

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

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| Applicant name: | Talbot Rice Gallery | |
| Application Reference number: | G201001022 | |
| Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2) | £105,000 | £105,000 |
| 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: Talbot Rice is particularly important within the Edinburgh infrastructure and for its base in academic research through University of Edinburgh. It proposes a strong programme of nationally and internationally significant work that continues to develop in ambition and plans for 2009-2011 will further enhance the gallery's reputation for strong partnerships and important exhibitions.</p> <p>The quality of the Talbot Rice programme is internationally recognised and it is able to work with a wide range of artists because of this.</p> <p>The University of Edinburgh has increased its support to Talbot Rice in recognition of its importance and has historically addressed any deficits that have been incurred. This clear commitment to the gallery's work provides a strong foundation for partnership working.</p> <p>Strengths:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong programme of nationally and internationally recognised artists • Research connexions, funding and support from University of Edinburgh • Strong partnerships with a wide range of organisations and institutions including galleries nationally and internationally • Respected curator • Important position within Edinburgh's and Scotland's visual art sector • Strong commitment to education (in all its forms) and widening audience base evidenced by increasingly ambitious projects although difficulties in attracting a wider audience due to location. • Fulfils Scottish Arts Council and Visual Art priorities well <p>Weaknesses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restricted capacity of the current team to achieve ambitions of the organisation without increased funding | | |
| Officer's overall priority recommendation | | HIGH |
| Lead Officer signature: | | Date:31.01.08 Revised: 20.03.08 |
| Print name: | STEPHEN PALMER | |

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 Alastair Snow, Helen Monaghan, Stephen Beddoe and Kirstie Skinner.

Meets Scottish Arts Council, flexible funding and department aims well.

Artistic vision and leadership – High, Advisors welcomed the clarity in the plan, supported the vision of the curator and recognised the high quality of the planned and previous programme.

Public engagement – High; Advisors commented on the strong commitment to education and audience development.

Overall rating – High; Talbot Rice Gallery presents an important programme that is nationally and internationally significant. The Advisors noted the excellent partnership with the University of Edinburgh that enables Scottish Arts Council funds to be directed towards quality and ambition in the programme.

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:

Fit with FXO criteria

Vision and leadership/role within sector/support to artists

Talbot Rice is part of the University of Edinburgh Old College campus. The gallery has a clear artistic policy presenting the work of nationally and internationally significant artists as well as providing opportunities for artists who are at an emergent/developmental point in their practice. Clarity of vision is achieved through extensive research and curatorial rigour resulting in a consistently high standard of exhibition making.

The position of the gallery within the context of the University is becoming increasingly important and this is evidenced by the ongoing investment in the gallery's infrastructure. The partnership between the Scottish Arts Council and the University of Edinburgh is important and enables a high quality programme of contemporary art to be originated within a unique context.

Engagement with the public/support for increasing participation/learning

As a gallery operating within a University context the Talbot Rice is deeply committed to developing knowledge and supporting learning. There is a strong and evidenced commitment to educational activity which is structured to engage people from different ages and backgrounds – from local schools, students, academics and the wider community. Planned developments will continue to encourage/strengthen participation by students in all aspects of the gallery's programme.

Talbot Rice is continually striving to raise visibility and profile and achieves a good deal with limited resources. It works well with partners and explores new marketing opportunities effectively. The Advisory Board provides an excellent support to the staff team and also a clear route for

communication within the University structures.
Good practice in governance and management

The University of Edinburgh is accountable to the Higher Education Funding Council and has robust governance and management structures. The Talbot Rice benefits from support from colleagues from specialist departments within the University and is also guided by the skills and expertise of its Advisory Board. There is a small staff team that is effective in achieving agreed targets.

Equal Opportunities/widening access

The University of Edinburgh has a strong commitment to inclusion and an active policy for increasing access. The Talbot Rice Gallery has been active in promoting this policy by addressing both physical and intellectual barriers.

Other income of at least 25%

Budgets indicate this has been addressed.

Fit with Departmental priorities

Talbot Rice has produced a clear plan and has a significant track record in meeting the Visual Arts Department's aims: to develop opportunities that support artistic/curatorial development and to encourage the promotion of nationally and internationally significant work.

Fit with Scottish Arts Council's Aims

As described above the organisation meets the aims of SAC in supporting artists, increasing participation and furthering opportunities in the arts through education.

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

Application Rating: High, this application meets the FXO criteria very well. This rating reflects the assessment of the Officer and the comments received from the Advisors.

Strengths of application: the plan demonstrates support to a range of artists at different stages of their career; the plan is clear in how the gallery will promote work that is nationally/ internationally significant; the gallery has a strong and evidenced commitment to education, participation and learning; there is an excellent partnership with the University of Edinburgh.

Weaknesses of application: the plan is ambitious and there is a small staff team that is working at capacity to deliver agreed outcomes.

Potential risks and suggested development areas: there is a risk that the University of Edinburgh may not continue to invest in Talbot Rice Gallery but this is considered highly unlikely given the strong commitment to the gallery evident in recent years.

However, and as identified above, the gallery operates with a small team and there is a need to build capacity to support future development and ambitions. The University of Edinburgh may not be in a position to support increased staffing costs and this would affect future plans.

Recommended level of support: £80,000 to support ambitions and to secure the partnership with the University of Edinburgh

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

Talbot Rice Gallery is based in the City of Edinburgh. The exhibitions programme promotes artists from Scotland, the rest of the UK and elsewhere.

Audiences come from Edinburgh, the rest of Scotland and the UK and international visitors are particularly evident during the summer months.

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| Head of Department's overall priority recommendation | | HIGH |
| Head of Department's signature: | | Date:15/2/08 |
| Print name: | Amanda Catto | Revised: 26/3/08 |

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| 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 £75,000 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 | |

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| 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 £75,000 annually is proposed. | | |
| Directors recommendations to Joint Board | | High |
| Acting Chief Executive signature: | Jim Tough | Date: 10 April 2008 |

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| 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 | £75,000 |

End of Assessment