

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Gala Scotland Ltd (trading as Glasgay!)	
Application Reference number:	G201001092	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£152,000	£156,560
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: The application is from Gala Scotland Ltd, who trade under the name of Glasgay!</p> <p>They are describes as an '<i>arts production company</i>' which produces an annual festival covering the visual and performing arts, literature, film, music and comedy. Their activities in many cases feature work by Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and queer artists. Most of their activities are centred on Glasgow and the 4 week festival.</p> <p>Since 2005 Gala has been working towards their ambitions to be a producer as well as a promoter of events, as well as building support for local artists. They also aspire to develop their activities beyond the current 4 week festival. This is reflected in their programme for 2009/11.</p> <p>It is clear that the proposed programme is concerned with the significant development of their work. It addresses all of the criteria to a degree. Of particular note is; it's potential to improve engagement with the public; the potential to attract a wider audience to their work; their plans for education; and their role in supporting artist.</p> <p>The quality of artistic output is seen as variable, though as the Drama Officer has commented this is to be expected and is acceptable within the festival format. It is an organisation that clearly engages with it's core audience i.e. the LGBT community, and importantly is seen as developing more variety in it's work that is of interest to a more mainstream audience.</p> <p>The governance and management, of the organisation is appropriate, though the Board could benefit from additional members with additional arts experience. The staff team is 'lean', but could be considered small to deliver a significantly expanding programme. There is also some risk in their over-reliance on the producer. His undoubted skills and experience are recognised, but his capacity to maintain and develop a programme of quality through a period of significant expansion may be questionable.</p> <p>Glasgay! have recently been awarded less than they had anticipated from SAC for their programme in 2008/09 (Request £110,000, Award £50,000). This was seen very much as a lead-in to the programme in subsequent years, and is likely to impact on what they can ultimately achieve in 2010/11.</p> <p>Overall the programme is ambitious, and it is unclear whether the organisation, without the significant increased support of SAC will be able to deliver at the level planned or be able to maintain an appropriate level of quality. Officers would suggest that a more modest and phased development of their activities would be more realistic and deliverable.</p>		

In terms of the programme, quality of activity, and artistic leadership likely to be delivered, the application is considered a **Medium** priority for support. In all other respects i.e. business plan and financial matters it is considered a **Medium** priority.

Officer's overall priority recommendation

MEDIUM

Lead Officer signature:

Date: 31 January 2008

Print name:

Sandy Blair

Revised: 20 March 2008

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:

They recognised that the profile of **Gala Scotland/ Glasgay** has risen and that the application articulates a commitment to high quality work, with a particular focus on emerging and established artists. The panel recognised the Festival's approach to diversifying audiences through programming, and in an environment where 'gay' issues have been somewhat obscured, Glasgay has enhanced that profile. The panel recognised the quality of Glasgay's work particularly through collaboration and the engagement with venues. The application and business plan set out a strategic approach to the festival's development. However, the panel noted that the organisation is seeking a very large increase in funding and the impact of this increase was not clear.

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:

The application is from Gala Scotland Ltd, who produce the annual festival Glasgay! covering the visual and performing arts, literature, film, music and comedy. Their activities in many cases feature work by Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and queer artists. Gala Scotland Ltd has been in receipt of project funding from the Scottish Arts Council, through art development and more recently through the Performing Arts Promoters Fund.

1. Fit with FXO criteria:

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

The organisation articulates a commitment to *artistic leadership* and its role in supporting and promoting the work of Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender and queer artists is distinctive within the cultural sector in Scotland.

1.2 Improving your engagement with the public

Glasgay meets the criteria of *public engagement*, promoting opportunities for a sector of the community often marginalised from arts activity.

1.3 Good practice in the governance and management

The business plan and the proposed operating model is detailed and comprehensive and appears to realistically address finance, governance and management issues.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access

Glasgay raises the profile and contributes to the understanding of LGBT issues. An Equal Opportunities Policy has been included with the business plan that details the organisation's clear commitment to equal opportunities in all its practices.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%

Glasgay has met the matched funding requirements. The significant uplift in funding is requested solely from the Scottish Arts Council, not from the organisation's other funding partners and sources.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities

The proposed programme expands across artforms but has not clearly demonstrated the Cross Art form priority for the development of collaborative working and artistic practice which crosses artform boundaries.

3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims

Gala Scotland Ltd contributes across the Scottish Arts Council's aims, with the proposed plans particularly addressing Aim 1, 'to support artists to fulfil their creative and business potential' and Aim 2; '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 rate the application as **medium** priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating

The organisation meets the criteria for flexible funding but this rating recognises the development areas identified.

1.3 Strengths of application

- meets the criteria for Flexible funding
- artistically ambitious approach and distinctive and important role in supporting and promoting Lesbian, Gay, Bi - sexual, Transgender and queer artists
- strong partnerships with other organisation to deliver programme
- business plan which clearly outlines aims and strategies.

1.4 Weaknesses of applications

- increase in funding sought only from the Scottish Arts Council
- wide expansion of programme but full impact of this unclear
- staffing capacity for extended programme.

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application

Glasgay has recently been awarded less than they had anticipated from SAC for their programme in 2008/09 (Request £110,000, Award £50,000). This was seen very much as a lead-in to the programme in subsequent years, and is likely to impact on what they can ultimately achieve in 2009/10.

1.6 Development areas identified

The application is for ambitious programme of activities, beyond the current Festival. I recommend a more staged and structured development approach to its growth focusing on the festival and playing an advocacy role in the mainstreaming of work by LGBT artists. I believe that this would strengthen the organisation for the longer-term.

1.7 Recommended level of support

If this application is supported I would recommend that it is at a lower level of funding and that a revised budget and programme of work is sought, which reflects a more focused approach to consolidation and development. I recommend funding at a maximum of £70,000 in 2009/10.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?

Glasgay is based in Glasgow and the annual festival takes place in the city.

1.2 Where will the audience come from?

In their application they give a detailed breakdown of the audience drawn to the festival from throughout Scotland and the UK, based on actual box office data from the 2007 Festival.

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation		MEDIUM
Head of Department's signature:		Date: 14 February 2008 Revised: 26 March 2008
Print name:	Anita Clark	

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: £60,000 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: £60,000 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	£60,000 annually

End of Assessment