

## City of Inverness Area Committee Inverness City Arts Working Group

Minutes of the Meeting of the **Inverness City Arts Working Group** held in the Second Floor Committee Room, Town House, Inverness on Tuesday 15 January 2019 at 2.00 pm.

### **Present:**

Mr I Brown  
Mrs H Carmichael  
Mrs I Mackenzie  
Mr G Ross

### **In Attendance:**

Mr D Haas, Inverness City Area Manager  
Ms R Clelland, Corporate Communications and Resilience Manager  
Mr J Kelman, Principal Project Manager, Development and Infrastructure Service  
Mrs A MacArthur, Administrative Assistant, Chief Executive's Service

### **Also in attendance:**

Ms C Shankland, Exhibitions Officer, High Life Highland  
Ms K Dick, Place Partnerships and Communications Officer, Creative Scotland

### **Mrs I MacKenzie in the Chair**

### **Preliminaries**

Members welcomed Ms Karen Dick from Creative Scotland. She advised that Creative Scotland had Art Form Officers who gave advice and support on each art form. Her role was to engage with communities and talk about arts in general and supporting sustainability across all art forms.

### **Business**

#### **1. Apologies for Absence**

There were no apologies.

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

Item 5 – Mr G Ross (non-financial)

#### **3. Exclusion of the Public**

The Working Group **RESOLVED** that, under Section 50(A) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973, the public should be excluded from the meeting during discussion of the following items on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 6 and 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 7A of the Act.

#### 4. **Actions from Previous Minutes**

There had been circulated Minutes of the previous Meeting held on 7 August 2018, the terms of which were **NOTED**.

Arising from the Minutes it was reported that:-

5 i. the piece had now been completed and Members could go and view the piece itself instead of looking at pictures.

5 ii. generally good to have groups involved and Members requested that a letter be sent to thank the artist for the Sculptural Destination.

The Working Group:

- i. **NOTED** the update; and
- ii. **AGREED** that a letter, thanking the artist for the Sculpture Destination, be sent.

#### 5. **River Connections Public Art Project Programme**

**Declaration of Interest – Mr G Ross declared a non-financial interest in this item on the grounds of having a close relative who was a local artist but, having applied the test outlined in Paragraphs 5.2 and 5.3 of the Councillors' Code of Conduct, concluded that his interest did not preclude him from taking part in the discussion.**

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 01/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 24 December 2018. In presenting the report, an update was provided on the Project Programme which included detailed information on the progress of each project in regard to key milestones; forthcoming decisions/actions required; and project risks/issues that were being addressed.

##### **Rest Spaces – Dress for the Weather**

An opportunity had arisen to delay the installation of this feature to April 2019, as the weather forecast for the next few weeks was to be cold with wintry showers and as the river levels tended to be high from January-March it was thought April would be a better time to install the structure. Storage was available at no additional cost, with the transport cost being minimal. In December it was decided the sculpture should be cast in one piece, with the base attached, enabling an easier and quicker installation. There was also an opportunity to have the handrails fitted whilst the sculpture was in storage. As the piece was now ready Members could visit and view the piece.

##### **My Ness (the new Gathering Place) Sans Façon and OSA**

A planning application had been put forward before Christmas. The artist had made a few minor adjustments, not affecting the work, to keep within budget. Clarity would be sought from the Angling Association on what the Council was

required to do in relation to the hut, they may prefer to do the foundation themselves. The Council's only involvement with the hut was to dig the foundation and ensure the development complemented the Council's.

Members were very appreciative of the time and work put in by officers for this project.

### **Children's Feature – Bespoke Atelier**

Planning permission had been approved and installation would be in April 2019.

### **The Trail – Dress for the Weather**

Details for the Trail would be discussed following the completion of the individual features of the Trail.

The Chair thanked officers for the work to date and expressed the Working Group's appreciation for the time and detailed work undertaken behind the scenes.

Ms K Dick stated that this project was the only one of the large scale public art projects that Creative Scotland funded in 2012 that had continued. Also one of the few capital projects sitting amongst big projects. Creative Scotland would like to make as much of the projects as they could and would invite, through their partnership with High Life Highland, the community, the schools and people in to celebrate this place. The dates for completion would be added to their calendar to ensure availability.

Awards for all and their funding was now looking at a new way of working and would be looking for projects led by the community. Ms Dick and Ms Shankland would liaise to discuss the new funding and bring details back to the Committee.

The Working Group **NOTED** the progress in respect of each of the projects:-

- iii. Rest Spaces;
- iv. Sculptural Destination;
- v. My Ness (the Gathering Place); and
- vi. Children's Water Feature.

It was also **AGREED**:

- i. that the organisation of an event would be shelved until later in the year when several projects would be ready;
- ii. Ms Dick and Ms Shankland would liaise to discuss the new funding and bring details back to the Committee.

## 6. Financial Monitoring

There had been circulated Report No ICArts 02/19 by the Inverness City Area Manager dated 24 December 2018. The report set out the revenue monitoring position for the period to 31 December 2018 and showed the actual expenditure to date.

The Working Group **NOTED** the content of the report.

## 7. Press relations and forthcoming PR opportunities and risks

The City Area Manager gave an update on recent media coverage and the forthcoming press coverage.

Ms Cleland stated that the Sculptural Destination had been launched in the autumn and that had been reasonably positive coverage of that. An approach taken in 2017 whereby all projects would be led by the artists, had been very successful along with the explanation of the funding.

The next phase of activity would be the end of March where something would be done for the Rest Space. Mr D Haas and Mrs R Cleland had had a briefing with Ms Shankland on the publicity opportunities for the Sculptural Destination, Rest Spaces and the lodging of a planning application for My Ness. Ms R Cleland, Corporate Communications Manager had been very helpful.

The final completion of the whole project would warrant something special and if Creative Scotland could provide video support so that a video could go on You Tube. Ms Dick was asked if video support could be provided from Creative Scotland. Ms Dick stated that Creative Scotland would be happy to undertake filming. If this could be picked up digitally it would be preferable. The installation would be undertaken in April and the works would culminate in September with My Ness.

Ms R Cleland would liaise with Ms Dick to view the existing virtual reality app in context at the conclusion of this meeting.

The Chair thanked Ms Dick and acknowledged the Group's appreciation for the support given by Creative Scotland.

The Working Group **NOTED** the update.

## 8. Date of next Meeting

The Working Group **NOTED** that the date of the next Meeting would be 9 April. If anything unexpected happened a meeting would be called before that date. Ms Dick stated that as she was now on the Highland Culture Participation Group she would be in Inverness more often.

The meeting was closed at 3.15 pm.