

## ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

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COMMITTEE:	<b>Education, Culture and Sport</b>
DATE:	<b>24<sup>th</sup> March 2011</b>
DIRECTOR:	<b>Annette Bruton</b>
TITLE OF REPORT:	<b>Cultural Grants 2011/12</b>
REPORT NUMBER:	<b>ECS/11/009</b>

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### **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To present to Elected Members the recommendations for Cultural Grants for the financial year 2011/12.

### **2. RECOMMENDATION(S)**

That the Committee approves:

- I. The allocation of cultural grants to the total value of £225,287.26 as presented in Appendix 1.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

A total of £385,543 is available within the 2011/12 budget to support the Cultural Grants programme. Applicants were invited to be considered for grants of up to 50% of the costs of their projects, showing either match funding or an in kind contribution.

Eighty applications have been received, requesting funds of £755,354.24. At this time it is recommended to allocate cultural grants to the value of £225,287.26 leaving a total of £160,255.74 remaining for this financial year.

Applications were considered in the context of cultural provision across Aberdeen and, where possible, against cross-cutting support streams provided by Aberdeen City Council, in order to avoid potential duplication of funding.

By providing up to a maximum of 50% of the project funding, the Council's proportionate level of exposure is reduced and is designed to encourage partners to carefully examine the opportunities for a range of alternative funding streams, consider the further development of self sustainability within their projects and look to facilitate partnership working in the delivery of cultural opportunities for the community.

#### **4. SERVICE & COMMUNITY IMPACT**

There is a requirement for all successful applicants to illustrate how their projects connect to one or more of the local outcomes in the Single Outcome Agreement. The Cultural and Active Aberdeen Forums for Aberdeen City lead on the three Local Outcomes lying under National Outcome 13 'We take pride in a strong and inclusive national identity' with local outcome

The projects proposed also directly relate to strands of the following Local Outcomes:

Outcome 2, 'Aberdeen will have high quality employment opportunities for its citizens',

Outcome 3, 'People of all ages take an active part in their own learning to achieve their full potential' and 'Learning and training is appropriate and accessible to learner's needs.

Both local outcomes for National Outcome 4, 'Our young people are successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens'.

Outcome 7. 'Improve the quality of life in our most deprived areas.'

Outcome 12, 'Aberdeen is widely recognised as a City with high quality natural assets, biodiversity, architecture and heritage which instill civic pride in its citizens.'

Outcome 15, 'Our public services are consistently high quality, continually improving, efficient and responsive to local people's needs.'

Guidance for Community Planning partnerships, from the Scottish Government entitled 'Culture Delivers' states: 'Cultural provision and infrastructure is part of the drive for best value. High quality should be promoted, continually seeking to improve its impact on communities and taking account of local aspirations and needs. Cultural activity can also help other sectors and services deliver in ways more closely matched to peoples wishes, and can assist in engaging citizens with civic life'.

#### **5. OTHER IMPLICATIONS**

Other key issues relate to:

- Cultural organisations in the City not being able to continue to operate should Council funding not be granted.
- On occasion external funds will not be brought to the City if matching funds are not made available by the City Council.
- Funds not being used by organisations for the purposes for which they were granted.

These risks have and will be continue to be managed through a robust assessment of each application and through systems to monitor and review funded activities throughout the year.

There are no additional Legal, Resource, Personnel, Property, Equipment, Environmental or health and safety implications arising from this report at this time.

## **6. REPORT**

### **6.1 Grants to Cultural Organisations**

A table is attached as Appendix One which presents all the applications and the recommendations of the Cultural Grants Selection Panel for funding. The criteria for which the selection panel made the attached recommendations for the dispersal of funds included:

- Links to the Single Outcome Agreement
- Links to 'Vibrant Aberdeen' – The Cultural Strategy for Aberdeen
- 50% match funding (in kind or financial contribution)
- Evidence of beneficial partnership working
- Where relevant, a report back on the use of last years funding.

### **6.2 Ineligible Applications**

Five of the applications received did not meet the stated terms and conditions and have been deemed ineligible. This included applications from previous grant recipients who have failed to report back on the use of previous grants and applications which had no match funding pending or secured. Furthermore, applications were received for a Category C (Over £10,000) grant without the required meeting between the applicant and officers being arranged.

Each ineligible applicant will be supported by officers to resubmit their application should a second application process be open.

### **6.3 Provisional Recommendations**

Highlighted within Appendix One, are thirteen applications which have been provisionally recommended for a grant. The provisional nature of these recommendations is based on the organisations ability to meet a range of different requirements. This includes confirmation of matching funding and providing further evidence on the impact and sustainability of the organisation or project. Several of these applications have funding applications or decisions pending from other external funders including Creative Scotland and neighbouring local authorities. Should these provisional recommendations be approved by the Committee, only once the identified requirements have been met will the funding be confirmed.

### **6.4 Deferred Applications**

For the majority of the Category C (Over £10,000) applications received, recommendations have not been brought forward for consideration at this time. The information included within these particular applications was insufficient and there is a requirement to speak in detail with each organisation prior to bringing a recommendation forward to the Committee. Given the increasingly complex issues around funding for cultural organisations, officers feel that, in order to bring before the Committee recommendations which ensure best value, these

further discussions are required. Once the information required has been received, recommendations will put forward to the appropriate committee for consideration.

## 6.5 Internal Applications

Historically, the process for Cultural Grants has allowed for services from within the Council to apply alongside external organisations and groups. Following a review, it was determined that for several reasons this did not constitute best practice and was not a sustainable model. On an operational level, the reduced staff resource in place, coupled with the significant increase in both the support provided to applicants and the overall number of applications received, created a unmanageable process. Furthermore, the previous process also created competition between Council services and external organisations, leading to an environment which was not conducive to increasing partnership working and collaboration.

This change to the process, whereby internal applicants apply at a later date, allowed for officers to utilise the additional time to offer increased support to external applicants and increase the time spent reviewing and assessing incoming applications. The second benefit of this change is that, as internal and external applications are not considered together, it provides a clearer picture of where internal services could potentially support or work in partnership with external organisations or groups. Information on potential external projects will be shared with internal services to explore ways of providing support and increasing the level of partnership working within the cultural sector of the city. The level of funding provisionally allocated to internal projects is based on an average of internal grant awards over the past five years.

## 6.6 Public Art Fund

Pending the completion of the Council's 'Art Engagement' project and the subsequent launch of a Public Art tool-kit for the city, it is recommended to provide an allocation specifically towards the establishment of a Public Art Fund.

The core aim of the public art tool-kit is to encourage and empower residents, communities, artists and cultural organisations to use public art as a key driver in developing the city. The tool-kit will be an easy to use guide which will provide information on how to produce public art including who to contact, potential funding sources and good practice examples. To support and promote use of the tool-kit and to increase the level of public art in the city, this recommendation, if approved, would be used to create a Public Art Grant Fund for the city. This fund would be coordinated by the Council's cultural services who would create a process which would work with artists to actively engage with residents and communities to allocate funding towards specific public art projects.

The fund will also be used to support the development of the European 'Lively Cities' project, of which Aberdeen is a partner. This project has recently been funded through the Interreg IVB North-West Europe programme with the aim of working with European partners to explore ways in which interventions such as Public Art can play in the development of urban spaces. The development of a Public Art Fund allows for the results of this project to be extended beyond the identified pilot areas.

## 6.7 Cultural Support and Training

Following the review and assessment of the cultural grant applications, it is proposed to allocate funds towards supporting increased access to cultural support and training. Many of the applications received clearly highlighted areas where cultural organisations require additional specialised support and training. This includes a need to improve fund-raising initiatives, knowledge of different funding sources, organisational structure, audience development, community engagement, marketing and the ability to attract and retain volunteers.

This allocation would be used to strategically allocate funds to organisations and groups towards training and support with the aim of both ensuring they remain sustainable and continue to develop. In order to action this, all organisations would be asked to detail areas where they require support and officers would consider available options in terms of support and training before making an allocation accordingly. This could range from providing a grant towards volunteer training through to organising a specific event based a round a common theme. With the common sources of cultural funding being both uncertain and increasingly competitive, improving the skills within the cultural sector of the city is seen as a crucial component for ensuring development and sustainability.

## 6.8 Second Application Round

Should the Committee approve the recommendations contained within this report, one further round of applications could be held. Depending on the outcome of deferred applications, any remaining funds could be made available. All unsuccessful applicants would be encouraged and supported to resubmit an application, potentially utilising the additional support and training available to address identified issues. Recommendations from this round would be brought before the appropriate committee for consideration.

## 6.9 Support Provided to Applicants.

During this first round of funding, four two-hour information and support sessions were made available to all potential applicants. Attendance at these sessions improved significantly from last year with thirty in attendance. Further to this, individual sessions were made available and officers met with twenty five different organisations to discuss applications. Finally, the information and support email and phone service was increasingly utilised with over two hundred separate enquiries received.

## 7. REPORT AUTHOR DETAILS

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## 8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

**Appendix 1 - Cultural Grant Recommendations 2011/12**

**Category A – Under £1000**

<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Grant Requested</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>
Aberdeen Chamber Music Club	Concert Series	£600.00	£300
Aberdeen Chamber Orchestra	Rehearsal & Concert Programme	£500.00	£375
Aberdeen Potters	School Garden Project with Dyce Primary	£990.00	£990
Aberdeen Writers Circle	Anthology of AWC writing, workshops and poetry competition	£950.00	£0
Dyce Gardening Club	Erection of Heritage Interpretation Boards	£961.00	£0
Fersands & Fountain Community Project	Woodside Writers Group	£1,000.00	£500
Fleeman Productions	Performance of new doric musical & plays & development of underused venue	£1,000.00	£750
Gordon Highlanders Museum	Signatures of Remembrance	£910.00	£910
Grampian Festivals	Annual Highland Dancing Championships	£500.00	£0
Growing Rosemount	Three 'Celebrate Rosemount' Seasonal Events	£1,000.00	£0

Learig Orchestra	Learig Orchestra	£600.00	£0
Ruthrieston Community Group	Art & Dance Summer Programme	£931.00	£931
Scottish Country Dance Festivals	Dance Festival 2012	£999.00	£0
Spring Tides Poetry Group	Poetry Group	£1,000.00	INELIGIBLE
Vocoustics Promotions	On-going series of live music events & performances	£1,000.00	INELIGIBLE

**Category B - £1,000 - £10,000**

Aberdeen & North East Scotland Music Festival	Annual Music Festival	£2,500.00	£2,500
Aberdeen Centre for Environmental Sustainability, University of Aberdeen	Arts input for ACES International Conference, Aug 2011	£8,050.00	£0
Aberdeen Choral Society	General Running / 2 Concerts	£2,000.00	£0
Aberdeen Opera Company	Phantom	£10,000.00	£0
Aberdeen Sinfonietta	Music Hall Concert Series	£6,000.00	£3,000 PROVISIONAL
Aberdeen Youth Choir	Aberdeen Youth Choir	£7,000.00	£1,500 PROVISIONAL
ACC - Bridge of Don Community Partnership	Scottish Samurai Parade	£10,000.00	£2,000 PROVISIONAL

Act 2 Youth Group	Summer Drama Project	£4,350.00	DEFERRED
AIYF	AIYF 2011 Communities Tour	£2,578.26	£2,578.26 PROVISIONAL
Aberdeen Performing Arts (APA)	New Writing Programme	£7,000.00	£0
APA/Aberdeen Arts Centre	Aberdeen City & Shire Youth Drama Festival	£6,000.00	£0
Bucksburn & District Pipe Band	2012 Concert & Workshop	£5,000.00	£0
Create Aberdeen	A Chance to Dance	£2,968.00	£2,968 PROVISIONAL
Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen	Connecting Polish people in the City with Songs & Ballads	£2,000.00	£0
Elphinstone Institute, University of Aberdeen	Button Boxes & Moothies	£2,000.00	£0
Friends of Sunnybank Park	Park Life	£8,500.00	£0
Growing Audiences North East (GANE)	Audience Development Service	£10,000.00	£10,000
Grampian Youth Orchestra	Spring Concert Weekend	£2,000.00	£0
Granite City Highland Dancing	GCHD Festival	£1,400.00	£1,400
Harlaw Academy/The Belmont	Light Moves	£3,705.88	£0
Huntly Art Reader	One Plus One	£2,000.00	£0
Ithcee Wasp/Banff Castle	Coast Festival	£8,859.00	£0



Jamie R Donald/SMART	100 Days of Celebrity	£2,000.00	£0
Multi Ethnic Aberdeen Limited	Cultural Xtra	£9,725.00	£0
National Trust For Scotland, Haddo House & Garden	Crime Writing Weekend	£5,000.00	£0
NEAT	Continue development of a promoters network & develop a film screening network	£7,000.00	£3,500 PROVISIONAL
North East of Scotland Music School	Development grant	£7,500.00	£3,750 PROVISIONAL
Northfield Community Band Project Slogan	Annual running of NCB Development of programme of events & education at the Gallery	£4,400.00 £6,500.00	£0 £0
Pushing Out the Boat	Issue No.11	£1,500.00	£1,500 PROVISIONAL
Roaring Fire Film Production Ltd	A Thunder-Being Nation	£4,000.00	£0
Sajidah Poole	Youth Stitch In Time	£6,850.00	INELIGIBLE
Scottish Ballet	Two programmes of ballet and associated educational activities	£5,000.00	£5,000 PROVISIONAL
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	Series of Concerts	£2,000.00	£2,000
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	Scrapers & Tooters	£1,420.00	£1,420 PROVISIONAL
Scottish Community Drama Asso.	Annual Programme	£3,000.00	£2,500
Scottish Ensemble	Aberdeen Concert Series Year 4	£10,000.00	£6,500 PROVISIONAL

Scottish Opera	Performance & Educational Activity	£8,000.00	£4,000
Smart Consultants	Tea Cosy, Art, Craft & Design Fair	£8,350.00	£0
Smart Consultants & University of Aberdeen	Fabric of the Land 2011	£10,000.00	£0
Tenants First Housing Co-Operative	Residency at Donside Urban Village	£10,000.00	£0
The Forecourt Art Group	50th Anniversary Exhibition Event	£1,900.00	£750 PROVISIONAL
Torry Arts Forum	Torry Art' Tuesdays	£4,300.00	£3,460
United Front	Change by Lyrics	£2,000.00	£0
WACTheatre	WAC Wednesday Development Programme	£3,450.00	£0
WEA Reach Out	Environmental Art	£10,000.00	£0
Wordfringe	New Words Festival & Development	£10,000.00	£0

**Category C – Over £10,000**

Aberdeen Arts Centre	Programme of Participatory Arts	£114,500.00	DEFERRED
APA	Youth & Community Programme	£28,000.00	DEFERRED
Creative Cultures Scotland	Programme	£20,000.00	DEFERRED
Cultural Enterprise Office	Delivery of services	£16,000.00	DEFERRED
Jay Koh	Intercultural Café	£20,000.00	£0
Jazz Scotland	Year round jazz concerts, Aberdeen Jazz Festival	£20,000.00	DEFERRED
Limousine Bull Artists' Collective	Promote Contemporary Art in Aberdeen	£14,205.00	£14,205
Lions Club of Aberdeen	Aberdeen International Fun Day & Mela	£11,753.10	£0
Peacock Visual Arts	Artistic Programme	£15,000.00	INELIGIBLE
Royal Scottish National Orchestra	Integrated programme of music hall concerts & community outreach & educational services	£20,000.00	DEFERRED
SCAT	Core Activities	£40,000.00	DEFERRED
Scottish Ballet*	Dancing Parallel	£32,647.00	DEFERRED
Sense Scotland	Connect	£18,696.00	INELIGIBLE

Sound	Sound Festival	£16,000.00	£16,000 PROVISIONAL
Station House Media Unit	shmuSOUND	£22,370.00	DEFERRED
Stray Dog Art	2011/12 Programme	£30,436.00	£0
University of Aberdeen	Flagship Cultural Programme	£25,000.00	DEFERRED
Wizard Festival Ltd	Wizard Festival	£20,000.00	£0

**Other Recommendations**

Cultural Support and Training	£20,000
Internal Projects	£60,000
Public Art Fund	£50,000

**Totals**

<b>Total Grants Requested</b>	<b>£755,354.24</b>
<b>Total Grant Recommendation</b>	<b>£225,287.26</b>
<b>Remaining Budget</b>	<b>£160,255.74</b>