

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Dance House	
Application Reference number:	G201001104	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£85000	£90000
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: Based in Glasgow, Dance House offers an exciting and diverse range of quality dance classes for all abilities, led by respected and experienced teachers, complemented by a challenging outreach and professional workshop programme.</p> <p>Dance House is seeking an increase in funding of 130% on the current level of funding (£37k in 07/08). Currently Dance House is supported to develop its professional programme annually through the Dance Department's managed Dance Centres' fund. While there are some additional developments to the programme, the professional programme would continue to run if supported at a lower level to that requested.</p> <p>The overall provision for dance in Glasgow will be enhanced with the development of The Work Room at Tramway, a studio for independent dance artists. The dance department will be taking an overview on the total investment in dance in Glasgow and encouraging close partnership working.</p> <p>There is a need to consolidate the work of the Dance House through increased staffing provision and this will require an appropriate level of support. As a comparator, Citymoves receives £70k per annum.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong artistic leadership • Supportive Board • Strong collaborative partnerships and programme proposed • Meets all the criteria listed for this fund • Meets Dance Department priority for development of choreographic practice • Clear visionary business plan making a strong case for support • 11 areas of Scotland listed as benefiting from the programme as well as international collaborations <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No contingency in budget, but some reserves held • Level of funding identified from Scottish Arts Council in 08/09 unachievable which may impact on timeframe for Dance House's expansion and subsequent development of the programme • Staff appraisals to be worked up if not in existence • Projected income not fully explained, so limited confidence in the organisation's ability to achieve it <p>Meeting Flexible Funding criteria: 1. Excellent artistic vision and leadership; role within sector/support to artists – met.</p>		

Within its business plan and its proposed programme, this is demonstrated well. Dance House has been specifically funded in the past to provide support for dance artists and over the last two years this support has significantly improved.

2. Improving your engagement with the public – met.

Again through new leadership, and relocating the dance classes to a more central location, Dance House has increased its engagement with the public which is evidenced through increase in numbers and demand for the classes and workshops. Dance House is recognised by the dance community as the dance agency for Glasgow.

3. Good practice in the governance and management – met.

Dance House’s board is supportive of the ambitious vision for Dance House and meets regularly to monitor the organisation’s success. Dance House is restricted in its growth, as the Creative Director and the Education Outreach Manager are currently both part-time.

4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access – met.

Within its business plan Dance House states that it intends to lead on a Dance and Disability Festival to raise the profile of dancers working in this area.

5 Raising other income at least 25% - met

Dance Priority - development of choreographic practice, production and touring - met in part, as Dance House primarily supports the development of choreographic practice and production. Dance House is working with the other dance agencies to develop showcasing performances for artists developing work with them, which would meet the touring part of the priority.

The proposed application is exciting for the dance community in Glasgow. However, there are several developmental issues, so I rate this Medium.

Officer’s overall priority recommendation		MEDIUM
Lead Officer signature:		Date:10/01/08
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:

The **Dance House** business plan is thorough and well researched and demonstrates a confident plan for the future development of the organisation. However, the panel considered there to be a mismatch between the business plan and the application and this raised some concerns about the organisation's ability to deliver on the plan. From their experience of the organisation, the panel recognised the key role that Dance House plays in dance infrastructure in Scotland as part of the network of dance centres. They recognised the role that the Dance House plays in supporting artists to develop their choreographic and professional practice and that flexible funding would be an opportunity for this to be strengthened. The panel recommended that Dance House should focus on consolidation in the professional programme before expansion.

The panel recognised the strategic importance of the Dance House but as there are a small number of development areas to be addressed rated the application 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:

The Dance House is the dance agency based in Glasgow. It supports and nurtures professional dance artists as well as encouraging wider public participation in dance through a programme of classes, community projects and education work. The organisation was established in 1998 and has received consistent support from the Dance department through managed funds for dance centre development. Dance House operates as an important part of the network of dance agencies/ centres, albeit on significantly less funding than Citymoves in Aberdeen and Dance Base, the national centre for dance in Edinburgh. This has reflected its development to date and the application for Flexible funding represents a significant opportunity for consolidation and strengthening the organisation.

1. *Fit with FXO criteria:*

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

Dance House articulates a strong commitment to artistic leadership and contributes significantly to the infrastructure for dance in Scotland.

1.2 *Improving your engagement with the public*

Dance House strongly meets the criteria of *public engagement*, providing opportunities to participate in dance for wide sections of the community.

1.3 *Good practice in the governance and management*

Dance House is a limited company with charitable status. The organisation has a clear reporting structure and a supportive board.

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

Dance House has an Equal Opportunities policy in place and articulates a commitment to widening

access through its programme. However, it is not always clear how it proposes to practically implement this policy in other areas. The Dance House would benefit from support to develop this and to work up an Equalities scheme.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%

Dance House has met the matched funding requirement.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities

Through their programmes of support for professional dance artists they are meeting the Dance department priority of - developing choreographic practice and production.

3. Fit within Scottish Arts Council aims

The Dance House contributes significantly across the Scottish Arts Council's aims through its support to artists, participatory programme and its partnerships in formal and informal 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:

1.1 Application rating

I concur with the Assessing Officers and the Special Advisors panel and rate this as medium priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating

I recognise the strategic importance of the Dance House but the rating reflects the small number of development areas to be addressed.

1.3 Strengths of application

- meets the criteria for Flexible funding and the priority established by the dance department
- strong and confident business plan which clearly articulates the significant strategic role the organisation plays in the dance infrastructure in Scotland
- artistically innovative programme for future development with strong collaborative partnerships
- clear reporting structure and a supportive board.

1.4 Weaknesses of applications

- a more focused approach to consolidating the work and steady development is required
- no contingency in budget, but some reserves held
- limited information on the projected income and sources of matched funding.

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application

Dance House is run by a small team of part-time staff which puts the organisation under strain. Part of the application is to strengthen the staff team and this should be considered a priority. The level of funding identified from Scottish Arts Council in 08/09 is unachievable which may impact on the timeframe for Dance House's expansion and subsequent development of the programme.

1.6 Development areas identified

Development areas include planning and organisational development. If supported I recommend that a revised budget and plan which prioritises strengthening the staffing and consolidating the programme, is developed with the organisation during 2008/09.

<p><i>1.7 Recommended level of support</i> I recommend that the Dance House is supported at the level of £70,000 a year, which is on a par with Citymoves in Aberdeen.</p>		
<p>4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme</p>		
<p>Comments: <i>1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?</i> The Dance House is based in Glasgow, however its activities impact beyond the city as they regularly work on projects in the neighbouring local authority areas (Strathclyde Region)</p> <p><i>1.2 Where will the audience come from?</i> Dance House's programme regularly attracts artists and participants from outwith the city.</p>		
<p>Head of Department's overall priority recommendation</p>		<p>MEDIUM</p>
<p>Head of Department's signature:</p>		<p>Date: 12 February 2008 Revised: 26 March 2008</p>
<p>Print name:</p>	<p>Anita Clark</p>	

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: £70,000.		
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: £70,000.		
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	£70,000

End of Assessment