Education and Culture Committee

Creative Scotland’s spending decisions and outcomes

Submission from An Comunn Gàidhealach

- The extent to which the new strategic and operational changes have helped Creative Scotland move towards meeting its objectives and rebuilding its relationship with the sector.

  I do not see anything that leads me to believe that the changes have helped us to engage with Creative Scotland in a manner that will allow it to meet its objectives and rebuild relationships with the sector. Our interaction with the organisation is low and we feel detached and side-lined in all respects.

- How Creative Scotland will ensure it achieves value for money in delivering its priorities for investment.

  Our community is excluded so it is difficult for us to say that excellence; access; places; leadership and workforce and connections are delivered or that value for money is achieved. Indeed, when we review many of the investments that have been made we would probably argue that the current model fails to achieve many of these priorities.

- The work Creative Scotland is doing to develop a set of performance measures and how this performance is being evaluated in the meantime.

  Unfortunately, we do not know what is being done to develop a set of performance measures or how this performance is being evaluated in the meantime.

- The tangible benefits that have been achieved as a direct result of its funding structure and how these influence future funding guidelines and decision-making.

  Again, as a non-beneficiary of Creative Scotland support it is impossible for me to speak about tangible benefits. From our point of view, the effort to engage with Creative Scotland has resulted in tangible costs.

- How effectively Creative Scotland works alongside and complements other agencies, such as Skills Development Scotland and Scottish Enterprise, to grow the Creative Industries.

  Since our engagement with Creative Scotland is low, it is difficult for me to comment upon “working together with other agencies”. We work with Highlands and Islands Enterprise regularly and find them receptive and helpful. We are involved in traditional arts and HIE understands the importance of traditional arts forms and also understands that the Gaelic language is our primary objective. This is also true of EventScotland.
From our perspective Creative Scotland has minimal links with the Gaelic sector although they have one joint staff appointment with the main Government Agency (Bòrd na Gàidhlig). They appear to wish to work with a small selection of favoured organisations in our sector. These organisations have differing Gaelic credentials. Whether they could operate without this support is questionable.

Creative Scotland provides no support whatsoever to the National Mòd each year and we feel that is an indictment of Creative Scotland. The Royal National Mòd is the main window through which the Scottish (and wider) community views the Gaelic world and Creative Scotland should be a part of that picture. They are not; nor do they want to be. In our view it is unlikely that they have the capability to grow an industry.

Sadly, from our point of view they fail our Gaelic community - the Gaelic Traditional Arts community and the Gaelic Creative community. We do not see effectiveness; nor partnership working, nor support. Our view is dominated by superiority; favouritism; challenging funding applications with considerable delays and co-operative working with the favoured few only.

I regret the fact that this submission is negative. We are frustrated with Creative Scotland and wish to see major changes in the organisation.

Thank you for giving us the opportunity submit our views.

John Morrison / Iain Moireasdan

Chief Executive / Ard-Oifigeir
An Comunn Gàidhealach
Balnain House/ Taigh Bhail an Athain
40 Huntly Street/ 40 Sraid Hunndaidh
INVERNESS/ INBHIR NIS
IV3 5HR
TELEPHONE / FON: 01463 709705 - FAX / FACS: 01463 715557

http://www.ancomunn.co.uk/