

PE2030/I: Review cultural funding arrangements to enable Scotland to contribute to the Venice Biennale in 2024

Creative Scotland written submission, 26 March 2025

Scotland + Venice is a major international initiative showcasing Scotland's contemporary art and architecture at the Venice Biennale. It provides a global platform for Scottish artists, fosters international cultural exchange, and strengthens Scotland's presence within the visual arts and architecture sectors.

Scotland + Venice has been developed over twenty years as an official Venice Biennale collateral event and had established a reputation as one of the Biennial's most exciting events. Involvement in the Biennale was paused in 2023 to enable the Partners to determine the future viability of the project and the effectiveness of the current approach.

The Scotland + Venice Partners are Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland, the National Galleries of Scotland, V&A Dundee, Architecture and Design Scotland and the Scottish Government.

In 2024, the consultancy Culture Radar reviewed Scotland's participation in the Venice Biennale, including consultation with the visual arts sector. Creative Scotland, British Council Scotland and the National Galleries of Scotland lead on the Art Biennale, with the majority of the budget drawn from Creative Scotland's National Lottery funding. The aim of the 2024 review is to deliver research and conclusions that will enable the current Scotland + Venice Partners determine the future viability of the Scotland + Venice project, the effectiveness of its approach, and consider alternative options for the future.

The Scotland + Venice Partners will publish the 2024 Review in the coming weeks and set out our plans for the project in 2026.