

## FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

<b>Applicant name:</b>	Stammer Productions	
<b>Application Reference number:</b>	G201001033	
<b>Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)</b>	£90,000	£93,150
<b>Officer's recommendation</b>		
<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><b>Comments:</b></p> <p>Stammer Productions (formally known as Body Document) was formed in 2002 by Artistic Director, Colette Sadler. Colette was awarded a Creative Scotland award in 2003. The company has been regularly supported by Tramway and has an international profile, with work being shown in Spain, Portugal and Germany. Stammer's latest production 07-08 has high profile international partners PACT Zollverein, Fabrik Potsdam and WP Zimmer. Colette has received support from the Scottish Arts Council for many years, both as an individual and as a company, and the company secured Flexible funding status for two year support 2007-09 in 2006.</p> <p>Stammer Productions is seeking a 12.5% increase in funding in year one and a further 3% increase in year two.</p> <p><b>Strengths</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Artistic director has international reputation</li> <li>• Strong collaborative partnerships with high quality artists proposed</li> <li>• Meets all the criteria listed for this fund</li> <li>• Meets Dance Department priority for development of choreographic practice, production and touring on several levels – creating work and supporting creative development of choreographers</li> <li>• Clear visionary business plan</li> <li>• Good programme of work proposed – developing new markets</li> <li>• Artistic evaluations have been consistently good</li> <li>• 11 areas of Scotland have been identified for the tour of the programme and Europe.</li> </ul> <p><b>Weaknesses</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Financial reserves of the company are weak and no contingency in budget, so high financial risk</li> <li>• Company not achieved 25% match funding, but in-kind support not listed within budget</li> <li>• No contingency if funds from Scottish Arts Council not achieved or at lower level than requested</li> <li>• Company structure and reporting would need to be developed when limited company status achieved, including staff pay scales and appraisals</li> </ul> <p>Note – would need support to develop Equalities and may need organisational support to train Board when new company structure in place.</p> <p><b>Flexible funding criteria</b></p> <p>1 Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists - met</p>		

Within the application, stammer communicates a clear artistic vision and identifies how its work will be developed through the proposed artistic programme. Stammer's work is conceptually motivated and explores working with objects and space.

2 Improving your engagement with the public – met

There is a very clear statement of intent on engaging audiences.

3 Good practice in the governance and management – met

Stammer has demonstrated good management and governance in its current and previous dealings with the Scottish Arts Council.

4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access – met in-part

It is unclear how it proposes to practically implement this policy in its work. Stammer would benefit from help to develop this area.

5 Raising other income at least 25% - not met

In-kind support not listed within budget

Dance priority - development of choreographic practice, production and touring – met

This is a well rounded programme of work that fits this well.

The work proposed by stammer is intriguing and very creative. Artistically I would rate this organisation as high priority for support. However, because of the priority definitions, and the organisational development required by the company, I would have to rate it as Medium.

<b>Officer's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>MEDIUM</b>
Lead Officer signature:		Date:11/12/07
Print name:	Susan Hay	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 panel of dance specialist advisors who considered this application involved Dawn Hartley, Ian Spink, Lucy Mason and David Williams. The panel commented:

There was recognition of **Stammer Production's** enquiring approach to choreographic practice and the careful and thorough choice of collaborators that inform the company's work. They considered the application and business plan strong with innovative future plans and demonstrating a good breadth of work. The company's success in developing international partnerships was recognised as particularly strong. The panel commented that Stammer Production's approach to marketing and audience development would benefit from further development.

The panel recognised the quality of Stammer Production's work and that the company had a role in enriching the dance and performance sector in Scotland. The panel rated highly the artistic leadership of the company, but recognising a small number of development areas rated it overall 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:**

Stammer Productions is one of the new dance organisations which received flexible funding for 2 years from April 2007.

1. *Fit with FXO criteria:*

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

Stammer Productions strongly meets the FXO criteria of '*artistic excellence and leadership.*' Led by choreographer, Colette Saddler, Stammer Productions demonstrates strong artistic leadership, a commitment to innovation and strong artistic integrity directing the proposed programme of work. The international partnerships achieved by the company are particularly significant.

1.2 *Improving your engagement with the public*

The company's work is risk taking, pushing the boundaries of dance and performance and can be challenging so does not have wide touring potential. The application demonstrates a commitment to seeking out appropriate opportunities and partnerships and to developing the company's work in different arena's (e.g. the Mobile project with children).

1.3 *Good practice in the governance and management*

Stammer has demonstrated good management in its current and previous dealings with the Scottish Arts Council. The business plan includes proposals to strengthen the operating structure and governance.

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

The application outlines an Equal opportunities plan but it is unclear how it proposes to practically implement this policy in other areas. The company will require support and training to develop this in practice.

1.5 *Raising other income at least 25%*

Stammer Productions has not demonstrated the matched funding requirement in budgets submitted, although the assessing officer notes that these do not currently include any in-kind support.

2. *Fit with Departmental priorities*

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

3. *Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims*

Stammer Production's vision and proposed plan of work contribute most significantly to Scottish Arts Council's 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 the Special Advisor panel in rating highly the artistic leadership of the company, but recognising a small number of development areas must rate it overall as medium priority for support.

*1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating*

This rating recognises the development areas identified.

*1.3 Strengths of application*

- meets the criteria for Flexible funding and the priority established by the dance department
- quality of the artistic leadership
- strong international partnerships proposed and collaborations with high quality artists
- clear visionary business plan

*1.4 Weaknesses of applications*

- Company has not achieved 25% match funding, but in-kind support not listed within budget
- Financial reserves of the company are weak and no contingency in budget
- Company structure needing development

*1.5 Specific risks associated with the application*

Small company with limited infrastructure.

*1.6 Development areas identified*

The company is still at an early stage of development and would benefit from strengthening its organisational structure – this is recognised in the business plan and includes plans for taking this forward. The company would also benefit from strengthening its approach to audience development and marketing.

*1.7 Recommended level of support*

I recommend Stammer Productions for support at the level of £90,000 in 2009/10.

**4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme**

**Comments:**

*1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?*

Stammer Productions is based in Glasgow. The creation of the work will take place primarily in Glasgow and Edinburgh with European partnerships also supporting the development of the work. The plans also include touring throughout Scotland.

*1.2 Where will the audience come from?*

Stammer has not indicated in the application their anticipated audience reach.

<b>Head of Department's overall priority recommendation</b>		<b>MEDIUM</b>
Head of Department's signature:		Date:12 February 2008 Revised: 26 March 2008
Print name:	Anita Clark	

<b>Stage 3: Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) make recommendations to Directors (Acting Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive and Co-Directors of Arts)</b>		
1. Summarise the reasons why the final rating has been made.		
<b>Comments:</b> Good overall fit with FXO criteria. The amount reflects development areas identified, the competitive funding context and assessment recommendation. Suggested level of support: £90,000 annually.		
<b>Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation</b>		Strong medium
Chair of Meeting signature:		Date: 2 April 2008
Print name:	Iain Munro	

<b>Stage 4: Directors make recommendations to Joint Board (strategic fit)</b>		
Record the Directors' recommendation and confirm the suggested level of support. If the recommendation differs from Stage 3, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> Agree with Stage 3 recommendation. Suggested level of support: £90,000 annually.		
<b>Directors recommendations to Joint Board</b>		Strong medium
Acting Chief Executive signature:		Date:10 April 2008
Print name:	Jim Tough	

<b>Stage 5: Joint Board's decisions</b>		
Record the Joint Board's recommendation. If the recommendation differs from Stage 4, please summarise the reasons why.		
<b>Comments:</b> The Joint Board accepts the Stage 4 recommendation.		
<b>Joint Board Final Decision</b>		<b>APPROVE</b>
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£90,000 annually

**End of Assessment**