

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Company Chordelia	
Application Reference number:	G201001064	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£116,140	£110,600
Officer's recommendation		
<p>Summarise the key points of your assessment and draw out the strengths and weaknesses of the application taken together with any comments you have received from source evidence (portfolio of evidence/ internal / external consultation). Highlight any specific risks</p> <p><i>Note: The amount of information you provide here should be sufficient for the decision maker to reach a decision. As with all previous commentary boxes please do not exceed 250 words</i></p>		
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Company Chordelia was established by choreographer, Kally Lloyd Jones to create and tour work mainly in Scotland aiming to attract new people using the 'medium of dance alongside other arts form and resources'. They also deliver educational work and audience development activities. Company Chordelia aims to provide high quality innovative performance work, be accessible to existing and new audiences (by touring widely and engaging in workshop and show talks) and attract new audiences by using dance alongside other art-forms and resources.</p> <p>Company Chordelia has a history and commitment to touring widely in Scotland and Kally has been pushing the boundaries of her work by collaborating with some interesting partners who push her artistically. It's difficult to establish how successful the proposed programme would be as there is little detail to support it but Kally's work has been well received by venues in the past and she manages her company to its best advantage with strong vision and organisational skills.</p> <p>Company Chordelia's application demonstrates the flexible funding criteria of engagement with the public due to their wide education programme and audience development activities and 'reach' due to their wide geographical touring programme. The artistic vision would be strengthened with greater detail but leadership is clearly demonstrated by the track record Company Chordelia and the good venue relationships that have been developed. The application clearly meets Dance's priority for development of choreographic practice, production and touring.</p> <p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wide reach as there is a comprehensive touring schedule ▪ Strong track record of producing good quality performances ▪ Good relationships with venues and local authority <p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Artistic plan lacks detail ▪ Joint collaboration with Paragon in Year 2 is majority of Year 2's work ▪ Education artist fee is low ▪ No evaluation plans detailed <p>Company Chordelia is seeking Flexible funding to strengthen and develop its work. CC has a good track record of producing work and touring widely. There are a few issues that would need to be addressed for the company to develop its work but to make this possible there needs to be further investment. The weaknesses highlighted above are mainly to be expected for a company at this stage of development currently led by only the Artistic Director which is why I have rated this application as Medium.</p>		

Officer's overall priority recommendation		MEDIUM
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 22/1/08 Revised: 20 March 2008
Print name:	Katy McKeown	

Stage 2: Heads of Departments prioritise applications with advice from Specialist Advisors

1. What were the strengths and weaknesses of the application identified by the Specialist Advisors? Please summarise their comments below. What were their ratings of the importance of the application in being supported?

Comments:

The panel of dance specialist advisors who considered this application included Dawn Hartley, Ian Spink, Lucy Mason and David Williams. The panel commented:

The company's artistic track record demonstrates high production values but they recognised that the work does not always live up to hoped expectations. The application provides the opportunity for the artistic director to focus on the artistic role and the panel were supportive of this, believing that it would strengthen the company's work. There is some lack of detail in the artistic programme however the panel recognised that the Paragon collaboration as strong and potentially exciting proposal

The panel rated the application as medium priority for support.

2. Summarise the role of the organisation within the infrastructure of the sector. Assess to what extent the organisation's vision will contribute to the department's and to Scottish Arts Council's aims: (to fulfil artists' potential, to increase participation, to place creativity at the heart of learning)

Comments:

Company Chordelia is a dance company led by choreographer Kally Lloyd Jones, which has been in receipt of dance project funding to create and tour work throughout Scotland. The company has an artistic practice based on dance theatre, created by the choreographer in collaboration with other artists.

1. Fit with FXO criteria:

1.1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists

Company Chordelia meets the FXO criteria of 'artistic excellence' and leadership in the sector has been demonstrated through the company's project work to date. The choreographer has demonstrated a commitment to developing her choreographic practice and the company achieves good production values in its work.

1.2 Improving your engagement with the public:

Company Chordelia demonstrates a strong commitment to engaging the public through the work and has established excellent working relationships with a range of venues throughout Scotland.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management:

Company Chordelia is a limited company with charitable status. It is a small and developing company currently with no full-time staff. It operates well within this context but if successful in achieving flexible funding should aim to strengthen its infrastructure. The company has benefitted through recent involvement in the Space 11 shared resources initiative at the CCA.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access:

The application articulates a commitment to Equal Opportunities but the company will require support and training to develop this in practice.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%:

25% matched funding is achieved over the two year period.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities:

Company Chordelia strongly meets the Dance department's priority of *'the development of choreographic practice, production and touring'*.

3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims:

Company Chordelia's vision and proposed plan of work contribute most significantly to Scottish Arts Council's Aims 1 and 2: *'to support artists to fulfil their artistic and business potential'* and *'to increase participation in the arts.'*

3. Based on the lead officer's assessment and the subsequent meeting with Specialist advisors, please rate the application (High, medium, low) summarise your reasons for assessing the application as you have (drawing out the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation and highlighting any specific risks)

Comments:

1.1 Application rating:

I concur with the Assessing Officer and Specialist Advisors panel and rate this application as medium priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating:

This rating recognises the development areas identified and current operational infrastructure of the company.

1.3 Strengths of application:

- The application meets the criteria for Flexible funding and the priority established by the Dance department.
- Company Chordelia has achieved a strong network of partner venues as a project-funded company and has played a significant role in developing audience for dance throughout Scotland

1.4 Weaknesses of applications:

- Application is light detail on the proposed programme and collaborators
- Some budgets low, particularly for Education work
- No evaluation plans detailed

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application:

The project proposed for Year 2 is a collaboration with The Paragon Ensemble. Although this is potentially an exciting artistic collaboration, there are risks associated with it as it is dependent on Paragon also being successful in achieving Flexible Funding.

1.6 Development areas identified:

Development areas include planning and organisational development. If supported I would recommend a facilitated mentoring programme for the Director in 2008/09 in preparation for becoming a Flexibly funded organisation.

1.7 Recommended level of support:

Flexible funding would enable Company Chordelia to consolidate and develop its work. The level of support applied for is appropriate and I would recommend support at the level of £110,000 in 2009/10.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?

Company Chordelia is based in Glasgow but the impact of its work is throughout Scotland through its touring programme. In the application it is proposed to tour to 18 Local Authority areas.

1.2 Where will the audience come from?

Company Chordelia's identifies audiences coming from the areas where they tour.

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation

MEDIUM

Head of Department's signature:

Print name:

Anita Clark

Date:12 February 2008
Revised: 26 March 2008

Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
Comments: Good overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects development areas identified, the competitive funding context and assessment recommendation. Suggested level of support: £110,000 annually.		
Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation		Strong medium
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Suggested level of support: £110,000 annually.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		Strong medium
Acting Chief Executive signature:		Date: 10 April 2008
Print name:	Jim Tough	

Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
Comments: The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
Joint Board Final Decision		APPROVE
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£110,000 annually

End of Assessment