

SCOTTISH CONTEMPORARY ART NETWORK

Contemporary visual art has the power to transform lives and open minds, and we need it now more than ever. Given the right support and investment, art and artists can be at the heart of the national recovery and our wellbeing economy.



Scottish Parliament Elections 2021

Art makes a difference

Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN) connects and champions Scotland's contemporary art community. Our 225 members work at the heart of communities from Shetland to the Scottish Borders and from East Lothian to the Western Isles.

SCAN members include Scotland's leading galleries, artists' studios, workshops and production facilities and a highly skilled workforce of artists, art workers and creative thinkers. They sustain a network of free at the point of access, responsive and flexible institutions that anchor local communities and open their doors to their neighbours and visitors alike.

Artists and cultural organisations have been hit hard by the Covid-19 pandemic. Many creative freelancers fell through the

net of UK government support schemes like furlough. Organisations which have already experienced increasing precarity through standstill funding and local authority cuts are approaching the cliff edge. But we're still here and we're looking to the future now. We want to nurture a new generation of creative thinkers and support creative business. We are calling for a commitment to keep our galleries free, and for a stable investment in the cultural sector, and in our nation's studios and workshops.

Our themes for the 2021 election

Nurture

the next generation of creative thinkers

1

Support

the places and people that make our culture

2

Invest

to place culture and creativity at the heart of the national recovery and the wellbeing economy

3

Our manifesto asks

Promote and value a closer relationship between the cultural sector and education



ensuring that learning through the Expressive Arts is mandatory at primary school and a higher priority in the Curriculum for Excellence.

Keep entry to Scotland's contemporary art galleries and exhibition venues free at the point of access



We provide a national network of civic space dedicated to creativity, wellbeing and public service.

Develop the Scottish Government's procurement framework



Amend relevant guidance and the Scottish Government Sustainable Procurement Strategy to allow artists, creative freelancers and micro-businesses equal access to procurement opportunities including a targeted supplier development programme for this part of the creative sector.

A nationwide investment programme for artists' studios, production and workshop facilities



An investment that includes the repurposing of redundant commercial and retail properties for affordable studios and other cultural provision, as well as stabilising vulnerable facilities and supporting adaptation of premises.

Dedicate 1% of the Scottish Government's total budget to cultural spend with a five-year stabilisation plan for the cultural sector



This will allow cultural organisations to contribute fully to the economic recovery, implement the aims of the Scottish Government's Cultural Strategy, rebuild a cultural workforce based on the principles of fair work, supporting publicly-funded organisations to pay union rates and the living wage.





Conduct a pilot for Universal Basic Income



Our members support the idea of a Universal or Citizens' Basic Income, a move which will benefit wider society as well as artists. We join the calls for Scotland to develop a pilot scheme to put UBI to the test, as part of which the impact on artists and creative freelancers should be measured and evaluated.

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Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN) is a member led network committed to championing and supporting the contemporary art sector in Scotland. Scottish Contemporary Art Network (SCAN) is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO): Charity Number SC043016



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School pupils on board the Travelling Gallery, which brings contemporary art to communities all over Scotland.



IMAGE COURTESY: THE TRAVELLING GALLERY