



CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust

Reference number (GMS): G200801009

Lead officer's recommendation

Summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the proposal and highlighting any specific risks):

Within Scotland there are a large number of small traditional dance groups within communities that regularly meet and dance. As an umbrella body, there is the opportunity to collate this information and share this with the visiting and local population, thereby raising the profile of Scottish dance, both nationally and internationally. Scottish Dance draws an international audience, as the successes of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society's summer school and the Edinburgh Military Tattoo show, with ex-patriots keen to retain links with their mother country through involvement in Scottish arts and traditions. Links with Visit Scotland to develop these connections could be a way forward. Scottish dance is the most internationally exportable, with highland dancers and other Scottish dance groups performing abroad regularly within competitions and folk festivals.

Traditional dance is more likely to be taught within primary schools than any other form of dance (research undertaken by dance department in 2003). Other traditional dance organisations have teaching packs for delivering e.g. Scottish country dance within schools. STDT is promoting dance fusion through its dance artists, to make traditional dance more appealing to a young audience, and to encourage creativity.

STDT has grown in aspiration since the current Artistic Director came into post, creating national interest in traditional dance. While STDT is changing its focus, it is in danger of losing the support of the traditional dancers in the community, who see little benefit from the organisation. As STDT is largely an administrative body, it is not recognised as providing leadership.

While traditional dance needs a voice, it is unclear from STDT's artistic vision, if this is the voice needed. STDT was created in 1995, following discussions with Scottish Arts Council on how to represent all of the traditional dance forms. As most traditional dance is taught by independent teachers, or organisations, funding this field was tricky. The establishment of STDT was seen as a way of supporting developments in traditional dance.

Discussions with STDT and its lead officer have identified that a lot of its activity might be better supported through Heritage Scotland, the Big Lottery and other sources. The long term sustainability of the traditional dance artist posts has not been addressed. The Scottish Arts Council has been quite successful in seed-funding dance artist/development posts around the country that have been mainstreamed by the local authorities. To date, none of the traditional dance artist posts started by STDT have been mainstreamed. (Note: within Fife, the TDO was mainstreamed, and then taken over by STDT).

Assessment:	High	Medium	Low
<p>Areas of concern:</p> <p>Artistic Director already fully committed to existing projects. Existing resources used heavily and not much flexibility to take on new projects. Additional support to ensure programme of activity is delivered would be suggested.</p> <p>Additional financial support for the Stirling Festival not yet identified. Additional funding from Scottish Arts Council for dance artist posts has been identified, which is not realistic.</p>			
<p>Development issues:</p> <p>Identify development issues drawn from the assessment which will inform the funding agreement for 2006/7 and future agreements /12 month development plan (as applicable).</p> <p>A network of Traditional dance artists in residence, that complimented other dance artists, would be an ideal. In the short term, much needs to be done to develop dance generally. STDT would need costs for additional staff to support additional activity.</p> <p>Costs for a tour look low, with limited funding being achieved from elsewhere. STDT does not have the track record to ensure that this would be of the highest quality.</p>			
<p>Lead Officer:</p> <p>Print name: Susan Hay</p>		<p>Date:31/10/05</p>	

Stage 2

Decision and authorisation			
CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust		Reference number (GMS): G200801009	
Stage 2: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the sector ecosystem			
Category for support	Essential	Important ✓	Partial
<p>Based on the lead officer's assessment and match with the department ecosystem, summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks). Identifying development areas.</p> <p>Scottish Traditional Dance Trust is the umbrella organisation for traditional dance in Scotland and is supported as a national development agency focused on raising the profile of, and increasing involvement in, all of Scotland's indigenous dance styles. Scotland has a thriving traditional dance scheme with most activity sustained at a voluntary level and through organisations such as the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and the highland dancing boards.</p> <p>STDT was established to give traditional dance needs a voice, but as the lead officer assess, <i>'it is unclear from STDT's artistic vision, if this is the voice needed.'</i> The vision and purpose of STDT as an organisation is unclear and it has continually shifted and adapted to meet Scottish Arts Council funding needs. STDT still needs to establish clarity in its purpose.</p> <p>The operations and management of the organisation has improved in recent years. However, they have not resolved the appropriate structure, whether as a membership organisation or some alternative structure. STDT has the potential to be attracting funding from a variety of different sources for aspects of its programme but this has not been achieved and Scottish Arts Council is still the primary funder.</p> <p>STDT has been supported for the role it plays in ensuring that people of all ages and abilities have the opportunity to learn and participate in dance and that there are routes through to professional involvement. (Dance Strategy Aim 4) STDT primary impact is on the Scottish Arts Council Aim 3 (Learning) and through its programme supports many opportunities for people to participate in traditional dance. Core funding to this organisation is primarily towards the organisational infrastructure, with activity being supported through different lottery funds for traditional dance artists in residence. There are issues of the sustainability in this approach. STDT has an important role to play in the dance scenario. We would seek to address areas of concern through the funding agreement and support for other traditional dance organisations/ projects in the optimum scenario. In a standstill or reduced budget scenario it would not be a priority organisation and funding would not continue.</p>			
Decision authorised:			By 2 December 2005
Head of Department:	Dance		
Print name:	Anita Clark		
Date:	1 December 2005		

Stage 3: Head of Department recommendation within the context of the Corporate Synthesised scenario

CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust		Reference number (GMS): G200801009	
Category for support	Foundation	Flexible ✓	Neither
<p>Categorised as <i>Traditional Participation organisation</i> in Council paper.</p> <p>Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust has a distinctive role in the arts sector in Scotland as the umbrella organisation for the development of all styles of traditional dance. Within this scenario, funding for STDT would be maintained but at a slightly reduced level (£75k against £76,700). It is appropriate, given the work and character of STDT, for its funding to be as an organisation that <i>supports and enables people to enjoy the benefits of participation in the arts</i>. This should be flexible funding either in the context of a development agency or audience (participation) focused.</p>			
Recommendation authorised: Head of Department Dance Print name: Anita Clark			Date 14 Feb 2006 By 14 February 2006

Stage 4: Group Heads			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust		Reference number (GMS): G200801009	
Category for support	Foundation	Flexible ✓	Neither
Agree with the recommendation for flexible funding from lottery at the level of £75k for 07/08			
Decision authorised: Group Head Print name: Jim Tough			Date 14 Feb 2006 By 14 February 2006

Stage 5: Creative Arts / Performing Arts Committee			
Recommendation and authorisation			
CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Trust		Reference number (GMS): G200801009	
Category for support	Foundation	Flexible ✓	Neither
Agreed as per Managers/Group Heads recommendations.			
Committee Chair Print name: Jennifer Waterton			Date February 2006

Stage 6: Council			
Decision			
CFO name: Scottish Traditions of Dance Trust		Reference number (GMS): G200801009	
Category for support	Foundation	Flexible ✓	Neither
Approved flexible funding as per Managers/Group Heads and Committee recommendations			
Chairman Print name: Richard Holloway		Date 28 February 2006	

End of Assessment