

MINUTES
Creative Scotland Board Meeting
15 February 2018, 11.00am – 2.30pm
Board Room, Creative Scotland

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Barclay Price (BP)	Deputy Chair
Ian Aitchison (IA)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Karen Forbes (KF)	Board Member
Erin Foster (EF)	Board Member
Sheila Murray (SM)	Board Member
Cate Nelson-Shaw (CNS)	Board Member
Karthik Subramanya (KS)	Board Member
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	(note taker)

In attendance:

Janet Archer (JA)	Chief Executive
Iain Munro (IM)	Deputy Chief Executive
Ian Stevenson (IS)	Director, Finance
Kenneth Fowler (KF)	Director, Communications
Philip Deverell (PD)	Director, Strategy (for item 7)
Amanda Catto (AC)	Head of Visual Arts (for item 9)
Alastair Evans (AE)	Head of Knowledge & Research (for item 9)
Claire Byers (CB)	Interim Director, Arts & Engagement (for item 9)

Apologies:

No apologies were received.

RW opened the meeting by thanking everyone, especially Ben Thomson for his time as Interim Chair and the contribution made by Maggie Kinloch and Ruth Wishart. He recognised that Creative Scotland is a great organisation to be involved with and hoped that recent criticisms would allow the organisation to review itself and thereafter move forward from a position of self-confidence.

2.	Minutes of Meeting 2 February 2018
	<p>There was a discussion on how best to record the voting point in the minutes, noting that the Board remained quorate.</p> <p>It was requested that the minutes of the February meeting be adopted as the style going forward, with Board members' arrival and departure clearly marked in the body of the notes.</p>
3.	Matters Arising and Actions
	There were none to note.
4.	RFO update and reflections
	<p>General reflections in the room were that some aspects of the last stage of the Board process had been pressured by the imperative to announce decisions by an agreed date.</p> <p>The view was expressed that had there been more time available to debate the Board's concerns, the addition of further organisations agreed at the subsequent 2 February Board meeting could have taken place prior to the public announcement of RFO awards.</p> <p>Overall the Board was satisfied that it had made the right decision to reaffirm its support for the first 116 organisations recommended by staff, and then increase the budget to enable 5 more organisations to be funded. The Board expressed discomfort with the perception that the Board had changed position in response to the severity of external views.</p> <p>The rationale behind the Touring fund was discussed, as the Board had been informed the sector were supportive of the fund and were disappointed that the feedback following the announcement was different.</p> <p>JA said that the recent period had not been easy for anyone, especially staff who had contributed to the process diligently, but also the sector, who continued to express strong views and concerns on the organisation's decisions.</p> <p>(Karen Forbes joined the meeting at 11.30)</p> <p>It was recognised that whilst sector and media interest was intense and ongoing, the staff had continued to operate with extreme professionalism. Internal communications would continue to be important.</p> <p>RW summed up the reflections: whilst fully appreciating the amount of work that the organisation had undertaken to get to this point, the Board would have benefitted from having more information earlier in January, with more time to consider and make decisions.</p> <p>JA confirmed that the process leading to recommendations to the January Board mirrored the process used for the 2015-18 RFO decisions, but agreed to work to improve on this in the future.</p>

	Action, JA to work with the senior leadership team to consider how best to carry out an after-action review of the RFO process to feed into the strategy and funding reviews scheduled for this year.
5.	RFO Transition funding
	<p>A discussion took place on a request for an additional 6 months' transition funding for Transmission Gallery. This request was made on the same principle offered to touring theatre companies. It was made on the basis of a commitment to explore how to improve support for artist led initiatives across the country through targeted funds in the future.</p> <p>It was noted that Transmission's approach to EDI is exceptionally strong and sectorally relevant at this time.</p> <p>The Board recognised the reasons for the request but, in the context of many organisations making similar requests, reaffirmed its decision to provide 6 months' transition funding for all former RFOs (except touring theatre companies, which would be funded for 12 months).</p> <p>Action: The Executive was asked to explore the use of targeted funds to work with Transmission and the sector to create the space and enable the development of an artist led targeted fund.</p>
6.	Executive Report
	<p>The report was discussed. Current budget conversations were contextualised and the full budget would be discussed at the March board meeting. Overall there continues to be significant pressure on budgets, for the arts in particular. New opportunities to source funding from other areas need to continue to be explored.</p> <p>The CTEER Committee meeting on 8 February on Scotland's Screen Sector had gone well. There was also a request for CS to provide evidence on the process of Regular Funding on 22 February. Board to make a note of the date.</p> <p>(Board meeting broke for lunch and informal meeting with CS staff)</p> <p>The arts and engagement update was discussed. Deputy First Minister John Swinney has agreed to champion creativity in schools.</p> <p>Celtic connections had gone well, with external comments made regarding high youth audience for folk music.</p> <p>Corporate parenting is a legal requirement, which will require training to be undertaken by the Board.</p> <p>The Board discussed other training needs in the context of our Scottish Government Framework document.</p> <p>EDI was reaffirmed as a priority.</p>

	The Screen Unit implementation is progressing and recruitment has begun.
7.	Annual Plan
	<p>The contents of the paper were discussed. Based on previous discussions, the plan framework had been simplified. There were still some challenges around how best to position Screen. It was to be noted that the 2018/19 Letter of Guidance was still to be received from the Scottish government but recent discussions had confirmed that the 2017/18 Letter remains relevant.</p> <p>The Board approved the revised Annual Plan format.</p>
8.	Film Studio
	IS gave an update to the Board on progress of film studio developments.
9.	Review of Scotland + Venice – Visual Arts Programme
	<p>The Board was presented with an overview of the Evaluation Report. A final draft report had been received from the consultants at the end of January 2018 and a small group of Board members had met to discuss this in early February. The full report was available to all Board members. The report is clear that the Venice Biennale is still viewed as a significant international platform for contemporary art from Scotland and that it is the only event of its kind.</p> <p>The report provides strong evidence of the importance and impact of Scotland + Venice from the perspective of those who have taken part, as well as from a wider group of sector respondents based in Scotland. However, the Board asked for the report to include an international perspective and impact. It is a partnership project, and further analysis of those aspects would be good to incorporate also.</p> <p>It was agreed that an update would be brought back to the Board in March. Future investment in the project will be considered as part of setting the budget for 2018/19 at the March Board.</p>
10.	AOB
	<p>There are current vacancies in the Board, for which the recruitment process by the Scottish Government will progress shortly. Screen expertise, age, diversity and geographic base location should be profiled in the Board matrix. A Nominations Committee was suggested to help support the process.</p> <p>The Board wished to record thanks to Natalie Usher for her leadership and work on Screen.</p> <p>The future timing of meetings was discussed to ensure full discussion around Board papers.</p>

	KS indicated apologies for the next Board meeting.
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Approved