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| Agenda Item | 12 |
| Report No | CIA/23/18 |

HIGHLAND COUNCIL

Committee: City of Inverness Area Committee

Date: 31st May 2018

Report Title: Inverness City Arts – Annual Report

Report By: Inverness City Area Manager

1. Purpose/Executive Summary

- 1.1 This is the Annual Report of the Inverness City Arts Working Group (ICArts) and updates on progress made by ICArts in meeting the criteria set by the City of Inverness Area Committee (the Committee) at the meetings held on [8 October](#) 2012, [3 December](#) 2012 and [15 April](#) 2013. Update reports have been given since on funding and Project progress through presentation of ICArts Working Group Minutes; however this report formally updates on the Action Plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Members are asked to:
- i. Scrutinise and note the report.

3. Background

3.1 The City of Inverness Area Committee agreed to set up the ICArts Working Group on 3 December 2012. The following remit being agreed;

- 3.2
- to agree a draft Action Plan (which would be subject to the approval of the CIAC) and review it on annual basis;
 - to apply the decisions of the CIAC in respect of the application of funds from the City of Inverness Common Good Fund given for the purpose of promoting or developing projects involving Public Art for the City Area;
 - to provide a framework for project content and community and/or artist engagement to the ICA Programme Delivery Manager, in line with the objectives of the Council's Programme and planning policies;
 - to identify opportunities for youth training and employment and provide educational outcomes for local people linking in with the Curriculum for Excellence and the Council's Employability Action Plan ;
 - to scrutinise all aspects of project delivery with the power to request reports on project progress and on revenue budget spend relevant to the governance of the CIAC;
 - to provide a governance link to the CIAC – through reports by the Inverness City Manager – on the progress of projects as appropriate.
 - to agree options (other than through City Arts Partnership Forum Sessions) for public engagement to enable effective community involvement in projects; and
 - to agree the membership and meeting schedule of ICA Partnership Forum Sessions.

3.3 ICArts meets on a regular basis (6 weekly) with ICArts minutes being scrutinised and approved by this Committee. The current Members of ICArts are;

- Provost Helen Carmichael
- Cllr Isabelle MacKenzie - Chair
- Cllr Elizabeth Macalister
- Cllr Alasdair Christie
- Cllr Graham Ross
- Philip Deverell – Creative Scotland (advisory capacity)

3.4 This followed Members deciding to support the Projects from the Inverness Common Good Fund at the meeting held on 8 October 2012, deciding as follows:

3.5 **'AGREED IN PRINCIPLE'** to allocate £250k (plus £30k allocated from revenue spend) from the City of Inverness Common Good Fund (Option One as detailed within the report) – on the basis that the City Manager would meet with the three elected members on the current Steering Group, together with the Leader and Mr K Gowans in order to maintain political balance, to discuss additional governance measures in relation to IOTA which could be put in place with a further report in this regard, also encompassing all of the other issues raised during the debate, being submitted to the next meeting for consideration.

3.6 Project Management

ICArts are supported by a Lead Officer (Project Sponsor) – the Inverness City Area Manager who leads a project management team consisting of;

- Jason Kelman – Principal Project Manager
- Cathy Shankland – Curatorial Advisor, contracted from Highlife Highland
- Ruth Cleland – Corporate Communications Manager
- Andy Campbell - Lead Artist

4. Governance and Action Plan

4.1 Members of the City of Inverness Area Committee have previously expressed agreement that the governance structure (**Appendix 1**) - original format has worked effectively, with the attached Budget update (**Appendix 2**) confirming that progress has been made with all funding in place and projects underway, with Community Engagement at the core.

4.2 **Artist Selection and Project Management** - The City of Inverness Area Committee tasked ICArts to structure the River Connections Projects allowing for Artist Briefs to be drawn up by officers, led by the Inverness City Area Manager. This was achieved for the component parts of the Projects and the original Artists selected being:

- The Gathering Place (now 'My Ness') – Sans Façon
- The Sculptural Destination - Annie Cattrell
- Rest Spaces – Dress For The Weather
- The Trail – Dress For The Weather
- River Connections – Mary Bourne
- Children's Water Feature – Bespoke Atelier

4.3 Following the decision taken at the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016, The original concept for the Gathering Place, being the Inverness Pier, was terminated along with the Artist Contract. Sans Façon in collaboration with OSA, won the new contract for the revised 'Gathering Place Project, in January 2017.

4.4 As with the existing projects, Project Selection for the new Gathering Place project was undertaken by an Evaluation Panel consisting of independent experts tasked to decide which of the submissions best fits with the Artists Brief, drawn up in consultation with ICArts. The Panel members are;

- Professor Jim Mooney
- Professor Will Maclean
- Senior College Lecturer Mark Lomax
- Jason Kelman Principal Project Manager – technical input only

4.5 The City Area Manager and the Curatorial Advisor both act as advisors to the Panel. The Panel evaluates the applications and makes recommendations to ICArts.

4.6 Sans Façon and OSA have submitted a new revised concept design for the Gathering Place, entitled 'My Ness,' to ICArts which was strongly recommended by the Evaluation Panel. ICArts accepted the recommendation and approved the design in April 2018

4.7 Prior to this, the Artist selection process was undertaken in compliance with Councils Contract Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

4.8 **Fit with Action Plan –** The process has led to the appointment of Artists in an open and accountable manner and in accordance with governance requirements. We are progressing to the delivery phase for the larger projects which involves the Project

Manager working closely with the Curatorial Advisor and Lead Artist to deliver the Projects. The City Area Manager oversees the Projects and meets with the Project Team regularly, with ICArts meeting on a 6 weekly cycle. This combined with close financial monitoring has delivered the Projects successfully to date. **Appendix 3** contains the latest project delivery programme for information.

- 4.9 **Public Consultation** - This has been undertaken to date on the development of all the projects. River Connections has been completed with installations in place along the Riverside. Local input has been given by Poets such as Ken Cockburn as well as by other members of the City Community. Further work is focused on the wider Projects, led by the Gathering Place (My Ness). ICArts continues to make best use of every opportunity to engage with local communities and involve them in the delivery process wherever possible. Events include;
- Community engagement and research in development of artists briefs
 - Schools project with Architecture + Design Scotland
 - Artist-led education projects
 - Artist-led community workshops
 - Meetings with specific community and business groups
 - Member engagement with Community Councils, Inverness BID and the Lochness Tourism BID
 - Major Project Launch and community event and consultation drop-in and displays at Inverness Railway Station and Eastgate Centre
 - Stakeholder event (Eden Court) and follow-up survey
 - Youth Convener and Youth Hub meetings
- 4.10 **Co-Creation** – To ensure the engagement of the community a co-creation process has been put in place with artist, community groups and stakeholders. The process of co-creation brings different parties together in order to jointly produce a mutually valued outcome. This has resulted in the new proposals for the Gathering Place which were based on the results of this process
- 4.11 **Fit with Action Plan** – The Projects are consistently being informed by public consultation and discussion.
- 4.12 **Link to Education** – The *Children’s Water Feature* has been developed in conjunction with Inverness College/UHI Art students, and secondary school pupils, who are engaged with the artist in the development of the commission. They were supported by an Education Coordinator who is integrated the project in line with their curriculum and learning outcomes. Other opportunities are also being used to ensure that projects are engaging with people of all ages during their creation. For example, local Primary School educational and community centred engagement events were facilitated by the artists as part of the River Connections project.
- 4.13 **Fit with Action Plan** - The Projects have and continue to make best use of opportunities to involve young people.
- 4.14 **Synergy with the Councils Public Art Strategy** – The ICArts Action Plan was designed to integrate with the Councils Public Art Strategy. All the projects fit with the following underlying principles.
- **Develop a Cohesive Public Art Programme** of temporary and permanent projects which will bring economic, social and cultural benefits to the City of

Inverness;

- **Create a Sense of Place** to create or add to Inverness' identity and sense of place. Public art projects should build upon history, environment and community to create places that respond to and reinforce local distinctiveness;
- **Promote Good Quality Design** good quality design requires early interaction and engagement with all professionals involved in place-making, in order to develop a process early enough to make best use of existing budgets and to ensure the effective delivery of public art projects;
- **Facilitate Debate and Community Engagement** all public art initiatives will consider communities from an early stage. Community engagement should be a central consideration as this will empower the community to take ownership of the products of public art initiatives;
- **Develop New Audiences for the Visual Arts** the public art projects should be accessible to everyone within the community and be developed/implemented in such a manner as to reach out into communities. They should actively encourage people's interest in the visual arts through public events and educational-based opportunities in communities and schools, allowing people with no specialist knowledge of the visual arts to gain access to contemporary visual art practice;
- **Create Opportunities for Professional Development** provide opportunities for Highland artists to develop their skills, either through direct involvement in the projects, through shadowing or other indirect methods that engage with contemporary practice from elsewhere in the UK and Europe, to develop their own practice and networks;
- **Raise the Profile of Highland as a Creative Hub** to ensure that the public art projects contribute positively to the profile of Inverness & the Highlands as a creative region, and thus contribute to the attractiveness of Highland as a tourist destination. Develop the reach and impact of projects beyond Highland, as well as embedding them in local communities;
- **Leverage in Extra Funds** fundraising to enable the city to lever in significant additional resources from public and private sources including Lottery, Creative Scotland and private investors;
- **Expand Access for Children and Young People** to visual arts and involve young people in the development of public art projects that link into the Curriculum for Excellence;
- **Promote Equality** to actively enhance access to public art where practicable, for the widest possible sectors of the community and adhere to The Highland Council's Equalities Policy;
- **Promote Sustainability** to minimise the environmental impact of public art projects and raise awareness of Climate Change through the Flood Alleviation Scheme.

5. Project Updates

5.1 River Connections

River Connections, is complete. The final part of the artwork, which comprises new seating in the alcoves in Bank Street, was installed in early 2017. They complement the poetry by Ken Cockburn, composed for the plaques on the river wall, and have been created by artist Mary Bourne from Caithness slate, supported by drystone dyking. The pattern of shapes represents the small lochans and tributaries which run into the River Ness

5.2 Rest Spaces

Artists, 'Dress for the Weather', will soon be installing 'Rest Spaces'. As a result of the adjustment to the Project Programme agreed at Committee in July 2016, this project has been revised. The element being proceeded with is called 'Explore' and will be installed on Bank Street. This will form a ledge which will provide a different way to view the river. Should funds allow, a second element will be installed called 'to perch for a moment in passing'; to linger and take in the views, or to get a closer look and discover more about the river.

5.3 The Trail

The Trail, also by 'Dress for the Weather' is a project to map the river, in which the artists will gather local information, including suggestions from the community for a paper map and website to be accessed by mobile phone. This is being linked to several themed Trails being composed in tandem. One being Highland AR Legends and second being a Tree Trail through the Ness Islands.

5.4 Children's Water Feature

Artists 'Bespoke Atelier' and 'Erz' have worked with art students from the University of the Highlands and Islands and school pupils to create a Children's Water Feature, designs for which have been informed by young people for young people. The approved site for the interactive feature is on the Ness Islands and it will be installed in late autumn 2018.

5.5 The Sculptural Destination

Artist Annie Cattrell has designed an iconic landmark entitled 'Seer' based on the geology of the river and the mythology of the Brahan Seer. Two 'seeing stones,' modelled from the rock formations on each site of the Great Glen fault and cast in bronze-infused resin will be sited at Friar's Shott. People will be able to stand between them to view the Castle and the city. Smaller test pieces of the sculpture were exhibited at the Royal Scottish Academy in Edinburgh in May. The artwork will be installed this summer.

5.6 The Gathering Place – *My Ness*

Artists Sans Facon and OSA have created a new design as a focus for gathering on both sides of the river to be sited at the Little Isle Pool, Fisherman's Car Park. The new artwork will take the form of a circular amphitheatre taking in both banks to 'frame' the river, incorporating an elegant walkway, seating area and viewing point projecting over the water between the existing trees. It will be fabricated in locally-sourced stone.

The public launch of the new design took place on the 24th May 2018 at the Highland Archive Centre and at the approved site.

Installation of the artwork will be completed in Spring 2019

6. Implications

6.1 Resource - The Projects are fully funded. The funding partners are:

| | |
|--|---|
| Creative Scotland | £0.305.6m |
| City of Inverness – Common Good Fund | £0.250 (+£30.75k revenue Funding 2013/14) |
| Highland Council – ‘Approaching Inverness’ | £0.106m |
| HIE | £0.066m |
| TOTAL | £0.758.6m |

Subsequent to the decision taken by the City of Inverness Area Committee on 1 July 2016. The financial implications which were set out within the [report](#) were addressed. After discussion, the retention of funding was agreed with Creative Scotland and Highlands and Islands Enterprise. This was on the condition that the Projects would be delivered without any additional funds being made available by either organisation. **Appendix 2** details the current spend set against the Project Programme

6.2 Legal – There are no known legal implications as a result of the content of this report.

6.3 Community (Equality, Poverty and Rural) - The delivery of projects under the governance arrangements identified in this report will be required to meet The Highland Council’s Policies. They will also actively enhance access to public art where practicable, for the widest possible sectors of the community.

The investment made by the Partners is enhancing the Flood Alleviation Scheme which will enable the River to be even more of an attraction for visitors and locals and so promote the economic development of the Riverside. This has been confirmed by an Economic Impact Assessment carried out and is available on request

6.4 Climate Change / Carbon Clever - There are no known climate change implications as a result of the content of this report.

6.5 Risk - All funders remain committed to the Projects and are being kept apprised of progress. Budgets are secure and the Projects are being delivered on budget. Noting the reduced budget allocation the budget for the Gathering Place has been adjusted.

Communication is important. There is a clear understanding of the sensitivities involved in delivering Public Art Projects at a time when public sector finances are under severe pressure. It is important to be clear that the vast majority of the money for the projects comes from Third Party funding and therefore cannot be used for other purposes. It is important to note that the £106k contribution from the Council is capital investment and not revenue spend.

The Communications Plan ensures that the public continue to be engaged with the development and delivery of the projects and together with the robust implementation of governance, to ensure that the reputational risk to the Council is managed.

The delivery of the Projects has been delayed due to the revision of the Gathering Place Project. Every effort continues to be made to complete the majority of the Project Programme in 2018. The Project Board are keenly aware that the longer the Project Programme takes to deliver, the greater the budget pressure.

6.6 Gaelic – All policies relating to the use of the Gaelic language will be adhered to.

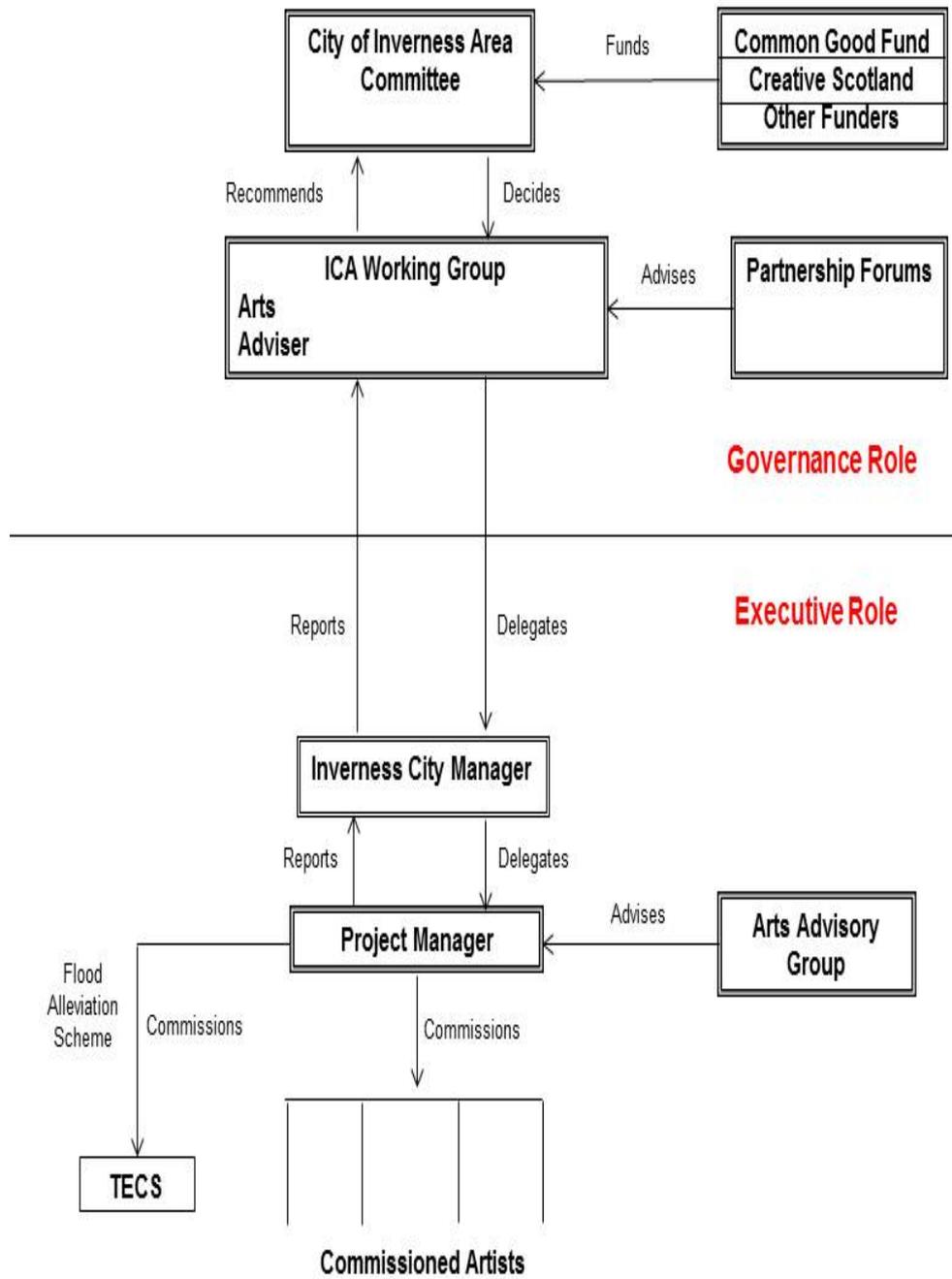
Designation: Inverness City Area Manager

Date: 16 May 2018

Author: David Haas

Background Papers: Report No. CIA/20/15 April 2013

APPENDIX 1



Overall Project Budgets

| Project | Agreed Budget | Spends to Date | Remaining Budget |
|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| River Connections | £60,000 | £56,001 | £3,999 |
| Rest Spaces | £40,000 | £11,600 | £28,400 |
| The Trail | £25,000 | £3,500 | £21,500 |
| Gathering Place | £300,000 | £103,531 | £196,469 |
| Sculptural Destination | £60,000 | £17,187 | £42,813 |
| Childrens Feature | £40,000 | £9,800 | £30,200 |
| Management Fee's | £120,900 | £125,644 | -£4,744 |
| Development Cost | £85,000 | £85,000 | £0 |
| Client Contingency | £21,850 | £5,116 | £16,734 |
| | | | |
| Workers Memorial | £5,000 | £5,000 | £0 |
| Total | £757,750 | £422,379 | £335,371 |

Please Note - Development Cost is Stage 1 Costs