

## Cross-Party Group Annual Return

### Name of Cross-Party Group

### Cross-Party Group on Culture and Communities

**Date Group Established** (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

01/09/2021

### Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

2/10/2023

### Date Annual Return Submitted

06/10/2023

**Date of Preceding AGM** [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2022 was the first AGM since the group was established in 2021.

### Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

Please note that the CPG Culture and Communities works in tandem with the CPG Creative Economy. There are two meetings of each group annually: making four meetings in total annually covering the wider culture sector.

### **21st September 2022**

MSP Attendees 5

Non-MSP Attendees 30

We held the AGM and meeting on the theme of connection and belonging in September 2022.

We heard from three guest speakers, who provided a snapshot of their work with communities.

Caroline Brown (University of Dundee) Head of Archive Services at the University of Dundee. Caroline discussed the role of archives in community life and the power of stories, including looking into the past to help understand the present and remember where we come from.

Archives have a role in justice, mental health services and are a good resource for schools.

Jane Miller from the National Museum of Scotland discussed how the collections can be a tool in connecting communities and reducing isolation. They are also working on the social impact of the museum.

Chris Kelly, Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust discussed the range of activities they deliver to improve health and wellbeing in the community. Many involve working with professional artists including photography and print. These activities can have transformational impacts.

Discussions focused on the need for evidence to demonstrate the impact of arts in health, the challenges of sustaining the impacts of short term interventions or projects, the need to often manage health intervention activities rather than enabling it to be purely community driven and the risks to community arts due to the crisis of and the general collapse of community infrastructure.

### **28<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

## MSP Attendees 3

## Non-MSP Attendees 31

A meeting was held in February 2023 to discuss the culture sector and the cost-of-living crisis. We heard from three guest speakers, who provided a snapshot of the work of their work with communities during the cost-of-living crisis.

Lewis Hou gave a presentation on his work facilitating a series of sector-wide discussions on Social Inequalities, Culture, wellbeing and libraries. The aim of these discussions were to discover what is happening across libraries and culture to support social inequalities including the cost of living crisis, and collaborations that are developing in real time to respond to these needs.

A series of developing recommendations for improving community based culture and wellbeing in Scotland:

- Working inclusively and intentionally with communities to support cultural democracy and wellbeing
- Valuing workforce mental health, wellbeing and diversity during the cost of living crisis
- Sharing learning, resources and connections across sectors locally and nationally to support more integrated culture and wellbeing activities
- Reimagining what a more sustainable funding and ecosystem nourishing culture and wellbeing could look like
- Building an informed wider movement advocating for culture's role in mental health, wellbeing and social inequalities.

Anne Gallacher gave a presentation on Luminate's work with their Dementia Inclusive Singing Network, which helps people affected by dementia take part in singing groups and choirs across Scotland. The benefits the group brings to participants and the landscape challenges affecting the network's work were highlighted.

Luminate take a rights-based approach to delivering all their activity, including the dementia inclusive singing network.

In terms of the Dementia Inclusive Singing Network, the work is underpinned by research finding that community-based activities are integral to dementia support.

The network faces a number of challenges including volunteer numbers dropping, raising core funds, accessing appropriate as a result of further cuts, many Local Authorities are increasing venue hire charges to unaffordable levels, lack of ability to work with musicians.

Jasmine Main gave a presentation focused on experiences from her work as Creative Engagement co-ordinator with the Ayr Gaiety Theatre, including delivering the Ayr Gaiety partnership Culture Collective Program.

The Ayr Gaiety partnership multiple projects including dementia friendly theatre, a theatre company for adults with additional support needs, a board for young people with care experience and a creative writing project in Wallacetown, South Ayrshire. The group became a way for participants to access a number of different services: A food bank, clothes bank, community meals and NHS dentistry.

To facilitate working with communities, it was essential to provide access to more immediate needs – food, warmth, shelter and medical treatment. This is not something that an arts organisation can necessarily support, so partnerships were essential.

People through the door is only the first barrier. Culture Collective funding not being extended will leave a cliff edge for projects such as the Ayr Gaiety Partnership's creative writing project.

Neil Gray MSP (who was Culture Minister at the time of the meeting) joined the meeting to provide a short update on the Scottish Government's perspective on the cost crisis experienced by the sector.

He outlined that the Government are doing all they can to respond to the issues facing the sector. He described the Government as being in "listening mode" to the concerns of the sector, while highlighting that due to inflation the 2022-23 budget is worth around £1.7 billion less than when it was introduced to Parliament in December 2021.

He re-iterated his determination to do all he can for the culture sector.

Below are a summary of questions and proposals discussed by the minister and guest speakers

The access to community space issue is worsening, how can we re-imagine a system for access to community space that isn't based on reactivity?

Would Scottish Government consider convening a short-term working group to better understand the potential of cross-portfolio working? I.e. engaging with govt health team to share understanding of possibilities for culture to contribute to health outcomes.

In the context of fiscal pressures, what approaches are organisations taking to balancing the need for income generation with the need to make services free at point of use?

Is there potential for community spaces such as libraries to be more creative about insurance policies – there is an issue at the moment where some community spaces can't be insured for use at night – could something be done to change this?

The essential nature of regular, consistent activity and engagement with participants was highlighted. Consistent provision is what has positive impacts on wider health outcomes.

More can be done to ensure sustainable employment opportunities for part time or freelance workers.

More research is needed into social prescribing – both looking at approaches in different countries, and into what is already being done and what is possible in Scotland. There is also work to be done to join the dots between culture, wellbeing, sustainable development and community wealth building.

Convener and secretariat to meet to discuss how best to continue these conversations in the next CPG meeting.

**MSP Members of The Group**

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Sarah Boyack MSP – Labour  
Michael Marra MSP – Labour  
Claire Baker MSP – Labour  
Foyso Choudhury MSP – Labour  
Clare Adamson MSP – SNP  
Sharon Dowey MSP – Conservative

### **Non-MSP Members of The Group**

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

<b>Individuals</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>BS</b>
	<b>Amanda</b>	Catto
	<b>Amy</b>	McNeese-Mechan
	<b>Andy</b>	Henry
	<b>Andy</b>	Robertson
	<b>Angela</b>	Adams-Gray
	<b>Anna</b>	Stapleton
	<b>Archippus</b>	Sturrock
	<b>Ariel</b>	Killick
	<b>Ashley</b>	Smith Hammond
	<b>Brendan</b>	Moon
	<b>Brian</b>	O hEadhra
	<b>Bryan</b>	McDowall
	<b>Callum</b>	Beesley

<b>Caroline</b>	Brown
<b>Catherine</b>	Findlay
<b>Catriona</b>	Patterson
<b>Chantal</b>	Guevara
<b>Clare</b>	Gunn
<b>Claricia</b>	Parinussa
<b>Conor</b>	Joseph
<b>David</b>	Nicholson
<b>David</b>	Francis
<b>David</b>	Stevenson
<b>Donna</b>	Hedde
<b>Douglas</b>	Chalmers
<b>Duncan</b>	Bremner
<b>Emma Jayne</b>	Park
<b>Erinna</b>	McElhinney
<b>Eve</b>	Nicol
<b>Frances</b>	Davis
<b>Frazer</b>	MacDonald Hay
<b>Freya</b>	Taylor
<b>Gary</b>	Kerr
<b>Hester</b>	Parr
<b>Jane</b>	Humphries
<b>Janie</b>	Nicoll
<b>Jean</b>	Cameron

<b>Jean</b>	Urquhart
<b>Jen</b>	McGregor
<b>Jennifer</b>	Hunter
<b>John</b>	Cairns
<b>Julien</b>	Pierrefeu
<b>Kate</b>	Seiler
<b>Kirstie</b>	Jamieson
<b>Kirsty</b>	Miller
<b>Kirsty</b>	Keay
<b>Laura</b>	Black
<b>Lisa</b>	Cowan
<b>Lizzie</b>	Smith
<b>Lori</b>	Anderson
<b>Lyndsey</b>	McLean
<b>Matt</b>	Brennan
<b>Matthew</b>	Ward
<b>Matthew</b>	Whiteside
<b>Morvern</b>	Cunningham
<b>Mairead</b>	Nic Craith
<b>Nicola</b>	Walls
<b>Nicole</b>	Smith
<b>Orchid</b>	Liu
<b>Paul</b>	Cockburn
<b>Rachel</b>	Kareem



	<p><b>Rebecca</b> Finkel</p> <p><b>Rosie</b> Al-Mulla</p> <p><b>Sarah</b> Harbison</p> <p><b>Saskia</b> Maxwell</p> <p><b>Saoirse</b> Sweeney</p> <p><b>Susan</b> Garnsworthy</p> <p><b>Trudi</b> Collier</p> <p><b>Ullrich</b> Kockel</p> <p><b>Veronique</b> Lapeyre</p>
<b>Organisations</b>	<p>Active Inquiry Art27</p> <p>ART27 SCOTALND CIC</p> <p>Art27 Scotland</p> <p>Artlink Central</p> <p>Artlink Edinburgh</p> <p>Arts &amp; Business Scotland</p> <p>Arts Culture Health &amp; Wellbeing Scotland</p> <p>Association of British Orchestras</p> <p>ATLAS Arts</p> <p>Board na Gaidhlig</p> <p>Bunbury Banter</p> <p>Carey Tourism</p> <p>Ceangail</p> <p>Collins and Goto Studio</p>

Community Archives Heritage Group Scotland  
Network & Scottish Council on Archives  
Community Enterprise  
Community Leisure UK  
Community Policy Forum  
Corps Consulaire  
Creative & Cultural Skills  
Creative Edinburgh  
Creative Lives  
Creative Scotland  
Creative Services (Scotland ) Ltd  
Culture collective  
Culture Commons  
Culture Counts  
Culture Counts  
Culture Counts  
Culture Perth and Kinross  
Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and Isles  
(CHARTS)  
Cutting Edge Theatre  
Director, V&A Dundee  
Dogstar Theatre Company  
Dundee Contemporary Arts  
Edinburgh College-Creative Industries Faculty

Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society  
Edinburgh International Festival  
Engage Scotland  
Equity  
Feis Rois  
Federation of Scottish Theatre  
Festivals Edinburgh  
Film Access Scotland  
FST  
Glasgow Film  
Glasgow Film Theatre  
Glasgow Life  
Grampian Hospitals Art Trust  
Historic Environment Scotland  
Historic Environment Scotland  
Horsecross Arts (Perth Theatre & Concert Hall)  
Impact Arts (Projects) Ltd  
Industrial Museums Scotland  
Industrial Museums Scotland  
Industrial Museums Scotland  
Leith Theatre  
Live Music Now Scotland  
Luminate  
Luminate

Lyth Arts Centre

Making Music

Matchbox Cine

MG Alba

National Library of Scotland

National Lottery Heritage Fund

National Trust for Scotland

Nevis Ensemble

New Media Scotland

Newcastle University, Live Music Exchange

North Edinburgh Arts

Nutshell Theatre

One Dance UK

One Dance UK

OnFife

Quantum Communications

Queen Margaret University

Regional Screen Scotland

Regional Screen Scotland

Rothesay Pavilion

Royal Society of Edinburgh

SCAN

SCAN

Scene Stirling (Place Partnership)

Science Ceilidh  
Science Ceilidh  
Scottish Artists Union  
Scottish Book Trust  
Scottish Contemporary Art Network  
Scottish Council on Archives  
Scottish Opera  
Scottish Society of Playwrights  
SENScot  
Sense Scotland  
Shetland Arts Development Agency  
Skills Development Scotland  
Skills Development Scotland  
South of Scotland Enterprise  
South of Scotland Enterprise  
Southern Uplands Partnership  
Stellar Quines Theatre Company  
SURF - Scotland's Regeneration Forum  
The Birks Cinema Trust  
The Cateran Ecomuseum  
The Glasgow School of Art  
The Scottish Stained Glass Trust  
The Village Storytelling Centre  
The Work Room

	<p>TRACS (Traditional Arts &amp; Culture Scotland)</p> <p>Tricky Hat Productions</p> <p>UK Theatre</p> <p>UK Theatre</p> <p>UNESCO City of Design Dundee</p> <p>uniformnovember.com</p> <p>Vocal</p> <p>Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire</p> <p>WHALE Arts</p> <p>WHALE Arts</p> <p>WHALE Arts (Edinburgh)</p> <p>WHALE Arts Agency</p> <p>Youth Theatre Arts Scotland</p>
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### **Group Office Bearers**

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

<b>Convener</b>	Foyso Choudhury MSP
<b>Deputy Convener</b>	Clare Adamson MSP
<b>Secretary</b>	Lori Anderson (Culture Counts)

<b>Treasurer</b>	N/A
<p><b>Financial Benefits or Other Benefits</b></p> <p><b>Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.</b></p>	
<p>The group receives in-kind support from Culture Counts to the value of £1615 in secretariat time, organizing meetings, managing eventbrite, mailing lists and guest speakers.</p> <p>The group receives in-kind support from Culture Counts who pay freelancers who speak at events for their time, to a value of approx. £650 annually.</p> <p>Meetings have been held online, with no catering or room hire costs.</p> <p>Total for 2022/23 £2,365</p>	
<p><b>Convener Contact Details</b></p>	
<b>Name</b>	Foyso Choudhury MSP
<b>Parliamentary address</b>	Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
<b>Telephone number</b>	0131 348 5000