

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Relations Committee

Creative Scotland – Regular Funding 2018-21

Written submission from Travelling Gallery

Travelling Gallery is a contemporary art gallery in a bus and is unique to Scotland. Our function and core mission is to take our exciting and experimental programme to every part of Scotland, allowing access and learning for all. We are a RFO and are governed by City of Edinburgh Council.

Travelling Gallery is a unique and integral part of Scotland's cultural sector; we are committed to making art inclusive and accessible for all. We are a national service with an aim to take visual art to every part of Scotland so that people from every background and community have the opportunity to engage with excellent, experimental and inspiring art practices. Travelling Gallery recognises that art can change lives and we create fair conditions and remove barriers to allow access and engagement to audiences across Scotland in their own familiar environment.

- The process of applying for Regular Funding for the 2018-21 period and your experience of that application process.
 - Overall the process is adequate, however the heavy workload favours larger administrative organisations.
- The importance of Regular Funding to you or your organisation.
 - Regular funding covers Travelling Gallery's vital core costs. Which are namely staffing and travel.
 - Travelling Gallery received a substantial cut to our core costs of **£80,000** (approx. **£26,666** pa). Effectively our entire travel budget or a key member of staff from an already small team.
 - CS have stated their continued support for Travelling Gallery, however no reason has been given to why this specific figure was cut? Why **£80,000**?
 - We will not be able to travel on the new funding allocated.
- The challenge that Creative Scotland faces in allocating funding when applications for funding exceed the funds available.
 - I understand the challenges faced when applications for funding exceeds the funds available. However, with such an overhaul to the RFO portfolio, 20 organisations out and 19 in. I argue that three years is not long-term funding. There is no security or time for organisations to strategically plan and action their ambitions when they will have to go through the whole RFO application again in two years' time. Considering the long application process and delayed announcement.

- The extent to which you consider Regular Funding supports the arts and creative organisations throughout Scotland.
 - Regular Funding supports the core costs for a lot of important and integral arts and creative organisations throughout Scotland. To the extent that if that funding is lost organisations, like Travelling Gallery, will end. Often, the organisations who are cut are the ones, like Travelling Gallery, who break down barriers such as poverty, poor health, transport, language, geography and cost and allows access and involvement in the arts for everyone.

- The impact of awards for Regular Funding on other funding streams.
 - Obviously other funding streams are already oversubscribed. Travelling Gallery is in the difficult situation where it is a RFO but doesn't have the funding to travel. RFO's cannot apply for any other CS funding, for example the Open Project Fund. Additionally, it is rare that charities and foundations to cover core costs such as bus maintenance and fuel. Travelling Gallery's core function is to provide access to art, we visit prisons, schools, hospitals, community centres – rural and urban. Without being able to travel, to put fuel in the tank, we are not delivering our mission statement.

- Any other issues that you consider are relevant.
 - I would like to raise the issue of transparency. There is no clear reason why Travelling Gallery had its funding reduced while others got standstill.
 - Similarly, I would like more transparency from CS's budget. How did they get to the figure and reduce Travelling Gallery's funding by £80,000 (£26,666 pa)?
 - CS has advised us to slow down and rethink the model. However, by slowing down we quickly lose jobs. It is worth noting Travelling Gallery hires two full time drivers who are also interpreters and tour guides for our unique service.