

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)

21/09/2022

Date Annual Return Submitted

07/10/2022

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]

21st 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.

1st September 2021

MSP Attendees 5

Non-MSP Attendees 2

The group held an inaugural meeting to set up in September 2021.

19th January 2022

MSP Attendees 4

Non-MSP Attendees 34

A meeting was held in January 2021 to discuss how the culture sector stepped in to support communities through Covid-19, particularly people who were isolated.

For example, we heard from photographer David Scott from Dundee who had worked with people who were isolated due to health conditions. Participants living with long term health conditions and their carers, developed their knowledge and understanding of photography during weekly zoom sessions, where challenges were set, and work was shared and discussed. The programme was designed around an appreciation of The McManus' current temporary exhibition 'A Love Letter to Dundee: Joseph McKenzie Photographs 1964-1987'. Using Joe's work as inspiration the participants have produced a stunning collection of work, the highlights of which were featured in an online gallery.

The group discussed how arts and culture would like to work closer with the health sector as the health benefits are clear to see, though barriers to working together remain. Arts funding and health funding are separate things, so working together in partnership can be difficult.

Universal Basic Income for artists scheme in Ireland was held up as an example of how artists can work with communities more, particularly if they're not always trying to complete funding applications to survive.

21st September 2022 (incorporating AGM)

MSP Attendees 5

Non-MSP Attendees 29

The group met to discuss how the culture sector support people to connect to their communities and to feel an important sense of belonging, combating the negative impact of social isolation for those involved.

The group heard from guests including Caroline Brown from Dundee University, Jane Miller from National Museum of Scotland, and Chris Kelly from Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust.

Caroline Brown (archivist) informed the group about a fascinating project, where people suffering from mental health issues were invited into the university archives to discover how people with mental health problems were treated in the past. This was designed as a health intervention to support people to come together and connect with others by investigating the archives.

One of the participants, from Dundee, says (in a project evaluation document) that the project has changed her life and that of her fellow participants, who have subsequently formed a group looking to help others with a history of similar issues.

Extract:

“I am 65 and looking towards getting qualifications that will allow me and my colleagues to help others with mental health problems and this is all thanks to the Archives project,” she explained.

“It was a battle for me to even go to the Archives but from the moment I got there I didn’t want to leave. When we started the research, we learned so much about the way asylums worked at that time and discovered both good and bad aspects. I felt energised by the research and the people I met doing it. It has done so much for my confidence and mental health.

Ends

The discussion at the meeting, after the guest speakers centred around the need for long-term sustainable funding for the sector to enable it to deliver health and wellbeing to communities via taking part in arts and heritage projects.

Project to project funding means that people are invited to participate though there is no-where for them to go after their project has come to an end.

There is also a need for improved evidence of the value that this kind of work brings, which Centre for Cultural Value at University of Leeds are leading on.

MSP Members of The Group

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

Sarah Boyack MSP – Labour

Jenni Minto MSP – SNP

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.

Individuals

A BS

Amanda Catto

Amy McNeese-Mechan

Andy Henry

Andy Stirling Robertson

Archippus Sturrock
Ariel Killick
Ashley Smith Hammond
Brian Ó hEadhra
Bryan Beattie
Bryan McDowall
Caroline Brown
Catherine Middleton Findlay
Catriona Patterson
Chantal Guevara
Clare Gunn
Claricia Parinussa
Conor Joseph
David Stevenson
David Nicholson
David Francis
Donna Heddle
Duncan Bremner
Emma Jayne Park
Étáin Saoirse Sweeney
Francis Shennan
Grant Williams
Hester Parr
Jane Humphries
Janie Nicoll
Jean Urquhart
Jean Cameron
Jen McGregor
Jennifer Hunter
John Cairns
Julien Pierrefeu

	<p>Kate Seiler Kirstie Jamieson Kirsty Keay Kirsty Miller Laura Black Lizzie Smith Lyndsey McLean Mairead Nic Craith Matt Brennan Matthew Whiteside Matthew Ward Morvern Cunningham Nicola Walls Nicole Smith Orchid Liu Paul Cockburn Rachel Kareem Rebecca Finkel Sarah Harbison Steve Byrne Trudi Collier Ullrich Kockel Veronique Lapeyre</p>
<p>Organisations</p>	<p>Active Inquiry Art27 Scotland Artlink Central Arts & Business Scotland Association of British Orchestras Bunbury Banter Carey Tourism Ceangail</p>

CollinsandGoto Studio
Community Archives Heritage Group Scotland
Network & Scottish Council on Archives
Community Enterprise
Community Leisure UK
Corps Consulaire
Creative & Cultural Skills
Creative Scotland
Culture Collective
Culture Commons
Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly, Argyll and
Isles
Cutting Edge Theatre
Dance Base
Dumfries & Galloway Arts Festival
Dundee Contemporary Arts
Edinburgh College-Creative Industries Faculty
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society
Edinburgh International Festival
Engage Scotland
Equity
Fèis Rois
Festivals Edinburgh
Film Access Scotland
Glasgow Life
Grampian Hospitals Art Trust
Historic Environment Scotland
Horsecross Arts (Perth Theatre & Concert Hall)
Impact Arts (Projects) Ltd
Industrial Museums Scotland
Leith Theatre
Live Music Now Scotland

Luminate
Making Music
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
OnFife
Queen Margaret University
Regional Screen Scotland
Rothesay Pavilion
Royal Society of Edinburgh
Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN)
Scene Stirling (Place Partnership)
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
South of Scotland Enterprise

	Stellar Quines Theatre Company The Birks Cinema Trust The CATERAN Ecomuseum The Scottish Stained Glass Trust The Village Storytelling Centre The Work Room Tricky Hat Productions UK Theatre UNESCO City of Design Dundee uniformnovember.com Vocal Voluntary Action South Lanarkshire WHALE Arts Youth Theatre Arts Scotland
--	--

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.

Convener	Sarah Boyack MSP
Deputy Convener	Jenny Minto MSP
Secretary	Joseph Peach (Culture Counts)
Treasurer	N/A

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

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.

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.

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.

Meetings are held online, there are no catering or room hire costs.

Total for 2021/22 £2265

Convener Contact Details

Name	Sarah Boyack MSP
Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5000