



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

NOTES

BOARD CALL 26 October 2020 - 1000 to 1200 Via Teams

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Ewan Angus (EA)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn (DC)	Board Member
Philip Long (PL)	Board Member
Stephanie Fraser (SF)	Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

Apologies:

Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member
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In Attendance:

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Gary Cameron (GC)	Interim Director Strategy (for items 4 & 6)
Kenneth Fowler (KF)	Director Communications (for item 5)
Alastair Evans (AE)	Head of Knowledge and Research (for item 6)
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Notes

1.	Apologies
1.1	Apologies were noted.
1.2	Declaration of Interest
	There were no new Declaration of Interests related to the business on the agenda.
2.	Previous Minutes and Matters arising

2.1	The minutes of the meeting on the 24 th September were approved as an accurate record of the meeting.
2.2	Matters arising would be discussed at the meeting on the 26 th November.
3.	COVID 19 – Business Continuity update
	<p>The Board were updated on the current status of the funds. The PARVF and GRMV funds were closed and money distributed. COVRF had received 348 applicants with the panel process scheduled for next week. EP and EA were joining the panel. Independent Cinema Recovery and Resilience Fund had closed with panel taking place last week. Board were asked to note that one award was above delegated authority levels and would require Board approval. It was requested that delegated authority for that award be taken by the Screen Committee Board members. DB requested, and it was agreed, that he be part of the decision too. Hardship Funds for Screen and Arts and Creative Industries is in progress. Partners to handle individual stands were Society of Authors, Craft Scotland, Visual Art Scotland, Help Musicians and BECTU, with Creative Scotland picking up roles not covered by partners. Youth Arts, first tranche currently in assessment with decisions next week. Simplification of the Open Fund is underway. Culture Collective Fund will be a two-stage process, launching at the beginning of November.</p> <p>The Board asked how the organisation was handling this intense period, it was reported that the pressures on staff were considerable but people were focussed and managing to work through the delivery, with support in place as necessary. It was asked if the changes in levels of Covid-related restrictions would have an impact on distribution of funding. Accommodating changes to funding programmes in a fast-moving environment was almost impossible and the focus was therefore on delivery of the funds as planned. Guidance from the Scottish Government would be sought if necessary.</p>
4.	Strategy Refresh and Funding Framework
	<p>GC joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Board were presented with an update on the current status of both the Strategy Refresh and Funding Framework which had been paused for the first six months of the current year because of the focus on securing and delivering emergency support, and given the extended nature of the pandemic, that emergency support was necessarily continuing. The landscape was complex and uncertain in the light of the pandemic but as planned, it was necessary to return to strategic and resource planning and be clear on strategic direction, priorities and future funding framework to enable Creative Scotland and the sectors navigate the next financial year and beyond. The importance of planning confidence, timescales and clear communications was stressed, particularly in relation to Regular Funding and transitioning to a new funding model. Members of the Board had met with Directors recently to discuss all of this work and the next step was to organise a staff working group to progress the detail.</p> <p>It was noted that the three-year Comprehensive Spending Review was no longer proceeding, and the Scottish Government draft budget for 2021/22 would likely follow the same timescales as the current year i.e. February, giving rise to further planning challenges.</p>

	The Board would be updated on the next iteration of plans at the November meeting.
5.	Advocacy
	<p>KF joined for this agenda item and presented a proposed refreshed approach to advocacy for the value and importance of creativity and culture, aligned with the SG Culture Strategy. A key aim is to support people and organisations within the creative sector to work alongside Creative Scotland by equipping them with appropriate tools and key messages. Initial conversations had taken place internally and with the Sector Development bodies group, with the proposal now to create a working group, including an invite for Board members to join if they wished. The plan was to launch the initiative in November. There is no fixed time scale attached to the enhanced approach as it is an ongoing need, and one that will change and adapt over time.</p> <p>The former Creativity Matters 'hook' was discussed and it was agreed to explore a new mantle which would capture and reflect some of the urgent imperatives in the context of the pandemic and future recovery, taking a bit more time given the sector was struggling to manage the ongoing impacts, and the driver to influence the CSR had moved on.</p> <p>Next steps would be for KF to revise the plans and provide an update at the next Board meeting.</p>
6.	Audience Intentions Research
	<p>AE and GC joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Board were presented with the findings of the National Population Survey, Cultural Attendance Survey and secondary analysis using Indigo research of cultural activity during lock-down, how audiences have responded, and may respond in the future. Missing live events had been a significant point, with many turning to engagement via digital platforms. It was noted that many people had enjoyed free online content, with a risk that some may not return to paid live events in the future. The nature of the venue was also noted, with outdoor activities more appealing to audiences than indoors where social distancing is harder to make work. The surveys also highlighted that a quality product is still expected, irrespective of venue. Younger people were also more willing to return to experiencing cultural activity, compared to older people, particularly in relation to more familiar pre-pandemic activity rather new activity. The Board noted the absence of mainstream TV as a recognised cultural activity and this would be included in future.</p> <p>The CS website carries the current Indigo survey, with the next wave of results due in November and an update would be brought to the November Board meeting.</p> <p>AE was thanked for an excellent piece of work and the Board looked forward to hearing about the next findings.</p>
7.	AOB
	There were no items.
8.	Date of next meeting

	November 26 th 1000-1300 Via Teams

Rebel Wilson

Approved