

Between March 2020 – March 2022 Creative Scotland delivered emergency funding to Scotland’s arts, cultural and creative sectors in response to the COVID pandemic:

OVER
£151m AWARDED

18,546 TOTAL AWARDS MADE



In 2022/23 EKOS were commissioned to evaluate the delivery of these emergency funds. Amongst the research findings were:

- The emergency funds reached far and wide across the creative sector in Scotland and played a vital role in sustaining the creative sector through the worst of the pandemic.
- The processes for developing and delivering the funding programmes were effective. The high volume of applications and awards, distributed within a relatively short time frame, demonstrated the scale of the achievement.
- The funds reached far beyond who Creative Scotland traditionally supports on an annual basis. More than half of the organisations and almost threequarters of the individuals surveyed had not previously received Creative Scotland funding.
- Applicants rated the application process positively – saying it was clear and straightforward with quick turnaround and payments.
- There is also strong evidence to demonstrate that the funds prevented the loss of jobs in the sector – 82% of the organisations surveyed said that the funds had prevented job losses.
- Organisations put their survival down to these funds when other sources of income had dried up.
- Organisations reported using funding to stabilise their business, meet staff costs and prevent insolvency and job losses. The report did not identify any business failures amongst those that received funding.
- Many felt Creative Scotland had become more open and accessible during this period, and that its reputation had grown in the sector.
- Individuals described funds as a lifeline, providing peace of mind and validation of their worth.