



ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

## MINUTES

### **Board meeting 24 March 2022 10.00 to 14.00 Hilton Hotel, North Bridge**

#### **Present:**

Robert Wilson (RW)	Chair
Malath Abbas (MA)	Board Member
Yahya Barry (YB)	Board Member
David Brew (DB)	Board Member
Stephanie Fraser (SF)	Board Member
Duncan Hendry (DH)	Board Member
Philip Long (PL)	Board Member
Carol Main (CM)	Board Member
David Strachan (DS)	Board Member

#### **Apologies:**

Ewan Angus (EA)	Board Member
Duncan Cockburn (DC)	Board Member
Sarah Munro (SM)	Board Member
Elizabeth Partyka (EP)	Board Member

#### **In Attendance:**

Iain Munro (IM)	Chief Executive
Paul Burns (PB)	Interim Deputy Director A&E and Head of Dance (for item 4)
Kenneth Fowler (KF)	Director, Communications & External Relations (for item 8)
Scott Donaldson (SD)	Head of Film Education (for item 8)
Jeanie Scott (JS)	Director, Culture Radar (for item 9)
Ian Stevenson (IS)	Director, Finance (for item 10)
Lyndon Jones (LJ)	Minutes

<b>1.</b>	<b>Apologies and declarations of interest</b>
1.1	Apologies

	Apologies were noted from Ewan Angus, Duncan Cockburn, Sarah Munro and Elizabeth Partyka.
1.2	New Declarations of Interest or relevant to the agenda There were no new declarations relevant to the agenda.
<b>2.</b>	<b>Previous minutes</b>
	The previous minutes were agreed as an accurate record of the meeting, there were no matters arising from the minutes.
<b>3.</b>	<b>Committee Updates</b>
3.1	<p>Screen Committee – agenda 22 March 2022 The Chair reported back from the meeting and referred to the written update provided by Isabel Davis for item 6.</p> <p>Screen activity in Scotland remains high. The Economic value report is in final stages of drafting and should be ready for sharing with the Board in May. Skills development continues across both location and studio filming with photographers from other fields of work joining productions to take stills whilst their normal work recovers from the pandemic. ScSc had a good presence at Glasgow Film Festival. It was also noted the team will be meeting soon to take forward the ScSc strategy with facilitation from EKOS. The Committee had reviewed the Screen Risk Register at length and noted that team resource was changing due to the resignation of one of the Heads, which could result in issues about recruitment in a competitive market and would be monitored.</p> <p>It was reported that discussions on potential infrastructure developments continued.</p> <p>The ScSc update paper would be circulated post meeting, ID or the Chair would be available to address any questions.</p>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Emergency Funds update and Festival Funds approval</b>
a	<p>PB joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>Emergency Funds update IM wished to note his thanks to CS staff for their continued hard work with the processing of emergency funds and shared with the Board the status of the various strands of support totalling an overall budget of £54.5m.</p> <p>A Board Subcommittee, representing the Chairs of A&amp;R, F&amp;GP and ScSc Committees met and approved the awards over half a million pounds from the Cancellation Fund for Cultural Organisations.</p> <p>Overall, the distribution of these emergency funds has supported many of those either known by CS through other funding routes or as previous recipients of emergency funds. However, there have been a significant number of new</p>

	<p>applicants which has led to a new set of relationships and different landscape of activity, which will need to be managed going forward.</p> <p>The final fund being delivered was the Recovery Fund for Cultural Organisations. With additional resources available through balances from other funds, enhanced awards would be made to all successful applicants. The Board requested and received assurance that due process had been followed in making the awards at the higher level.</p> <p>Additional budget for the existing Open Fund would afford an increase in the number of awards given and also add to the National Lottery budget in the coming year, all helping to increase activity as a part of recovery.</p> <p>Funds available for operational overheads had enabled a contribution towards the pension deficit meaning no provision was required for annual repayments in future years with the saving being available for other purposes.</p>
b	<p><b>Place Resilience Funds for Edinburgh Festival</b></p> <p>In support of the importance of the recovery of the Edinburgh Festivals, an additional £1.75m was made available via the PLACE Programme by the Scottish Government. This was delivered as a round called PLACE Resilience Fund, as an addendum to the existing PLACE Year 4 agreements to Festivals Edinburgh members only. Two awards were presented to Board for approval as they exceed the £500,000 delegated authority, for Edinburgh International Festival (£250,00 on top of previously awarded £400,000 PLACE funding) and Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society (£1,580,000). On the day of the panel assessment, it was confirmed that there was further resource from SG which enabled an uplift in awards made.</p> <p>The Board requested an understanding of the whole process to ensure that due process had been followed and value for money was assessed in these awards. It was noted that the pre-assessment work on need had included discussion with Festivals Edinburgh and the Festivals themselves, which is recorded, and the assessment panel had included all public sector partners. On returning the contract, 50% would be paid, with monitoring and evaluation a requirement of the contract.</p> <p>The Board approved the awards at the recommended levels.</p>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Chief Executive Report</b>
	<p>IM noted that overall engagement with SG was positive, noting the Culture Minister now had an additional portfolio commitment with special responsibility for refugees from Ukraine. Work continued on the creative economy report to assess areas for further growth potential, noting positive references to the creative industries in the National Strategy for Economic Transformation. The National Partnership for Culture had published their first report, focussing on key areas that would be considered by the Scottish Government. The report would be circulated to the Board post meeting.</p> <p>With the announcement of the outcome of the competition for the 4<sup>th</sup> License for the National Lottery, the Board would be kept informed of developments.</p>

	<p>The publication of the current audience intention research was imminent.</p> <p>The report contained a range of EDI updates, with a more detailed report planned for the May Board meeting.</p> <p>The report updated on various business operations, noting the opening of Glasgow Office replicating the Edinburgh opening, also taking thinking on the return to office-based working and hybrid approach forward. The Pay Policy briefing gave an overview of the paper that would be discussed at the F&amp;GP meeting on 30 March.</p>
<b>6</b>	<b>Screen Scotland Update</b>
	<p>Isabel Davis was unable to join the meeting and had provided a written paper which would be circulated after the meeting. The Chair of Screen Committee had reported back on some aspects of the report through the Screen Committee update.</p>
<b>7.</b>	<b>Future Funding Framework</b>
	<p>The Board noted that the working group had met, including the Board representatives. Now the emergency funds were going through their final stages, it would enable a renewal of activity on the FFF. This will remain a standing item on Board agendas and return to the May Board meeting with more detail on the forward plan.</p>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Environmental Policy</b>
	<p>KF and SD joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>Summary document and action plan were part of the Board papers, acknowledging and including the Boards comments on language from the February meeting. With Board sign off, the plan would be taken forward signalling the importance of the policy. KF was currently finalising the communications plan with the aim to launch on 22 April, Earth Day.</p> <p>Some comments on the action plan were discussed, including the development of a working group, and the role that CS would play, along with the work and timings of progression of the Future Funding Framework as it would form part of the process. All agreed that progress would not be straightforward to achieve and that it needed sustained engagement with staff and the sector.</p> <p>All were content to approve the approach and documentation.</p> <p>SD was thanked for his leadership in this area and as he was due to retire next week, the Board wished to all express their thanks and appreciation of all his work with Scottish Screen, Creative Scotland and Screen Scotland.</p>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Fair Work</b>
	<p>JS joined for this agenda item to present the Board with the findings of the research undertaken by Culture Radar on Fair Work, along with next steps. It was noted this was a piece of work commissioned by CS for the Scottish Government as an action from the National Culture Strategy.</p>

	<p>The research findings can be summarised through four overarching headings - competition, casual and freelance labour force, structures, and market conditions.</p> <p>The Board discussed the report and findings. The importance of this area of work was stressed and it was recognised there needs to be clear and strong leadership through a variety of key partners, not just CS. For example, SG, sector support organisations, Unions, Local Authorities, with a proposed advisory group or task force to help.</p> <p>There may be models of approach in other sectors that could be used to make progress. As the research began from a SG commitment to Fair Work by 2025, and with people working in the sector keen to see progress, clear actions would need to be demonstrated quickly. Culture Radar and CS would be seeking a meeting with SG to discuss the findings of the research ahead of anticipating publishing in May.</p> <p>JS was thanked for her presentation and the Board looked forward to the development of the work.</p>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Draft Budget</b>
	<p>IS joined for this agenda item.</p> <p>This is an interim discussion on budget, with more discussion and final approval at the May meeting. IS highlighted various budget lines, such as youth arts, additional budget in the Open Fund and the movement of GIA and National Lottery, with the purpose identified as helping towards stimulating activity in the new financial year.</p> <p>Ahead of the May conversation, the Board were asked to approve budget requirements for operating costs for April and May, the increase in Open Fund budgets as noted in item 4, Screen rolling funds budgets and identified Targeted funding items. The Board were also asked to approve the continuation of the current delegated authority policy for two months, ahead of the A&amp;R meeting on the 31 March.</p> <p>The Board were content to approve all proposed budgetary requirements.</p>
<b>11.</b>	<b>AOB</b>
	There were no items of AOB.
<b>12.</b>	<b>Date of next meeting</b>
	26 May Venue to be confirmed.

