

FLEXIBLE FUNDING ASSESSMENT

Applicant name:	Glenkens Community & Arts Trust	
Application Reference number:	G201001079	
Amount Requested (Year 1/Year 2)	£54,721	£56,303
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 applicant is Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT), a company limited by guarantee and registered charity that was established in 2001. Based in The CatStrand, their newly opened and refurbished building within New Galloway, GCAT's aim is to <i>improve wellbeing and within the community</i> through 4 main themes in order to develop a Centre of Excellence.</p> <p>GCAT has developed an important community resource through the successful delivery of the CatStrand building. This facility has been designed to allow a mix of activities to work alongside each other assisting GCAT in encouraging participation in the arts and allowing a greater sustainability for the facility. GCAT are fully aware of their locality and work closely with the community to develop relevant activities that address specific aims, primarily health and wellbeing.</p> <p>GCAT has undergone an audience development and marketing review that has directly informed their progression and will continue to do so in the short and long term. There has been a recent increase in staff and the Board is actively involved in the overall delivery and management of the organisation.</p> <p>However there is a lack of detail in the key areas of management, finance and artistic quality. There is no clear artistic programme provided, the experience of key personnel involved is not outlined and whilst it is clear that the Board is actively involved, the composition and their skills and abilities have not been given. In addition to this, there are a number of committees and groups that feed into the process but the remits, roles and composition of these are not outlined. The absence of an organisational structure results in an unclear decision making process. Financially, the budget does not provide basis of calculation and does not directly relate to an artistic programme. As a result, the quality of the artistic programme has not been sufficiently demonstrated.</p> <p>Strengths</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GCAT has achieved a number of very key objectives in the last few years and that the new CatStrand facility will allow them to fulfill a number of their objectives related to their community. • secured high levels of funding • strong educational approach <p>Weaknesses</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • lack of detail in a number of areas including management, finance and artistic programme • lack of artistic quality assured 		
Officer's overall priority recommendation		LOW

Lead Officer signature:		Date: 30 Jan 2008 Revised: 20 March 2008
Print name:	Anne Petrie	

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 Advisor 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 comments:

It was unclear as to whether the application from **Glenkens Community and Arts Trust** was related specifically to the CATstrand or investment was sought towards the wider organisation. The vision articulated in the application was not as strong as it could be and there has been comparatively modest investment in the artistic programming compared to the staffing costs. The organisation is very early in its development and its track record not yet fully established. However, the community drive is high, and the panel recognised the focus on wellbeing and social regeneration which is positive for the area. The building has been an excellent boost to the area in Dumfries and Galloway and there is strong community ownership of the facility. The commitment demonstrated through the approach to researching the audience was also noted. Unfortunately the application does not fulfil the criteria sufficiently well in terms of excellence in artistic vision.

The panel rated this application as low 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 applicant is Glenkens Community and Arts Trust (GCAT) who have developed an important community resource through the successful delivery of the CatStrand building. This facility has been designed to allow a mixed programme including arts development alongside activities that address health and wellbeing. The organisation has been in receipt of Scottish Arts Council project funding through the Performing Arts Promoters fund and Audience Development.

1. *Fit with FXO criteria:*

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

GCAT has not demonstrated excellence in artistic vision or a distinctive role in artistic leadership.

1.2 *Improving your engagement with the public*

GCAT meets the criteria of public engagement and is becoming established as an important arts resource in an area of Dumfries and Galloway which has very low levels of arts provision.

1.3 *Good practice in the governance and management*

GCAT is a limited company with charitable status. There is a lack of detail in the application and business plan in the key areas of management, finance, board composition and reporting structures.

1.4 Practical implementation of your equal opportunities policy; widening access

GCAT has demonstrated a commitment to equality of access through a range of specific activities and facilities within the venue.

1.5 Raising other income at least 25%

GCAT has met the matched funding requirement.

2. Fit with Departmental priorities

The proposed programme expands across artforms but has not 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

GCAT contributes to the Scottish Arts Council's second aim, '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 the Specialist Advisors panel and rate this application as **low** priority for support.

1.2 Reasons for assessing at this rating:

The Assessing Officer and the Specialist Advisors panel recognise the huge boost to arts provision in the area that has been generated through GCAT and the creation of the CatStrand facility. However, there is recognition that this is still at the early stages of development and some of the organisational weaknesses identified by the Assessing Officer demonstrate areas which require strengthening before the organisation will be able to fully achieve its potential. Most significantly in the context of flexible funding, there is no clear artistic programming policy demonstrated.

1.3 Strengths of application:

- Commitment to audience development demonstrated
- Strong community involvement.

1.4 Weaknesses of applications:

- no clear artistic programming policy demonstrated
- lack of detail in a number of areas including management, finance and artistic programme

1.5 Specific risks associated with the application:

The organisation is very early in its development and its track record not yet fully established.

1.6 Development areas identified:

As noted above.

1.7 Recommended level of support

Flexible funding is not recommended.

4. Please comment on the geographic reach of the programme

Comments:

1.1 Where will the activity/programme take place?

Glenkens Community and Arts Trust is based in Dumfries and Galloway.

1.2 Where will the audience come from?

90% from Dumfries and Galloway.

Head of Department's overall priority recommendation

LOW

Head of Department's signature:

Print name:

Anita Clark

Date: 15 February 2008
Revised: 26 March 2008

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: Weak overall fit with FXO criteria in the context of a highly competitive funding round. Not recommended for support.		
Collective Heads of Department (Arts Development Managers) priority recommendation		LOW
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.		
Directors recommendations to Joint Board		LOW
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		REFUSE
Date: 24 April 2008	If approved for support, enter sum awarded	£

End of Assessment