

# Creative Scotland

## Regular Funding 2018-21: The Network



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# 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*, 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

Regular Funding 2018-21 opened for application on 16 January 2017 with a deadline of 3 April 2017. We received 184 applications from organisations across Scotland and across a broad range of practice. These applications had a total request of £154m.

Following detailed and robust assessment of the applications, through a decision-making process led by senior staff with extensive art form and specialism knowledge, we announced the network of Regularly Funded Organisations who will receive funding for the period April 2018 to March 2021.

## The network

The network of Regularly Funded organisations (RFOs) consists of 121 organisations, of which 19 are new to Regular Funding and 102 continue their Regular Funding relationship, supported by £101.6m Grant in Aid funding and a three-year budget commitment from the Scottish Government.

This is a network which delivers stable three-year funding to a range and breadth of cultural organisations across Scotland.

The majority of organisations in the network create, produce or present creative work, demonstrating creative excellence, potential and ambition, with 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, working across craft, dance, literature, music, screen, theatre and visual art.

The network 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, Scottish Dance Theatre, the Citizens Theatre and Dundee Contemporary Arts through to smaller, equally vital organisations producing and presenting work in particular places and communities, such as Timespan in Helmsdale, Alchemy Film and Arts in Hawick, The Stove Network in Dumfries, Bodysurf in Moray, St Magnus in Orkney and Regional Screen Scotland.

As such, the work of organisations in the network reaches across Scotland and, importantly, supports employment, both for artists and in terms of production, presentation and operational roles. Network organisations also, in turn, collaborate with and support the work of other organisations and creative individuals across Scotland, the UK and internationally.

We have also included a number of development organisations in the network which will support the arts and creative sectors to strengthen their health and resilience. Arts and Business Scotland, Creative Carbon Scotland, The Federation of Scottish Theatres, Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN), Creative Edinburgh, Creative Dundee and the Scottish Music Industry Association, join Publishing Scotland and Craft Scotland, amongst others, to deliver this work. Creative Scotland will also explore how we can work in partnership more broadly to deliver enhanced levels of sector support, as part of broader planning for 2018/19 and beyond.

In the context of restricted funding, we are limited in relation to the number of new organisations we are able to introduce to Regular Funding, however, we are pleased to include the following for 2018-21:

- 21CC (21Common)
- Alchemy Film and Arts
- Arts and Business Scotland
- Bodysurf Scotland
- Creative Carbon Scotland
- Creative Dundee
- Creative Edinburgh
- Federation of Scottish Theatre
- Lyra
- Magnetic North
- NEoN (North East of North)
- Panel
- Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN)
- Scottish Music Industry Association
- Starcatchers
- Stills: Centre for Photography
- Theatre Gu Leòr
- Tinderbox Collective
- Toonspeak

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## Places and communities

Geographically, the 121 organisations in the network have their base in 21 of Scotland's Local Authority areas. 74% of organisations in the network operate beyond their home postcodes, on a Scotland-wide basis, reaching audiences across the country.

From Shetland Arts in the North to Wigtown Festival Company in the South, this network has the capacity and reach to support the development of the arts, screen and creative industries throughout Scotland.

In addition to supporting established venues within all our cities, Regular Funding will provide support for organisations at the heart of different communities across Scotland, demonstrating the significant benefits of bringing people together to create and experience excellent art.

An Lanntair on the Isle of Lewis, the Pier Arts Centre on Orkney and Timespan in the Highlands offer examples of how Regular Funding will continue to ensure creative opportunities are embedded within our rural and island communities. Similarly, the distribution of work continues to be crucial and Regular Funding will support organisations including Regional Screen Scotland, the Travelling Gallery, North East Arts Touring and the Touring Network (Highlands and Islands) to continue to grow creative opportunities across the remotest parts of Scotland.

This is complemented with accessible funding programmes, such as Open Project Funding, and targeted approaches, such as Place Partnerships, which offer further support for individuals and communities in addition to the work of organisations in the Regularly Funded network, enabling Creative Scotland to broaden our support for artists and empowering communities through the arts.

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## The network by art form and specialism

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

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## Strategic Touring Fund

Alongside the announcement of the Regular Funding network, 2018-21, Creative Scotland has also announced the creation of a £2m strategic Touring Fund, with support from the National Lottery, which will be one of our Targeted Funds for 2019/20, to support touring companies to work with venues to grow audiences.

This fund, to be launched later in 2018, will be open to performing arts organisations and will provide support for touring, alongside Open Project funding and other Targeted funds.

This approach reflects the recommendations made in 2016's Touring Review, the challenges facing touring of theatre and dance in Scotland and further work led by the Federation of Scottish Theatre and other performing arts organisations.

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## Environment planning

Creative Scotland will require all Regularly Funded Organisations 2018-21, as part of their funding agreements, to produce plans to reduce the carbon emissions related to at least one aspect of their activities. Organisations supported through Open Project Funding and Targeted Funding are also encouraged to do the same.

There are already many organisations taking action to manage their carbon emissions and Creative Carbon Scotland have been working successfully with the culture sector in Scotland to report on carbon emissions and share and expand good sustainable practice.

Following on from carbon reporting, environmental planning is the natural next step. Through demonstrating best practice and inspiring audiences, we can make a difference in encouraging sustainable behaviour. We are very pleased to support Creative Carbon Scotland, as part of this network, in helping creative organisations make this important contribution to Scotland's sustainability.

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## Creative Learning and young people

Creative Scotland is fully committed to supporting, developing and expanding creative learning and supporting access to creativity for young people, across the organisations we support throughout Scotland.

This network of organisations is strong in its experience of, and ambition for, developing all aspects of creativity for young people and creative learning. Through their plans, the organisations in the network have demonstrated how they will contribute to the creative lives and ambitions of young people in Scotland.

Youth arts and creative learning programmes for, and involving, young people extend across the network of Regularly Funded organisations, with more than 82% including work with or for children and young people as a key part of their future plans, including as decision makers.

The Scottish Government has designated 2018 as Year of Young People, with culture as a major theme. This network and the artists and organisations involved in other Creative Scotland targeted programmes, such as Time to Shine, the Youth Music Initiative and CashBack for Creativity, will make a significant contribution to the cultural and creative success of the Year of Young People, and beyond.

For example, organisations such as the Fruitmarket Gallery, YDance, Curious Seed and Scottish Book Trust all include a focus on young people in their work. Catherine Wheels, Visible Fictions and Tinderbox Collective, with their skill in delivering high quality, engaging, youth-led activity, and Starcatchers, bringing expertise in developing all aspects of arts for early years, are also welcome additions to the Regular Funding network, as are Lyra and Toonspeak, both working with young people as their focus.

Imagine continues to develop strong festival programmes for young audiences, while the work of National Youth Orchestras of Scotland and Youth Theatre Arts Scotland has young people at its core.

Alongside this, many of the most established and vital building based organisations in the network across Scotland also have extensive youth arts programmes, including the Royal Lyceum Theatre in Edinburgh, the Citizens Theatre in Glasgow, Eden Court in Inverness, the Dundee Rep, as well as the Centre for the Moving Image and Glasgow Film who also deliver programmes for young people and film.

This network, alongside the support we provide through our Targeted and Open Project Funding routes, recognises how integral children and young people are to the current health and future development of culture and creativity in Scotland.

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## Equalities and Diversity

All of the organisations in the Regular Funding network have committed to increasing access to artistic and creative work amongst communities across Scotland. Many have a specific equalities focus.

Our aim is to ensure that the cultural provision we fund offers a powerful mix of different types of high quality work that reflects and encourages a better understanding of the significant diversity of Scotland's population.

We have seen a 36% increase of organisations in the network who are considered 'strong' or 'outstanding' in terms of their forward plans regarding Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI). This represents a significant increase in EDI focused organisations in the 2018-21 network.

Alongside this, there are many organisations in the network with a specific EDI focus in their work such as Drake Music Scotland, Birds of Paradise, Solar Bear, Lung Ha, Lyra, Platform and Luminate.

As part of broader budget planning for 2018/19 and beyond, Creative Scotland will explore options for further strategic investment to support artists and creative organisations in terms of engagement and participation; professional and creative development; and leadership with a specific focus on EDI.

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## Gaelic, Scots and Traditional Arts

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

While all organisations in the network are 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 and Scots language and culture are core to their activity and where the traditional arts are a key part of what they do.

This includes Fèis Rois, Fèisean nan Gàidheal, TRACS, Celtic Connections, Hands up for Trad, the Gaelic Books Council and Theatre Gu Leòr, as well as venue based organisations such as Shetland Arts, An Lanntair, Atlas Arts, Taigh Chearsabhagh, among others.

The focus on Gaelic, Scots and traditional arts across the network for 2018-21 remains strong and at similar levels to the previous portfolio of organisations.

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# The decision-making process

The Regular Funding programme opened on 16 January 2017, with a deadline for applications of 3 April 2017. The network of Regularly Funded Organisations (RFOs) was announced in early 2018.

The timing provided for both application and assessment were in response to feedback from both the sector and our Staff after the previous application round in 2014. Our original intention was to announce decisions in Autumn 2017, however, the timing of both the UK and Scottish Government budgets meant that final decisions needed to be delayed until January 2017, once Creative Scotland's budget settlement was known (in December 2017).

There has been a careful and thorough five-stage decision making process

- **Stage 1:** Checks for eligibility and completeness
- **Stage 2:** Objective assessments (Specialism Officers)
- **Stage 3:** Specialism scenario planning (Specialism Teams)
- **Stage 4:** All eligible applications were discussed in the round by the senior team at Creative Scotland, including specialism and art form leads, with the aim of building a balanced network of Regularly Funded Organisations across the arts, screen and creative industries, geography, scale and diversity within our available budget.
- **Stage 5:** Board decisions

We also undertook an **Equality Impact Assessment** of the Regular Funding application, assessment and decision-making process.

In the application process, all organisations needed to clearly demonstrate their vision and purpose and how their work helps to deliver our first two ambitions: 'excellence and experimentation' and 'access and enjoyment'. In addition, organisations were asked to demonstrate how their work contributed to Creative Scotland's connecting themes; to the broader development of the sector; commitment to fair pay; that they have effective governance and leadership in place; that they are financially resilient and robust; and that they have a commitment to EDI.

Full guidance is available [here](#).

The recommended Network was then presented to the Creative Scotland Board for final approval on 18 January 2018.

We are confident that, through this process, Scotland has a stable network 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. A commitment to delivering great experiences is balanced with support for sector development organisations who will work with artists and organisations to further develop the creative sector in Scotland and improve resilience and the ability to continue to make an invaluable contribution to Scotland's cultural, social and economic future.

This network supports the creative potential of thousands of professional artists and creative practitioners, sitting alongside Creative Scotland's other routes to funding support such as Open Project funding and our Targeted funds.

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