



Quick Guide – Scottish Arts Council

Vision

Our vision is of a confident, cultured Scotland where everyone takes part in the arts.

Our mission is to serve the people of Scotland by fostering arts of the highest quality through investment, research and advocacy. We believe the arts to be the foundation of a confident and cultured society. They challenge and inspire us. They bring beauty, excitement and happiness into our lives. They help us to express our identity as individuals, as communities and as a nation.

The Scottish Arts Council's Business Plan 2009/10 outlines our vision, aims, priorities and plans for the year. In it, we describe our focus on providing a service to the sector and the public which offers continuity and stability through times of change. There are four dominant themes which underpin the plan: working collaboratively with partners; continuing to implement the direction we set in our Strategic Review in 2005/06; working towards the opening of Creative Scotland (now scheduled for April 2010); and, last but not least, inviting fresh approaches and new ways of working from ourselves and the sector to increase resilience.

A new company, Creative Scotland 2009 Ltd, has been established under the chairmanship of Ewan Brown. Subject to legislation in 2009, the Public Service Reform Bill, Creative Scotland will become the new lead body for arts and screen industries in Scotland, replacing the Scottish Arts Council and Scottish Screen. We will be working with Scottish Screen and Creative Scotland 2009 Ltd to make the necessary practical arrangements for merger but we also look forward to embarking on an ambitious joint development programme with Scottish Screen and Creative Scotland 2009 to support strategic developments which reflect the ambition and scope of the new body.

The Quick Guides to Strategy

Embedded within the broader context of the Business Plan 2009/10, the Quick Guides are designed to give a brief snapshot of the current context in each artform and in the areas of audience and organisational development and arts education, where specialist teams work

across the organisation. The Quick Guides highlight priorities in crafts, dance, drama, literature, music, visual arts, audience and organisational development and arts education. They describe the steps we will take in each area of the arts to ensure we meet our goal.

You can download the Quick Guides from our website.

Aims

- Aim 1: to support artists and arts organisations in Scotland to fulfil their creative and business potential
- Aim 2: to increase participation in the arts
- Aim 3: to place the arts, culture and creativity at the heart of learning

Priorities

We will:

1. increase the scope and quality of our support to artists
2. secure the foundation of Scotland's artistic development
3. create flexibility to support the new and the innovative
4. create opportunities for participation in the arts
5. build a culture of co-operation with partners and the arts community
6. make the transition to Creative Scotland.

How we work

We offer a unique national perspective on the arts and their audiences. Our strategic leadership – development, funding and advocacy – is underpinned by specialist knowledge and experience in the management and delivery of the arts at national and international level. We aim to forge productive relationships and constructive dialogue at all levels between ourselves and our stakeholders in the arts, national and local government, education, health and community renewal. Effective links with the

private sector will strengthen the bonds between arts and business, and help us to develop further Scotland's creative industries. Working in partnership with others, we will respond to the needs of the arts and their audiences.

You can find further information on how we work and how to contact us on our website at www.scottisharts.org.uk

Quality

Our Quality Framework (QF) was launched in 2007 as a developmental tool to encourage continuous improvement in our own work and in the work of the organisations we fund. We worked closely with arts organisations to review, refine and further develop the QF as well as commissioning an independent evaluation.

The evaluation found that the main benefits of the QF are encouraging organisations to think about key aspects of their delivery and to raise questions which promote critical thought. The QF is supporting processes of organisational change by helping with self assessment, developing a more consolidated and rounded approach to planning, monitoring and review. The evaluation also found that the QF has resulted in 'improvement in tandem', in addition to supporting funded organisations to develop it has challenged and helped to improve Scottish Arts Council practice.

The second edition of our QF (Spring 2009) builds on the recommendations which came through the evaluation and can be downloaded from our website.

Funding

The Scottish Arts Council's budget for 2009/10 is £61.06 million, which includes £48.14 million from the Scottish Government, £12.43 million from the National Lottery and £0.5 million from other income. We will invest £57.65 million in arts funding and development and the remaining £3.41 million on operational costs.

For information about our funding schemes, please visit the Funding section of our website - <http://www.scottisharts.org.uk/1/funding.aspx>

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