

Regular Funding Theatre Portfolio 2015-18



There is a wealth of scale, style and genre included in what can be broadly termed ‘the theatre sector’. In addition to classic drama we are seeing a year-on-year growth in street, circus, physical performance, puppetry, site-specific, immersive, issue-based and cross art form work. More artists than at any other time are connected internationally and sought-after as collaborators and contributors.

In creating the current portfolio of organisations receiving Regular Funding we have drawn on the [Theatre Sector Review](#), the [companion piece](#) and the [10-year plan](#) which has involved extensive consultation. The recommendations from the review were discussed at length, and through [Open Sessions](#) and at [Federation of Scottish Theatre](#) membership meetings we have reached an agreed set of priorities for support.

Broadly, a buoyant sector relies on a mix of: venues which lead and nurture; makers of quality work of varying genres which reflect and reach out to audiences; innovators and mould breakers; and capacity builders for all stages of career.

Venues in the portfolio provide a geographic spread reaching from [Eden Court](#) in Inverness to [Ayr Gaiety](#) in Ayrshire and from [Aberdeen Performing Arts](#) in Aberdeen to [Dundee Rep](#) and [Comar](#) in Mull. Many building based theatres are also valued presenters of dance, music, film and some include visual art programmes. This multi-artform approach allows these venues to take the fullest advantage of changing operating contexts, securing their place at the heart of the community they serve and acting as a magnet for a wider audience.

Established venues in Glasgow and Edinburgh such as [The Tron](#) and [Citizens Theatre](#) and [Traverse Theatre](#), [Royal Lyceum Theatre](#) are joined by [Festival & King’s Theatres](#) in Edinburgh.

Responding to the primary recommendation from the Theatre Review to address touring issues, funding priority has been placed on companies with a genuine commitment to quality touring at their heart. This group including [Rapture Theatre](#), [Stellar Quines](#) and [Visible Fictions](#) covers work for children and young people, classical and new writing, physical performance and organisations which stimulate international demand for work created in Scotland and inspire Scottish audiences with the international work they present.

A mix of innovators is important to raise ambition across the sector and to challenge or influence behaviours in others. Many of this group that includes [Glasgow Lunchtime Theatre](#), [Vanishing Point](#), [Grid Iron](#), [Fire Exit](#), [Birds of Paradise](#) and [Solar Bear](#) are referenced by national and international peers.

A healthy theatre sector in the future relies on skills development at all stages of career and which by necessity often takes place beyond formal education. Practitioners in Scotland are typically well networked and display a high degree of professional versatility moving between theatre, film, tv and commercial events. As recognised in the Theatre Review this fluidity presents its own challenges so funding has been focused on activity which consolidates and enhances practical ‘on-the-job’ training provision and skills development opportunities in particular technical, design, producing and directing. Organisations such as [Playwrights Studio Scotland](#), [Conflux](#), [Puppet Animation](#), and [Imagine](#) provide a focus for development within discrete areas within the sector.

Applicants were asked to demonstrate their commitment to, and plans for, digital development, tackling their environmental impact and increasing their reach and appeal through their approach to diversity and creative learning. We recognise that these are large tasks but are encouraged by some exceptional examples of ambition and achievement. Over the course of this funding round, these will be areas of particular focus ensuring that the sector remains relevant and connected to existing and potential audience.

The breadth and strength of theatre, and the pivotal role it plays in promoting, producing and talent development across the wider arts sector has been reflected in the funded portfolio within the total number of organisations supported by Creative Scotland.

The national support organisation for theatre and dance, The [Federation of Scottish Theatre](#) will be supported through the Targeted Funding route as a strategic partner organisation for Creative Scotland. Other organisations working with us in this category are [Arts and Business Scotland](#), the [Cultural Enterprise Office](#), [Creative Carbon Scotland](#), and [Culture Republic](#).