

Regular Funding 2015-18: About the Portfolio

Background

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here.

Our 10-year plan, **Unlocking Potential, Embracing Ambition**, which was developed in collaboration with more than 1000 people from across the sectors that we serve, sets out a shared vision:

We want a Scotland where everyone actively values and celebrates arts and creativity as the heartbeat for our lives and the world in which we live; which continually extends its imagination and ways of doing things; and where the arts, screen and creative industries are confident, connected and thriving.

And five shared ambitions.

- Excellence and experimentation across the arts, screen and creative industries is recognised and valued
- Everyone can access and enjoy artistic and creative experiences
- Places and quality of life are transformed through imagination, ambition and an understanding of the potential of creativity
- Ideas are brought to life by a diverse, skilled and connected leadership and workforce
- Scotland is a distinctive creative nation connected to the world.

We fulfill our purpose through funding, advocacy, development and influence. In terms of funding, we distribute funds from two main sources; the Scottish Government and the National Lottery. We do this through three funding routes:

- Regular Funding to contribute to the programmes and core costs of organisations for three years
- Open Project Funding to support projects led by individuals and organisations lasting up to two years,
- Targeted Funding addressing specific sector development needs.

The aim of Regular Funding is to support a range and breadth of creative organisations that make a vital contribution to the current health and future development of the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland. This route to funding is also a vital contributor to the delivery of the ambitions set out in the 10-year plan.

Regular Funding was introduced as part of a funding review that took place alongside the development of the 10-year plan and it opened for application on 9 April 2014 with a deadline of 7 July 2014. The published three-year budget for Regular Funding was £90m and we received 264 applications from organisations across Scotland and across a broad range of practice. These applications had a

total value of just over £212m. In response to the large number of high quality applications, we increased the available budget to just under £100m for the three-year period. We did this by adjusting our overall budgets to focus spend in this area

Following detailed and robust assessment of the applications, with a decision making process involving senior staff with extensive art form and specialism knowledge, on 30 October we announced the portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations who will receive funding for the period April 2015 to March 2018.

The Portfolio

The portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) consists of 119 organisations, of which 20 are new to regular funding of any kind.

This is the largest portfolio of organisations to be awarded three-year funding in Scotland, enabling as many as possible to benefit from stable, multi-year funding that responds directly to feedback we have received from the sectors we support.

The portfolio is rich in creative excellence, potential and ambition, demonstrating significant reach throughout Scotland and across many areas of practice. It consists of some of Scotland's most important, innovative and exciting cultural and creative organisations, producing and presenting great work across craft, dance, film, literature, music, theatre and visual art.

The portfolio also consists of a mix of organisations of differing scale ranging from nationally and internationally established organisations like the Edinburgh International Festival, the Centre for the Moving Image, Comar, Scottish Dance Theatre, the Citizens Theatre and Dundee Contemporary Arts through to smaller, and vitally important organisations producing excellent work from a particular place/s, such as Ayr Gaiety Theatre, Timespan in Helmsdale, The Stove Network in Dumfries, Wigtown Book Festival and Regional Screen Scotland.

Of the 119 organisations in the portfolio:

- 20 are new to regular funding of any kind, creating space in the portfolio for new voices, energy and ways of working
- 31 move from an annual funding arrangement to three-year regular funding
- 26 move from an 18 month or 2 year arrangement to three-year regular funding
- 42 former 'foundation' organisations remain in three-year funding.

Organisations new to Regular Funding are as follows:

Ayr Gaiety Partnership
Barrowland Ballet
Conflux Scotland
Curious Seed
Dovecot Foundation
Dunedin Consort
Festival and Kings Theatre
Glasgow Lunchtime Theatres

Glasgow Women's Library
Greenock Arts Guild for the Beacon
Hospitalfield Arts
Janice Parker Projects
Paragon Ensemble Rapture Theatre
Rapture Theatre
Film Hub Scotland
The Stove Network
The Work Room
Timespan, Helmsdale
TRACS
Wigtown Festival

In order to respond to the large number of high quality applications and support as many organisations as possible, we made a policy decision as part of our balancing the portfolio process to focus support for organisations that create, make and share work across Scotland. This means that sector development bodies, Arts and Business Scotland, Creative Carbon Scotland, The Cultural Enterprise Office, Culture Republic and The Federation of Scottish Theatres will be supported through the Targeted Funding route as strategic partner organisations for Creative Scotland. In addition we will work with SCAN to deliver our Visual Arts Sector Review.

The work of organisations in the portfolio reaches across Scotland and, importantly, supports the individuals working in the in the arts, screen and creative industries, both as artists and in vital production, presentation and operational roles. These organisations also, in turn, collaborate with and support the work of other organisations across Scotland, the UK and internationally.

Geographically, organisations have their base in 21 of Scotland's 32 Local Authorities, which is an increased geographical spread than demonstrated in previous iterations of regular funding where 17 local authorities were represented.

While Edinburgh and Glasgow continue to be the home base of the greatest proportion of portfolio organisations, reflecting Scotland's population base, it is important to note that more than 80% of organisations in the portfolio operate beyond their home postcodes, on a Scotland-wide basis, reaching audiences across the country.

The Portfolio by art form and specialism

The portfolio consists of organisations working across craft, dance, film, literature, music, theatre and visual art. A description of how each of these is represented and contributes to the portfolio and broader arts and culture in Scotland can be found [here](#).

Creative Learning

Creative Scotland is fully committed to supporting, developing and expanding creative learning across the organisations we support throughout Scotland. Participation and engagement is a key feature across much of the portfolio as an integrated part of core artistic and creative programmes, delivered in many different ways.

Youth arts and creative learning programmes for and involving young people extend across the portfolio of Regularly Funded Organisations which include organisations dedicated to working with young people across a range of art forms such as Youth Theatre Arts Scotland, Drake Music Scotland, YDance, the National Youth Choir and National Youth Orchestra as well as organisations dedicated to creating work for presentation to younger or multi-generational audiences such as Visible Fictions, Catherine Wheels and Imagine. Alongside this, many of the most established and vital building based organisations across Scotland also have extensive youth arts programmes, including the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh, the Citizens in Glasgow, Eden Court in Inverness, Dundee Rep and DCA in Dundee, as well as the Centre for the Moving Image and Glasgow Film who also deliver programmes for young people and film.

This portfolio, alongside the support we provide through our Targeted Funding and our Open Project Funding routes, recognises how integral children and young people are to the current health and future development of the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland.

This work is underpinned by **Scotland's first Youth Arts Strategy – Time to Shine** and the creation of 12 networked youth arts hubs around the country as part of this. We also support youth music through the delivery of the **Youth Music Initiative**, on behalf of the Scottish Government; through **youth arts initiatives as part of Cashback for Communities** and through our **Creative Learning Strategy**.

Equalities and Diversity

All of the organisations in the Regular Funding portfolio have committed to increasing access to artistic and creative work amongst communities across Scotland. Many have a specific equalities focus and clear remit to work in communities with socio-economic deprivation. Our aim is to ensure that the cultural provision we fund is available to a diversity of people, offering a powerful mix of different types of high quality work that reflects and encourages a better understanding of the richness of diversity in Scotland and beyond,

New to the portfolio are organisations such as Glasgow Women's Library who work to empower and support thousands of women each year, working creatively within a wide range of issues including poverty, women's health, sexuality and surviving violence. In Dance, Janice Parker Projects becomes part of the portfolio. The award-winning choreographer has a deep commitment to collaborating with people of all ages, disabled and non-disabled, professionals, first-time performers, people with dementia, and of different ethnicities and cultural backgrounds. The portfolio also includes organisations committed to inclusive practice in the arts such as Lung Ha's, Solar Bear and Project Ability.

The Regular Funding process has provided us with unique insight into the strengths and gaps across cultural provision in Scotland. One area identified as requiring strategic and targeted development is in relation to cultural diversity and specifically the representation of BAME (Black, Asian and minority ethnic) led organisations and individuals across the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland. We are committed to working with expert partners in order to develop future strategies in this area. This work will form part of our Equalities Review, scheduled for this year.

Gaelic and Scots language

Scotland is unique in the UK in that it has three indigenous languages English, Scots and Gaelic.

While all organisations in the portfolio will be required, as part of Creative Scotland's statutory role, to support and promote Gaelic language and culture through their work, there is also strong representation from organisations for whom Gaelic language and culture are core to their activity.

This includes Feis Rois, Feisean nan Gaidheal, Celtic Connections, Hands up for Trad, the Gaelic Books Council as well as venue based organisations such as Eden Court, An Lanntair, Atlas Arts, Taigh Chearsabhagh, among others.

We will be developing our approach Scots Language this year in partnership with a Scots Language reference group.

The decision making process

Regular Funding opened for application on 9 April 2014 with a deadline for submission of 7 July, with the portfolio of organisations being announced on 30 October. This was an open call for applications which was followed by a two-stage decision making process.

In stage one; all applications were assessed individually against published criteria by staff with the appropriate art-form or specialism knowledge, by finance staff and in detail by art-form teams.

In stage two; those applications recommended from stage one were then discussed in detail by the senior team at Creative Scotland, including art-form leads, with the aim of building as balanced a portfolio as possible for Regularly Funded Organisations across different art-forms, geography, organisational scale, range and diversity.

The recommended portfolio was then presented to the Creative Scotland Board for final approval on 16 October.

Each application was considered by 30 different people across the decision making process They included our Specialist Officers, Finance Team, Directors, Art form Portfolio Managers and Board.

All Regularly Funded organisations needed to demonstrate clearly how their work helps to deliver the first of our shared ambitions in terms of excellence and experimentation and access and enjoyment, as well as meeting the operational and financial criteria set out in the guidance.

Our Equalities Impact Assessment (EQiA) of the application, assessment and decision making process is **available to read here**.

We are confident that, through this process, Scotland has a portfolio of Regularly Funded organisations that through their leadership will contribute to the development and delivery of excellence and experimentation across the arts, screen and creative industries throughout Scotland. This portfolio will support the creative potential of thousands of professional artists and creative practitioners while widening access to their work and embedding creativity and culture as positive forces in our individual, community and national lives.

This will continue to enrich Scotland's reputation as a distinctive and creative nation confidently connecting to the world.