

Cross-Party Group Annual Return

Name of Cross-Party Group

Cross-Party Group on Culture and Communities

Date Group Established (the date of establishment is the date in this parliamentary session that the Group held its initial meeting, where the office bearers were elected and not the date that the Group was accorded recognition. All Groups should hold their AGMs on, or before, the anniversary of this date.)

Established 01/09/2021 This session 1/11/2023

Date of Most Recent Annual General Meeting (AGM)

18/09/2024

Date Annual Return Submitted

01/10/2023

Date of Preceding AGM [this date is required to aid clerks in verifying that the most recent AGM has taken place within 11 to 13 months of the previous AGM]

2/10/2023

Group Meetings and Activities

Please provide details of each meeting of the Group including the date of the meeting, a brief description of the main subjects discussed and the MSP and non-MSP attendance figures.

Details of any other activities, such as visits undertaken by the Group or papers/report published by the Group should also be provided.

Please note that the CPG Culture and Communities works in tandem with the CPG Creative Economy. There are two meetings of each group annually: making four meetings in total annually covering the wider culture sector.

28 February 2023

MSP Attendees 4

Non-MSP Attendees 32

We held the AGM and meeting theme was Culture and the Cost of Living Crisis

We heard from three guest speakers, who provided a snapshot of their work with communities.

Lewis Hou (Science Ceilidh) gave a presentation on his work facilitating a series of sector-wide discussions on Social Inequalities, Culture, wellbeing and libraries.

The aim of these discussions were to discover what is happening across libraries and culture to support social inequalities including the cost of living crisis, and collaborations that are developing in real time to respond to these needs.

These discussions led to a series of developing recommendations for improving community based culture and wellbeing in Scotland.

- Working inclusively and intentionally with communities to support cultural democracy and wellbeing
- Valuing workforce mental health, wellbeing and diversity during the cost of living crisis
- Sharing learning, resources and connections across sectors locally and nationally to support more integrated culture and wellbeing activities
- Reimagining what a more sustainable funding and ecosystem nourishing culture and wellbeing could look like
- Building an informed wider movement advocating for culture's role in mental health, wellbeing and social inequalities.

Anne Gallacher (Luminate) gave a presentation on Luminate's work with their Dementia Inclusive Singing Network, which helps people affected by dementia take part in singing groups and choirs across Scotland.

Anne began by highlighting the benefits the group brings to participants, before going on to discuss landscape challenges affecting the network's work. Luminate take a rights-based approach to delivering all their activity, including the dementia inclusive singing network.

In terms of the Dementia Inclusive Singing Network, the work is underpinned by research finding that community-based activities are integral to dementia support.

In the current context, the network faces a number of challenges:

Volunteer numbers dropping.

Groups that are part of the network are struggling to raise core funds – this landscape is very different to pre-pandemic.

Accessing appropriate spaces is also proving challenging – as a result of further cuts, many Local Authorities are increasing venue hire charges to unaffordable levels.

Age Scotland (the organisation which hosts Luminate) are finding that this difficulty is being experienced by groups right across the country.

Most singing groups employ musicians and are now struggling to do so.

Jasmine Main (Ayr Gaiety Theatre)

Jasmine's presentation focused on experiences from her work as Creative Engagement co-ordinator with the Ayr Gaiety Theatre, including delivering the Ayr Gaiety partnership Culture Collective Program.

Previously, Jasmine had worked with Toonspeak Young People's Theatre and other organisations in Glasgow and South Ayrshire.

The Ayr Gaiety partnership delivered six projects in its first year of funding. Jasmine's role included managing a team of thirteen artists, working on projects including dementia friendly theatre, a theatre company for adults with additional support needs, a board for young people with care experience and a creative writing project in Wallacetown, South Ayrshire.

The creative writing project was delivered in partnership with the Riverside Community Trust, working weekly with participants.

The group became a way for participants to access a number of different services: A food bank, clothes bank, community meals and NHS dentistry.

Jasmine raised the vital point that when asking participants to work on stories and write about their lives, consideration of wider circumstances is vital. She highlighted that imagination and play are privileges, and not as accessible as people might think. Factors such as mental and physical health, addiction, isolation, hunger and financial inequality are so immediate that creativity might be an impossibility. You can't eat art.

To facilitate working with communities, it was essential to provide access to more immediate needs – food, warmth, shelter and medical treatment. This is not something that an arts organisation can necessarily support, so partnerships were essential.

Jasmine concluded by illustrating that when working in context such as the above, getting people through the door is only the first barrier. Once in the room, there will likely be multiple additional barriers to overcome. At the time of the meeting, Culture Collective funding hadn't yet been extended, leaving a cliff edge for projects such as the Ayr Gaiety Partnership's creative writing project.

Neil Gray MSP (Minister for Culture, Europe and International Development)

Neil Gray MSP joined the meeting to provide a short update on the Scottish Government's perspective on the cost crisis experienced by the sector.

He outlined that the Government are doing all they can to respond to the issues facing the sector. He described the Government as being in "listening mode" to the concerns of the sector, while highlighting that due to inflation the 2022-23 budget is worth around £1.7 billion less than when it was introduced to Parliament in December 2021.

He re-iterated his determination to do all he can for the culture sector.

1 November 2023

MSP Attendees 4

Non-MSP Attendees 30

A meeting was held on 1 November 2023 to discuss the culture sector and the impacts of local authority cuts at a community level.

Robin Strang – Chair of Community Leisure Scotland

Community Leisure UK has 26 members in Scotland – all registered charities, 58% are delivering some form of culture or arts services and their portfolios include libraries, museums, galleries, theatres, cinemas, archives, as well as community halls and green spaces.

The current landscape challenges are particularly challenging this year but there is an expectation of worse to come in future years.

Community impacts are evident and there is a real risk of any reductions in service having a disproportionate impact on communities. A Local authority survey in Aberdeen this year on the public's priorities for budget spend identified arts, culture and sport as the second highest priority for residents. Many cultural venues operate as warm spaces through the winter

Asks would be

1. Recognition of the value of services provided
2. Commitment to invest in public leisure and culture at local authority and national government level

3. Capital investment in maintenance and upgrading facilities
4. Closer working with health and cross-portfolio working
5. Financial support for increased utilities and operating costs

David McDonald – Scotland Policy and Partnerships Coordinator, Creative Lives

Creative Lives was founded over 30 years ago and celebrates, encourages and champions people expressing themselves creatively in their everyday lives and practicing their creativity socially with other people.

Most important aspect is the people and CL provides support to them in their local areas.

Asks would be:

1. for a review of the Community Empowerment Act to cut red tape and simplify processes and breathe new life into closed community venues.
2. to take a place-based approach to culture and see a mapping of cultural assets delivered by Scottish Government.
3. for culture to have a voice and place in local decision making and a seat at the table such as in community planning where creative groups play a role in shaping and preserving local assets.

Alison Reeves, Deputy CEO and Manager, Scotland – Making Music

Established in 1935, Making Music is the UK's membership organisation for leisure-time music and is dedicated to empowering everyone, whatever their background or experience, to come together in their community to make or present music.

They have 4,000 members in the UK – 228,000 + people, 280 in Scotland, 15,000+ people. They are in every local authority area and are made up from 56% Vocal, 29% Instrumental and 14% Promoters. The average group size is 57 and most are voluntary and not for profit.

Their Big Survey in 2022 provided data on venues finding the most popular (90%) spaces for meetings were churches and church halls, schools and community or village halls.

The hire costs of venues are rising due to: energy price rises, staffing (janitors etc), cost of living crisis, inclusion and access concerns, lower numbers of participants post-pandemic.

Challenges are also caused in the availability of spaces due to church hall mergers and closures (Church of Scotland streamlining), Local Authority owned closures are starting to impact and replaced and refurbished community spaces that are not specced for music activity.

Group music making is in every community in Scotland, it reaches participants and audiences that funded arts do not, it brings many benefits with little direct cash investment from government or local authority, infrastructure needs are not unique.

MSP Members of The Group

Please provide names and party designation of all MSP members of the Group.

Foyso Choudhury MSP – Labour
Clare Adamson MSP – SNP
Sarah Boyack MSP – Labour
Michael Marra MSP – Labour
Claire Baker MSP – Labour
Sharon Dowey MSP – Conservative

Non-MSP Members of The Group

For organisational members please provide only the name of the organisation, it is not necessary to provide the name(s) of individuals who may represent the organisation at meetings of the Group.

Individuals		
	Adam	Behr
	Adam	Adnyana
	adam	jackson
	Alexandra	Rive
	Alexis	Woolley
	Ali	Anderson-Dyer
	Alice	Black
	Alishia	Farnan
	Alison	Reeves
	Alison	Robertson
	Amanda	Catto
	Amy	McNeese-Mechan
	Amy	McNeese-Mechan
	Andrew	McNiven
	Andrew	Ormston
	Andrew	Hurst
	Andy	Henry
	Andy	Robertson
	Andy	Robertson

Angela	Adams-Gray
Anita	Clark
Ann	Packard
Anna	Higham
Anna	Stapleton
Anne	Gallacher
Anne	Diack
Anthony	Schrag
Ariel	Killick
Ashley	Smith-Hammond
Asif	Khan
audrey	wilson
Barb	Fraser
Barbara	Burke
Barbie	Lyon
Benjamin	Carey
Beth	Bate
Brendan	Moon
Brian	Ã“ hEadhra
Bryan	McDowall
Bryan	Beattie
Bryony	McIntyre
Callum	Beesley
Camilla	Irvine-Fortescue
Carol	Main
Caroline	Dooley
Caroline	Brown
Catherine	Cartmell
Catherine	Middleton Findlay
Catrin	Evans
Catriona	Melville
Catriona	Patterson
CD	Boyland
Chantal	Guevara
CHARLOTTE	MOUNTFORD
Charlotte	di Corpo
Chloe	Minish
Christabel	Anderson
Christopher	Glasgow
Christopher	Walker
Claire	Dow
Claire	McDade
Claire	Dow
Clare	Gunn
Clare	Cooper
Claricia	Parinussa

Conor	Joseph
Cristina	Clopot
David	Mann
David	McDonald
David	Culbert
David	Nicholson
David	Watt
David	Francis
David	Martin
David	Stevenson
Demet	Kayaoglu
Diane	Henderson
Donna	Heddle
Douglas	Chalmers
Duncan	Dornan
Duncan	Bremner
Eithne	Ni Chonghaile
Eleanor	Styles
Ellen	Anderson
Emma	Ainsley
Emma	Halford-Forbes
Emma	Mortimore
Emma	Scott
Eona	Craig
Erin	Mantle
Erinna	McElhinney
Eva	McKenzie
Eve	Nicol
Evelyn	Henderson-Child
Fiona	Dalgetty
Fiona	Doring
Fiona	Sturgeon Shea
Fiona	MacEwan
Frances	Davis
Frazer	Hay
Freya	Taylor
Gary	Kerr
Gavin	Crichton
Gillian	McFarland
Graeme	Howell
Grant	Williams
Greg	Thomas
Hajra	Ilyas
Hanna	Madalska-Gayer
Harriet	Warman
Heather	Fulton

Heather	Stuart
Helen	Mill
Helen	Trew
Helen	Trew
Helen	Coughtrie
Helen	Moore
Hester	Parr
Hope	London
Ian	Baxter
Isobel	Ingham-Barrow
Isobel	MacRae
Isobel	MacRae
Jack	Gamble
Jacky	Hardacre
Jakki	Jeffery
Jane	Humphries
Jane	Ali-Knight
Janie	Nicoll
Janine	Ballantyne
Jason	Rose
Jayne	Ashley
Jayne	Smith
Jean	Urquhart
Jean	Cameron
Jeanie	Scott
Jen	McGregor
Jennifer	Paterson
JENNIFER	HUNTER
Jennifer	Hunter
Jenny	Kumar
JERRY	BOWEH
Jim	Hollington
Joe	Traynor
JOHN	ENNIS
John	Pelan
John	Cairns
John	Cairns
John	McCann
Joseph	Peach
Julia	Amour
Julie	Tait
Julien	Pierrefeu
Karen	Dick
Kate	Griffin
Kate	Nelson
Kate	Wimpress

Kate	Seiler
Katharine	Wheeler
Katherine	Champion
Kathleen	O'Neill
Kathryn	Welch
Kathryn	Oakley
Kathryn	Willens
Katie	Weldon
Katy	Bowman
Kenny	Mcglashan
Kevin	Harrison
Kevin	Harrison
Kirsten	Carter mckee
Kirstie	Jamieson
Kirsty	Miller
Kirsty	Cumming
Kirsty	Keay
Kylie	Fagan
Laura	Simpson
Leah	Black
Leonie	Bell
Lesley Anne	Rose
Lewis	Hou
Lisa	Cowan
Lizzie	Smith
Lori	Anderson
Louise	Townsend
Lubna	Kerr
Lucy	Bell
Lynda	Graham
Lynda	Graham
Lyndsey	McLean
Lynne	Hocking
Lynn-Sayers	McHattie
Mairead	Nic Craith
marc	LAMBERT
Marie	Christie
Marjorie	Perotto
Mark	Daniels
Mark	Geddes
Marlene	Curran
Martin	Aitken
Matt	McGrandles
Matt	Baker
Matt	Brennan
Matthew	Zajac

Matthew	Hall
Matthew	Ward
Matthew	Whiteside
Megan	Mitchell
Mhari	Robinson
Mhora	Samuel
Michael	Bowdidge
Miki Lee	Dale
Miriam	Nelken
Moira	Jeffrey
Morvern	Cunningham
Nancy	Riach
Neil	Gilmour
Nicola	Walls
Nicola	Scott
Nicole	Smith
Ola	Wojtkiewicz
Orchid	Liu
Patricia	O'Grady
Patricia	O'Grady
Paul	Fitzpatrick
Paul	Cockburn
Paul	Sullivan
Paula	Sledzinska
Phoenix	Archer
Poppy	Jarratt
Rachel	Kareem
Rebecca	Finkel
Rebecca	Churcher-Soden
Rhona	Corbett
Robert	Rae
Robert	Livingston
Robin	Patel
Rory	Cameron
Rosie	Al-Mulla
Sai	Ragunath
Sally	Thomson
Saoirse	Sweeney
Sarah	Harbison
Sarah	Robinson Frood
Sarah	Cameron
Sarah	Cameron
Saskia	Maxwell
Sebastian	Cater
Senay	Camgoz
Seonaid	Daly

	Shona Simon Simon Skills Development Scotland Stephen Steve Susan Suzanne Timothy M Tracey Trevor Trudi Ullrich Veronique Virginia Yahya Zoe	NicIlinnein Drysdale Sharkey Skills Development Scotland Connolly Byrne Garnsworthy Lofthus Collins Lague MacFarlane Collier Kockel Lapeyre Radcliffe Barry Farrugia
Organisations	Active Inquiry All or Nothing Aerial Dance Theatre Applied Arts Scotland Arika Art27 Articulation Artlink Central ArtMovesFife Arts & Business Scotland Arts Culture Health & Wellbeing Scotland Association of British Orchestras ATLAS Arts Board na Gaidhlig Bunbury Banter Campaign for the Arts Capital Theatres Capital Theatres (Edinburgh) Carey Tourism Ceangail Citizens Theatre CollinsandGoto Studio Community Archives Heritage Group Scotland Network & Scottish Council on Archives Community Enterprise Community Leisure UK Community Policy Forum Corps Consulaire Creative & Cultural Skills	

Creative Carbon Scotland
Creative Edinburgh
Creative Lives
Creative Scotland
Creative Services (Scotland) Ltd
Culture collective
Culture Commons
Culture Counts
Culture Perth and Kinross
Culture Radar
Culture, Heritage and Arts Assembly,
Argyll and Isles (CHARTS)
Cutting Edge Theatre
DC Research Ltd
Director, V&A Dundee
Dogstar Theatre Company
Drew Wylie
Dundee Contemporary Arts
Dunfermline Heritage Partnership
Edinburgh College-Creative Industries Faculty
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society
Edinburgh International Festival
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop
Engage Scotland
Equity
Equity
FÀis Rois
Federation of Scottish Theatre
Festivals Edinburgh
Film Access Scotland
Film and TV Charity
Glasgow Film
Glasgow Film Theatre
Grampian Hospitals Art Trust
Hammond Associates (Scotland) Ltd
Heriot-Watt University
Historic Environment Scotland
Horsecross Arts (Perth Theatre & Concert Hall)
Impact Arts (Projects) Ltd
Independent Arts Projects Ltd
Industrial Museums Scotland
Jim Hollington Arts and Culture
Journeys in Design
Leisure and Culture Dundee
Leith Theatre

LIBERIA CULTURE ATTACHÉ (Scotland), LIBERIAN
EMBASSY, LONDON
Licketyspit Theatre & Play/ Home of
Storyplay Scotland
Literature Alliance Scotland
Live Music Now Scotland
Luminate
Lyth Arts Centre
Making Music
Matchbox Cine
Museums Galleries Scotland
National Library of Scotland
National Theatre of Scotland
National Trust for Scotland
New Media Scotland
North Edinburgh Arts
North Edinburgh Arts (org already registered)
Nutshell Theatre
One Dance UK
OnFife
Open Road
OutPost Arts
Quantum Communications
Queen Margaret University
Regional Screen Scotland
Rothesay Pavilion
Royal Society of Edinburgh
SCAN
SCAN
Scene Stirling (Place Partnership)
Science Ceilidh
Scottish Artists Union
Scottish Ballet
Scottish Book Trust
Scottish civic trust
Scottish Contemporary Art Network
Scottish Council on Archives
Scottish Opera
Scottish Poetry Linrary
Scottish Society of Playwrights
Scottish Youth Theatre
SENScot
Sense Scotland
Shetland Arts Development Agency
Sistema Scotland
Skills Development Scotland

	<p>Society of London Theatre / UK Theatre South of Scotland Enterprise Stellar Quines Theatre Company SURF - Scotland's Regeneration Forum The Birks Cinema Trust The CATERAN Ecomuseum The Creative Community Hubs Network - Edinburgh The Glasgow Review of Books The Glasgow School of Art The National Lottery Heritage Fund The Necessary Space The Queen's Hall The Scottish Stained Glass Trust The Stove Network The Village Storytelling Centre The Work Room Townsend Theatre Productions TRACS (Traditional Arts & Culture Scotland) UK Theatre UNESCO City of Design Dundee uniformnovember.com University of Glasgow VisitScotland Vocal WHALE Arts Youth Theatre Arts Scotland</p>
--	---

Group Office Bearers

Please provide names for all office bearers. The minimum requirement is that two of the office bearers are MSPs and one of these is Convener – beyond this it is a matter for the Group to decide upon the office bearers it wishes to have. It is permissible to have more than one individual elected to each office, for example, co-conveners or multiple deputy conveners.

Convener	Foysoil Choudhury MSP
Deputy Convener	Clare Adamson MSP

Secretary	Lori Anderson (Culture Counts)
Treasurer	N/A

Financial Benefits or Other Benefits

Please provide details of any financial or material benefit(s) the Group anticipates receiving from a single source in a calendar year which has a value, either singly or cumulatively, of more than £500. This includes donations, gifts, hospitality or visits and material assistance such as secretariat support.

The group receives in-kind support from Culture Counts to the value of £1,615 in secretariat time, organizing meetings, managing Eventbrite, mailing lists and guest speakers.

The group also receives financial support from Culture Counts who pay freelancers who speak at events for their time, to a value of approx. £1,000 annually.

Meetings have been held at the Scottish Parliament with additional catering costs.

Total for 2023/24 **£825.62**

Convener Contact Details

Name	Foyso Choudhury MSP
Parliamentary address	Scottish Parliament, Edinburgh, EH99 1SP
Telephone number	0131 348 5000