



The Scottish Parliament
Pàrlamaid na h-Alba

Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2022

3 February 2022

Reference: SPCB (2022) Paper 06

Executive summary

1. This paper seeks the SPCB's views on hosting the 6th Edinburgh International Culture Summit for international ministers, parliamentarians, artists, thinkers and arts leaders being held from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 August 2022.
2. The Summit provides a platform for the Scottish Parliament on an international stage and promotes a significant cultural event. The Summit also provides an opportunity for a number of committees - in particular the Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee - to engage with international policy makers and artists.
3. To coincide with, but sitting out with the actual three-day Summit, the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation is also seeking the SPCB's views on hosting the Cultural Leadership Dialogue at the Scottish Parliament on Monday 29 August 2022 as part of the UK | Australia Season of culture exchange in 2021 and 2022.

Background

4. The Scottish Parliament, working with the other four founding partners - Edinburgh International Festival, British Council and the Scottish and UK governments – has hosted all four previous in-person biennial summits since 2012. The 2020 Summit whilst approved by the SPCB was held virtually due to the pandemic.
5. The overarching theme for the summits is to create an international forum for discussion about the role and value of culture and to encourage dialogue amongst and between ministers, policy makers, artists, thinkers and art leaders.

6. The summits present unique opportunities, every two years, for ministers, parliamentarians and policy makers to engage and to share ideas, expertise and best practice with a view to inspiring positive change in cultural policy. The summits' unique setting in the middle of Edinburgh's August festivals, one of the world's most important international cultural events, is an essential element of its relevance, resonance and appeal. It was also felt that hosting the summits at the Scottish Parliament was key to the overall success.
7. The summits endeavour to ensure multi-lateral discussion and a diversity of cultural perspectives, representing various points of view and experiences, with a focus on those who impact, influence and inform cultural policies.
8. The 2022 Summit proposes a significant shift in programming and approach and will incorporate both digital and live aspects which will allow the Summit to broaden global participation while simultaneously enabling in-person meetings, given all those in attendance invaluable opportunities to create new connections and strengthen existing relationships.
9. The key themes for the 2022 Summit are Culture & Education and Culture & Sustainability, issues of universal urgency that affect everyone. Each theme will include a plenary session immediately followed by private policy discussions and workshops for those attending in-person as well as digital and online events to support participation and engagement from across the world.
10. Following the success of the youth programme at the 2016 and 2018 summits, international participation of young people is planned again for the 2022 Summit. Delegations attending will once again be encouraged to bring a youth delegate with them to the 2022 Summit.

Parliamentary Engagement

11. From the outset the programme for the 2022 Summit has been developed by the Summit Director with input from all Strategic Board partners. From the Scottish Parliament, both Scotland's Futures Forum (SFF) and the Parliament's Constitution, Europe, External Affairs and Culture Committee have already participated in a workshop. However, given the two key themes we are also currently liaising with the Education, Children and Young People and Net Zero, Energy and Transport committees to attend another workshop on the overall programme. It is hoped that SFF Board members and committee members will be fully involved in the three-day summit either chairing breakout sessions or speaking during discussions. As the programme develops both the SFF and the committees will be fully involved and kept updated.

12. Once the final programme has been confirmed engagement with both SFF and the committees will take place looking at possible engagement with keynote speakers and delegates attending the 2022 Summit out with the official programme; allowing time for separate discussions on issues relevant to both SFF and the committees.

Cultural Leadership Dialogue

13. At the end of the three-day Summit, the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation plans to host a two-day Cultural Leadership Dialogue event on the evening of Sunday 28 and Monday 29 August as part of '*Who are we now?*' the extensive and ambitious UK | Australia Season of cultural exchange in 2021 and 2022. This event will precede a similar event being held in Melbourne, Australia on Thursday 29 and Friday 30 September 2022 at the University of Melbourne. Both events will provide an opportunity to strengthen cultural relations between the UK and Australia.
14. The Culture Leadership Dialogue at Melbourne University will involve Culture Ministers from throughout Australia engaging with their UK and Scottish counterparts and it is hoped that a similar approach will be taken with the event in Edinburgh following the Summit.

Issues and Options

15. The mission of the 2022 Summit resonates closely with the international objectives of the Parliament to exchange knowledge and ideas and develop relationships. It also meets the SPCB's objectives for major events in that it provides a platform for the Parliament at home and abroad and promotes a significant cultural event.
16. Given the above and the success of hosting the previous four in-person summits, we would recommend that the 2022 Summit is held at the Scottish Parliament during summer recess with sessions held in the Debating Chamber, committee rooms and The Holyrood Room as appropriate.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that the Edinburgh International Culture Summit 2022 be held at the Scottish Parliament from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 August.

Cultural Leadership Dialogue

17. The Culture Leadership Dialogue as a part of the wider UK | Australia Season of cultural exchange will provide an opportunity to strengthen cultural relations between the UK and Australia. Hosting the event

immediately after the three-day Summit will allow UK, Scottish and Australian ministers and others attending the Summit to attend the Leadership Dialogue in advance of the one being proposed at Melbourne University in September.

18. Although the event will take place immediately after the Summit to maximise participation in the Dialogue, it sits out with the three-day Summit. However, as a Summit partner the SPCB may want to offer The Holyrood Room as a venue for the Dialogue chaired by one of the committees involved in the development of the three-day Summit. If this was agreeable to the SPCB, parliamentary officials would liaise with the relevant committees accordingly to see whether they would be content to do this. If not, then we would recommend that the Foundation seeks an alternative venue out with the Scottish Parliament for the Cultural Leadership Dialogue.

The SPCB is asked to consider this and agree that parliamentary officials liaise with the relevant committees to ascertain their support to chair the Culture Leadership Dialogue and if content to do so host the event in The Holyrood Room on Monday 29 August.

Communications

19. This event could provide a platform to highlight the role of parliaments in the wider arts and culture landscape to domestic and international audiences. The range and nature of the coverage will largely be driven by the programme itself and the profile of those attending. The Foundation has previously appointed an external communications agency to communicate the wider aims and objectives of the Summit, working on behalf of all the partners, and it is expected that a similar arrangement would be in place for the 2022 Summit.

Governance

20. Following a successful working relationship in 2012, the Scottish Parliament became a full partner for future summits along with the Edinburgh International Festival, British Council and Scottish and UK governments. This allowed the Parliament to be fully involved from the outset with the development of the programme. Since then the Strategic Board chaired by the Presiding Officer has met on many occasions to advise on the strategic principles, cultural policy objectives and programme of the summits. The Strategic Board inputs into and approves the programme and each of the Summit partners play a prominent role in the Summit itself.

21. A charitable foundation – the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation – was established to act as a vehicle for applying for and receiving grants and donations for the Summit. The Foundation's role is to assist all the Summit partners in the work of the Summit and also to reduce by increments the burden of the cost of the Summit to the partners.
22. Reporting to the Strategic Board, there is a Steering Group which provides oversight on the development of the Summit plans with at least one representative from each partner organisation sitting on this Group. The Parliament's representative on this Group is the Head of Events and Exhibitions.

Delivery Team

23. Supporting the Steering Group there is a Delivery Team which will be responsible for delivering the event. This Team will be managed by a full-time Executive Producer funded by the Foundation and supported by a mixture of staff funded by them or seconded from the partners.
24. As set out above a substantial amount of the costs for delivering the 2022 Summit will be met through donations and grants to the Foundation. In addition, all the partners are providing either donations or support-in-kind to the Summit accordingly. The SPCB is not asked to provide financial support but instead provide support-in-kind like other partners.
25. As a full partner we would recommend that the SPCB commits resources to provide the successful delivery of the Summit. The resources are detailed below.

Resource Implications

26. The total costs to the SPCB would be approximately £25k to cover costs associated with hosting the Summit such as costs of any reception and staff support to deliver the event. In addition will we provide hot desks within either the Events and Exhibitions Team office or other suitable office space for the Delivery Team in the weeks running up to the Summit. These costs can be met from budgets already allocated to the Corporate Events and Exhibitions budgets. There will also be resource implications for other offices required to provide a degree of support to the summit, such as the Parliament Communications Office.
27. Any additional direct costs incurred by other offices supporting the Summit for example hospitality, broadcasting, additional security staff required would be met by the Edinburgh International Culture Summit Foundation.

28. The SPCB is asked to note that as the 2022 Summit makes use of the Debating Chamber it is likely to involve disruption to the public guided Tours Programme and potentially public access. The Events and Exhibitions Team will work with the other offices affected to ensure that disruption and inconvenience is kept to a minimum and that there is sufficient advance notification.

Publication Scheme

29. This Paper can be published once the Summit has taken place.

Next Steps

30. Once approved, the Events and Exhibitions Team will take forward all the necessary planning and organisation for the 2022 Edinburgh International Culture Summit liaising with internal and external partners as necessary.
31. We have hosted the EICS since 2012 as part of our Major Events and Exhibitions Programme and it is an opportune time to take stock of our partnership and the Parliament's involvement in the Summit. The EET will provide the SPCB with a full evaluation of the 2022 summit so that there can be a full discussion of this prior to any arrangements being put in place for the next scheduled Summit.

Decision

32. The SPCB is asked to consider this paper and to agree that the Scottish Parliament host the 2022 Edinburgh International Culture Summit from Friday 26 to Sunday 28 August, to note, if it agrees to the Summit, the resource implications as detailed above; and agree that the Scottish Parliament host the Cultural Leadership Dialogue on Monday 29 August if one of the committees is willing to chair the event.

Events and Exhibitions Team

January 2022