

19<sup>th</sup> August 2014

Dear Member of the Scottish Parliament

## **A STATEMENT OF PRINCIPLES TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE VALUE OF CULTURE IN SCOTLAND**

This Briefing Paper is intended to inform debate on how best to enshrine the value of culture in Scotland in light of the recent International Culture Summit hosted by the Scottish Parliament in August, and ahead of the Independence Referendum on 18 September, irrespective of the result.

### **1) Culture Counts**

Culture Counts was established at the beginning of 2011 when around 30 key agencies and groups in Scotland representing the arts, heritage, screen and creative industries came together with a common aim, to highlight positively and progressively the value of culture. There are now over 40 members. Secretariat support is provided by the Federation of Scottish Theatre.

Culture Counts is an advocate for the value of culture to the life of Scotland. We highlight the value of culture in civic life and support a rights based approach to engagement with culture. We achieve this through the articulation of the value of culture (arts, heritage, screen and creative industries) to Scotland, shaped by evidence and influencing partners and stakeholders.

### **2) Action steps needed to promote and protect the value of culture**

#### **We call upon Members of the Scottish Parliament to work towards:**

1. Agreeing a statement of principles that supports culture across all policy areas of Scottish Government;
2. A specific outcome and improved indicators for culture within the National Performance Framework;
3. The development of core investment for culture at local and national level to further realise the value and impact of culture.

Culture Counts would welcome the opportunity to debate these topics and to support any consultation or development process to help achieve these ambitions which we believe will ensure culture's contribution to civic life in Scotland is fully realised and widely enjoyed.

### 3) Statement of Principles

Culture is core to a flourishing Scotland and should be enshrined in a constitutionally-agreed statement of principles. The statement of value should state simply that culture is core to Scotland's people and its future and that taking part in cultural life is a human right.

Cultural value should inform all policy areas and can be expressed in terms of human, social and economic value and impact, and Culture Counts believes that:

- Cultural expression is an individual right and supports a better understanding of our own and others' identities.
- Culture is fundamental to our quality of life.
- Culture is a powerful force for renewal, regeneration and sustainability.
- Culture can bring economic benefits to individuals, communities and the nation.
- Culture makes important contributions to improving the learning, health, wellbeing, confidence and quality of life for our communities.
- Culture is crucial in the development of a skilled and imaginative population.
- Culture encourages understanding, value and enjoyment of our environment.
- Culture raises the profile of Scotland at home and abroad, connecting Scotland to the world.

Yours sincerely,

Architecture & Design Scotland  
Arts and Business Scotland  
BECTU  
Creative and Cultural Skills Scotland  
Craft Scotland  
Cultural Alliance  
Culture Republic  
Equity  
Federation of Scottish Theatre  
Festivals Edinburgh  
Historic House Association Scotland  
Independent Producers Scotland  
Literature Forum for Scotland  
Museums Galleries Scotland  
Musicians Union  
National Library of Scotland  
National Museum of Scotland  
National Theatre Scotland  
National Trust Scotland  
PACT - Producers Alliance for Cinema  
& Television

Pròiseact nan Ealan  
Publishing Scotland  
RCAHMS - Royal Commission on  
Ancient & Historic Monuments  
Regional Screen Scotland  
SCAN - Scottish Contemporary Art  
Network  
Scottish Chamber Orchestra  
Scottish Council on Archives  
Scottish Film  
Scottish Games Network  
Scottish Jazz Federation  
Scottish Libraries and Information  
Council  
Scottish Music Industry Association  
Scottish Opera  
Skillset  
Traditional Music Forum  
Traditional Music & Song Association  
Voluntary Arts Scotland  
Youth Theatre Arts Scotland

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