

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Promote YT (Scotland)	
Application Reference number:	G201001077	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£75,000	£75,000
Officer's recommendation		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks <i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
<p>This application represents a high calibre, strategic development of the youth theatre sector in Scotland. There is a strong focus on developing a quality based youth theatre sector which listens to the needs of young people from all walks of life. Training programmes for youth theatre leaders (and young people) are geared towards the highest standards in arts practice.</p> <p>PYT has a very good track record for quality. The lead officer (from experience) views the National Festival as an excellent opportunity for young people to participate in high quality processes with a range of calibre artists. A key purpose of the event is to enable participants and tutors from various youth theatres throughout Scotland to view each other's work and be inspired by good models of practice. It also enables the PYT director to become aware of youth theatres which require additional mentoring and guidance in developing quality standards (as well as new inclusive and contemporary approaches to engaging young people in the theatre process).</p> <p>Partnerships with key people from the theatre sector, training establishments and local authorities have added a realistic, strategic dimension to the work of PYT which provides huge scope for long term sustainability and growth of inclusive youth theatre participation in Scotland.</p> <p>The plans to develop National training are based on research and understanding of sector needs (as well as the position of youth theatre within the wider theatre sector). Appointment of a new Training Post will support this development.</p> <p>The proposal is financially and managerially viable and represents a good investment in the immediate and longer term (if funded) in the lead officer's opinion.</p> <p>The proposal fits the Flexible Funding criteria well and fits the Drama Department stated priority (Children/Young People) to a high degree. It also fits the Equalities Policy area well.</p>		
Officer's overall priority recommendation		HIGH
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 31 January 2008 Revised: 20 March 2008
Print name: Angela Hogg	Angela Hogg	

Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

Comments:

Attendees:

David Taylor, Co-Director of Arts

Specialist Advisors: Stewart Ennis, Tim Licata, David Leddy, Alex Patience, Sandy Maxwell, Stephen Slater, Stephen Stenning and Laura Tyrrell

The Panel identified the following strengths and weaknesses of: Promote YT

Promote YT have had development money in the early stage and this application would be more about mainstreaming. The young organisation had been quickly established within the sector with a high profile and awareness in the sector. Artistically the organisation delivers the work they have taken on well and the Festival works well.

PYT appeared to be clear about its aspirations.

Specialist Advisors overall rating: Medium

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

Comments:

Promote YT is the only organisation that has a coordinating and developing role across the active Youth Theatre sector. Its activity promotes and develops participation by young people in the arts. Indirectly it will have a long-term effect in developing young artists, many of whom will go on to take up formal training and enter the profession. Its role is distinctive and it appears to be effective.

1. Fit with FXO criteria:

1.1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists

Provides strong support to young artists.

1.2 Improving your engagement with the public

Core function is to assist youth theatres to engage young people with the arts.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management

Meets this criterion well.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access

Some reference to practical implementation, but little detail.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%

Met

2. Fit with Departmental priorities

The Drama priority well met in that the PYT activity relates to work for young people including

<p>children. 3. <i>Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims</i> Meets the aim of increasing participation extremely well.</p>		
<p>3. Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)</p>		
<p>Comments</p> <p><i>1.1 Application rating</i> Both the SAs and the assessing officer were positive about its role and effectiveness- ratings respectively medium and high.</p> <p><i>1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating</i> I rate the application as high given the important strategic role of the applicant.</p> <p><i>1.3 Strengths of application</i> Good organisational approach and significant impact in the sector</p> <p><i>1.4 Weaknesses of applications</i> No particular weaknesses</p> <p><i>1.5 Specific risks associated with the application</i> There are no specific risks associated with this application.</p> <p><i>1.6 Development areas identified</i> No particular development areas</p> <p><i>1.7 Recommended level of support</i> I rate this as a high priority due to its positive impact on participation and skills development for young artists. £ 75,000 pa</p>		
<p>4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme</p>		
<p>Comments: Activity takes place in 6 local authority areas as stated, but the influence is felt across the country as youth theatres and youth theatre leaders participate from across the country.</p>		
<p>Head of Department's overall priority recommendation</p>		<p>HIGH</p>
<p>Head of Department's signature:</p>		<p>Date: 15 Feb 2008 Revised: 26 March 2008</p>
<p>Print name:</p>	<p>David Taylor</p>	

Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
Comments: Strong overall fit with FXO criteria. Fund at the level requested. Support of £75,000 annually is proposed.		
Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation		High
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Support of £75,000 annually is proposed.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		High
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
Joint Board Final Decision		APPROVE
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£75,000

End of Assessment