

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee - 23 March 2009

**REPORT ON:** Dundee Contemporary Arts - Revenue Support 2009-2010

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Communities

**REPORT NO:** 178-2009

### **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for renewal of Revenue Grant Funding to Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd for the year 2009-2010.

### **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee approves the level of Revenue Grant funding amounting to £270,278 as set out in the report.

### **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The service charge for the provision of core activities in 2009-2010 amounts to £117,836 and will be contained in a formal management agreement. The funding required in 2009-2010 for previously approved services transferred to Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd amounts to £152,441. Allowance has been made for the foregoing expenditure totalling £270,278 in the Leisure and Communities Department's 2009-2010 Revenue Budget.

3.2 The terms and conditions of these payments will be contained within a Management Agreement 2009-2010 between Dundee City Council and Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd.

### **4.0 MAIN TEXT**

4.1 During 2008-09, Dundee Contemporary Arts (DCA) sustained its very full programme for 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, with brief closures at Christmas and Hogmanay and some selected closures during the replacement of the Level 3 toilets in late spring. During this time Dundee Contemporary Arts expect to have welcomed over 235,000 people through the doors and brought in over £1.25m of external investment and trading income into the Centre, over and above the investment from Dundee City Council.

#### **4.2 Review of 2008-2009**

2008/09 was the second year in which DCA was working within the context of Scottish Arts Council "Foundation" status. During this year much work was undertaken to embed the new senior staff structure in the organisation and to begin work in earnest on some of the more ambitious plans that would take DCA into its 10th birthday year. The year also saw the organisation granted "hub" status by Scottish Screen (a definition similar to SAC Foundation status, which sees DCA endorsed as one of 6 centres that are key to Scottish Screen national strategy). Partnership working with Dundee City Council continued with development on the legacy of the Cultural Pathfinder project and input into the new cultural strategy for the Dundee Partnership.

In the main gallery spaces DCA had a programme of exhibitions that sustained their international profile and reputation. The programme opened in April with an exhibition entitled "Ellipsis" which featured photography, film and video from the 1970's and the early 1980's by 3 women artists (Chantal Akerman, Lili Dujourie and Francesca Woodman). This is the first joint exhibition of their work and was curated for DCA by Lynne Cooke, Chief Curator at Dia Center for the Arts in New York. This was a prestigious international partnership with the exhibition also shown in Mexico and Sweden.

This was followed by an exhibition entitled "Altered States of Paint", in which DCA presented an ambitious exhibition of paintings for the summer months that included internationally revered artists not previously seen in Scotland alongside emerging young Scottish artists. The show presented painting in the gallery in a way that challenged the convention in different ways but always in a rebellious, spirited and playful manner. The exhibition also created a special opportunity to meet the legendary film-maker and writer Kenneth Anger, who, as an inspiration for some of the artists in the exhibition, was invited to Dundee to present a programme of his films in the DCA cinema. This sell-out event brought visitors from across the UK.

Following this exhibition the DCA galleries were re-configured to host the 5th Kill Your Timid Notion Festival. Once again this festival attracted a large and dedicated audience to see performances, screenings and installations across the 3 days of the festival and the extended exhibition of the work of the Norwegian artist Kjell Bjørgeengen and US artist Paul Sharits.

The next exhibition at DCA was "Gravity Always Wins"; the first major exhibition in the UK of the US-based artist Spencer Finch. Finch's work investigates the nature of light, colour, memory and perception and for this exhibition reference was made to the Scottish enlightenment and the work of David Hume in particular in looking at how the mind acquires knowledge. The exhibition was described by an independent SAC advisor as "a strong and enjoyable exhibition by an artist developing an international reputation and the work was witty, intelligent and provocative".

2009 is the 10th birthday year of DCA, and the entire programme for the calendar year has been developed in response to this. The first exhibition of the year was entitled "Timecode" and featured the work of 12 artists with idiosyncratic and highly personal approaches to the idea of time. This is followed by an exhibition that will open on the 10th birthday itself (19 March) called "The Associates". This exhibition aims to look both backward and forward, bringing together a group of young artists who have all developed their practice in Dundee over the past 10 years before achieving success on national and international stages. The exhibition will feature 17 artists, some of whom are still based in the city, others who have grown up here and now base themselves elsewhere.

During 2008/09 the new curatorial team hit their stride with a series of well-regarded exhibitions curated or co-curated by DCA staff. Once again in almost all cases they offer the first (if not only) opportunity for audiences in the UK to see these exhibitions by internationally acclaimed artists. This is important in maintaining the status of Dundee as being at the leading edge of the presentation of contemporary art in the UK.

### **Community & Education Programme**

The DCA Community and Education programme continued the strategy which was developed during 2008 and supported both high-profile programme events and longer-term better developed relationships with partner groups. Key projects were developed with ArtAngel, Dundee Volunteer Centre and the St/Art project as well as internal initiatives such as the 15 film club and the "Wild Things" summer school at Camperdown Country Park. This year also saw a successful partnership project initiated with Dundee Rep Theatre with support from the Cashback scheme aimed at

working with young people from across Tayside.

### **Cinema**

The cinema year continued with over 2,500 screenings of films from all corners of the globe, as well as a range of festival and themed programmes including work from Italy, France and Africa, screenings on environmental and gender themes and the celebration of works made by local producers of all ages. This year also saw the 5th "Discovery International Film Festival for Children and Young People". This event, managed and curated entirely at DCA, was the largest and most successful yet with both school and public audiences coming to engage with the best of world cinema for young people. Further support from Scottish Screen has enabled the Discovery work to be more deeply embedded in the organisation and this has meant that a number of new strategic partnerships have been developed in support of media literacy and modern and foreign language support in the context of the new national Curriculum for Excellence.

### **Shop**

The DCA shop continues to provide the opportunity to view (and buy) the best of high quality craft and design work from Scotland and beyond, while also providing an opportunity for the people of Dundee to purchase a wide range of arts publications. It also provides an outlet for locally produced artworks in a variety of forms and has grown its contribution to the organisation over the past few months following the appointment of a new Retail Manager.

### **Print Studio**

The Print Studio continues to support the production needs of artists alongside those who want to develop their creative skills for the first time. Both studio membership and workshop activity have continued to rise again this year. DCA have also continued to grow new facilities to support those working with digital media including workshops in digital video, DVD authoring and digital photography.

DCA's commitment to ensuring its programme is accessible and engaging took a major step forward with the launch of the new website and ticketing system. The website features a much more active and image-led approach to the programme and features more live and moving image content as well as a user forum and on-line booking through integration with the new box office system. The website has also been designed to integrate into an effective internal signage system that displays live information about events and activities in the building. This system will also be augmented by an on-line shop in the next few months.

The new design approach adopted by the organisation in 2007 has been applied across all outlets, including the website and this continues to help provide a coherent and approachable face for audiences.

The shift towards electronic marketing has been taken carefully, mindful of the fact that not all of DCA's audience will be able to engage with the organisation through these routes. But the extension of DCA's e-publicity function while reducing the environmental impact of marketing campaigns and simultaneously growing and developing audiences remains at the heart of future communications strategy.

## **4.3 Major Plans for 2008-2009**

Highlights for the coming year will include a range of activities to mark the 10th birthday, a major focus being the DCA role in curating the Scotland exhibition at the prestigious Venice Biennale. The exhibition, featuring the work of Scottish artist Martin Boyce will open in Venice in June and return to DCA in December to form the end-piece for the 10th birthday year. Other highlights include an exhibition featuring a number of successful local artists, including the artists' collective Ganghut, which has promised a major intervention in the DCA gallery spaces. This will be followed by Thomas Hirschhorn, a major global artist who will be creating a new piece of work especially for DCA.

- 4.4 Dundee Contemporary Arts sustained 74 full time equivalent jobs in Dundee during 2007-2008 and they are projected to achieve 48 % of their income from non public services in 2009/2010.

## **5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management.

There are no major issues.

## **6.0 CONSULTATION**

- 6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Head of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 7.1 None

**STEWART MURDOCH  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES  
4 MARCH 2008**

	<b>Estimated Out- turn 2008-2009</b>	<b>Draft Budget 2009-2010</b>
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>		
Core	111,557	89,149
Arts	661,508	734,867
Operations	432,299	470,007
Communications	248,796	238,173
Community and Education	171,037	157,893
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>1,625,196</b>	<b>1,690,089</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>		
Core	267,926	273,543
Arts	357,446	451,380
Operations	96,000	100,000
Communications	27,516	15,238
Community and Education	91,382	76,650
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>840,270</b>	<b>916,811</b>
<b><u>Grants</u></b>		
Scottish Arts Council - Revenue	505,000	505,000
Scottish Arts Council - Project	0	0
Dundee City Council	266,941	270,278
University of Dundee	10,000	10,000
ERDF Marketing	18,031	0
<b>Sub Total</b>	<b>799,972</b>	<b>785,278</b>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>1,640,242</b>	<b>1,702,089</b>
<b>Surplus /(Deficit)</b>	<b>15,046</b>	<b>12,000</b>