

Cultural Commission

NOTE OF BOARD MEETING: 14 DECEMBER 2004

Present: Ian Ritchie, Brian Lang, Sheena Wellington, Lucy Mason, Shonaig Macpherson, George Black, Colin Marr, James Boyle, Bryan Beattie, Rachel Blanche, Karen Watson

1: Apologies	Gordon Jeyes and Richard Smith
2: Note of last meeting & matters arising	Note of last meeting was agreed as an accurate record. Matters arising addresses under item 3.
3. Papers circulated in advance	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Update on media issues followed by a brief discussion on recent press stories. Suggestion from the Board that the Commission does another Art Show as part of its planned media strategy for early 2005. 2. A considerable amount of research work is being undertaken including the production of summary documents and "thinking papers". Copies of the latter will be distributed to Board members before Christmas along with the minutes of the thinking group meetings 3. All of the thinking groups are moving forward and progress is being made. Now need to consider whether the 6 groups should come together for a meeting in early 2005 and whether or not 6 separate groups is the best way forward. It was agreed that regardless of the complexity of its task, that the Commission should strive for consensus and ensure buy-in, and that careful drafting is the answer to dealing with issues where obtaining the latter is difficult. 4. The programme of phase 2 sector meetings is almost complete and all have been very positive. The public meetings have had mixed success, with poor attendances at evening meetings and some having to be cancelled through lack of interest. 5. Commission considered whether or not it should get some of its thinking on infrastructure, governance etc out in the public arena and provide key stakeholders with the opportunity to talk about cultural rights. Suggestion that the Commission runs a conference for CEOs, key stakeholders, local authorities etc. in the New Year. The Board confirmed that any public meeting should follow its January Board meeting and allow sufficient time for the response from phase 2 of the consultation to inform its thinking – agreed.
4: Current Thinking and Difficult Issues	<p>The Secretariat's emerging thinking on a possible model of rights, standards and entitlements was outlined for discussion. Key points which arose during that discussion were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rights should be simple • Support for the Norwegian "rucksack" concept and the Secretariat's ideas on standards • Examples of existing best practice should be used but should be combined with a vision for 2025 • Should look at where we are today and provide a road map on how to achieve that vision and illustrate this with practicable (geographical) examples • Could use the SYP and its March conference to run some ideas past • On funding, demands of the cake will become more severe. Efficient government and other recent initiatives suggest that the Commission must balance challenges of aspiration versus making better use of what is available now. If the case for additional funding is to be made then clear

	<p>benefits and outcomes will need to be developed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could develop a picture of where we were 25 years ago and look at plotting specific statistics e.g. ticket prices, audiences etc. <p>The Secretariat's emerging thinking on national structures, assessment and an "academy" model was outlined for discussion. Key points which arose during that discussion were:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Model must have strong links with the community • What the Commission ends up with must be a coherent voice for the sector, could be funded by its members, with some funding from the centre for public service functions. Could lobby for the sector, could represent the sector internationally, undertake marketing and promotion function, and would have a strong advocacy function <p>Papers describing the Secretariat's current thinking on all these issues will be distributed to the Board as soon as practicable</p>
5: Date and time of next meeting	<p>Sunday 30th January 2005 St Andrews Bay Resort – evening meeting with dinner Monday 31st January 2005 St Andrew Bay Resort – all day meeting</p> <p>Agenda and papers will be issued in early January</p>