

To: Leadership Board

On: April 28, 2021

Report by: Chief Executive

Heading: Future Paisley - Renfrewshire's Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to update the Leadership Board on the development and launch of the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund (RCRRF) and the distribution of critical funding to artists, groups and organisations in response to the Covid19 pandemic. All available funding - £200,000, has been allocated to 28 artists and 14 organisations, ensuring paid work and stability for Renfrewshire's cultural sector. The report also outlines ongoing support from Renfrewshire Leisure's arts team to previous CHEF and CODF grant recipients.

2. Recommendation

2.1 Members are asked to note:

- I. The breadth and diversity of grant awards approved by the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund review panel and confirmed and distributed by officers between January and March 2021.
- II. The ongoing support being provided to existing CHEF and CODF grant recipients to help them manage the impact of Covid19 and

lockdown restrictions on organisational stability and funded projects.

3. **Background**

3.1 In September 2020, Leadership Board agreed to repurpose £200,000 allocated to Renfrewshire's Culture, Heritage and Events Fund (CHEF), to help manage the extreme impact of Covid 19 on Renfrewshire's culture sector. It was agreed:

- I. Funding would be renamed Renfrewshire's Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund, to be managed and administered by Renfrewshire Leisure on behalf of Renfrewshire Council.
- II. Officers would undertake further detailed work to develop the funds eligibility, application criteria and a clear assessment process.
- III. To establish a review panel comprised of two elected members one from Renfrewshire Leisure Board, one from Renfrewshire Council and one community representative appointed by Engage Renfrewshire to review the recommended awards made by the assessing officers and to delegate authority to the Director of Communities Housing & Planning to determine applications, based on review panel recommendations, and distribute the awards as swiftly as possible.
- IV. A progress report detailing the distribution of grants will be brought back to Leadership Board at an appropriate time.

3.2 A review panel was established with the following membership:

- Cllr Eddie Devine
- Cllr Eileen McCartin
- Alan McNiven, Chief Executive Engage Renfrewshire

3.3 Three new grant programmes were designed as part of the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund. The three programmes are:

Fund	Launch Date	Deadline
Artist Development Grant	23 rd October	15 th November
Town Centre and Neighbourhoods Creative Installations grant programme	23 rd October	22 nd November
Cultural Organisations Support grant programme	7 th December	14 th January

Applications were initially assessed by an officer team including representatives from Renfrewshire Leisure arts team and Renfrewshire Council (cultural regeneration, marketing and communications and regeneration and development teams), before being presented to the review panel. Recommendations were actioned by the Director of Communities and Housing Services under delegated authority.

- 3.2 It was agreed at a meeting of Renfrewshire Council in December 2020, and during the development of the Fund, that the programme of work under Future Paisley would be broadened to focus on a wider set of strategic objectives both for Paisley and the wider geography of Renfrewshire, led by the Head of Marketing and Communications, with the cultural lead sitting wholly with the Chief Executive of Renfrewshire Leisure. This has supported the collaborative approach to the administration of the Fund.

4. **Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund – grant programme outline and distribution of funds**

- 4.1 **The Artist Development Grant** was developed to help maintain a thriving freelance artist community, stimulate new creative activity and create long-lasting cultural, economic and social transformation in Renfrewshire. Applicants were able to apply for a maximum award of £3,000 for activity to be developed and delivered between January and April 2021. The grant objectives were confirmed as:

- Support freelance artists to continue to develop work in Renfrewshire.
- Support the career development of professional freelance artists based in Renfrewshire.
- Support freelance artists as businesses contributing to the local economy.
- Support artistic ambition in Renfrewshire through the quality of work created and support artists to be ambitious in their own development.

33 applications were received, with 18 receiving full award and 5 receiving partial award. All those in receipt of Artist Development Grants were given an option to defer projects if Scottish Government restrictions limited ability to deliver projects and as a result 8 artists have deferred. All projects are expected to complete by July 2021. Awards totalled **£60,566**. For detailed information on ADG grant awards see *Appendix A*.

4.2 **The Town Centre and Neighbourhoods Creative Installations grant programme** (TCNCI) was developed to enable artists to create and install artistic interventions that add value to civic and outdoor spaces – animating neighbourhood and town centre sites, such as vacant retail units and pedestrianised areas, encouraging local people to return to their town centres following the end of lockdown restrictions. The grant objectives were confirmed as:

- Improve local and visitor experience.
- Increase activity in Renfrewshire’s town, village and neighbourhood centres, supporting the local economy.
- Showcase local heritage and assets.

14 applications were received with 10 receiving full award. A total of **£46,198** was awarded. One applicant has since withdrawn from their project. Detailed information on TCNCI grant awards can be found at *Appendix B*.

4.3 **The Cultural Organisations Support grant programme** (COS) was designed for not-for-profit cultural organisations ineligible for Renfrewshire’s Coronavirus Business Support Fund. Eligible organisations evidenced facing significant threat and having to make adaptations to protect income and sustainability. The grant objectives were confirmed as:

- Support organisations facing a significant threat of closure, redundancies or loss of assets.
- Support organisations to make the necessary adaptations to secure their future during financial year 2021/22.

14 applications were received, with 14 receiving a partial award. The total amount awarded was **£93,236**. Detailed information on COS grant awards can be found at *Appendix C*.

5. **Ongoing support - Cultural Heritage and Events Fund (CHEF) and Cultural Organisations Development Fund (CODF) recipients**
- 5.1 Between 2016 and 2019, 11 Cultural Heritage and Events funding rounds were held and over 359 applications were received with a total value of almost £4 million. In total 135 projects have been supported through £1.14 million of funding. Activities supported include festivals, events, workshops, murals, performances, exhibitions, tours and productions in music, dance, theatre and drama, heritage, literature, film and animation. In March 2020 and in response to the Covid pandemic, all grant holders with outstanding or new CHEF projects planned to take place in 2020/21 were contacted and offered support and advice by Renfrewshire Leisure's arts team. Grant holders were given the option to adapt projects (retaining agreed outcomes), defer delivery, or, where safe to do so, continue with the project as planned. The status of projects planned for delivery in 2020/21 have been tracked throughout.
- 5.2 In 2019, five organisations were awarded Future Paisley Cultural Organisations Development Funding; Create Paisley, Erskine Arts, Outspoken Arts, PACE Theatre Company, Start Project, Paisley Opera and Right 2 Dance. The purpose of the fund is to strengthen and build the capacity of cultural and creative organisations in Renfrewshire through core funding to improve sustainability and resilience and expand/improve the quality of operations and programmes. From April 2020, all organisations in receipt of CODF were assigned a lead officer and supported to adapt to the challenges presented by the pandemic. This has been extended to allow organisations to further repurpose and adapt their CODF grant as they emerge from lockdown restrictions. Contact includes 6-monthly reviews, monthly cohort meetings and training.
- 5.3 Following a further round of CODF funding in 2019, a total of £368,743 was awarded to a total of seven organisations from an available fund of £380,000. In December 2019, Leadership Board approved the use of the balance of £11,257 for a further round of small grants to support growth plans, and delegated authority to the Director of Communities, Housing and Planning to make the awards. In recognition of the high level of demand for the Cultural Organisations Support grant programme as part of the new Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund, the remaining £11,257 was used to increase COS funding to four organisations. Priority was given to those evidencing significant impact from the Covid19 pandemic, threatening the organisations future. Award recipients are detailed at *Appendix D*.

6. **Ongoing management and monitoring of Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund**

6.1 The Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund is managed and monitored by Renfrewshire Leisure's arts team supported by the Cultural Funding Steering Group, with representatives from across Renfrewshire Leisure and Renfrewshire Council. The group meets weekly and is chaired by Renfrewshire Leisure, providing ongoing direction and advice to grant recipients.

6.2 Evaluation of the impact of the grant programmes within the Renfrewshire Cultural Recovery and Renewal Fund will be managed and reported by Renfrewshire Leisure.

Implications of the Report

1. **Financial** – none

2. **HR & Organisational Development** – none

3. **Community/Council Planning** –

- *Our Renfrewshire is thriving* – promoting a positive image and reputation of Renfrewshire in Scotland, the UK and internationally
- *Reshaping our place, our economy and our future* – driving the local economy by identifying and supporting growth in new sectors | delivering significant programmes of economic and cultural regeneration which will transform Renfrewshire and its prospects | achieving recognition for local cultural excellence.

4. **Legal** – none

5. **Property/Assets** – none

6. **Information Technology** – none

7. **Equality & Human Rights** - The Recommendations contained within this report have been assessed in relation to their impact on equalities and human rights. No negative impacts on equality groups or potential

for infringement of individuals' human rights have been identified arising from the recommendations contained in the report

- 8. **Health & Safety** – none
- 9. **Procurement** – none
- 10. **Risk** – none
- 11. **Privacy Impact** – none
- 12. **Cosla Policy Position** –not applicable

List of Background Papers

- a. Renfrewshire's Cultural Recovery and Renewal Funds (New Culture Events and Heritage Fund, Leadership Board, 16 September 2020 (Report by: Director of Communities, Housing and Planning Services).

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Appendix A: Artist Development Grants: list of awarded grants

Grant holder name	Project description	Award amount
Iain Forbes	Record and distribute and album of original music.	£2,923
McNichol & Jackson	A collection of short, illustrated stories for children inspired by local magic and legends.	£,3000
A L Brookes	A retrospective exhibition of artwork with a programme of community outreach workshops/ talks.	£1,390
Fraser Scott	Scuff: short film	£3,000
Ciaran Whyte	Record and release an EP of original songs.	£2,915
Sita Pieraccini	Recording of a new audio release based on a live theatre piece.	£3,000
Gillian Steel	Research and development around responses to clothing in the time of Covid and climate breakdown.	£2,160
Maureen Rocks-Moore	Research and create artwork based on the artist's Covid social media diary.	£3,000
Grant McFarlane	Create an original series of music compositions based on local landmarks and heritage sites.	£3,000
Jane Hunter	Production of a new body of textiles work based on elements of the landscape.	£2,019
Laura Murray	Recording new music and accompanying video.	£2,380
Martin Quinn	Production of a 30-minute comedy sketch pilot to broadcast film quality.	£3,000
Joseph McFadden	Research the foundations of the Paisley Pattern with a view to exploring commercial options.	£2,906
Scott Reid	Develop their professional practice in song writing, composition and recording.	£3,000
Indie McCue	To support the development of the artist's practice and showcase the work of other local artists,	£2,670
Ewan Sinclair	To research and develop a VR art installation using sensory objects and materials	£3,000
Linzi Clark	Writing, recording and releasing a 4 track E.P with a digital PR campaign.	£2,972
Christine Cooper	To create a research and development project for a new piece of theatre.	£3,000
Alan Fleming-Baird	To support the research and writing of a new piece of classical music for piano and violin.	£2,050
Evelyn Laurie	To record and launch an album of traditional songs.	£1,865
Mark Robb	To record and release a single at Starla Studios.	£1,356
Karen Herbison	To develop the artist's practice and skills as a playwright with a Dramaturg/mentor.	£2,960
Alasdair Macdonald	Record and produce two new up and coming bands.	£3,000

Appendix B: Town Centre and Neighbourhoods Creative Installations grant programme: list of awarded grants

Grant holder name	Project description	Proposed location / site of project	Award amount
Alis Le May	Installation that demonstrates creation of a garment/textile sculpture.	Renfrewshire vacant shop site	£4,750
Jessica Ramm	Installation across the White Cart water at St James' Bridge.	Paisley, White Cart river	£5,000
Maureen Rocks-Moore	Group exhibition exploring the themes and attitudes to Covid.	Royal Alexandra Hospital, and second venue in Renfrewshire	£5,000
Ralston Community Council WITHDRAWN BY APPLICANT	Barshaw Park Sculpture	Barshaw Park, Ralston, Paisley	£5,000
Phillipa Tomlin	Installation recreating pre-Covid crowds in formerly busy spaces.	Various Renfrewshire venues/locations	£5,000
Soundplay	A Covid-safe, no touch interactive audio-visual window display.	YMCA window, Paisley High Street	£5,000
Mossvale Community Church	A light installation representing the changing seasons at the large plum tree at Mossvale Church.	Mossvale Church, Greenock Road, Paisley	£3,500
Indie McCue	To showcase the work of 20 local artists, makers and designers by creating 4 exhibitions.	Paisley venue	£4,750
Outspoken Arts	To stage installations of work by recently graduated female artists in a new art space.	Piazza Shopping Centre, Paisley	£4,998
Friends of Barshaw Park	The creation of a scenic viewpoint with an artistic representation of Paisley landmarks and the hills beyond the town.	Barshaw Park, Ralston, Paisley	£4,200

Appendix C: Cultural Organisations Support grant programme: list of awarded grants

Grant holder name	Project description	COS Award amount
Right2dance	Support staff members and new venue costs and engage a local consultant to help reshape the organisation in the context of Covid-19.	£17,600
PACE Theatre Company	Support the essential senior artistic team including salary contributions for the Artistic Director, Associate Director (Performance) and Associate Director (Creative Learning), reducing as income generating activity returns.	£14,000
Outspoken Arts Scotland Ltd	Support core costs to help the organisation retain a core staff team working in Renfrewshire.	£15,047
Remode	Deliver youth led activities promoting and understanding sustainable clothing, through workshops, a quarterly zine and films, all adaptable to virtual/face to face delivery as restrictions change.	£6,800
STAR Project	Provide strategic development time and resource to develop a new strategic plan and income generation plan, and secure the position of a Creative Assistant, to ensure the team has capacity to meet growing demand.	£7,743
Create Paisley	Support CREATE Paisley to adapt to online and blended delivery while building new income streams to ensure our vital services can be sustained.	£7,500
Erskine Arts	Support the organisation with a shortfall in its income and running costs due to restrictions in operating model and delivery, brought on by Covid 19.	£7,625
Fèis Phàislig	Support a coordinator position for a range of regular and annual activities.	£5,150
Jambo! Radio	Help company restart after COVID through retraining, purchasing digital radio equipment and supporting the development of volunteers.	£5,271
Bricklane Music Academy	Support music classes to continue and support staff costs.	£5,500

Appendix D: Reprofiled Cultural Organisations Development Fund: list of awarded grants

Applicant name	Amount recommended	Summary of what the allocated CODF budget would support
Right 2 Dance	£2,400	Support a business development consultant.
Erskine Arts	£2,375	Support business growth activity.
Create Paisley	£4,882	Support business growth activity.
Fèis Phàislig	£1,600	Support business growth activity.
TOTAL	£11,257	