

SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION FROM CREATIVE SCOTLAND

Dear Convener

I am writing following on from the meeting of the Economy, Energy and Tourism Committee on Wednesday 4 February 2015, at which the economic impact of the creative industries was discussed.

During the meeting concerns were expressed in submissions to the inquiry that the film sector had not received the support it requires from Creative Scotland through its Regular Funding Programme. We are keen to address these concerns and offer you any additional information you may seek.

Creative Scotland values the work independent producers and individuals working at a grass-roots level across the film sector and recognises that the regular funding process resulted in disappointing news for some organisations.

The demand for regular funding was extremely high. Overall, we received 264 applications amounting to a total budget request of £212m, which far exceeded our available budget of £100m. The final portfolio consists of 119 organisations which will be funded over the three-year period between 2015 and 2018. All applications were subject to a rigorous process involving around 30 people at each stage and specialist knowledge and expertise was called upon throughout. It is also important to note that regular funding is not able to support commercial creative companies set up for profit.

We were pleased to be able to support four film sector organisations and two multi art-form venues through regular funding for the 2015-18 period. They are as follows:

- Centre for the Moving Image (£3,200,000)
- Glasgow Film Theatre (£1,900,000)
- Regional Screen Scotland (£638,500)
- Film Hub Scotland (£188,820)
- Dundee Contemporary Arts (£2,000,000)
- Eden Court (£2,100,000)

The aspiration is that together they play a significant role in progressing the wider ambitions of the sector in the coming years. You can read more about the Regular Funding Film Portfolio 2015-18 [here](#).

Organisations which were unsuccessful in their application for regular funding are now able to apply to our Open Project Funding route. This can support activity up to a two year period through a single application.

Separately to this we also deliver production and skills development funding as well as having in place a team of specialist dedicated film staff who are available to provide advice and guidance to the film industry at all stages of its development.

In addition, we are carrying out a small mapping exercise around the provision for access and participation in film making activities for young adults, this is part of our commitment to continually assess such provision, identifying gaps, and ensuring that it is as far reaching as possible and that best practice is shared nationally. We hope to complete that work before the end of the financial year and put in place measures to ensure this grass roots activity is strengthened.

I would like to reassure the Committee that this mapping exercise did not result in the refusal of any application to our Regular Funding programme, as was suggested by a constituent in correspondence with a Committee Member.

Creative Scotland is only part of the funding landscape and we work in partnership with Scottish Enterprise, the Scottish Government, Local Authorities and a host of other partners to try and create the best conditions possible to allow the arts, screen and creative industries in Scotland to thrive at the grass-roots level.

For example, the Scottish Film Talent Network (SFTN), supported by Creative Scotland, the BFI and Creative Skillset, recently announced the launch of their First Feature Development and Emerging Talent Shorts initiatives, alongside the 14 filmmaker teams selected for the New Talent Shorts programme.

The SFTN initiative is worth £450,000 over the next 12 months – the biggest resource made available for new and emerging talent over the past six years, which represents a major step forward and will help find the next wave of Scotland's international screen talent. The SFTN is part of the UK-wide BFI NET.WORK talent development initiative.

The First Feature Development programme offers opportunities for emerging talent to develop their first feature project, with support covering many areas.

We remain committed to delivering upon the key ambition set out in the Film Strategy: to position the screen sector at the heart of Scotland's economic and cultural life in a nation that celebrates the importance of every aspect of film culture.

I hope this information has been of assistance. Please get in touch should you require any further detail.

Janet Archer

Chief Executive

3 March 2015