sheer exhilaration and impact on our population of the Olympics and Paralympics has dominated the year. The Games and legacy of course dominated our debates, and CLOA's members across the country have been creative in using the momentum locally. This afternoon session will I'm sure move us on further, but one year on the reality of further ground breaking cuts to local government and the public sector are digging deep.

Despite the losses in the public sector, including many direct sector leaders, CLOA remains a healthy state of membership – our base will broaden as the sector changes – corporately and outside the direct public sector, but CLOA is still the only professional sector organisation that brings strategic expertise across the breadth of the sector.

CLOA is about **Leading... Influencing... Transforming...Connecting**

This is what as an Exec we have worked towards - So what have we been up to?

Libraries – we have our own DCMS advisor of course – we had a place at the table with Ed Vaisey as I chaired the NSA Libraries conference. Libraries will continue to be an area for change and focus in local authorities as the cuts bite - more rationalisation, more challenge around “comprehensive and efficient”, more merges, partnerships and radical models – we need to bring strategic as well as professional challenge to this agenda.

We have a new relationship with the Archives sector – is just starting its transformation agenda. Our strategic relationship with the TNA has blossomed, and those of us that attended the recent meeting at Kew were really heartened by the opportunities the heritage sector can develop, but also the really positive engagement approach TNA are taking, with CLOA.

The ACE liaison continues thanks to the efforts of Diana Shelton and Carol Stewart – it has grown further in importance with ACE's grown remit. We are probably due some challenging conversations as the reorganised ACE deals with the next funding rounds.

The NCF due to our Chair elect's efforts has been reinvigorated. Our most effective relationship has been with Sport England as credible experts, valued consultees.

Members of the Exec have worked really hard across shaping the Community Activation fund development, the opportunity to develop NGB engagement, the Health fund, Community use, the list goes. Our relationship with sport England hasn't happened overnight and the outstanding work of cCLOA colleagues has been led superbly by Mark Allman.

Our main policy focus has centred on the relationship with public health and the developing health and well being boards. We are about to produce further guidance and advocacy in this area and will take this out to regional meetings in due course. We successfully engaged a wide range of health partners in our excellent roundtable meetings at LGA – my thanks to Vince Paliczka and Diana Shelton for leading these events.

Our call for HWB case studies has already accumulated a really valuable learning tool on our [website](#) that is launched and available today – so please take a look and keep sending in the case studies.

Next week we will see the launch of the TCPA/ cCLOA planning guidance for culture and sport, and again a series of cCLOA led events over the next few weeks. A really important agenda to keep on top of for us all as our focus next year nationally and locally will continue to be growth.

Our success and progress as ever is built on our member expertise and those members going the extra mile, playing their part, engaging in debate, sharing and supporting fellow colleagues, networking, and giving just a bit back to the sector. I'd like to again put on record my gratitude to colleagues across cCLOA that achieve this.

So the development of the refreshed cCLOA advisory panel is really timely, and led by Emma Wiggins this has given us fresh impetus, a wider network of member contribution matching skills and experience to the developing policy issues. I hope we build on this approach, and galvanise more local cCLOA networking- the offer of support is out there and being taken up in the South East, as well as more established networks in the East and London.

cCLOA will I'm sure continue to place emphasis on engaging more member activity and input into our work, and from a wider sector base. Together our expertise adds up to the most valued opinion in the sector. So make sure you play your part with cCLOA.

Can I finish by thanking my Executive for all their support and above all high quality debate over the year, it has been a pleasure working with you all. My special thanks to Iain Varah and Diana Shelton as Vice Chairs stepping in usually at very short notice to cover me, and to John Bell for all of his support and advice, which I hope we don't allow to step down quite yet.

And finally my sincere thanks to Heidi Bellamy for her fantastic support, organisation and communication for cCLOA – undoubtedly a big part of my legacy to cCLOA!

Thank you
Richard Hunt