

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee - 19 March 2007
REPORT ON: Dundee Contemporary Arts - Revenue Support 2007-2008
REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Communities
REPORT NO: 162-2007

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 2007-2008.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee approves the level of Revenue Grant funding amounting to £263,645 as set out in the report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The service charge for the provision of core activities in 2007-2008 amounts to £114,944 and will be contained in a formal management agreement. The funding required in 2007-2008 for previously approved services transferred to Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd amounts to £48,701. Allowance has been made for the foregoing expenditure totalling £263,645 in the Leisure & Communities Department's 2007-2008 Revenue Budget.
- 3.2 The terms and conditions of these payments will be contained within a management agreement 2007-2008 between Dundee City Council and Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 Sustainability

Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd offers programmes of exhibitions, events and workshops which are planned to meet the needs of audiences and artists, which ensure that local needs are met locally and that opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available to all.

- 4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required

- 4.3 Anti-Poverty

Dundee Contemporary Arts provide employment and develop employment prospects as well as providing concession rates for access.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd aims to make its programme of activities accessible to all sections of the community, including visitors with a disability, the elderly and those

with small children.

- 5.2 The management agreement 2007-2008 will contain requirements that Dundee Contemporary Arts Ltd practices equal opportunities policies in respect of its dealings with its public and staff.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 During 2006-2007, Dundee Contemporary Arts continued to operate a very full programme for 7 days a week, 12 hours a day, closing only for 4 days at Christmas and Hogmanay. During this time Dundee Contemporary Arts expect to have welcomed over 263,000 people through the doors and brought in over £1m of external investment and trading income into the Centre over and above the investment from Dundee City Council.

6.2 Review of 2006-2007

Following on from the previous process of strategic renewal, DCA entered into 2006 with a commitment to re-define their Senior Management structure. This had led to a stronger and more effective organisation to take them forward into their next phase of development.

Dundee Contemporary Arts continue to bring into the building substantial numbers of visitors recording an average of 730 visits per day and continued to achieve critical and popular success with their programme.

DCA also grew its work within the city development in partnership with the City Council and others on many levels including being involved in very successful Leisure & Communities Department bid to the Scottish Executive for a ground-breaking cultural pathfinder project that will be delivered over the next 12 months.

In the main gallery spaces DCA had a programme of exhibitions that sustained their international profile and reputation. The programme opened in April with a unique and ambitious exhibition by the hugely important and influential American artist Allen Ruppersberg.

This was followed by "Where the Wild things Are". In this exhibition DCA brought a sense of the outdoors into the galleries over the summer months. Drawing together a fascinating range of works by nine artists, the exhibition explored the complicated relationship between humankind and nature, the struggle to co-exist, communicate and understand one another. This exhibition also inspired a very successful summer school, run jointly between DCA, Dundee Rep, The Space and Camperdown Country Park. During the run of this show, the DCA commissioned Bear Broch at Camperdown Wildlife Centre was officially opened in the presence of the U.S.A. based artist Mark Dion.

This was followed by "Killing Time" a very popular exhibition created jointly by a visual artist (Graham Fagen) working with a theatre director (Graham Eatough). By working together to translate some of the methods and mechanisms of live theatre into a gallery, they produced a piece which explored some ideas of time and narrative and which featured live actors working in the space for the duration of the exhibition. The next exhibition was the first solo show for 10 years in Scotland by the well-known artist David Shrigley. Shrigley's work, familiar to millions through his cartoons in national newspapers, provided a funny and occasionally disturbing take on the modern world.

The exhibition year finished with a show by the Palestinian photographer Ahlam Shibli. Shibli's work, concerned with the role of Bedouin in the modern middle east, provided a profound and beautiful insight through the eyes of an artist into a middle eastern world that few of us know. This exhibition also linked into the Festival of Middle Eastern Spirituality and Peace and the Dundee-Nablus twinning association. It also

extended into the cinemas with several screenings of recent works based in modern Palestine.

The vast majority of DCA's exhibitions originate from the organisation - being curated or co-curated by DCA staff. 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. In 2006 many of the works commissioned by DCA went on to achieve success elsewhere, including one work (a film featuring dancers in a Dundee Church by artist Matt Stokes) winning the prestigious "Beck Futures" award.

- 6.2 DCA also produced some major publications featuring the work of Scottish artists including Richard Wright, Elizabeth Ogilvy and have promoted these internationally helping to position Dundee as a major centre for contemporary arts.

6.3 **Community & Education Programme**

The DCA Community and Education programme delivered some 240 programmed events, reaching over 6000 participants. They delivered 20 projects off-site across Dundee and a further 66 events for first-time visitors to DCA. The Community & Education team also branched out to programme the exhibition of projects across the building, showcasing 11 projects as well as enabling 2 artists to have their first exhibition in their information space as part of the "Youtopia" project - featuring the very successful "Dunderground" piece.

- 6.4 DCA have continued to be an active partner in the NHS Dundee Trust's ST/Art programme, supporting people recovering from strokes and their carers in producing artworks in a safe supported environment - including active independent use of their print studio facilities. DCA have also worked on a Print-making enterprise with Craigmills Skill Centre, working with adults with learning difficulties to support a project aimed at producing, displaying and selling their work at DCA. Reflecting Dundee's position for world-beating skate culture, they produced a youth-made skate movie in partnership with the DAFT Initiative which has been screened at film festivals internationally.

6.5 **Cinema**

The Cinema year continued with over 2,500 screenings of films from all corners of the globe, as well as the hugely successful local film archive nights and the celebration of works made by local producers of all ages. The cinema Community and Education activity has included outreach projects for formal education groups, workshops in animation, movie-making and editing, with a 100% uptake in participation. This year also saw the third "Discovery International Film Festival for Children and Young People" at DCA. This event, managed and curated entirely at DCA, saw over 2,000 children visiting DCA's cinemas over 10 days to see the best of world cinema for children and young people. It also featured workshops for both fun and career development delivered in partnership with key industry partners like CBBC and the British Film Institute. During the year DCA also received support from Scottish Screen to develop a future strategy for the Discovery Film Festival that will enable them to take many of the elements of the festival and roll them out as a year-long programme of activity both regionally and nationally.

6.6 **Shop**

The DCA shop continues to show a changing programme of high quality craftwork 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 with 10 exhibitions by craftworkers during this year it further extends the range of work available for audiences in the city.

6.7 **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 risen again this year and the team have been successful in being picked to produce some of the most prestigious editioning projects in Scotland. One of these projects, commissioned by Cove Park Studios outside of Glasgow, is currently being exhibited in London alongside a set of works produced in Dundee as part of the "Made at DCA" series. The "Made at DCA" series has also been exhibited widely outside the building through the year. Most recently DCA has been involved in the successful cultural quarter partnership with the White Gallery which has created a new audience for DCA's print editioning activity, generating sales of original art.

- 6.8 DCA is committed to continuing to grow its Dundee audience. In 2006 they extended the reach of their printed publicity by increasing distribution in the city by mailings, door drops to specific postcode areas to attract family audiences and increased local distribution to retail outlets and visitor attractions. The emailing list increased by almost 50% and it is DCA's ambition to grow this further in 2007/8 in order to target audiences more effectively and reduce the environmental impact of our printed publicity. They have also reviewed and revised their website and guide with a view to enhancing their role in communicating the thousands of events and activities that take place at DCA each year. This will continue in 2007/8.

6.9 **Highlights for 2007-2008**

Highlights for the coming year will include DCA major exhibition in partnership with the 6 Cities Design Festival in May. This exhibition, co-curated with leading Scottish Designers "Timorous Beasties" will look at the incorporation of natural design into domestic interiors. Later in the year DCA will be featuring the work of internationally renowned artists Johanna Billing, Matthew Buckingham and Spencer Finch as well as partnering with the Arnolfini Gallery in Bristol on the "Pale Carnage" group exhibition. They are keenly anticipating the development of the Discovery Film Festival into a year-round programme of educational development and children's culture which will see them taking a national lead in this important area of practice as well as growing the "Kill Your Timid Notion" festival of experimental film and music into a major international event.

- 6.10 The Art Centre continues to be a major factor in the local economy in terms of both economic activity and employment, directly sustaining 78 full-time equivalent jobs. DCA had 267,844 visitors to the building for the 12 months ended 28 February 2007.

7.0 **CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

STEWART MURDOCH
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE & COMMUNITIES
7 MARCH 2007

	Est Outturn 2006-2007	Draft Budget 2007-2008
Expenditure		
Core	568,787	630,846
Exhibitions (galleries)	289,826	315,476
Exhibition (cinema)	276,023	320,646
Production	102,255	105,306
Community and Education	159,146	170,436
Retail	95,370	97,224
Special events & projects	3,000	53,000
Total Expenditure	1,494,407	1,692,934
Income		
Core	272,375	261,021
Exhibitions (galleries)	24,779	30,000
Exhibition (cinema)	266,339	319,376
Production	51,200	55,492
Community and Education	97,000	105,200
Retail	92,500	99,000
Special events & projects	2,600	51,200
Total	806,793	921,289
Grants		
Scottish Arts Council - Revenue	369,837	510,000
Scottish Arts Council - Project	36,366	-
Dundee City Council	260,390	263,645
University of Dundee	10,000	10,000
ERDF Marketing	26,311	-
Total	702,924	783,645
Total Income	1,509,717	1,704,934
Surplus /(Deficit)	15,310	12,000