

Call for evidence: funding of the arts

Introduction

The Scottish Parliament's Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee is seeking written submissions on the future of funding for the arts in Scotland.

The Committee conducted an inquiry into Creative Scotland's handling of the Regular Funding round for 2018-2021 last year. The Committee published a call for evidence, which explained that the Committee intended to conduct further scrutiny of the funding landscape in due course:

"The Committee intends to launch a more detailed inquiry into funding for the arts ... in Scotland at a later date, which will look more broadly at a full range of issues relating to funding."

The Committee wrote to Creative Scotland with the findings of its inquiry into Regular Funding 2018-21 on [14 June 2018](#). In its response to the Committee's findings, Creative Scotland explained that it was "...committed to a root and branch review of how we fund."

The Committee's inquiry will consider wider issues relating to the future of funding for arts organisations and, in particular, artists and cultural freelancers in Scotland. The Committee therefore welcomes views on two overarching issues:

- What would a sustainable model of funding look like?
- How should that funding be made available to artists?

Context

Creative Scotland's overall budget for 2018/19 is £90m, from which it receives 70% from the Scottish Government and 30% from the National Lottery. Creative Scotland distributes its funding through three funding routes: regular funding; open project funding; and targeted funding.

The reliability of the National Lottery as a secure and sustainable source of funding for the arts in Scotland will arguably depend on future ticket sales, as well as developments in the wider UK lottery market, including regulation and promotion of society lotteries. Indeed, the Committee is aware that Creative Scotland has raised concerns about this in its response to the UK Government's consultation on Society Lotteries.¹ The Committee is concerned by the issues highlighted by Creative Scotland and notes that the UK Government's response to the Society Lotteries consultation is yet to be published.

¹ https://www.creativescotland.com/data/assets/pdf_file/0004/55714/Society-Lotteries-Response.pdf

The Committee notes developments at the national level to raise the profile of cultural activity in Scotland, which may enable enhanced scrutiny of spending on culture and the arts across the country. This includes the inclusion of culture as a new national outcome in the Scottish Government's national performance framework and the Scottish Government's forthcoming culture strategy.

The Committee also recognises that local authorities play an important role in the funding of the arts and cultural activities in Scotland. The Committee is aware that there is an ongoing debate about the level of local authority spending on culture across Scotland and that cultural provision is not a statutory duty for local authorities. The Committee would like to understand more about the public and private sources of funding available for the arts and what can be done to ensure that a sustainable funding model is in place for the long term.

Through its work on the Regular Funding 2018-21 inquiry, the Committee is also aware of the pressures faced by artists and cultural freelancers in Scotland. In this regard, the Committee has previously taken evidence on the significant competition for funding and the hurdles that exist in applying for funding. This includes the fact that individual artists had to compete for funding against network organisations in the most recent regular funding round.

The Committee would therefore like to understand more about what can be done to address access to and distribution of funding, including international examples of best practice, to ensure that Scotland continues to develop and support artists and cultural freelancers.

Call for views

The two overarching themes of the inquiry are: what would a sustainable model of funding look like; and how should that funding be made available to artists?

The Committee would welcome views on the following issues that fall within these two overarching themes and any other contribution you feel is relevant to the inquiry:

- What are the major threats to sustainable funding of the arts in Scotland?
- What are the main challenges for artists and cultural freelancers in obtaining funding in Scotland?
- What measures could the Scottish Government take to ensure a sustainable level of funding for the arts?
- How could Scotland be innovative in attracting greater funding for the arts?
- How should public money be made available to support artists and cultural freelancers in Scotland, including any relevant international examples of best practice?

- What factors should be considered and how should decisions be made about which artists or cultural freelancers should obtain public funding in Scotland?

How to submit your views

The call for written views will close at 8.00pm on **Friday, 12 April 2019**. Due to the time required to process and analyse submissions, late submissions will only be accepted with the agreement of the Committee.

Before making a submission, please read our [privacy notice](#) about submitting your views to a Committee. This tells you about how we process your personal data. **Please use the data protection form provided as a template to format your submission.** Submissions provided without a data protection form will not be accepted.

We welcome written views in English, Gaelic, Scots or any other language.

Written responses should be sent **electronically, in the template format (as above)** to the following mailbox: CTEEA.inquiries@parliament.scot. Ideally written submissions should be no more than four sides of A4.

If you cannot submit electronically, you may send in a hard copy written submission. Please print off and include a copy of the Data Protection Form with your hard copy submission and send them to:

Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee
Room T3.40
Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh EH99 1SP

Contact

For details about the Committee's work on this Inquiry please contact Sigrid Robinson: sigrid.robinson@parliament.scot or phone 0131 348 6226.