CREATIVE SCOTLAND AND THE CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

This appendix outlines some of the ways in which Creative Scotland has provided support for some sectors of the creative industries over the past few years.
Scotland has developed particular expertise in sector development support for the creative industries with well-established organisations that benefit from a closely integrated community of small businesses, creative organisations and individuals. In terms of networks, WASPS provides a large network of 17 studio complexes across Scotland that house a wide range of creative businesses - over 800 tenants. In addition, the Cultural Enterprise Office provides business development support for creative practitioners and micro-businesses, while Arts and Business Scotland acts as a conduit between the cultural and business sectors, helping to nurture creative, social and commercial relationships. Recently we have seen the growth of independent creative area networks e.g. Creative Dundee, Creative Edinburgh and Creative Stirling. Each of these networks is independent, focusing on their own distinctive aims and objectives tailored to each of the three cities. While each of these may have comparators elsewhere, it is clear that each of these now operates in a specific Scottish context and has grown expertise and methods specific to that context.

One exciting project currently based in Scotland, but working to provide services across the UK is Make Works. Make Works are factory finders for designers and makers. Their platform allows a community of designers and makers to find manufacturers, material suppliers and workshop facilities in their local area. Make Works now draws users from all over the UK and is responsible for around 50 new projects starting every month in Scotland. These projects bring new business to the Scottish manufacturing industries by providing open information for the wave of designers, artists and small businesses that are now searching for local, small scale production.

In the fields of design and architecture there are many strengths, with institutions like The Lighthouse, Scotland’s Centre for Design and Architecture, which comprises a visitor centre, exhibition space, cafe and an events venue in Glasgow, and bodies such as the Royal Incorporation of Architects in Scotland, which is celebrating its centenary with the 2016 Festival of Architecture.

Now emerging in Dundee is V&A Museum of Design, Dundee a new international centre of design for Scotland, one that aims to help transform our understanding of how vital design is to our lives. The project is being delivered by Design Dundee Limited, a partnership between the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, Dundee City Council, Scottish Enterprise and the universities of Dundee and Abertay with Creative Scotland providing capital support. Dundee has also recently become the UK’s first UNESCO City of Design and has developed the first Dundee Design Festival.

Craft is supported through Craft Scotland, the national agency who work to unite, inspire and champion craft in Scotland. They create opportunities for Scottish makers to exhibit, sell and promote their work and provide training to support them. They run exhibitions and events that connect the public with the Scottish craft sector, often working with partner organisations. These include presentations of Scottish craft in national and international showcases, putting Scotland on the map as a nation with a talented and distinct craft community.
In addition, a number of Creative Scotland Regularly Funded Organisations provide a rich landscape for craft. Three such organisations are: Dovecot in Edinburgh – which comprises a tapestry studio, gallery and foundation and is the only weaving studio in Scotland and a centre of excellence; North Lands Creative Glass, Scotland’s centre of excellence for glass making, which is located in Caithness on the North East Coast of Scotland and is a centre for the study and development of glass as an artform; and Fife Contemporary Art & Craft, which is a visual art and craft organisation based in St Andrews, Fife. Their programme is not delivered from a single venue, but delivered across Fife through varied partnerships in all kinds of places. The organisation has also developed an online store called treat to promote and sell high quality contemporary craft to a wider public. In Dumfries and Galloway, in SW Scotland, Upland is a rural-based visual art and craft development organisation. Its work includes creative and professional development support for artists and makers at all stages of their careers and international showcasing. Between 2003 and 2014, its open studio event, Spring Fling has attracted over 100,000 visitors who have made almost 300,000 studio visits and spent £1.8m on art and craft from these studios.

In the area of Fashion and Textiles, Fashion Foundry (delivered through the Cultural Enterprise Office) is a business incubator and talent hub for fashion and textile designers in Scotland. Offering a mix of studio space, mentoring and business skills development, it supports links to industry collaborations with high profile fashion organisations. Fashion Foundry also runs the Fashion Co-ordination Group with industry, the public sector and trade partners meeting to decide how we work together to develop the sector. Scotland Re:Designed is an international platform for fashion, textiles, accessories and interior design, working with international fashion industry experts and buyers to select and support emerging designers. Future Textiles, in collaboration with Glasgow Clyde College (Cardonald Campus) and Ayrshire College, brings together industry and education in a unique setting, training the next generation of talent with skills for the textile industry. A range of partners have committed to the project, including Marks & Spencer’s, Johnstons of Elgin, Beggs of Scotland (Moorbrook Textiles), MYB Lace, Balmoral Knitwear and Mackintosh.

Scotland is the home to two of the leading computer games clusters in the UK – in Dundee and Edinburgh. Each city is the home to a mix of companies and both have a high-level industry leader (4J studios in Dundee, Rockstar North in Edinburgh). Creative Scotland works with the games sector on a number of levels, recognising that this sector has got a particular resonance in Scotland with strong grass roots and an active Higher Education sector. The Dare Protoplay event in Dundee is styled as the UK’s biggest indie games festival and there have been a number of innovative projects aimed at broadening the impact of games sector expertise, including the Creative Scotland Innovation Fund and the Sync and Nesta Digital R&D programmes – also funded by Creative Scotland.

In addition Scotland has industry bodies such as Publishing Scotland (Go See and Go Digital Funds; SME support; presence at international trade book fairs) and the Scottish Music Industry Association who represent and promote a wide range of music industry representatives in Scotland.
Scotland is also home to leading creative industries festival XpoNorth, known as goNORTH until 2014. The only festival of its kind in Scotland covering crafts, fashion and textiles; writing and publishing; screen and broadcast; and music. XpoNorth is a unique event in the UK’s cultural calendar taking place over two exciting and energising days and nights in Inverness.

In October 2014 we published Creative Scotland On Screen 2014-17, a strategy that identifies our priorities for the screen sector over the next three years. Working with industry and public partners, the ambition envisaged by the Strategy is to generate the conditions necessary to position the screen sector at the heart of Scotland’s economic and cultural life and to achieve the ambitions set out in Creative Scotland’s ten-year Strategic Plan in the context of screen.

Creative Scotland has an annual £4m film fund (supported by the UK National Lottery), through which we support Market and Festival Attendance, Single Project Development Funding, Slate Development Funding, Production Funding and Distribution and Exhibition Funding. We support the development and production of live action and animated feature films, feature documentaries, animated and live action drama television series.

Creative Scotland’s support for Screen is currently in the region of £9m annually, from an overall budget of £93m (approximately 10%).

Our support for Screen includes three-year funding support for film organisations such as the Centre for the Moving Image (incorporating the Edinburgh Filmhouse, the Edinburgh International Film Festival and the Belmont Cinema, Aberdeen); Glasgow Film (incorporating the Glasgow Film Theatre and the Glasgow Film Festival); Regional Screen Scotland, the development agency for cinema facilities and organisations in Scotland, from independent cinemas, film clubs and film festivals and which runs the Screen Machine, taking film to communities in the Highlands and Islands; and Film Hub Scotland which aims to develop film education and distribution across all parts of Scotland and across diverse communities. We also support individual filmmakers through artist’s bursaries, and now through Open Project Funding. In addition, ‘multi art-form’ organisations that we support on a three-year funding basis also present film as part of their broader programme. Such organisations include Dundee Contemporary Arts and Eden Court in Inverness (both of which have cinemas and extensive film programmes); Mareel in Shetland and An Lanntair in Lewis (both of which have film programmes screening in their flexible spaces).

We recently launched, in collaboration with the Scottish Government, a £1.75m Production Growth Fund for the period to March 2017, which is designed to stimulate growth in film and high-end TV production by providing an additional incentive (over and above the existing UK Tax Credits, the UK Tax Credit Advance Facility and complementing the £4m Film Fund) for major international productions to come to Scotland, as well as increasing funding available for Scottish productions. This will give Scotland a competitive edge in addition to its already internationally renowned crews, talent and locations. We also offer a UK Tax Credit Advance Facility that provides a loan to productions against the proceeds of the UK Film, High-End TV and Animation Tax Credits.
Separately, we support a range of talent development initiatives, including the Scottish Film Talent Network in partnership with the BFI (Creative Scotland’s largest single investment in the development of new and emerging filmmaking talent – writers, directors and producers – to get to their first feature developed) and the £1m Screen Skills Fund (supporting twelve organisations to deliver skills development and training opportunities in the Scottish screen industry).

Creative Scotland runs Scotland’s Screen Commission, which is a free, and fully confidential locations finding service. It works on a national and international basis actively promoting Scotland at markets and festivals as a premier filming location and its highly experienced craft and technical crew base and facilities providers.

Creative Scotland also hosts the Creative Europe Desk UK-Scotland, which promotes awareness and understanding of the Creative Europe programme, provides free advice and support for applicants from the UK and organises workshops, seminars and industry events. Creative Europe is the European Commission’s €1.5Bn financial support programme for the creative, cultural and audiovisual sectors in Europe. The current programme, which will run up to 2020, brings together a Culture sub-programme, which provides funding for the cultural and creative sectors, and a MEDIA sub-programme, which invests in film, television, new media and games.
This appendix was written in support of the Creative Scotland Creative Industries Strategy 2016-17. The strategy and all supporting appendices and resources is available at www.creativescotland.com/creativeindustries