

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Cove Park	
Application Reference number:	G201001048	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£110,000	£115,000
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 <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: Cove Park is an artist-centred organisation which provides artists of all disciplines and cultures with space, time and opportunities for professional and creative development through annual residency programmes. CP has developed a strong education and public programme alongside the residency programme that encourages access to and participation in the work of the artists on residency.</p> <p>Strengths:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High calibre of artists, board of directors and arts advisors • International working • Located in area of low arts provision • Development of new funding strands • Cross-artform approach and strong fit with cross artform priority • Artist centred approach • Commitment to equal opportunities and evaluation process • Track record of management and governance to date • Development of public/outreach programme • Collaborations with other arts organisations <p>Weaknesses:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ambitious fundraising targets • Future development will be dependent on the success of capital proposal for new centre <p>Overall this proposal meets all the criteria set for flexible funding well, with excellent artistic vision and a strong commitment to improving engagement with the public. Through their track record and in the application CP demonstrates a very strong alignment with the Cross artform priority to develop <i>collaborative working and artistic practice which crosses artform boundaries</i>. CP is recognised as a centre of excellence for research, development and collaboration and a valuable part of the arts infrastructure in Scotland as well as an important, and unique, national resource for the creative and professional development for artists.</p> <p>Although CP's primary purpose is in the support and development of artists CP have also developed a strong education and public programme developing public engagement in an area where there is limited access to high quality arts provision.</p> <p>The main risk is that the Cove Park residency programme is highly dependent on short term funding, and although successful in fundraising from trusts and foundations in the past, future options in this area may be limited and there is a significant risk that fundraising targets may not be met.</p>		

The other point worth noting is that the future development of the organisations programme will depend to a significant degree on the success of the capital proposal for a new centre.

A substantial increase of support (37.5%) is projected for 09/10. This uplift represents an additional 13 residency weeks, to further extend the core residency programme, and support towards the General Manager post, which will strengthen the viability of the organisation by increasing staff time for artistic development and fundraising. The proposal still represents less than 35% of turnover and, considering the additional output proposed, represents reasonable value for money.

Officer's overall priority recommendation		HIGH
Lead Officer signature:		Date: 30.1.08 Revised 20 March 2008
Print name:	Hazel Townsend	

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 Specialist Advisors panel that considered this application included Kirsteen Macdonald, Susan Nickalls, Sita Ramamurthy, Louise Butler, Steve Slater, Alan Riach, Wendy Niblock and Sally Wilson.

This was a strong but modest application from **Cove Park**. The application articulated the wide range of artists and arts organisations which had benefited from time spent there to think and share practice and ideas. It was clear that Cove Park has an international reputation and plays a unique and critical role in artists' development in Scotland. Cove Park has considered its role locally and in creating access to high quality artistic practice. It has a considered approach to issues of access. The application showed a focused but evolved plan of work.

The panel rated this application as high 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:

Cove Park is an artist centred organisation, located on a 50-acre site overlooking Loch Long in Argyll and Bute. It has developed a programme of artists residencies involving local, national and international artists, alongside education and public activities. Cove Park has been supported through a range of project funding, across artform departments.

1. Fit with FXO criteria:

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

Cove Park strongly meets the FXO criteria of 'artistic excellence' and has a distinctive and unique role in the arts infrastructure in Scotland. The organisation demonstrates a consistent commitment to innovation both in the organisation's own practice and its development of artists.

1.2 Improving your engagement with the public:

Cove Park has developed a strong education and public programme developing public engagement in an area where there is limited access to high quality arts provision.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management:

Cove Park is a limited company with charitable status. CP has a good track record as a well run and managed organisation.

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

CP has a fully comprehensive EO policy and the facilities have been developed accordance with this policy to improve the physical accessibility of CP's residency, education and public programmes. Recognising their remote location, CP has provided a free bus service to their open days from Scotland's central belt to ensure their programme is accessible to as many people as possible.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%:

Cove Park has met the matched funding requirement.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities:

Through their track record and in the application, Cove Park demonstrates a commitment to the *development of collaborative working and artistic practice which crosses artform boundaries*, in strong alignment with the Cross Art Form priority for Flexible funding.

3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims:

Cove Park's vision and proposed plan of work contribute across the Scottish Arts Council's aims, most significantly to Aim: 1 *'to support artists to fulfil their artistic and business potential'*.

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 Special Advisors panel and rate this application as **high** priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating:

Cove Park has clearly demonstrated that it meets funding criteria for Flexible funding and is an example of best practice in support to artists and in developing collaborative working.

1.3 Strengths of application:

- Strongly meets the criteria for Flexible funding and the cross arts priority
- Excellent artistic leadership and distinctive role within the arts in Scotland
- Focused and considered education and public events, becoming a beacon for high quality arts development in the area
- Good management and governance track record.

1.4 Weaknesses of applications:

- Ambitious fundraising targets
- Future development will be dependent on the success of capital proposal for new centre

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application:

The main risk is that the Cove Park residency programme is highly dependent on short term funding, and although successful in fundraising from trusts and foundations in the past, future options in this area may be limited and there is a significant risk that fundraising targets may not be met.

1.6 Development areas identified

Nothing significant to note.

1.7 Recommended level of support

The amount of funding sought is appropriate and I recommend funding at the level of £110,000 in 2009/2010.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?

Cove Park is based in Cove, outside Helensburgh in Argyll and Bute.

1.2 Where will the audience come from?

While all its activity takes place here, its programme has a broader impact as it engages with artists from throughout Scotland and internationally.

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation

HIGH

Head of Department's signature:

Print name:

Anita Clark

Date: 13 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: Strong overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects the competitive funding context. Support of £100,000 annually is proposed.		
Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation		High
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. Support of £100,000 annually is proposed.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		High
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	£100,000

End of Assessment