

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 29 February 2024

Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2024/25

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Approves the outcomes of the Strategic Partnership Funding Programme applications process for 2024/27 (Appendix 1);
 - 1.1.2 Approves the flexible and project funding recommendations for 2024/25 (Appendix 1); and
 - 1.1.3 Notes the update on the third party cultural grants funding.

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Third Party Cultural Grants 2024/25

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report seeks approval for the outcomes of the application process for the 2024/27 Strategic Partnerships revenue funding programme (Appendix 1). It also requests approval for 2024/25 project funding recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 On 18 June 2019, Culture and Communities Committee considered the [outcomes](#) of a review of Third Party Cultural Grants Funding and approved three year in principle funding for the recommended Strategic Partners, the creation of a Flexible Fund and New Models funding programmes.
- 3.2 The Strategic Partnerships funding programme is the Council's revenue funding commitment to the city's cultural sector.
- 3.3 On 1 February 2022, Culture and Communities Committee [agreed](#) the continuation of the Strategic Partnerships programme for a fourth year (2023/24), acknowledging the need for stability and support for recovery following the on-going impacts of COVID-19 on the city and sector.
- 3.3 The Council continues to play an essential partnership and facilitation role with stakeholders, Strategic Partners, communities, and creative practitioners. This is reflected in the [Culture Strategy 2023/30](#).
- 3.4 On 11 May 2023, Culture and Communities Committee [agreed](#) the continued Strategic Partnerships funding applications process timetable and model. The primary purpose is to align the Council's funded cultural Strategic Partnerships to the current Cultural Strategy. The new applications process was designed to do this, and to evolve to reflect the on-going feedback received from our Strategic and public funder partners.
- 3.5 On 23 February 2023, the Council agreed a reduction of £250,000 in funding for events and cultural grants. In 2023/24, £100,000 was achieved through a reduction in the Third Party Grants Flexible Fund, with the balance achieved on a one-off basis from the Events budget. For 2024/25 onwards, a sustainable saving of £150,000 is required.

4. Main report

Financial Summary

- 4.1 As noted above, the Council agreed a reduction in funding for events and cultural grants from 2023/24 onwards. To support delivery of this saving on a sustainable basis, a reduction in funding of £100,000 for cultural grants has been built into the proposals set out in this report.
- 4.2 However, recognising the impact of this on cultural organisations, the recommendations include proposals to reallocate funding from the Flexible Fund into the Strategic Partners programme.
- 4.3 In addition, it is proposed to integrate the community-led cultural projects funding into the overall third party cultural grants funding allocation from 2024/25.
- 4.4 This means that the budget for third party cultural grants in 2024/25 will be £4,589,279.
- 4.5 This approach prioritises support for established organisations, with the retention of one open fund which will support community led cultural activities and integrates diversity and inclusion. This does, however, mean that there will no longer be flexible funding to support creative community sector project development.
- 4.6 In addition to the work undertaken by the Council, a major revenue funding review is currently being undertaken by Creative Scotland. The Stage 1 (of 2) outcomes of this process are likely to be reported around the same time as this report. Stage 2 outcomes are expected October 2024.

Strategic Partnerships

- 4.7 The Strategic Partnership programme and Flexible Fund recommendations both reflect continued strategic, targeted support for the sector, contributing as extensively as possible to the on-going retention of jobs, creative practice and development opportunities, programming, and delivery of activity throughout the city.
- 4.8 The range of recommended recipient projects/organisations align to the three aims of the culture strategy and facilitate and support a broad choice of citywide infrastructure and resource access points to creative practitioners, participants, and audiences year-round.
- 4.9 Appendix 1 presents the recommended outcomes of the applications process undertaken between October and December 2023. It lists in principle funding allocations for Strategic Partners for Year 1 of the next round of the Programme.
- 4.10 The application assessment process was managed via an independent expert panel to ensure accountable, fair, and objective funding decision making. The panel meeting took place in December 2023 and included Scottish Government, Event Scotland, and independent creative practitioner representation and was facilitated by Council officers.

- 4.11 The panel assessment process outcomes include funding reductions affecting three organisations - the Filmhouse and Edinburgh International Film Festival, and Festivals Edinburgh. The Fringe Society funding recommendation is aligned towards the costs of facilitating the street events programme on the ground.
- 4.12 A new allocation has also been made within the Strategic Partners Programme for Creative Community Hubs. This funding will support community arts and sets out a three year intended commitment.
- 4.13 All applicants will have received comprehensive feedback on their applications by the time the Committee consider this report.
- 4.14 A number of those recommended for funding in this report may be affected by the Creative Scotland process (highlighted in paragraph 4.6). Committee is asked to note the potential need of further assessment and response to the publication of Creative Scotland decisions affecting Council-funded organisations.

Flexible Fund - Diversity and Inclusion

- 4.15 The Diversity and Inclusion Fund has now supported over 100 freelance-led projects, and created opportunities for diverse artists and creatives across arts disciplines to further their ambitions, trial new concepts and better engage with the arts and culture sector and communities alike. Details of projects to date can be found at [Cultural Strategy Diversity Programme](#). Details of the 2024/25 funding programme and priorities will be shared with Committee members once confirmed.

Flexible Fund - Community Led Cultural Projects

- 4.16 In 2023/24, the Council allocated £100,000 for community-led cultural projects. It is proposed to incorporate this into the third party grant funding programme from 2024/25 onwards in recognition of the importance of having a fund for community cultural projects. The criteria for this fund will also recognise the importance of diversity and inclusion, building on the activities which the Council has supported in recent years.

Project Development Funding

- 4.17 The proposed programmes for 2024/25 are outlined in Appendix 1. Below is a short summary of some of these activities:
- 4.17.1 **Creative Carbon Scotland (CCS)** – introduce this commitment to ensure that the Council benefits from the advice and expertise CCS deliver to the culture sector. This respected organisation is at the cutting edge of environmental planning, responsibility, reporting and developments relevant to the sector. This funding will provide the Council with an active partnership of practical up to date advice and reporting. The expertise this funding makes available to the Council is invaluable and will directly contribute to the 2030 Zero Carbon Council agenda. The proposed funding allocation is £15,800.
- 4.17.2 **Edinburgh Visual Artists and Craft Maker Awards (VACMA)** – continues small grant partnership commitment with Creative Scotland, delivering

practice development resources to local visual artists and craft makers at any stage of their careers. The proposed funding allocation is £19,750.

4.17.3 **Culture Mapping Partnership** – continue the small grant resource towards this Council/University of Edinburgh programme partnership ensuring the city’s Culture Map and the most recently developed Community Engagement Map remain current. The proposed funding allocation for this is £3,545.

4.17.4 **Community Cultural Estate Project** – introduce a contribution to working with city partners to identify more efficient, potential co-operative actions and mechanisms to optimise, where appropriate, sites and building opportunities for re-use or development as multi-purpose creative and cultural spaces. The proposed funding allocation for this is £9,000.

Real Living Wage

4.18 As previously [reported](#) to Committee in November 2017, since 2017/18 the Living Wage has been included as a standard requirement in funding application paperwork and agreement conditions. The data supplied is submitted to the Council’s Central Grants Register. This has subsequently been updated to reflect the Real Living Wage commitment in our agreement conditions.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 If Committee approve the recommendations in this report, the funding decisions would be implemented.
- 5.2 An update will also be provided (if necessary) following the outcome of the Creative Scotland funding review.
- 5.3 The funding programmes are included in the Council’s Culture Strategy Action Plan.

6. Financial impact

6.1 A summary of the financial impacts associated with this report is provided in the Main Report section, with details of the funding allocations provided in Appendix 1.

7. Equality and Poverty Impact

- 7.1 All organisations are expected to have relevant employment, equalities, rights, and sustainability policies in place as set out in the Council Conditions of Grant.
- 7.2 All organisations must have a commitment to mainstream equalities and rights in accordance with the Equality Act 2010. Both in terms of its practices employing staff and volunteers and in providing services, they should be able to show how their organisation advances equality of opportunity; fosters good relations; and eliminates any unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation.

- 7.3 The funding relationship with the Strategic Partners also offers engagement in the Diversity Programme, which better connects ethnically diverse artists to the associate organisations through communications platforms, networking events and funding opportunities hence contributing positively to shifting the culture of the organisations to better embed equality in their activities.
- 7.4 All Strategic Partners are expected to contribute to the annual Community Engagement Report which outlines the activities designed and developed for the benefit of groups and communities listed under the protected characteristics, including those affected by socio-economic disadvantages, per the Integrated Impact Assessment guidelines. The report allows the Service to monitor, assess and share the positive impacts on individuals and communities engaged in those activities.

8. Climate and Nature Emergency Implications

- 8.1 As a public body, the Council has statutory duties relating to climate emissions and biodiversity. The Council

“must, in exercising its functions, act in the way best calculated to contribute to the delivery of emissions reduction targets”

(Climate Change (Emissions Reductions Targets) (Scotland) Act 2019), and

“in exercising any functions, to further the conservation of biodiversity so far as it is consistent with the proper exercise of those functions”

(Nature Conservation (Scotland) Act 2004)

- 8.2 The City of Edinburgh Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and committed to work towards a target of net zero emissions by 2030 for both city and corporate emissions and embedded this as a core priority of the Council Business Plan 2023-27. The Council also declared a Nature Emergency in 2023.

Environmental Impacts

- 8.3 The Council’s funding agreement conditions include carbon impact reduction action and planning requirements. Progress reports are collected annually and shared with the Council’s Policy and Insight team for information for potential inclusion in the Council’s public bodies reporting processes.

9. Risk, policy, compliance, governance and community impact

- 9.1 The citywide Strategic Partnerships Funding programme is well established.
- 9.2 The fund decision-making panel is comprised of external expertise and the process is managed by Council Officers.

- 9.3 The report recommendations are designed to maximise the positive impact, and further progress the widest feasible dissemination, of cultural development funding opportunities citywide, and to the network of creative community hubs.
- 9.4 The continuation of the funding programme would have no further risk, policy, compliance, governance, or community impact.

10. Background reading/external references

- 10.1 [Third Party Cultural Grants – Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme Review](#), Culture and Communities Committee, 5 October 2023.
- 10.2 [Third Party Grants Funding 2023/24](#), Culture and Communities Committee, 11 May 2023
- 10.3 [Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2022/23](#), Culture and Communities Committee, 1 February 2022.

11. Appendices

- Appendix 1 2024/25 Strategic Partnerships, Flexible and Project Funding recommendations.

2024/25 CULTURAL GRANT RECOMMENDATIONS

Strategic Partners

Organisation	2023/24 Level of Grant Award	Level Applied for 2024/25	Recommended Level of Grant 2024/25
	Year 4 of 4		Year 1 of 3
1 Aim - up to 3 Actions*			
Creative Edinburgh	0	£10,000	£10,000
Filmhouse (Edinburgh) Ltd	0	£30,000	£25,000
Edinburgh Development Company Limited (Edinburgh International Film Festival)	0	£30,000	£15,000
Edinburgh Art Festival	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Edinburgh Performing Arts Development	£30,000	£30,000	£30,000
Edinburgh Printmakers	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Lung Ha Theatre Company	£15,593	£47,859	£15,593
Stills Gallery	£20,000	£20,000	£20,000
Traverse Theatre	£40,447	£40,447	£40,447
1 Aim - up to 6 Actions			
African Connections CIC (Edinburgh Multicultural Festival)	£43,000	£43,000	£43,000
Dance Base	£50,000	£70,000	£50,000
Edinburgh International Book Festival	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
Queen's Hall	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
1 Aim - up to 9 Actions			
Artlink and the Lothians	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Creative Community Hubs (WHALE Arts)	0	£300,000	£100,000
Edinburgh Festival Fringe	£75,000	£75,000	£75,000
Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
Edinburgh Science	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000
Festivals Edinburgh	£125,000	£125,000	£75,000
Imaginate	£100,000	£100,000	£100,000
North Edinburgh Arts	£150,000	£150,000	£150,000

Literature Grouping:			
TRACS	£41,000	£41,000	£41,000
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature	£47,700	£47,700	£47,700
Scottish Book Trust	£1,200	£1,200	£1,200
Scottish Poetry Library	£10,000	£10,000	£10,000
1 Aim - up to 12 Actions			
Capital Theatres	£585,130	£585,130	£585,130
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company	£328,830	£328,830	£328,830
3 Aims - up to 12 Actions			
Edinburgh International Festival	£1,926,000	£1,926,000	£1,926,000
Total	£4,158,900	£4,581,166	£4,258,900

* *Strategic Partners were asked to closely align their applications to the [Citywide Culture Strategy 2023-30](#)*

Flexible Fund

Flexible Fund Priorities	Recommended levels 2024/25
Diversity and Inclusion	£120,000
Community Led Cultural Projects	£100,000
Total	£220,000

Culture Plan Budget	Recommended levels 2024/25
Cultural Partnerships and Strategy	£28,684
Edinburgh Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (partnership programme with Creative Scotland)	£19,750
Diversity Project	£33,600
Culture Map Partnership Fund	£3,545
Creative Carbon Scotland	£15,800
Community Cultural Estate Development	£9,000
Total	£110,379

Total Culture Budget	£4,589,279 **
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** For ref paragraphs 4.1 – 4.6 in the report.