

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Policy & Resources Committee - 13 February 2012

REPORT ON: Grant Award 2011/12: Generator Projects

REPORT BY: Director, Leisure and Communities

REPORT NO: 54-2012

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To submit to Committee a request for grant funding to Generator Projects.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 That the Committee approves support of £6,500 to Generator Projects for 2011/12.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The grant of £6,500 can be met from the Revenue Budget of the Chief Executive's Department.

4.0 BACKGROUND

4.1 Reference is made to Article I of the minute of the Leisure and Arts Committee dated 17 May 2004, when funding of £7,000 was granted to the Generator Project and to Report 634-2010 approved by the Leisure, Arts and Communities Committee at its meeting on 8 November 2010.

4.2 Generator Projects is a non profit visual arts organisation run by a voluntary committee of professional artists and is supported by a membership of over 300 local artists. The organisation presents innovative contemporary art by emerging visual artists and curators through an extensive exhibitions and events programme. The committee works closely with other local arts organisations including Dundee Contemporary Arts, University of Dundee and Leisure & Culture Dundee's Arts and Heritage Section to develop support and opportunities for professional artists in Dundee.

4.3 Leisure & Culture Dundee's Creative Learning Team offer Generator Projects' Committee and membership support through professional development and cultural networking events, employment and training opportunities, and input through the Projects' Advisory Board.

4.4 The proposed grant of £6,500 for 2011/12 is to allow Generator Projects to develop their service to artists and the community through a programme of exhibitions and events - see Appendix 1.

4.5 This award is progressed under clause 10 of the Services Agreement between Dundee City Council and Leisure & Culture Dundee.

5.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

5.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. No major issues have been identified.

6.0 CONSULTATION

6.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services), and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement.

7.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None

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DIRECTOR, LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES
1 FEBRUARY 2012**

GENERATOR PROJECTS

Generator Projects is an artist-run exhibition and project space that was established in September 1996 in Dundee. Their aims are to facilitate the demands of contemporary creative talent in the city, to support the artistic community in all its diversity and to provide a varied programme of exhibitions and events featuring the work of emerging and mid-career artists. They are a registered charity managed by a voluntary committee of artists, currently containing six members. Committee members serve for a maximum of two years to ensure that there is constant regeneration of ideas.

Dundee is a city with an increasingly high national profile in the visual arts, particularly in the upcoming future with the advent of new spaces opening such as The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum and a new V&A Museum. As the sole artist-run facility in the area, Generator Projects plays an invaluable role, offering a project space that enables exhibitions, residencies and administration to take place and that houses reference material to assist with the preparation of proposals, research and the furthering of professional practice development. They have a strong working relationship with Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design as well as Dundee Contemporary Arts and continue to foster new relationships with DOJ Exhibitions Department, Hannah McClure Centre and The McManus.

Generator Projects have also been participating in Cultural Strategy meetings where they have invited community groups to openings and attend artist talks. They intend to continue strengthening these connections to ensure a diverse audience and engagement with the broader community. They provide exhibition opportunities for artists in the local area, and aim to provide a programme that will excite and broaden the knowledge of those studying and working in the city by showing artists of a national and international level. Their aim is to capitalise on experience gained and to continue to produce an ambitious and high quality range of events.

The Generator Projects committee intends to build on previous years experience and establish an innovative programme of exciting events, developing their curatorial skills to promote an artistic environment that fosters city-wide creative development and participation. They will aim to develop stronger artist talks programme throughout the duration of the shows and work with other artist led initiatives in Britain and Europe. The talks programme is aimed at encouraging members of their audience who are not necessarily artists or practitioners to gain a greater insight into various art practices and to encourage participation in artistic debate and discussion.

The year will begin with the Annual Members Show, running from the 4th to the 26th of February 2012. It is hoped, as with every year, to receive submissions from all over the city. The second show, as yet not finalised, will feature an artist who has lived and worked in Dundee for many years and an international collaborator. May will see the annual show of recent graduates which will be timed to coincide with the 2012 Duncan of Jordanstone Degree Show. During the summer, Generator projects will initiate a series of small residencies. These will enable local artists time to develop projects and make use of their facilities and tools. Events after this date will be developed based on ongoing research into their practice and visits to other exhibitions across the country.

Assessing Officers' Comments Leisure & Culture Dundee