

Scottish Government Consultation

Glasgow 2014 – Delivering a lasting legacy for Scotland

Response from Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama (RSAMD)

Q 1 RSAMD is Scotland's conservatoire specialising in offering Higher Education courses in Music and Drama (in the Guardian 2009 University Guide, RSAMD came first in the UK for Music Education). Students are recruited primarily from Scotland but to an increasing extent from abroad, thus making the RSAMD a genuine international conservatoire.

By the time the Games take place, RSAMD will also be offering courses in Dance thus making it the first UK Conservatoire to offer degree courses in all three of the performing arts disciplines. In addition, RSAMD offers digital film and TV facilities which have relevance to the media coverage of the Games.

Consequently, the specific interest in the Games legacy from the RSAMD perspective is to promote the cultural and artistic dimension. In particular:

- Raising the profile of Scotland as a desirable location to live, work and study.

This would benefit RSAMD in terms of raising recruitment awareness amongst potential students from abroad. The Academy currently has good links with a range of countries and cultural institutions but any increased exposure offered to Scotland by the Games will be welcomed. It may also enhance the possibility of attracting international staff. Conservatoires benefit from the artistic input offered by a range of international performers.

- Creating additional opportunities for RSAMD students to showcase Scottish cultural talent at home and abroad – in particular as part of the wider agenda being pursued by the government eg as outlined in the 'Framework for International Engagement' (April 2008).

Whilst these opportunities exist at present, it is important for students to be able to perform at different types of events and in different locations. It has been recognised that one of the main means of promoting Scotland is through it's culture. RSAMD is well placed to make a significant contribution in this area.

- Use of the Multi Media Performance facilities and Digital Film and TV to produce programmes linked to the games.
- Development of new Mobile Media platforms and content generation (RSAMD first in world to have curriculum in mobile media)

This would serve as both a learning experience for students but also as archive material for the Games themselves.

- Highlighting the health benefits associated with participation in the performing arts – especially Dance – and the opportunity to invest in an appropriate infrastructure.

This may appear a less obvious opportunity for RSAMD to contribute to and benefit from the legacy of the Games. However, the inclusion of Dance courses in our portfolio creates new opportunities (see Q 4).

Q 2 Research by the University of East London (May 2007) into the legacy of recent Olympic Games suggested that maximum benefit was obtained when an initiative had begun prior to the Games and was complemented by the profile surrounding the Games itself.

There is an opportunity to develop the initial work set in train by the Government, Scottish Arts Council and Culture and Sport Glasgow to establish a meaningful cultural and artistic legacy for Scotland. Identifying certain priorities at this stage (as recommended in the research) allows sufficient time for the initiative to be established and subsequently gain the benefit from the increased exposure generated by the Games. In these circumstances, it would appear more likely for a longer term legacy to be established.

RSAMD would be interested in putting forward a proposal linked to new opportunities afforded by the Media facilities and the addition of Dance to its course provision. This proposal creates a new facility within the RSAMD campus but which would have benefits to the wider community.

Q 3 The issues identified in Q 1 and the legacy forthcoming can best be achieved through a shared commitment by local and national stakeholders to identify meaningful and substantive initiatives planned well in advance. Consequently, the Games themselves are part of a continuum and not some short term ad hoc arrangement where the possibility of a meaningful legacy is diminished.

Q 4 In addition to an involvement in the student/staff recruitment, performing benefits and educational experiences which could emerge from the Games, RSAMD also offers a proposal to create a new purpose built facility in Glasgow.

The National Planning Framework 2 (January 2008) identified a list of national developments. Project 9 was 'Commonwealth Games Facilities and Infrastructure'. Whilst the main focus of this will most likely relate to purely sports facilities, there is an opportunity through the RSAMD to develop studio space linked to physical conditioning units thus supporting the 'Healthier' strategic objective and also the development of media facilities offers an educational experience which could be accessed prior to, during and after the Games.

In considering the requirements for introduction of Dance courses (which are not dissimilar to those of gymnastics), RSAMD proposes to develop a site of

0.56 acres some 200 yards from its existing building in the city centre. A new build space of 7,000 sq metres would be required at an estimated cost of £32m. This would incorporate 6 Dance Studios, Gyrotonic and Multi Gym room, Treatment rooms, teaching spaces, admin/common areas.

In addition, enhanced facilities for Digital and Mobile Media could offer students the option of making the Games a media project – either prior to, during or after - the Games but also creating archive material for Games organisers. This could be in the form of documentaries, feature films etc, novel ways of disseminating events via mobile media around the world.

At the heart of these initiatives is engagement with young people in emerging arts forms. The Games will provide a focus for these developments, but more importantly, by investing in these facilities, Scotland would benefit from a longer term resource which would be accessible by both RSAMD students and the wider public.

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