

# **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 17 March 2003**

**REPORT ON: Generator**

**REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts**

**REPORT NO: 225-2003**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To submit to the Committee a request for grant funding to Generator.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS**

2.1 That the Committee approves support of £7,000 for Generator.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The grant of £7,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's 2002/2003 Revenue Budget.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Generator's facilities at Generator Projects, Mid Wynd, allow access to sources which are not achieved at the expense of the environment.

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The organisation's principal activities are the provision of visual arts services for artists and the public through a programme of exhibitions and education which encourage access for all.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 Generator was established by a group of graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone in 1996 in response to a lack of opportunities in Dundee for emerging artists to work, exhibit and meet together. They recognise the importance of encouraging talent to stay within Dundee and support the development of contemporary creativity and artistic understanding within the city, reinforcing Dundee's reputation as a leading player within the arts nationally and internationally.

6.2 Generator is an artist-led non profit organisation who aims to present innovative, developmental and experimental contemporary art by unestablished arts practitioners and curators and to provide a resource for the presentation of such works. Generator provides a forum for debate around experimental theories and practice raising the critical understanding of experimental forms of art and its production.

6.3 Generator's reputation has grown internationally through a series of innovative projects over the last seven years achieving acclaim through a programme that has stimulated critical debate within the city and beyond. These projects include:

- Radar: Generator's inaugural project, sited at a warehouse space in Dundee. The show presented an alternative survey of international art gathered from similar artist-led organisations and collaborations.
- Fade Away and Radiate: Exhibition of light works highlighting local and national artists, sited at venues throughout the city.
- Here + Now: A survey of Contemporary Scottish Art, 1990-2000. Collaboration with DCA, McManus Galleries, Peacock Visual Arts and Aberdeen Art Gallery.
- Doing Time: Performance Festival featuring local, national and international contributors and sited at various venues throughout the city. Generator became the information and meeting point for the festival and hosted various impromptu performances.
- They Had Four Years: Five Duncan of Jordanstone graduates have an opportunity to exhibit new work one year after graduating from their four year Fine Art Degree Course.
- Member's Show: Annual Open exhibition reviewing new work produced by Generator's Membership.
- Genies and other Bottled Creatures: Exhibition and Performance events curated by members of Edinburgh based artist's collective, Forest Arts.
- When that Great Day Comes: Exhibition by five young Glasgow based artists, exploring notions of place.

6.4 Generator's current project space at 25/26 Mid Wynd has been developed to facilitate optimum flexibility to stage exhibitions, live performance events, audio/visual experiments, film nights, education projects and other live dialogue. At a critical stage in their development Generator are now seeking to further develop their programme to include on an annual basis:

- Members' open submission Exhibition.
- Two curated group exhibitions involving local artists in the early stages of their artistic careers.
- Two curated exhibitions highlighting the work of national/international emerging artists.
- Open programmable slots, allowing work to be shown and evaluated in vital research and development periods.
- One-off film nights, live performance, seminars, workshops, etc.
- Flexible space available to other organisations for collaboration.

6.5 In realising this programme and in recognition of Generator's importance to contemporary arts practice in Scotland Generator have been awarded a grant of £10,000 by the Scottish Arts Council towards the programme and development of the service to artists. It is a condition of the Scottish Arts Council grant that the running costs of the organisation including rental and utilities be found locally. To that end the Leisure and Arts Department have in conjunction with the Economic Development Department agreed to the establishment of a new lease with Generator which allows them to maximize their income on artistic activities.

6.6 The proposed grant of £7,000 from the Leisure and Arts Department 2002/2003 Revenue

Budget will allow Generator to develop their service to artists and the community in a very positive manner and provide a very strong focus for both the critical debate that surrounds contemporary arts practice and that important period of transition when emerging artists leave art college and wish to remain in Dundee.

- 6.7 Within the context of Generator's development proposals it is recognised that board membership and company protocol mitigate against continuity of service. This has in the past resulted in duplication of effort by all concerned including officers of the Scottish Arts Council and the Leisure and Arts Department. To re-address this situation Generator have agreed to the formation of an Advisory Group which will provide guidance on administrative and financial matters with Generator retaining sole responsibility for artistic development and programme. It is intended that the Advisory Group involve officers of both the Scottish Arts Council and Leisure and Arts Department along with representation from Dundee Contemporary Arts and Duncan of Jordanstone.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Economic Development and Director of Corporate Planning have all been consulted on the contents of this report and are in agreement.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

**STEVE GRIMMOND  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS  
24 FEBRUARY 2003**

## Financial Summary – Generator

<b>Income</b>	£
Membership fees	500
Scottish Arts Council	10,000
Dundee City Council	7,000
Charitable Trusts	1,500
Sponsorship	1,000
Earned Income	700
ERDF	<u>1,000</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,700</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>	
Rents and Utilities	8,150
Administration	3,950
Exhibitions	<u>9,600</u>
<b>Total</b>	<b>21,700</b>