



MINUTES

Board Meeting 1 February 2024 10.00 – 13.40 Waverley Gate Board Room

Present:

Robert Wilson	Chair
Malath Abbas	Board Member
Muslim Alim	Board Member
Yahya Barry	Board Member
Patrick Brown	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn	Board Member
Stephanie Fraser	Board Member
Philip Long	Board Member
Carol Main	Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka	Board Member
David Strachan	Board Member
Heather Stewart	Board Member
Louise Wilson	Board Member

Apologies:

Norah Campbell	Board Member
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In Attendance:

Iain Munro	Chief Executive
Anne Langley	Executive Director, Operations (for item 5)
Ian Stevenson	Director, Finance (for items 5 & 6)
Isabel Davis	Executive Director (for items 7 & 8)
David Smith	Director, Screen (for items 7 & 8)
Lyndon Jones	Minutes

1.	Apologies and declarations relevant to the agenda
1.1	Apologies were noted from Norah Campbell.
1.2	DC noted that he was once involved in the Governing body for the one of the recipients to be discussed in item 6, and noted that he was no longer involved.

2.	Previous minutes
2.1 & 2.2	<u>Board meeting 27 November 23 and Board call 20 December 23</u> The minutes of the meeting 27 November were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting. A discussion on AOB item from the Board call of the 20 December took place to ensure it accurately reflected the discussion at the meeting.
2.3	<u>Matters arising</u> There were no matters arising for the minutes.
3.	Committee updates
3.1	<u>Audit and Risk Committee 16 November 2023</u> The Minutes had been verbally reported at the meeting on 27 November and there were no further comments.
3.2	<u>Finance and General Purposes Committee 1 November 2023</u> Some additional updates were provided following the verbal report at the November Board meeting. The Chairs from A&R and F&GP continue to flow information between both to support the work of each Committee. The Committee has also subsequently received a verbal update from the Head of EDI, including an update on the role of the recruitment of the new EDI Advisory Group. The latest Creative Scotland Annual Review will be discussed at the coming meeting of the Committee, and an additional meeting to discuss the Creative Scotland Annual Plan has been arranged for 6 March. A question was asked on diversity data captured in recruitment processes and it was confirmed that the information was retained and would be shared with the Board through regular reporting.
3.3	<u>Screen Scotland Committee 14 November 2023</u> The Minutes were provided for the record. Nothing further was reported following the Committee update provided at the last Board meeting.
3.3.1	<u>Screen Scotland Agenda 12 December 2023</u> The meeting had discussed the results of the annual Committee self-assessment exercise and would be discussed in item 3.3.2. The substantive item of the meeting was the approval of the Strategy document that would be discussed later in the Board meeting under item 7.
3.3.2	<u>Screen Scotland Committee Annual Report 2023</u> The report provided the Board with the assurance that the Committee was functioning well. It was noted that the sequencing of the report would be brought into line with the other Committees in future reports.
4.	Chief Executive Report
	The Board noted the busy period of stakeholder engagement, highlighting the role and importance of culture whilst acknowledging the financial pressures on public budgets. Also noted was the next in the series of Scottish Government papers called <i>Building a New Scotland</i> , which had a specific focus on culture.

	<p>Creative Scotland was continuing to play a role in the public sector reform agenda, including the ongoing exploration of collaboration in a 'Culture Cluster'.</p> <p>The Board discussed the Scottish Enterprise strategy refresh which moved away from the creative and gaming industries. Joint opportunities would continue to be pursued, however Creative Scotland should continue to grow its leadership role in the Creative Economy. Also underway was the Scottish Government International Culture Strategy development which Creative Scotland will have a keen interest in, and relationship with.</p> <p>From today, 1 February, the National Lottery 4th Licence, under new Operator Allwyn, came into effect. The changes Allwyn will make, will emerge incrementally over time. The intention is to see the income for Good Causes grow over the period of the 10 years of the licence. The Board wished to understand if there would be any immediate impacts on income for Creative Scotland. They were assured that whilst income fluctuated, it was currently manageable and we should not expect to see any sizeable growth for some time. Members also discussed the role of the National Lottery within the landscape of other public society lotteries.</p> <p>Final points to note were the positive recent gathering of UK, Nordic and Baltic Arts Councils, hosted by Creative Scotland in Glasgow, where opportunities for collaboration were discussed. Strategic outcomes would be shared with the Board and linked to the Scottish Government International Strategy when published.</p> <p>Another notable update, following lengthy internal conversations around Creative Scotland's carbon footprint, was the agreement by the Executive for Creative Scotland to stop all UK mainland air travel, except islands travel which was still permissible. This would come into effect from 1 April 2024. The Board also noted the handover of the Lighthouse Building office back to Glasgow Council following the successful move to shared office access with other public bodies at St Vincents Plaza, Glasgow.</p> <p>It was noted the approach to the estates strategy has been a standing item at the F&GP Committee for some time, but given newer Board members, a request was made for the Board to receive an update paper on the plans.</p> <p>The Board were invited to attend the Parliamentary reception on 20 February evening, and to attend earlier that day in CS Offices to welcome the new EDI advisory group. The appointments to the advisory group were underway.</p>
<p>5.</p>	<p>Budget Planning</p>
	<p>AL and IS joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>Building on discussion at the December Board call, the Board were updated on the budget position. The Board were invited to review and discuss the options presented to them on the potential use of the £6.6m restored to Creative Scotland's budget. The options presented took into account the limited ability to deliver any major new funding interventions whilst managing the Multi Year process and other ongoing business. The Board also viewed that any approach needed to manage expectation, especially as this was currently not confirmed by SG as an ongoing financial commitment.</p>

	<p>The Board expressed their confidence that the leadership team understood where the acute funding pressure points were and how they could best be managed. Protecting remaining Transition Funding for unsuccessful Stage 2 applicants would also remain important in other parts of Creative Scotland budgets.</p> <p>The Board supported the approach presented and would await further detail through the Annual Plan approval process at the next meeting. It was noted that the Scottish Government will require to be comfortable with the plans for the £6.6m since expenditure will only be possible via the SG Accountable Officer template.</p>
6.	Culture Collective
	<p>AL and IS remained for this agenda item.</p> <p>Request to the Board to approve 10 Culture Collective awards, where the cumulative total for each award is now over £500,000. Following the release of the final ringfenced funds by the Scottish Government, the proposal, using the time and resource available, would be to provide a top up to the programme participants and allow some targeted approach for developmental projects that have identified gaps in the programme.</p> <p>The Board approved the awards and requested that the evaluations out of the programme are shared to understand how the programme has met its objectives.</p>
7.	Screen Strategy
	<p>ID and DWS joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Chair of the Screen Committee provided background to the production of the strategy, building on the approach and investment since the inception of Screen Scotland in 2018. A presentation was shared with the Board to provide the purpose, priorities, vision and objectives of the strategy along with the outputs and impacts of the approach.</p> <p>Through the discussion, the Board were interested in understanding more metrics to back the strategy, along with how the economic growth will be measured. They also wished to understand the links with other areas of Creative Scotland work, and how they will be brought together through the strategy. Positive stories already could be part of the launch narrative, such as the positive progress on the Screen Education curriculum.</p> <p>The Board approved the strategy and looked forward to the production of the designed document, taking into account the feedback. The proposed date of the launch would be part of the Glasgow Film Festival in March.</p>
8.	Screen decisions
	<p>a Wild Lion Production b Mission Production c Short Circuit Talent development</p> <p>The Board had reviewed the proposals and approved the awards.</p>

9.	Any other business
	<p>Multi Year update – following the Board meeting, members with no conflict of interest in the process would be briefed on the progress so far, and plans for the decision meeting on 15 February.</p> <p>The Board were also informed that the formal Administration process for CMI was anticipated to conclude shortly. In the event that Creative Scotland receives any financial return from the process, the Board was asked to delegate to the Executive and Screen Committee the decision on the use of any funds. All were in agreement.</p> <p>An item was discussed in private.</p>
10.	Date of next meetings
	<p>15 February 2024 Multi-Year Stage 1 Decision Meeting 10.00 – 12.00 Waverley Gate</p> <p>21 March 2024 10.00 – 14.00 Waverley Gate</p>

Rebecca Wilson