

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	New Moves International	
Application Reference number:	G201001034	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£285000	£250000
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: NMI Ltd is the producer of New Territories, an annual festival in Glasgow of Live and Performance Arts. It incorporates the National Review of Live Art which will be celebrating its 30th anniversary in 2010. NMI aims to encourage the areas of “live art” and performance art”, explore the boundaries between art-forms and facilitate educational work for artists through activities and programmes, including winter schools.</p> <p>They aim to connect Scotland to the world, develop the artist with innovative programmes and engage new audiences with live art. NMI has significantly developed their ongoing programmes over a number of years and left a legacy in place for further development of live arts.</p> <p><u>Strengths</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong vision and leadership • Good clear business plan with clearly outlines aims and strategies • Realistic budget • Good management and governance track record • Excellent track record in developing opportunities for artists. <p><u>Weaknesses</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Practical implementation of equal opportunities and access. <p>NMI has proposed an innovative programme of activity. They have a strong track record of supporting and developing live art and a strong organisational structure to support delivery of the proposed programme.</p>		
Officer's overall priority recommendation		HIGH
Lead Officer signature:		Date:22/108 Revised 20/3/08
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 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. The panel commented:

The application from **New Moves International Ltd (NMI)** is exciting, innovative and demonstrates clarity of artistic vision. The international partnerships were particularly evident and the panel recognised that the organisation is respected both nationally and internationally. The panel recognised the distinctive role of the organisation and their role in nurturing the work of younger artists. They also recognised the importance of the work in the archiving and documentation strategy. The panel would have liked to have seen a stronger emphasis on their marketing strategy built on robust audience research. They were less convinced about the evidence and sufficient justification for developing the digital strands and felt that this required further development and would recommend that working in partnerships would achieve this most effectively.

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:

New Moves International Ltd (NMI) is the production company for *new territories*, the annual international festival of live and performance in Glasgow. It incorporates the National Review of Live Art, the most significant event in the European Live Arts calendar and attracts practitioners and promoters from across the globe. 2010 is the 30th anniversary of NRLA and the proposals within this application include celebrating this anniversary through the programme and a publication documenting the legacy of the event.

1. Fit with FXO criteria:

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

NMI strongly meets the FXO criteria of artistic excellence and leadership. NMI has a distinctive and unique role in the arts infrastructure in Scotland and 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

NMI demonstrates a commitment to 'public engagement', although this could be strengthened with a more robust and innovative audience development approach.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management

NMI is a limited company with charitable status. It has an effective and active board with a broad range of skills and experience. It operates with a small but effective management team, bringing in additional staff on project contracts for the Festival.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access

NMI has actively promoted the work of marginalised artists through its programming policy and the organisation has an equal opportunities policy in place. The practical implementation of this,

particularly through marketing should be further developed.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%

NMI has met the matched funding requirement.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities

Through their track record and in the application, NMI 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

NMI's vision and proposed plan of work contribute across the Scottish Arts Council's aims, most significantly to 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 the panel of Specialist Advisors and rate this application as **high** priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating

The organisation has clearly demonstrated that it meets funding criteria for Flexible funding and plays a distinctive role within the arts in Scotland. NMI is an example of good practice in support to artists and in developing collaborative working. The organisation has an international reputation, as demonstrated through involvement in Culture 2007 programmes.

1.3 Strengths of application

- Strongly meets the criteria for Flexible funding and the cross arts priority
- Strong vision and leadership, recognised internationally
- Excellent track record in developing opportunities for artists
- Clear business plan which clearly outlines aims and strategies
- Good management and governance track record.

1.4 Weaknesses of applications

- Approach to audience development and access requires strengthening.

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application

I agree with the Specialist Advisors panel that there is not sufficient evidence backing up the proposals for the development of the digital strands and while potentially very exciting, I feel it would benefit from further research and could be most effectively delivered in partnership with other organisations with expertise in this area of work.

1.6 Development areas identified

Development of a more robust and innovative audience development approach.

1.7 Recommended level of support

I recommend funding at the level of £235,000 in 2009/2010 to enable the expanded programme for the 30th anniversary of NMI and for further research to be undertaken into the digital programme.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?

NMI is based in Glasgow and the festival takes place in the city

1.2 Where will the audience come from?

In the application, NMI state that 100% of their audience is from the city. This may be a misunderstanding of the question as I am aware the audience, particularly for NRLA is drawn from throughout Scotland, the UK and internationally.

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation

HIGH

Head of Department's signature:

Print name:

Anita Clark

Date: 14 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 and assessment recommendation. Support of £230,000 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 £230,000 annually is proposed.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		High
Acting Chief Executive signature:	Jim Tough	Date: 10 April 2008

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	£230,000

End of Assessment