

## **Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee**

### **Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21**

#### **Written submission from Sector Network Contact Group**

The sector network group recently met with Creative Scotland to further discuss the common concerns and issues raised by the recent Regular Funded Organisation (RFO) process.

The practical issues that our members had asked us to highlight were:

- The importance of establishing clear timescales not only for the review of the last RFO round, but also for the wider review of funding announced by Creative Scotland on 6 February 2018. The view within the different sectors is that whilst longer term funding for the arts and culture is vital for planning and stability, the RFO as it currently stands is not fit for purpose. The review process and the planning of the future funding model therefore needs to be expedited. The Committee may wish to note that a review process whereby Creative Scotland determines the scope and terms of that review itself, without external input, is unlikely to be sufficient and will lack credibility with our members.
- The need for greater clarity, soon, with regard to the targeted funds for touring, equalities, diversity and inclusion, and artist-led work in terms of scope/scale and timescale. Within this context direct funding of artists needs to be simplified and should respond more flexibly to their needs.

We again stressed the need for Creative Scotland to move to a more cooperative and inclusive process, where peer assessment/review is an explicit element of the process. We emphasised the fact that strategy, process and outcomes all need to be formed and informed by expertise within and outwith the Creative Scotland organisation.

We all want to develop more resources – human, financial, intellectual – to support an environment in which arts and culture can grow and flourish across Scotland. The more people Creative Scotland work with as they develop strategies and the funding models that flow from them, the more likely we are to find new solutions and different ways of working and other kinds of resources to ensure that everyone in Scotland has real access to and meaningful engagement with excellent arts and culture.

There is an urgent need for clear and timely action on the issues we outline. We will continue our work on behalf of our members with Creative Scotland. We have also asked them to ensure that the Creative Scotland Board is made aware on an ongoing basis of the issues and challenges we raise in these discussions.

Jan-Bert van den Berg, SCAN, Artlink; Seonaid Daly, Scottish Contemporary Arts Network; Jude Henderson, Federation of Scottish Theatre; Marc Lambert, Literature Alliance Scotland; David Watt, Arts & Business Scotland