



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

MINUTES

Board meeting 24 February 2022 10.00 to 13.10 Via Teams

Present:

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Malath Abbas (MA)	Board Member
Yahya Barry (YB)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn (DC)	Board Member
Stephanie Fraser (SF)	Board Member
Duncan Hendry (DH)	Board Member (until 12 midday)
Philip Long (PL)	Board Member
Carol Main (CM)	Board Member
Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

In Attendance:

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Ian Stevenson (IS)	Director, Finance (for item 4)
Clive Gillman (CG)	Director, Creative Industries (for item 6)
Isabel Davis (ID)	Executive Director, Screen (for items 7 & 8)
Kenneth Fowler (KF)	Director, Communications (for item 9)
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Senior Executive Assistant, Minutes

Apologies:

Ewan Angus (EA)	Board Member
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1.	Apologies and declarations of interest
1.1	Apologies

	Apologies were noted from EA.
1.2	New Declarations of Interest There were no new declarations related to the agenda.
2.	Previous minutes
2.1	Board meeting 20 January 2022 These were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting.
2.2	Matters arising A progress update to the Executive Director recruitment was provided, short-listing will take place in the coming week, with interviews to follow later in the month. EP would be joining the panel for the Executive Director of Operations.
3.	Committee Updates
3.1	Finance and General Purposes – Agenda 9 February 2022 The Committee discussed the CS Annual Review document, which is currently paused whilst the organisation handles the emergency funds. Awaiting an updated timeline. New draft KPI's were discussed with Alastair Evans. Management Accounts movements were noted in relationship with the extra emergency funding and Arts Council England co funded activity. Other budget figures were flagged to note that there is likely to be a deferral of some National Lottery spend into the 2022/23 financial year. The final item was an initial discussion on annual pay review, F&GP committee would be meeting in March to discuss proposals.
4.	Emergency Funding
	IS joined for this agenda item. IM provided an update on the current position on the range of emergency funding from the total amount of £53.5m. Applications for the Cancellation Fund for Creative Freelancers had closed with an overall ask of £3 million, supporting 2,000 applicants. Applications for the Cancellation Fund for Cultural Organisations are being processed with a budget estimated to arrive at approximately £15m, and three large scale applications will come to the Board Sub-Committee for approval under delegated authority. A £2.5m recovery fund has opened for independent cinemas, with applications to be received by 4 March. The Hardship Fund for Creative Freelancers opened on 23 February, with two deadlines planned at £4m each, current applications received stand at 1500 with an ask of £3m so far. In the main they are previous applicants which would aid the speed of processing due to details already in the system. Next Wednesday, the second round of £4m will open. A fund of £1.75m is being made available by SG to the Edinburgh Festivals to allow for a more confident summer festival offer by enhancing the current PLACE funding; Creative Scotland is administering the fund, working in conjunction with the PLACE partners. There has also been an increase of £3.5m to the Open Fund to provide support for project activity and aid recovery. The approach also enables some National Lottery budget flexibility to enhance the level of support into next year. This would leave an estimate of £20m for a Recovery Fund for Cultural

	<p>Organisations to help stimulate activity and strengthen resilience. IM explained the parameters of the fund being drafted.</p> <p>The Board were grateful for the update on the current position and wished to extend thanks to the staff of Creative Scotland for their commitment and dedication to ensure the sector support is delivered as quickly as possible.</p>
5.	<p>Chief Executive Report</p> <p>IM noted the ongoing engagement with the Scottish Government, noting RW and IM would be meeting shortly with the Cabinet Secretary and Director of Culture and Major Events, plus an introductory meeting with the new Culture Minister. CS is awaiting an update on interim arrangements in the sponsorship team due to the Deputy Director moving to Transport Scotland.</p> <p>Other engagement with SG officials was around the Resource Spending Review, with CS participating in an information exercise on investment needs against the Programme for Government and Spending Review Framework. The outcome of the Spending Review is due to be concluded by the end of May and the Board will be kept up to date with progress. Recent announcements about the Levelling Up agenda from the UK Government were raised. Concerns about Local Authority commitments to culture were also discussed.</p> <p>Discussing the annual MSP Survey, IM noted the results followed a trend experienced by other public bodies. In-person advocacy and engagement with MSP's was reinforced as being important, particularly as that had been curtailed throughout the period of the pandemic. Board members would be included in those activities.</p>
6	<p>Future Funding Framework</p> <p>CG joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>Given the impact on capacity in the organisation due to the prioritisation of emergency funds, the Board was provided with an update on the current position, and it was agreed to revise the timelines for delivery. Key specific aspects would continue to be progressed as far as reasonably possible meantime, with a return to the work in detail from April onwards. Implications for the sector were discussed and would be factored into the comms update planned to follow the Board meeting.</p> <p>The Board looked forward to further updates in coming meetings.</p>
7.	<p>Screen Scotland (ScSc) Update</p> <p>ID joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Glasgow Film Festival was coming up next month, in a hybrid format. It is an exciting programme including work and activities supported by Screen Scotland such as Short Circuit Films debuts, and a session on Diversity Standards Chaired by ScSc. The August festivals on TV and Film are likely to be in-person. Talent and skills development continues to be a key priority in the work of the ScSc team.</p>

	<p>The Economic Survey findings are due to be published soon and will help inform future strategy. A further parliamentary debate on public service broadcasters will take place on the 3 March, with David Smith involved in providing information.</p> <p>Infrastructure developments continue positively, helping with the level of requests for facilities in Scotland.</p>
8.	Screen Decision – Short Circuit
	<p>ID remained for this agenda item.</p> <p>The Board was asked to consider and approve Short Circuit, a film talent development programme partnership between Screen Scotland and the BFI. Approval of up to £600,000 was requested, including £100,000 to address access costs and any COVID related challenges. The Board noted that this was a commitment in principle to come from the 2022-23 budget and if approved, would allow initial contracting to begin.</p> <p>The Board were in agreement and approved as requested.</p> <p>It was agreed that wider ScSc budget context would be provided for other activities for any future requests.</p>
9.	Environmental Action Plan
	<p>KF joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>DH left the meeting and YB absented himself for the start of the presentation.</p> <p>KF presented to the Board the key elements of the plan to gather Board input, with an aim to finalise the plan and return to the March Board meeting for approval. Work on the plan has produced two core themes for a proposed approach, Transformation and Climate Justice. These have led to a 'manifesto', action plan and timeline to enable CS to take the themes forward as a development tool with the sectors we support.</p> <p>How this could be taken forward was discussed. Leadership is important, along with the necessary knowledge and expertise. The internal Green Group had been able to progress to this point, but when combined with business as usual, it was a heavy workload, therefore a small team of three appointed into the staff body was proposed. EP is currently the Board representative on the Green Group, with a suggestion that further Board recruitment take this policy area into account when looking at skills. The use of data and insights will help with planning and adaptation, along with the setting of Carbon budgets for CS and the sectors we work with.</p> <p>The Board also discussed the challenges the plan might have, for example regarding financial resources, and the application of criteria we apply in other priority areas. Other challenges include infrastructure, travel and sector capacity to build momentum with the approach. KF confirmed that the sector is on board with the proposed approach and collaborating to share best practice to work</p>

	<p>through the issues. The language of the 'manifesto' was discussed, and all felt that confident positive communication would be key.</p> <p>The Board were supportive of the proposed approach and looked forward to the March discussion. They also requested that Scott Donaldson be invited to the meeting, he has been integral to the approach and design and the Board would like to express their thanks before he retires at the end of March.</p>
10.	Any other business
	It was noted that RW has been appointed as Chair of the Board for a further four years and the Board wished to express their congratulations.
11.	Date of next meeting
	<p>24 March 2022 10.00 – 14.00 In person meeting, venue to be confirmed.</p>

Rebecca Wilson

Approved