

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21

Written submission from Anita Govan

The process of applying for Regular Funding for the 2018-21 period and your experience of that application process.

I have not directly applied for regular funding but projects and full time artists who I have known have or have looked at Regular Funding and expressed. They felt they had little chance of obtaining it and/or the time spent applying and failing, would take so much valuable resources and time away from generating other paid projects and therefore it might jeopardize the fine balance of their core business. It's a lot of work and rejection for no reward nor it seems sometimes reason and this discourages them.

The importance of Regular Funding to you or your organisation.

It the Holy Grail as it's the only funding stream that provides any kind of security for a project or Artist over the long term.

The challenge that Creative Scotland faces in allocating funding when applications for funding exceed the funds available.

This is a challenge for all of us in our sector. But I suppose it depends whether your focus of your funding decision are based e.g. a focus on Art as identified/ing as "Scottish culture" or rather an artist who lives in Scotland and has a record/talent of/to producing high quality ground breaking art (all mediums) whether there is 'Scottish' content or not. I'd prefer the latter.

The challenges that Creative Scotland faces in supporting individual artists and organisations from different areas of the arts.

We all have these challenges in the arts and cultural sector. However it is important that artists feel that the system set up is accessible and fair and has an understanding of their needs. Presently 40% of artists across creative industries are Non Neuro-Typical (NNT) (dyslexic, dyscalculia, ADHD, ASD etc.) and I believe are disadvantaged within this process because the system does not, takes their needs into account. Until, these fundamental issues are addressed and parity is achieved across funding packages for all. Only 60% of artist across creative industries will achieve this parity. This, important issue need to be seriously addressed.

The extent to which you consider Regular Funding supports the arts and creative organisations throughout Scotland.

I do not feel Regular Funding fairly supports ALL the artists, arts and creative organisations throughout Scotland.

Increasingly this Regular Funding seam to focus on projects that are more heavily

focused on PR/administrative/ideas for example Creative Edinburgh or Scottish Book Trust, rather than artist doing live, practice based projects/work. This strategy often means administration arts jobs are created and rewarded. While often reducing available funding to practice-based work/jobs, for practice based artists. When only administrative positions are established in new Regular Funding organization, this further reduces the funding that reaches the practice based, artist, placed often at the end of a funding food chain. Again these decisions have a disproportionate knock on effect on the NNT artists, as they are less likely to inhabit administration roles and are focus more on their strengths of practice-based work.

The impact of awards for Regular Funding on other funding streams.

As, mentioned, above and below. Since the system has been set up with an inbuilt disadvantages to 40% of Non neuro-typical Independent artists across the creative industries. They struggle to achieve parity in the system and are therefore less likely to apply for Regular Funding

Any other issues that you consider are relevant.

As mentioned, I feel, the system set up, disadvantages, Non Neuro Typical artist (dyslexic, dyscalculia, ADHD, ASD etc.) who make up 40% of Independent artist across the creative industries, I brought this to the attention of Creative Scotland last year. I subsequently set up a meeting between Creative Scotland and Dyslexic Scotland to discuss this issue. We were assured they'd take it forward. We never heard back and as far as we are aware no action was taken.

Until this funding system meets the same criteria ask of other artist/organisations applying for Creative Scotland funds. This system and the lack of parity and support for NNT artists e.g. artist surgeries that NNT artists can get one to one support or better considered application process for them. This funding system will continue to disadvantage NNT artist and no parity will be achieved with other artists within creatives in the sector.

My own personal experience (as severely dyslexic, with dyscalculia and ASD) is that, this lack of parity with my peers in the funding system. Has led to significant loss and disadvantages for me professionally and personally.