

**REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE - 15 MAY 2000**

**REPORT ON: VISUAL ARTS AWARDS SCHEME**

**REPORT BY: DIRECTOR OF ARTS AND HERITAGE**

**REPORT NO: 322-2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To seek the Committee's agreement to the establishment of a Visual Arts Awards Scheme for Dundee.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Committee agrees to the establishment of the Visual Arts Awards Scheme for Dundee as outlined in this report.

2.2 That the Committee agrees to delegate authority for the making of awards to the Director of Arts and Heritage in conjunction with the Visual Arts Awards Scheme Panel.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 A fund of £6,000 will be available in this financial year. A grant of £3,000 has been awarded from the Visual Arts Department of the Scottish Arts Council. The Council's contribution of £3,000 will be met from the Arts and Heritage Department's 2000/01 revenue budget.

3.2 The Scottish Arts Council have requested that Dundee Arts & Heritage make a commitment to the Scheme for a minimum of three years.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The project was set up to reflect the key theme "Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available for all."

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The project will provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to engage in the project regardless of ability, social background, race, sex or disadvantage.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 The Scheme is a new initiative to increase the level of direct support for visual artists across Scotland. It has been piloted in Glasgow during 1999/2000 and has been extended to the other three Scottish cities in 2000/2001. The Dundee scheme will be a partnership between Dundee Arts & Heritage and the Scottish Arts Council and will run for an initial period of three years. The aim is to create locally targeted small grant schemes that will support practitioners at grass roots level.

6.2 The Scheme provides a valuable opportunity to:

- bring in additional funding to professional visual artists providing them with increased opportunities to create and present new work.
- create a new fund in Dundee, specifically for visual artists, encouraging artists to stay in the City.
- Raise the profile of Dundee based practitioners and provide direct support for artists at a local level.

6.3 The Scheme has been established to award grants to individual Dundee-based artists towards the costs involved in the research and creation of new work. There will be two deadlines for applications, 13 October 2000 and 16 February 2001.

6.4 Grants will be awarded by a Panel comprised of practising Visual Artists, with support from Anna Robertson, Arts & Heritage Development Officer and Amanda Catto, Acting Visual Arts Director, Scottish Arts Council. All awards will be reported to this Committee retrospectively on a twice yearly basis.

6.5 The Scheme is open to Dundee-based artists. This is defined as:

- those who live within the Dundee City Council boundary
- Artists who work, maintain a studio space or who are a member of and regularly use an arts facility within Dundee (ie, WASPS, Generator, Satellite, DCA Print Studio)

Artists of all ages, at any stage in their career, working in any visual media who meet the above criteria would be eligible.

6.6 Exclusions:

- Grants are not available to cover travel costs
- Full-time students are not eligible to apply

Artists will not receive support where it is deemed an alternative SAC funding scheme would be more appropriate.

6.7 Grants up to a maximum of £500 are available and the Awards panel will reserve the right to offer a different amount of money to that requested.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, and Director of Finance, have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 None.

Director of Arts and Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_