



Time To Shine

Scotland's Youth Arts Strategy
For Ages 0-25



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Equal opportunities

Creative Scotland operates an equal opportunities policy. Our offices have disabled access. Certain publications can be made available in Gaelic, in large print, Braille or audio format. Contact Enquiries on 0845 603 6000
Typetalk please prefix number with 18001

Cover: Solar Bear's Deaf Youth Theatre Production
The Birthday of the Infanta.
Photo: Courtesy of Solar Bear.

2

**Vision, Mission
& Themes**

4

**Ministerial
Foreword**

6

Background

9

Introduction

10

**Where We
Are Now**

12

**Where We
Want to Be**

17

**How We'll
Get There**

21

**Strategic
Objectives**

24

**Let's Get
Started**

Vision

Support all Scotland's children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity.

Mission

To establish Scotland as an international leader for children and young people's arts and creativity.*

Themes

Participation – creating and sustaining engagement

Progression – nurturing creativity and talent

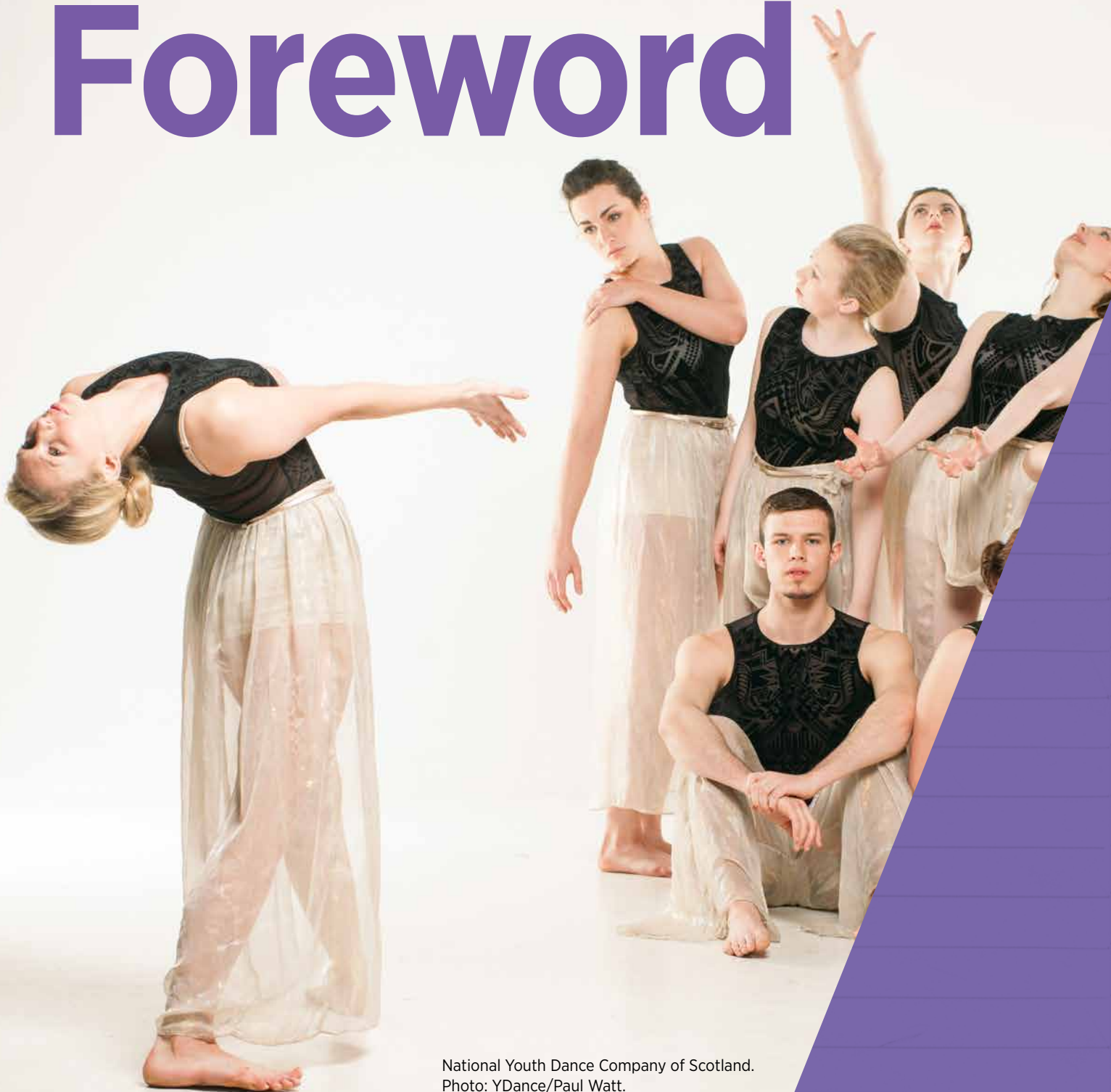
Provision – developing infrastructure and quality

* **Definition:** Children and Young People's Arts: Young people aged 0-25, engaging in any creative, expressive or cultural activity in any environment.



Bookbug - Scottish Book Trust's Early Years Programme encouraging parents and children to read together from birth. Photo: Paul Watt.

Ministerial Foreword



National Youth Dance Company of Scotland.
Photo: YDance/Paul Watt.

I am delighted to launch *Time To Shine*, Scotland's first ever Youth Arts Strategy. This is a landmark document and an important step to achieving our ambitious but realistic, long-term goal of establishing Scotland as an international leader in children and young people's art.

This strategy will reinforce the wider benefits and positive impacts of culture to the development of our young people and their communities. It makes explicit the already well-established links between culture, education, youth employment and personal development. It will not only provide enhanced access opportunities for all of Scotland's young people but it will also create career pathways for Scotland's talent of the future – be it on stage, the screen, behind the scenes or in our world-leading creative industries. Most importantly of all, this engagement with culture will nurture personal qualities that will help our young people to grow confidently as citizens and towards realising their ambitions, wherever they may lie.

We are not starting from the very beginning, as this strategy builds upon the strong foundation of a vibrant and forward thinking youth arts sector which is already the envy of much of Europe. We are exceptional in having a range of National Youth Arts Companies for theatre, music and dance and are blessed with many energetic and visionary stakeholders such as Sistema Scotland and Fèisean nan Gàidheal. Furthermore the arts already feature prominently as part of our innovative *Curriculum for Excellence* which recognises that the expressive arts provide opportunities to underpin and enrich learning in all other curriculum areas. However, we cannot be complacent and must seize the opportunity to build upon this success and improve provision within every community across Scotland, in order that every young person can benefit from, and be enriched by, culture.

This is why we conducted a national discussion on the youth arts, and the expertise, knowledge and passion of the nearly two thousand stakeholders that contributed were vital in shaping this strategy. The views were varied and there were areas of contention, yet there was a clear consensus across all of those we consulted – the young people, supporters, artists, organisers, deliverers and funders – that to become an international leader in youth arts, we must put young people at the very heart of what we do. This is exactly what this strategy seeks to achieve – by removing the barriers, be they physical, social or economic, which prevent young people growing, developing and realising their potential through the arts, as creators, as professionals or as young enthusiasts.

Time To Shine is a comprehensive, yet practical strategy centred around the three key themes of creating and sustaining engagement, nurturing potential and talent and developing the infrastructure and support. Yet at its heart lies a very simple commitment – to enrich young people's lives through the arts and creativity. The Scottish Government believes that our culture is of us all, and for us all, and that we should all have the opportunity and the enthusiasm to participate in art and in culture. It is our duty to encourage our children and young people to learn a love, a curiosity and a value for culture, regardless of their class, background or where they live. We know that immersion in cultural activity can help bolster the future resilience and well-being of communities and individuals and nowhere is this more important than in our children and young people. This is an investment that we are only too pleased to make.

Fiona Hyslop
Cabinet Secretary for Culture
and External Affairs

In 2009¹ the Chairs and Chief Officers of the National Youth Choir of Scotland, The National Youth Orchestras of Scotland, the Scottish Youth Theatre and YDance (Scottish Youth Dance) met and produced a “Concordat of Intent” that included the following statement;

“That (we) are united by a common purpose to create opportunities for young people in Scotland in the performing arts – and that (we) are committed to do so in a manner that embodies the twin principles of access and excellence.

(We) believe (our) individual and collective history of achievement over the last three decades is a source of tremendous pride for the country, and the skills (we) have encouraged and developed have enriched the lives of tens of thousands of Scots as participants and audience.

(We) are convinced of the need to extend the reach and nature of these opportunities; of the benefits that will accrue to young people and to the country as a result; and of (our) ability to work together, and with other strategic partners, to make this a reality.”

Key questions

Throughout the national discussion the following three key questions were asked:

- **Where are we now?**
- **Where do we want to be?**
- **How will we get there?**

This enabled all participants to reflect on what is currently done well, what could be improved and what still needs to be done to achieve our ambitions.

The creation of this strategy would not have been possible without the considerable expertise, knowledge and passion of the 1,802 stakeholders (including 859 young people) contributed. The strategy has been further informed by consultation and research.²

Background

Creative Scotland was then asked by the Scottish Government to lead on the drafting of a strategy for Scotland that would create a framework for collaborative working and the development of the arts for children and young people across all artforms including the performing arts, film, visual arts and literature.

In order to fulfil this remit, Creative Scotland initiated a national discussion, and this strategy encapsulates the thoughts and ideas that emerged through that discussion with, and between, Scotland’s young people and the organisers, supporters and deliverers of Scotland’s youth arts sector.

¹ The catalyst for the production of this strategy stems from a discussion paper in 2009 called *Shaping Tomorrow, Today* submitted to the Scottish Government by Scottish Youth Theatre, National Youth Orchestra’s of Scotland, YDance and the National Youth Choir of Scotland.

² Further background on the strategy’s vision, key messages and intentions are evidenced in the supporting document *Time to Shine: What’s behind it*. This summary of the research and reference papers behind *Time to Shine* is available online at www.creativescotland.com/youth-arts-strategy



NYOS Camerata at St John's Kirk in Perth September 2013.
Photo: Ian Watson, Studio Scotland.



Oh-Crumbs, Scary Biscuits! Scottish Youth Theatre.
Photo: John Johnston.

Time To Shine is Scotland's arts strategy for young people aged 0-25. Its core purpose is to enrich young people's lives through arts and creativity.

It is a statement of ambition, determination and it is a starting point. It reflects the opinions of those who took part in the national discussion, and aims to provide direction for all of us – young people, supporters, artists, organisers, deliverers and funders. Starting from now.

It is a reminder that children and young people's arts in Scotland are strengths of our cultural sector – one we all must celebrate and develop. It urges us to become smarter, collaborate more and continue to develop new partnerships, including with non-cultural bodies.

It is inclusive. The strategy speaks to all of Scotland's young people and aims to tackle disadvantage caused by gender, race, ability, experience, geography or any other factor which may inhibit participation.

It is a long term vision, one we are committed to for at least the next generation. We see this strategy as covering the first ten years and we will review progress and direction every two years.

It will empower us to move forward together, and create the conditions in which Scotland can support all young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity.

Introduction

It recognises that engagement with the arts and creativity has huge benefits for individuals and society that cross many national agendas and we want to work to see that recognised and encouraged. It provides the framework for us to celebrate and further support the significant contribution of youth arts to young people's personal development, their well being, their health, their communities, the economy and in helping to make Scotland the best place in the world in which to grow up.

It puts young people at the core of our thinking, at the heart of what we do. It is a reminder to listen and to hear what young people are saying and involve them in decision making.

It deliberately sets out to be as holistic as possible – recognising the different needs and choices of the various age groups within the 0-25 yrs age range. It also recognises that the term 'the arts' can refer to activity well beyond some traditional definitions.

Where We Are Now

There is much to celebrate and we should celebrate our successes and take this opportunity for reflection to make an honest appraisal of the areas where we need to improve our performance.

The Youth Music Initiative is a world class model of sustained support for development of engagement across all learning environments. It is an exemplar that could be replicated across other areas of the arts to achieve even bigger impacts.

Scotland is extraordinary in having a range of National Youth Arts Companies for theatre, music and dance. They are a vital part of the cultural ecology: they provide the chance for our most talented young people to shine on the national and international stage, they help create the household names of the future and they provide access to high quality experiences for young people who may never have had the chance to engage in the arts.

The traditional arts sector and in particular the Fèisean movement spearheaded by Fèisean nan Gàidheal is looked at with envy from many other parts of the globe. There is much that Scotland's young people's arts sector can learn from it in terms of how it is networked, how it reaches out beyond its perceived usual participants, how it identifies and supports talent and how it supports the continued up-skilling of its workforce.

Theatre for young people in Scotland is an acknowledged strength both at home and abroad. Imagnate is an internationally renowned festival for ages 0-18 yrs and it has a magnetic draw for some of the best theatre companies from around the

world. Scotland's youth theatre sector is well networked and, through the work of Promote YT, is proactive in its self-development, while Scotland's production of children's theatre has received international recognition for its quality and inventiveness.

Scotland, and Glasgow in particular, is internationally recognised as an incubator for talented contemporary visual artists. While there are some fantastic examples of arts engagement with young people in visual arts such as Project Ability's Create programme for young people with disabilities, there's room for growth to ensure provision is more widespread.

Similarly, film and literature organisations are committed to working with children and young people through a range of initiatives. To give just a few examples:

- The Scottish Book Trust subsidises school visits by Scottish Writers and runs the Bookbug programme encouraging parents and children to read together from birth. They also provide free packs of books to every child in Scotland.
- The Scottish Storytelling Centre runs professional development courses for teachers.
- Glasgow Film Theatre has a youth team and a youth film festival.
- Filmhouse, Edinburgh has a year round programme of school screenings.

The arts feature as part of Scotland's innovative *Curriculum for Excellence*³ which recognises that the expressive arts provide opportunities to underpin and enrich learning in all other curriculum areas.

“The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our children and young people to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills. By engaging in experiences within the expressive arts, children and young people will recognise and represent feelings and emotions, both their own and those of others. The expressive arts play a central role in shaping our sense of our personal, social and cultural identity. Learning in the expressive arts also plays an important role in supporting children and young people to recognise and value the variety and vitality of culture locally, nationally and globally.

Learning in, through and about the expressive arts enables children and young people to:

- be creative and express themselves in different ways
- experience enjoyment and contribute to other people's enjoyment through creative and expressive performance and presentation
- develop important skills, both those specific to the expressive arts and those which are transferable
- develop an appreciation of aesthetic and cultural values, identities and ideas and, for some,
- prepare for advanced learning and future careers by building foundations for excellence in the expressive arts.

The expressive arts are rich and stimulating, with the capacity to engage and fascinate learners of all ages, interests and levels of skill and achievement. It is therefore important that all teachers and educators look for opportunities within their own teaching approaches for interdisciplinary learning and to foster partnerships with professional arts companies, creative adults and cultural organisations.”

³ www.educationscotland.gov.uk/thecurriculum



Where We Want To Be

Summer Festival 2013, Foundation Course, Scottish Youth Theatre.
Photo: courtesy Scottish Youth Theatre.

Young stakeholders who contributed to the national discussion told us in their own words, what Scotland would look like in the future if we deliver the vision of this strategy. Scotland would be; “an imaginative and smartly creative place”, and “a place where there are no barriers to doing what you want to do”. There would be “lots of people of different ages getting involved in lots of different activities that aren’t too expensive”.

In this ideal world, “children [would be] introduced to the arts from a young age” and the prevailing attitude would be that “arts are not seen as something only some people do but .. seen as a part of everyone’s lives”. Arts involvement would not be an exclusive activity and there would be “plenty of opportunity for all, but with high standards”. These high standards would be achieved by long term investment in our youth arts workforce and infrastructure.

“To be the best place in the world for young people and the arts, everyone would need to work together to create a healthy, dynamic environment” The youth arts sector would work with partner agencies across the social spectrum, to provide life-enhancing opportunities for young people, which would have a knock-on effect on communities. This would help to create “a nice environment”, with “lots of places to do the arts” and “time and space to enjoy”. “Scotland would be the best place to live. Creativity would be more important than violence and crime”.

The opportunities available to young people would be relevant, offering “creative arts that reflects the city and population”. Technology “will be used to bring the arts to new audiences, and people who wouldn’t otherwise engage with art, music or films”.

Young people imagine a broadly inclusive environment, which “would be more culturally diverse, understanding and tolerant”, “where everyone can be accepted with their own unique talent” and “a lot more people would have a lot more confidence in themselves”.

The constraints of geography would be acknowledged and addressed, with “...more workshops and classes in more areas” achieved through commitment from Local Authorities, working in partnership with the sector. There would be “more connectivity across the country” with activity drawn together by national networks and initiatives. Technology will allow for “more possibility. More communication”.

Schools would have “music, drama and book events as part of everybody’s day. And it [would be] ok and not ‘uncool’ to want to take part in these things”. The arts would be “taught and properly appreciated in schools and taken seriously” and school would be “a place where a career in arts is encouraged and viable rather than just some crazy dream”. Young people would have “more support in school when aiming for a career in the arts” so that they “know that they can do what they love when they leave school”. Most importantly, schools would be “a place where the arts is not seen as a second class industry and the non-academic choice”.

Given all the above, “we would have a lot more artistic young people in Scotland” and there would be “many opportunities for learning and advancing music and art abilities in each local council area” and “more opportunities to create and perform work” “and the technology will allow you to achieve great things”.

“It would be amazing to be globally recognized for our arts programme”. “It would be good because more people will come to Scotland which means more money for Scotland and you can meet people from other places.”

In summary, the vision of Scotland is that it would be “an amazing melting pot of cultures and ideas”, “a great place where people would be free to express themselves”. In the words of one young person: “It would make me immensely proud to be Scottish”.

Themes

From all the consultation responses, three key themes emerged and are at the heart of this strategy:

Participation

Creating and sustaining engagement

Progression

Nurturing creativity and talent

Provision

Developing infrastructure and quality

These are the vital areas for development that need to be embraced, improved and celebrated in equal measure. When we have developed our strengths and seized opportunities for further development, we will be on the road to achieving this strategy's vision.

Participation

'A Scotland where young people could fulfil their creative abilities without restrictions'

Young Stakeholder

Young people must be at the heart of our thinking and be involved in all stages of developing arts engagement. It is the context in which opportunities are designed and delivered that determines their validity and the quality of young peoples' experience.

Many factors impact on how, or if, young people engage in the arts: where they live; their family environment; their peers; cost, transport and the availability of local cultural infrastructure. *Time To Shine* advocates for, and will work towards, the removal of barriers. It will tackle perceptions about engagement so that opportunity for access is a reality for every young person in Scotland. It does not differentiate between the value of engagement as an active participant or as a member of the audience; both are of equal importance. The individual young person should decide how they want to engage in the arts.

Progression

'Support what we're already doing, encourage us and showcase our work and achievements'

Young Stakeholder

For some young people with a particular interest in the arts, realising their ambition means developing a particular artistic skill to a certain recognised standard – perhaps even going on to a career in the arts and creative industries. For others, the arts will uncover personal qualities that will help them to grow confidently as citizens and lead towards realising ambitions in their lives that may lie elsewhere. *Time To Shine* places equal importance on both.

Many arts organisations and in particular the National Youth Arts Companies offer frameworks for emerging talent and in the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland we have the benefit of the only Conservatoire in the UK offering degree level courses in all three performing arts disciplines.

Greater information sharing and smarter, national communications would add value and help develop these and other opportunities.

Creating effective access to a range of initial experiences is the first step in supporting and nurturing young people's talent and ambition. We must ensure that we have the mechanisms in place to identify potential and create the link between first access and continued opportunities. We need to support young people to shine on their own terms.

Provision

'It's not enough to simply throw the doors open'

Young Stakeholder

Young people access the arts through public, voluntary or private providers and many receive a high quality experience. However, Scotland lacks the benefit of a coherent voice and body to co-ordinate an agreed framework on quality, take a national overview, advocate, lobby, and share information, ideas and good practice amongst the various networks and organisations that make up Scotland's fertile youth arts ecology.

Scotland has a pool of highly talented, dedicated and passionate artists, practitioners and organisations, working hard to deliver high quality arts activities which cover the twin ambitions of: engaging as many young people as possible; and supporting the on-going development of those with a particular talent. This strategy champions that work, celebrates their contribution and proposes ways to create mechanisms to allow more collaborative working and sustainability.



GMAC Film Solstice project supported through CashBack for Creativity. Photo: Courtesy of GMAC Film.

We're looking forward ten years, imagining this vision for youth arts in 2023 and beyond. This is a long-term strategy that will only work if we all hold on to this vision and work together consistently, across the whole of Scotland, to make it a reality through each of those ten years.

How We'll Get There

Principles

Seven key principles emerged during the national discussion which will guide us to achieving success. These principles are reflected in the strategic objectives that follow this section.

One.

Place young people at the centre of the strategy's aims and ambitions, but also at the centre of plans to deliver the strategy.

Young people will have a central role in shaping the actions that support this strategy's vision. We should all ensure that young people help determine priorities at the local, organisational, and national levels, contribute to how priorities are developed, and play leading roles in evaluating the outcomes. In practice, this will mean working with cross sector organisations, sharing effective ways of engaging meaningfully with young people; providing each other with the training, tools and skills needed to do this; creating ways for young people to share decision-making at different policy levels; and developing robust evaluation tools that prioritise the young person's perspective and lets them contribute to setting the agenda.

Two.

Work within the context of *Curriculum for Excellence* and the other policy frameworks that support young people.

Schools have a key role to play in shaping perspectives on the arts, in opening up a range of opportunities, and encouraging young people to develop an 'arts habit'. Further and Higher Education have a similarly important role in deepening and extending the skills and thinking of our young people. This strategy is included as an action in the national *Creative Learning Plan* delivered in partnership with Education Scotland, Scottish Government, SQA, GTCS, Creative Scotland, College Development Network, ADES and Skills Development Scotland. The arts sector must build on working partnerships with national children's and young people's agencies such as Scotland's Commissioner for Children and Young People, Youth Scotland, Young Scot and YouthLink Scotland to ensure their expertise is brought to bear on developments, and their networks are included in information dissemination. Similarly, connections should be sought and expertise shared with other relevant, national strategy documents such as *Going Further*, the national strategy for Scotland's museums and galleries.

Three.

Work collaboratively; create mechanisms for better information sharing, peer support and networking.

The quality and quantity of arts available to young people across the country will benefit if we get better at sharing knowledge, experiences, learning and challenges. We need a forum and mechanisms to facilitate this. The experience of an individual young mentor and the results of a national action research project are equally important. It does not matter whether an action is publicly or privately funded, large or small scale, commercial or charitable; every action that contributes to the achievement of this strategy's vision for Scotland has its part to play and should be shared for the benefit of all.

Four.

Be proactive in using digital technology.

The priority young people place on the role of technology when making art, music or films is demonstrated by the fact that 80% of those replying to the question on this issue in the national discussion confirmed it was important. Around 70% of young people who completed the online national survey said that they learnt about the arts and arts events from the internet, and when asked if they would like to learn more about how to use technology in a creative way, around a half said they would. Young people are in many instances leading the way. For example, they are making their own films on their smartphones, editing them and distributing them to an audience over the internet. Technology has enabled young people to intuitively understand the relationship between creation, production and distribution. Adult stakeholders have work to do to meet their expectations.

Five.

Work with national and local government.

Increasingly public services are being delivered with the needs of individuals and communities at the centre of provision.

Collectively, Scotland's Local Authorities are the single biggest contributor to the arts, particularly through education services and they therefore have a vital role in the success of *Time To Shine*. The drive to provide more holistic provision is reflected in many national strategy and policy documents including *Getting it Right for Every Child*, the *Children and Young People's Bill* and *Curriculum for Excellence*.

The arts play a vital role in contributing to national outcomes and Local Authority single outcome agreements and we will work to see that this is increasingly recognised and valued. Of particular relevance are the Scottish Government's national outcomes;

- Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.
- Our children have the best start in life and are ready to succeed.
- We have tackled the significant inequalities in Scottish society.
- We take pride in a strong, fair and inclusive national identity.

The implementation of this strategy will play a significant role in fulfilling Scotland's obligations to the United Nations Convention for the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). The UNCRC is a universally agreed set of standards and obligations to protect the human rights of children and requires that Governments report every five years on the progress made on children's rights in their country.

Article 31 of UNCRC declares that;

1. States Parties recognise the right of the child to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and arts.
2. States Parties shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.

UNCRC recently published a General Comment on Article 31, to further raise awareness and deepen understanding of its importance.

Six.

Tackle inequalities.

A number of different factors have an impact on participation levels, including socio-economic status, levels of disability and coming from black, asian and minority ethnic backgrounds. People from BAME backgrounds are under-represented in the arts as a whole and encouraging participation amongst diverse groups of young people, some of whom may opt for careers in the arts, will help to address this imbalance. We need to ensure that we always take an inclusive approach to involving young people in the development of their arts services. We need to hear a wide range of voices including young people with disabilities, those from a variety of ethnic and cultural backgrounds and from across the age range.

The number of young people as a proportion of Scotland's population is shrinking and is projected to do so into the future, although the minority ethnic population has a younger age distribution. Research⁴ shows that those who participate in the arts as children are far more likely to continue that engagement over a lifetime.

Nine per cent of all children in Scotland live in severe poverty and child poverty is unevenly distributed throughout society, with some groups being at particular risk. Around one quarter of children in severe poverty live with a disabled adult.

There is an acceptance that child poverty is about much more than income or resources and access to culture can help to address issues of health and wellbeing, confidence, employability and skills and community engagement and empowerment.

Many young disabled people face the principal barriers of cost and transport. In addition, there are specific barriers which have been identified around lack of support, feeling unwelcome or, in some cases, not

having enough person-centred (i.e. relevant) activity⁵.

There are over 16,000⁶ looked after young people in Scotland and the numbers have been increasing over the last two decades. These young people are more likely to have health problems, be unemployed and at risk of homelessness.

Lack of opportunity, economic disempowerment and discrimination continue to limit arts participation at all levels and the strategy aims to address these factors, taking into account the most significant issues facing young people.

Time To Shine must act on existing and emerging evidence about barriers relating to equality groups.

Seven.

Continually strive for quality improvement.

To achieve the ambition of supporting all children and young people to flourish and achieve in and through the arts and creativity and establishing Scotland as an international leader, we must continually strive to create the best possible quality opportunities for engagement. We must work together building on existing expertise, to create a framework for self evaluation and continuous improvement for sector professionals. We will continue the work already established through the ArtWorks project to define and support the professional skills needed to deliver work in participatory settings, the factors that support quality and improve professional connectivity. We will evaluate the progress of *Time to Shine* every two years to learn from experience and inform future strategic development.

⁴ 2010, *Starting Young?: Links Between Childhood and Adult Participation in Culture and Science – A Literature Review*, The Scottish Government.

⁵ 2009, Youth Arts Consultation (Young People with a Learning Disability) Mencap/Arts Council England.

⁶ 2011, *Children Looked After Statistics 2009-10*, A National Statistics Publication for Scotland.



Pedro performing on the Foundry Music Lab stage at Be In Beltane music festival. Photo: Stuart Westwood

Strategic Objectives

The following objectives are all developed from ideas and ambitions that emerged during the national discussion. These are the priorities for the children's and young people's art sector in Scotland as articulated by the sector stakeholders.

As this is a sector wide strategy, many of these objectives will be delivered collaboratively. Partnerships with organisations across sectors other than the arts will be crucial to successful implementation. Creative Scotland will lead on brokering meetings with stakeholders to develop an action plan based on these agreed objectives and identifying lead organisations and partners to deliver specific actions.

One.

Participation

“Let Me In”*

Aim: To address inequalities and develop mechanisms which allow access for all

Objectives

1. Establish a national young people’s advisory group to advise on the implementation and development of forward plans of *Time To Shine*.
2. Explore the possibilities of extending and building on the success of the Youth Music Initiative to establish a sustained national programme for arts engagement for young people across all art forms.
3. Work collaboratively with organisations across the children and young people’s sector to develop a common understanding of potential barriers to access and a framework for addressing these.
4. Share best practice and initiate action research to develop models of engagement for young people in challenging and complex situations.
5. Work with key organisations across the arts, young people’s, voluntary and local authority sectors to develop and implement a Young Arts Ambassador’s scheme to challenge perceptions of the arts and encourage peer engagement.
6. Explore new ways to enable the National Youth Arts Companies to extend the breadth and depth of their engagement across Scotland.
7. Establish a National Children and Young People’s arts conference every two years to share good practice with the arts and other related sectors.
8. Explore how technology is currently being used and could be used to increase young people’s engagement with the arts.
9. Develop work and increase access to opportunities for the youngest age group and ensure the arts are effectively represented in national early years strategy development across all sectors.
10. Work with partners in formal education to deliver the *Creative Learning Plan* to deliver more quality arts and creative opportunities in the context of *Curriculum for Excellence*.
11. Work with the film, visual arts and literature sectors to develop more opportunities for sustained, national access for young people, particularly developing opportunities emerging through key initiatives such as the Generation project and Film Nation.

Two. Progression

Three. Provision

“Help Me Shine”*

Aim: To create and develop mechanisms to nurture and celebrate ambition, enthusiasm and talent.

Objectives

1. Explore the possibilities for establishing an arts awards scheme for young people across all artforms.
2. Establish a national mentoring programme with two strands: professional to young person and young person to young person.
3. Develop a youth employment initiative to increase opportunities for young people to gain paid employment experience in the arts and creative industries.
4. Explore the feasibility of a creating a mechanism for financial support to ensure that talented young artists can achieve regardless of financial status.
5. Establish, publicise and develop a calendar of young people’s arts events in Scotland to celebrate and showcase talent and encourage family and community support and engagement.
6. Explore how the National Youth Arts Companies can maximise the impact of and the potential to further develop, their international ambassadorial role on behalf of Scotland.
7. Establish a cohort of “arts champions”: established artists, industry experts and ‘household names’ to promote the value of youth arts in society.

“Take Me There”*

Aim: To create and develop infrastructure for the children and young people’s arts sector and ensure continuous quality improvement.

Objectives

1. Explore the feasibility of establishing a national youth arts consortium/network to advocate for young people’s arts in Scotland. It would aim to coordinate collaborative working, and sharing of information and good practice across sectors to enable the effective delivery of *Time To Shine*.
2. Develop regional hubs to act as focal points for young people’s arts.
3. Ensure that all artforms are included and represented in the implementation and further development of *Time To Shine*; in particular film, visual art, traditional arts and literature.
4. Develop a self evaluation framework for those delivering arts for young people.
5. Develop an evaluation framework to assess progress and inform future development of *Time To Shine*.

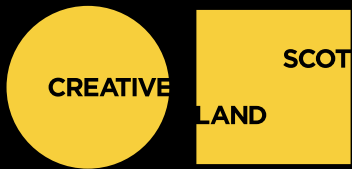
* These headings refer to the animated version of the strategy, available at www.creativescotland.com/youth-arts-strategy

Let's Get Started

Finally, *Time To Shine* is Scotland's strategy. The arts and creativity are vital components of a well rounded and fulfilling life. They build confidence, resilience, imagination, self discipline, literacy, empathy and problem solving and critical thinking skills. They are also fun. This is a cross cutting agenda that impacts on the health, well being and fulfilment of young people and must be a partnership endeavour. In practice, this means that one of the first and most important outcomes of the strategy will be to put all those concerned with provision for young people on the same page – to give us a common purpose and direction. **A clear message emerged from the national discussion that the time to get started is now.**

To find out more about *Time to Shine*, go to www.creativescotland.com/youth-arts-strategy for access to background information, research, and alternative versions of the strategy for children and young people.

For more information or enquiries, email us at youngpeoplearts@creativescotland.com



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Waverley Gate
2-4 Waterloo Place
Edinburgh EH1 3EG
Scotland UK

249 West George Street
Glasgow G2 4QE
Scotland UK

Reception +44 (0) 330 333 2000
Enquiries +44 (0) 845 603 6000
enquiries@creativescotland.com

www.creativescotland.com

[@creativescots](https://twitter.com/creativescots)

ISBN: 978 1 85119 203 8
November 2013