

Item: 7

Education, Leisure and Housing Committee: 8 June 2022.

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards Scheme.

Report by Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing.

1. Purpose of Report

To consider continuation of the Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards Scheme.

2. Recommendations

The Committee is invited to note:

2.1.

That the devolved Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards Scheme has operated since 2014.

2.2.

That the Scheme is reviewed both locally and nationally, most recently with Creative Scotland and, regional partner, Highlands and Islands Enterprise in February 2022.

2.3.

That Creative Scotland has confirmed continuation of the Scheme in 2022/23, subject to continued partnership funding from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and the Council at current levels of £5,000 per annum from Creative Scotland, £1,500 from Highlands and Islands Enterprise and £1,500 from the Council.

2.4.

That, in 2020, Creative Scotland opted to amend the Scheme from a grant scheme to a capped bursary scheme, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make the application less onerous and allow more artists to benefit from the fund, with the funding levels being capped at £500 for emergent or new visual artists and craft makers and £750 for more experienced visual artists and craft makers.

2.5.

That, should the Council support a 3-year programme, in principle, and continuation of the Scheme, Highlands and Islands Enterprise has indicated it will continue to invest in the Scheme and provide an uplift to its annual contribution from £1,000 to £1,500.

2.6.

That, in advance of the Council's budget setting processes for 2023/24 and 2024/25 being concluded, continuation of the Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme beyond 2022/23 will be subject to an adequate service revenue budget being established.

It is recommended:

2.7.

That the Council, through the Arts Development Service, should continue to manage the Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme, with a maximum budget of £8,000 to disburse annually, for a period of three years, from 2022/23 to 2024/25, subject to:

- External funding being secured from Creative Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- Adequate service revenue budgets for 2023/24 and 2024/25 being established.

3. Background

3.1.

A Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme was funded for many years by Creative Scotland (formerly the Scottish Arts Council). Until 2013, the Scheme was administered in Orkney on Creative Scotland's behalf by HI-Arts. In 2013, HI-Arts ceased to operate as an organisation, and Orkney artists and craft makers no longer had access to the Scheme, presenting a significant loss to Orkney's visual artists and craft makers.

3.2.

In September 2014, the Council agreed to support a devolved pilot scheme to support Orkney visual artists and craft makers and, to date, it has awarded £39,717 to local artists and craft makers.

3.3.

In July 2019, the Council agreed to continue to manage the Scheme, for a further three years, with partners contributing to an annual budget of £7,500.

3.4.

In 2020, Creative Scotland opted to change the Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme (VACMA) from a grant scheme to a capped bursary scheme, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, and to make the application less onerous and allow more artists to benefit from the fund.

3.5.

This Scheme continues to support the £500 bursary, formerly for recent graduates, which is now expanded to include emergent visual artists and craft makers in any context. The bursary for more experienced practitioners was capped at £750.

4. Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme

4.1.

Creative Scotland has confirmed that it will continue to fund the Scheme in 2022/23. Highlands and Islands Enterprise has stated once again that it will invest in the continuation of the Scheme if a 3-year programme is given support, in principle, by the Council and uplift its contribution from £1,000 annually to £1,500 annually. This would lift the total available for grant disbursement to £8,000.

4.2.

Should the recommendations contained in this report be approved, the awards will be advertised in Autumn/Winter 2022, with deadlines in October 2022. There will be a second deadline in February 2023, consistent with other regional deadlines. Awards will be allocated competitively by a Panel consisting of membership of all funding partners and representation of independent Orkney based creatives, as required by Creative Scotland. The assessment panel for the awards currently includes:

- Team Leader (Culture).
- The Arts Officer (chairing).
- Member of Creative Scotland Visual Arts Team.
- Head of Strengthening Communities at Highlands and Islands Enterprise.
- Two previous award recipients from the visual arts or craft sector.
- Representative from The Pier Arts Centre, a key Culture Fund client with a remit to support and develop visual artists in the County.

4.3.

Subject to approval, a total of £8,000 will be disbursed in grants in the 2022/23 financial year.

4.4.

Recommendations would continue to be submitted to the Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, who has delegated authority to determine the Awards.

5. Equalities Impact

An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

6. Corporate Governance

This report relates to the Council complying with governance and procedural issues and therefore does not directly support and contribute to improved outcomes for communities as outlined in the Council Plan and the Local Outcomes Improvement Plan.

7. Financial Implications

7.1.

There would be a cost to the Council of £1,500 to run the Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme annually, totalling £4,500 across the next three years. This represents 19% of the potential maximum total budget of £8,000, which would be partnership funded by Creative Scotland (currently £5,000) and Highlands and Islands Enterprise (uplifted to £1,500) annually. The Council contribution is allocated and budgeted from the Arts Development budget annually.

7.2.

On the basis that the recommendation to this report refers to the allocation of resources in future years, it should be noted that this would still be subject to an appropriate annual Committee budget being made available as part of the Council's annual budget setting process.

8. Legal Aspects

8.1.

In terms of the Local Government and Planning (Scotland) Act 1982, section 14, the Council shall ensure that there is adequate provision of facilities for the inhabitants of their area for recreational, sporting, cultural and social activities. In terms of section 17 of the Act, the Council has the power to contribute by way of grant or loan towards the expenses of any organisation or body which, in the opinion of the authority, provides or promotes the provision of cultural activities or facilities.

8.2.

The Visual Arts and Craft Makers Awards Scheme would fall within the ambit of this statutory power.

9. Contact Officers

James Wylie, Corporate Director for Education, Leisure and Housing, extension 2477, Email james.wylie@orkney.gov.uk.

Frances Troup, Head of Community Learning, Leisure and Housing, extension 2177, Email frances.troup@orkney.gov.uk.

Garry Burton, Leisure and Culture Service Manager, extension 2440, Email garry.burton@orkney.gov.uk.

Nick Hewitt, Team Leader (Culture), extension 2716, Email nick.hewitt@orkney.gov.uk.

Emma Gee, Arts Officer, extension 2406, Email emma.gee@orkney.gov.uk.

10. Appendix

Appendix 1: Equality Impact Assessment.



Equality Impact Assessment

The purpose of an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) is to improve the work of Orkney Islands Council by making sure it promotes equality and does not discriminate. This assessment records the likely impact of any changes to a function, policy or plan by anticipating the consequences, and making sure that any negative impacts are eliminated or minimised and positive impacts are maximised.

1. Identification of Function, Policy or Plan	
Name of function / policy / plan to be assessed.	Visual Artists and Craft Makers
Service / service area responsible.	Education, Leisure and Housing
Name of person carrying out the assessment and contact details.	Emma Gee – Arts Officer, Email emma.gee@orkney.gov.uk , Ext 2406
Date of assessment.	21.4.22
Is the function / policy / plan new or existing? (Please indicate also if the service is to be deleted, reduced or changed significantly).	Existing

2. Initial Screening	
What are the intended outcomes of the function / policy / plan?	To support Orkney based visual artists and craft makers through a small grant scheme.
Is the function / policy / plan strategically important?	No
State who is, or may be affected by this function / policy / plan, and how.	Orkney based artists and craft makers benefit from the funding which focuses on skills and professional development enabling a robust arts sector fulfilling:
How have stakeholders been involved in the development of this function / policy / plan?	Feedback is gathered from successful applicants that enables us to evaluate the effectiveness of the scheme. Creative Scotland and other regional

	grant administrators meet to ensure the application criteria is up to date and aim to make the grants as accessible as possible.
Is there any existing data and / or research relating to equalities issues in this policy area? Please summarise. E.g. consultations, national surveys, performance data, complaints, service user feedback, academic / consultants' reports, benchmarking (see equalities resources on OIC information portal).	VACMA performance data collected and analysed by Creative Scotland shows that young artists/graduates are having difficulty successfully applying for the awards because they are yet to establish significant bodies of creative work and are in direct competition with well-established creative practitioners. The emergent artist bursaries have been added to the awards scheme for this reason.
Is there any existing evidence relating to socio-economic disadvantage and inequalities of outcome in this policy area? Please summarise. E.g. For people living in poverty or for people of low income. See The Fairer Scotland Duty Interim Guidance for Public Bodies for further information.	(Please complete this section for proposals relating to strategic decisions).
Could the function / policy have a differential impact on any of the following equality areas?	(Please provide any evidence – positive impacts / benefits, negative impacts and reasons).
1. Race: this includes ethnic or national groups, colour and nationality.	No
2. Sex: a man or a woman.	No
3. Sexual Orientation: whether a person's sexual attraction is towards their own sex, the opposite sex or to both sexes.	No
4. Gender Reassignment: the process of transitioning from one gender to another.	No
5. Pregnancy and maternity.	No
6. Age: people of different ages.	The addition of the graduate bursary for anyone 3 years outside of education is likely to have a positive differential impact on young adults.
7. Religion or beliefs or none (atheists).	No

8. Caring responsibilities.	No
9. Care experienced.	No
10. Marriage and Civil Partnerships.	No
11. Disability: people with disabilities (whether registered or not).	The application process through Creative Scotland offers a range of support and alternative formats to meet the needs of all applications based on their accessibility requirements. Both Creative Scotland Officers and OIC Arts Officer can offer one-to-one support to applicants.
12. Socio-economic disadvantage.	No

3. Impact Assessment

Does the analysis above identify any differential impacts which need to be addressed?	No
How could you minimise or remove any potential negative impacts?	The actions contained at 11. & 13. are attempts to minimise the potential negative impacts.
Do you have enough information to make a judgement? If no, what information do you require?	Yes

4. Conclusions and Planned Action

Is further work required?	Yes
What action is to be taken?	OIC are committed to encouraging applications from all areas of our community and to promote the support for the application process from Creative Scotland in terms of accessibility and inclusion. These commitments will be further highlighted through the promotion of the awards.
Who will undertake it?	Arts Officer
When will it be done?	In tandem with promoting the awards ahead of the first deadline in October 2022.
How will it be monitored? (e.g. through service plans).	Through the end of project reporting submitted to Creative Scotland.

Signature:



Date: 21.4.22

Name: EMMA GEE

(BLOCK CAPITALS).

Please sign and date this form, keep one copy and send a copy to HR and Performance. A Word version should also be emailed to HR and Performance at hrsupport@orkney.gov.uk