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# TOURING FUND FOR THEATRE AND DANCE

APPENDIX 1 | 2018/19

# Background to the fund

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In late 2016, Creative Scotland commissioned an independent review of Touring for Theatre and Dance, and the **final report** was published in May 2017.

The Review identified many complex and inter-related issues regarding touring theatre and dance in Scotland. The Review called for bold thinking to effect change in the touring ecology.

Among the main conclusions was a call for a more strategic focus for touring, and the need to establish a touring fund driven by a renewed vision and clear strategic priorities around artistic quality, audience development, reach, balance of genre and scale, depth of engagement, efficiency, sustainability, continuity and progression.

The wider recommendations of the Touring Review have subsequently been taken forward by two Federation of Scottish Theatre-led working groups, convened over the course of the Summer and Autumn of 2017 and made up of representatives from theatre and dance organisations and representatives from Creative Scotland.

Responding to calls for greater sector involvement in the design of funding programmes, two further working group sessions led by an independent facilitator met in May 2018 to contribute to the co-design of the fund. These followed a product design methodology and the recommendations and feedback from these working sessions have informed these guidelines.

Creative Scotland cannot address all the recommendations of the Review in isolation. Many are in the hands of the sector itself and the Touring Strategy Working Group coordinated by FST is working on some of these and Creative Scotland will in turn reflect on their reporting as part of the ongoing development of the Touring Fund.

## Recommendations from the Review where we are trying to effect change include to:

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Establish a touring fund with clear strategic priorities around artistic quality, audience development, geographical spread, balance of genre and scale, depth of engagement, efficiency, sustainability, continuity and progression.

- Seek ways to align national, RFO and project funded companies around the shared goal of developing audiences for Scottish work.
- Ensure proven high-quality work is given an extended life.
- Create longer-term funding agreements for touring companies.
- Form regional/national touring consortia which would collaborate on establishing efficient touring 'highways' that producers can tap into.
- Explore the viability of alternative funding approaches.
- Explore new models of working that could reduce reliance on public funding and support enhanced sustainability.



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