

Cultural Commission

NOTE OF BOARD MEETING: 17 NOVEMBER 2004

Present: Shonaig Macpherson; Gordon Jeyes; George Black; Ian Ritchie; James Boyle; Rachel Blanche; Bryan Beattie; and Karen Watson

1: Apologies	Lucy Mason; Sheena Wellington; Brian Lang; Colin Marr; and Richard Smith
2: Note of last meeting & matters arising	<p>Note of last meeting agreed as an accurate record. Discussion on matters arising include the following points:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern was expressed about recent press reports and in particular the Sunday Herald article which raised personal issues, ring fencing, and libraries and local government. The Secretariat confirmed that the Commission had given the journalist very conciliatory lines. It was agreed that the Secretariat would prepare lines for any future stories on these issues from the Commission. It was suggested that the Commission should now focus on bridge building and perhaps consider joint platforms. This is important for all the sectors that the Commission's recommendations may have an impact on, not just CoSLA. • Glasgow City Council will be making a submission to the Commission in January 2005. This is a potential opportunity for the Commission. • Points were made on the use of e-mail for communicating sensitive or candid material and it was agreed that care and discretion should be applied by all. Particularly sensitive material should be sent through the conventional postal system. • The secretariat is looking into the options for providing a secure area on its website, which may help with the security of information. • It was suggested that the Commission should apply caution when discussing "ring-fencing" because of the implications for some Local Authorities. Local Authorities which spend more than their central allocation on particular services may reduce their funding down to their allocation if more funds are ring fenced. However, it is also apparent from the Commission's conversations that many artists and local providers are against local discretion and that they see ring fencing as a way of ensuring that they get resources. It was also suggested that officers often call for ring fencing, but not for the right reasons. The Commission might instead wish to look at cultural provision within community planning or other more "modern" ways at looking at this, including the use of national standards. • James Boyle and Brian Lang had a useful meeting with Liz Forgan during which she asked for the Commission to fully embrace heritage issues – this is in hand.
3: Papers circulated in advance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 1: Media Update – there was a brief discussion on the Newsnight incident, and an update was provided on the Commission's local press activity, work underway supporting the programme of public meetings and the article that has been drafted by the Chair for the next edition of the Holyrood magazine. The Commission is now turning its attention to the national press, features and think pieces, and Board members were asked to assist by drafting material for this. Reference was also made to the SAC publication (its submission to the Commission) and its "mini consultation". • Item 2: Research Update – verbal update • Item 3: Thinking Groups – the Secretariat would welcome any suggestions for new members

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Item 4: Other meetings – a number of artists meetings are now in the diary. Shonaig Macpherson volunteered to represent the Commission at the SYP's General Meeting on 28th November in Kilwinning. Karen Watson will circulate details of other meetings where volunteers are required. • Item 5: FOI – agreed.
4: Phase 2 of our consultation	<p>In general the Board was content with the approach that is to be taken. It was however suggested that the following issues could be added to Version 10 of the pan- sectoral questions:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Scottish Parliament and its role in the process 2. Efficient government and best value 3. The big role of the cities e.g. City Visions, the Growth Fund etc. 4. Social inclusion and access issues <p>The importance of ensuring that popular language/phrases are used was also stressed e.g. best value in the public sector, outcomes, social inclusion etc. It was agreed that the Secretariat would address these issues and that any additional comments should be with the Secretariat by close of business on Friday the 19th of November. Board members felt that the MSP sound bites information was a helpful summary and it was agreed that this will be kept up-to-date and circulated regularly.</p>
6: OAB	None
7: Date and time of next meeting	Tuesday 14 th December at 4:30 pm in the City Chambers, George Square, Glasgow.