



Scottish **Arts** Council

Confidential
S/C05m2

Council
Minute of the meeting held on 29 March 2005
10 am - Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Present:

Richard Holloway	Chairman
Dale Idiens	Vice Chair
Joanna Baker	
Arthur Cormack	
Roy McEwan	
John Scott Moncrieff	
John Mulgrew	
Ben Twist	

Visitors

David Brew	Scottish Executive From Item 3
Lorraine Fannin	For item 8
Sophy Dale	For Item 8

In attendance:

Graham Berry	Director
Jim Tough	Head of Arts
Morag Arnot	Director of Planning and Communications
Helen Bennett	Head of Crafts
Amanda Catto	Head of Visual Arts
Nod Knowles	Head of Music
David Taylor	Head of Drama
Gavin Wallace	Head of Literature
Iain Munro	Head of Capital
Caroline Docherty	Head of Planning and Area Development
Moirra Gibson	Head of External Relations
Norah Campbell	Head of International Arts
Michelle Jordan	Senior Communications Officer
Pat Hymers	Executive Manager
Carol Warner	Arts Development
Andrew Leitch	Monitoring Officer – Capital – for item1
Sandy Blair	Project Officer – Capital – for item 1
Helen Allan	Small Grants Officer – Capital – for item 1
Irene Watson	PA to Director (Minutes)

Apologies for Absence were received from Steven Grimmond, Jennifer Hawksworth, Louise Mitchell, Bob Downes, Arthur Herman, Elizabeth Cameron

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending, advised that the first part of the meeting was in private and asked for any declaration of interest, of which none were given.

2. Strategic Review

2.1 The Director said it was important to recognise changes that had taken place in the arts over the past 10 years and that a mechanism was required to review funding patterns. The Scottish Arts Council was increasingly more of a development organisation with funding continuing to play an important part. A number of scenarios had been outlined for the future.

2.2 The Head of Arts reminded Council that the process was still being developed and that radical scenarios in particular would require a great deal of work to ensure they were appropriate. Council was invited to a Workshop on 20 April, to which Committee members had also been invited. The purpose of this was to consider and test each artform scenario. Head of Arts explained that after this workshop further consultation would be held with the sector prior to Council's June meeting.

2.3 Head of Arts outlined some of the issues and questions which had emerged including

- Artist training and support;
- how do we reach other parts of the country?
- how do we fund national festivals? – arts around Scotland idea.
- Quality of governance in some arts organisations is a concern
- Education and creativity in the class room was important.
- Professional development training in particular artforms and links to viable careers.
- Capital expenditure priorities
- What role do cities play in the arts ?– eg Glasgow could be the gateway for the arts and visual artists; Edinburgh for literature
What roles could our other cities play?
- The voluntary sector should not be ignored – are there more areas and organisations like Greenock Arts Guild which we are not reaching?
- Challenges to historic funding patterns.

2.4 Head of Arts outlined the programme for the workshop on 20 April. The Chairman said he was considering another day in May to look at our vision, which would also be used as an induction for new Council members and a valedictory for departing members.

2.5 Council noted that the timescale to which we were working was very tight.

- Current funding is agreed to 31 March 2008 with budget decisions agreed to 31 March 2007
- Work on the subsequent funding period is expected to start this autumn or early in 2006.

- 2.6 The Chairman commented that he hoped everything would be put in non-bureaucratic terminology – he was concerned about too much emphasis on the ecological metaphor and asked that we consider other ways of expressing this.
- 2.9 Council **agreed** to continue with the process.

The Private part of the meeting was concluded at this point.

3. Minutes of the Meeting Held on 22 February 2005.

- 3.1 The Minutes of the meeting held on 22 February were approved as a correct record.

Proposed	John Scott Moncrieff
Seconded	Ben Twist

- 3.2 There were no matters arising.

4. Business Plan 2005-06

- 4.1 Council noted that a meeting had been arranged with the Minister to formally approve the plan. Preliminary meetings had been held with Scottish Executive officials and further work had been undertaken to align budgets to objectives, time frame and performance indicators. The Director of Planning and Communications advised that a different process would be considered for next year. Council was asked to delegate responsibility to the Director for approval of final allocations of budget by objective. Council was also asked to give approval to aim for the target for under represented groups as defined by the Scottish Executive. Council were informed that data for attendance and participation for these groups were not previously available and the figures reported in the paper were being used as a bench mark.
- 4.2 Council expressed concern about some of the attendance and participation figures outlined in Appendix 4 of the plan. Some of them, particularly in relation to minority ethnic groups seemed high, and they wondered how improvements in these, and other groupings, could be made. Council were informed that the figures had come from a survey undertaken last year.
- 4.3 There was some discussion about the data, their sources and the meaning of targets and definitions. It was accepted that this was an area under active investigation.
- 4.4 Council **approved** this draft of the Business Plan, **agreed** to remit responsibility to the Director to approve final allocations of budget by objectives and **agreed** to the request to target resources selectively to the existing under-represented groups.

5. Draft Communications Strategy

- 5.1 The Director of Planning and Communications explained that the Communications Strategy should clearly identify who we needed to target, but also should be fluid and adaptable to circumstances as and when they arose.
- 5.2 The Chairman proposed a re-ordering of the key messages suggesting that the most important one was to support the artist and arts community. He felt it was important that this message came first so that the audience would have quality work to experience. The Vice Chair suggested that the artist and audience could not be separated.
- 5.3 Joanna Baker agreed that supporting great art was how we served audiences. Supporting the artists was fundamental. The Scottish Executive representative said Council should be aware that in terms of the Executive's priorities it was access for the audience which came first and excellence and development of the arts and artistic endeavour in Scotland which came second.
- 5.4 The Director reminded everyone of our three aims, which he stressed, were not in priority order. There was an overarching vision in our corporate plan about creating a cultured confident country and supporting the artists was a key plan within that. There was also a series of values in the corporate plan to which we aspired and we expected artists and organisations we engaged with and supported to aspire to these too. Council could amend our aims at any point but he did not think that would be particularly prudent at this stage. He likened it to three points on a triangle and difficult for the Director of Planning and Communications to get this message across. However, he conceded it was possible to look again at our vision statement.
- 5.5 The Chairman said that the Scottish Arts Council would not be an agent for the Scottish Executive. He respected political aims, but believed we must keep our own integrity for what we felt we should stand for.
- 5.6 The Chairman considered that we were in business to support art, not necessarily Scottish art. He wanted to ensure that the Scottish Arts Council was confident and stood up for what it believed it should be doing.
- 5.7 The Director said that he would look at different ways to express the key issues and aims, revising the vision to clarify what was required as he felt it necessary for the Chairman to be comfortable with what we felt were priorities.
- 5.8 It was agreed that what we wanted to get across was what we wanted this nation to be – inspirational and creative – and the four key messages outlined how this could be done. The Chairman mentioned that he hoped to convene a meeting in May to discuss this issue more widely.
- 5.9 The Director of Planning and Communications invited comments from Council. She would work on the strategy and welcome a discussion at the May workshop.
- 5.10 Council **approved** the draft communications strategy at this stage.

6. International Strategy

- 6.1 The Head of International Arts reminded Council that they had seen a preliminary draft strategy in February. She had since made some changes in consultation with the Scottish Arts Council and British Council colleagues. The British Council would be discussing the strategy at its meeting on 19 April.
- 6.2 The Head of International Arts informed Council that under 6.1 there was an assumption made that artist fees and expenses were paid in line with current best practice. There was also insufficient information included about the Creative Industries and this would be expanded.
- 6.3 The Scottish Executive representative, David Brew, had a number of reservations about the current draft of the strategy and asked for time to allow it to be considered by the Scottish Executive. He raised specific points about the strategy's link to the Business Plan and our three aims; a lack of clarity about funding priorities, whether we were promoting art or Scotland through its art and lack of clarity of emphasis between support to audience or artists.
- 6.4 It was agreed that these issues would be resolved by discussion with the Scottish Executive before finalising the strategy.
- 6.5 Head of International Arts said the strategy was aiming to strengthen the investment made by both Scottish Arts Council and British Council. The needs of each artform and relationship to projects we supported would be the next stage of the workplan and would be discussed with each artform.
- 6.6 It was **agreed** that a final version of the strategy would be brought to a future meeting after the various points raised had been addressed.

7. Chairmanship of Audit Committee

- 7.1 Council **approved** the appointment of Jennifer Hawksworth as Chair of the Audit Committee.

8. Presentation on Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature

- 8.1 The Chairman welcomed Lorraine Fannin and Sophy Dale to Council who updated members on progress with the work of the UNESCO City of Literature Project.
- 8.2 Lorraine gave some background as to why it had been decided to put Edinburgh forward as the first UNESCO City of Literature. She explained the process and the impetus which the Scottish Arts Council had given the project. A dossier had been prepared, which representatives from the city of Edinburgh, the original committee and the Minister had taken to a meeting of UNESCO in Paris last October. To everyone's delight an announcement was made, at that event, that the application had been successful. This had resulted in world wide attention,

and ultimately to the first International Man Booker prize ceremony being held later this year in Edinburgh.

8.3 A City of Literature Trust had been established with a board of twelve and Sophy had been appointed its administrator. Sophy outlined the range of events which were being organised, including an international seminar at the Edinburgh International Book Festival. It was noted that copies of the dossier referred to above would be sent to every secondary school and every library in Scotland.

8.4 The Chairman thanked Lorraine and Sophy.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 The Director drew attention to the fact that this had been the final meeting for three members of Council; John Scott Moncrieff, Dale Idiens and Liz Cameron.

9.2 John had made a huge contribution to the Scottish Arts Council, particularly in the drama sector. He had chaired the Drama Committee for a number of years and was extremely conscientious in his attendance at Council meetings and events as well as attending, not only theatre performances, but many other performances on behalf of the Council.

9.3 Whilst Liz Cameron had not been able to attend many meetings recently due to her role as Lord Provost of the City of Glasgow, the Director reminded Council that her contribution over the years had also been important and beneficial.

9.4 Dale had also contributed enormously to the Scottish Arts Council, having been a member of the Crafts Committee as well as its Chair for a number of years. Like John her contribution had covered the whole spectrum of the arts. Dale had also been Vice Chair of Council and, over the last eight months, had acted as Chair. During this time, which had been longer than anticipated, Dale had represented Council in a huge number of ways, including meeting with the Scottish Executive and the Minister and chairing Council meetings. As Vice Chair she had not been able to be remunerated, but it had been agreed that Dale and the Scottish Arts Council could jointly commission a piece of crafts work.

9.5 The Director presented Dale with a photograph of the work which had been made by Lizzie Farrey and said that a permanent reminder, properly framed and signed, would be given to Dale. Council noted that the work, a willow sculpture, was on the wall in the Director's office.

Irene Watson
26 April 2005