

## **DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL**

**REPORT TO:** Leisure and Arts Services Committee - 18 December 2006

**REPORT ON:** Generator

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

**REPORT NO:** 6952006

### **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 Communities Department's 2006/2007 Revenue Budget.

### **4.0 SUSTAINABILITY POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Sustainability

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

4.2 Strategic Environmental Assessment

None required.

4.3 Anti-Poverty

Generator provides free access to resources and support to emergent artists. Without these opportunities they would struggle to raise their profile.

### **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

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

### **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 Reference is made to Article I of the minute of the Leisure and Arts Committee dated 17 May 2004, when funding of £7,000 was granted to the Generator Project.

6.2 Generator projects is an artist-led non profit organisation run by a committee of volunteers which aims to present innovative, developmental and experimental contemporary art by emerging arts practitioners and curators and to provide a

resource for the presentation of such works.

The organisation was established by a group of graduates from Duncan of Jordanstone College in 1996 to create new opportunities in Dundee for emerging artists to work, exhibit and meet together.

- 6.3 Generator Project's reputation has grown nationally and internationally over the last ten years achieving acclaim through a cutting edge exhibition and events programme that has stimulated critical debate within the City and beyond. The organisation runs an extensive programme of exhibitions, national and international projects and offsite events from their gallery space in Dundee's West End, and are supported by an active membership of over 300 local artists.
- 6.4 The Project works closely with local arts organisations and professionals to extend the network of support for artists in Dundee. Recently this has included a partnership exhibition and events programme with the Leisure and Communities Department's Arts Development Team at the Generator Project's gallery space, and an international project with a group of Romanian artists in partnership with Duncan of Jordanstone College Exhibitions Department. The Project has also recently taken part in the professional practice programme at Duncan of Jordanstone by offering a group of third year fine art students work experience projects within the organisation.
- 6.5 The Leisure and Communities Department's Arts Development Team offer the Generator Project's committee and membership support through professional development and cultural networking events, employment and training opportunities. The Visual Arts Development Officer also provides a supporting role to the organisation by having a place on the Generator Project's advisory board.
- 6.6 Generator's reputation has grown internationally through a series of innovative projects over the last ten years, achieving acclaim through a programme that has stimulated critical debate within the City and beyond. In 2005/2006, Generator's programme included:

6.6.1 **Core Shows**

June 2005 - Exhibition - "Nexus"

Participating artists: Alberta Whittle, Richard Wheater, Kate Temple, Jenny Stephens, Justin Orde, Duncan Hart, Anne Bulmer, Lois Carson, Jo Ball, Matt Ayling.

An exhibition organised in conjunction with Ruth Beale, Aurora.

July 2005 - Exhibition - "Annual Summer Residency"

Participating artists: Samantha Taylor, Louise Briggs

September 2005 - Exhibition - "Pittenweem 2"

Participating artists - Val Norris, Kate Temple, Kirsty Whiten, Lee Marshal, Alison Philp, Angus Whitson, Jim Welsh.

October 2005 - Exhibition - "Wasps from Other Bykes"

Participating artists - Joyce Gunn Cairns, Paul Furneaux, Guyan Porter, Peter Russell, Frank To, Andrea Turner, Caroline Walker, Georgia Wolfson.

November 2005 - Exhibition - "And One More Fall Faktura"

Participating artists: Something Haptic.

Artists' talk held on 12 November.

6.6.1 January 2006 - Exhibition - "Members Show"  
cont.

Participating artists: Approximately 40 artists from the Generator membership.

February 2006 - Exhibition - "Ten from the Arm"

Participating artist: Kevin Henderson.

March 2006 - Exhibition - Dundee Visual Artists Award 2000-05

In partnership with Dundee City Council Arts Development Section.

Participating artists: Delia Baillie, Stephen Bird, Lindsay Brown, Andrew Dodds, Jacqui Hallum, Rob Hunter, John Loudon, Michael Mallet, Jason Nelson, Iain Sturrock.

This exhibition coincided with other DVAA events held at Dundee Contemporary Arts, in conjunction with Dundee City Council Arts Development, Cultural Enterprise Office and AN - The Artists Information Company

April 2006 - Exhibition - "Coconut and Vanilla Sundays"

Participating artists: Alberta Whittle, The Lonely Piper

May 2006 - "They had Four Years\* 2006"

Participating artists: Kevin McPhee, Steven Cairns, Cara Tolmie, Rose Borthwick.

November 2006 - Exhibition - "Infernal Methods"

Norman Shaw. Dr Norman Shaw's work is based around and explores the sonority of landscape - specifically that of the Highlands - in audio, visual and poetic terms. He produced a series of new drawings especially for this exhibition.

An after event curated by Norman Shaw also took place on 11 November at Discovery Point, including the following acts: Box, Nimrod33 vs Shareholder, Usurper, Kylie Minoise, Farmhand.

6.6.2 **Events and Offsite Projects**

September 2005 - Event - "Band Night Fundraiser"

Participating bands: Sweetheart, Copy Haho, Indica. Venue: Westport Bar

September 2005 - Event - "Smell the Glove Cabaret"

Performance night curated by Luke Collins and Steve Murray.

Participating artists: Stephen Anderson, Tim le Breuilly, Amelia Crouch, Andrew French, Juneau Projects, Thomas Aitchison, Emily Beckmann, The Gussets, Derek Lodge, Paul Vickers.

October 2005 - Event - "Halloween Cabaret"

Performance night. Participating artists: Miroslav Mitrovic, Mikel Krumins, Adam Lockhart, Ben Robinson, Scott Duncan, Hermes Von Feltersnatch and Fuchsia Bush.

November 2005 - Event - "Fundraiser"

Hosted by Generator Committee Members. Venue: Droothy Neebors pub.  
6.6.2 December 2005 - Event - "Band Night Fundraiser"

cont.

Participating bands: Spy Amp, Indica, Box, Nimrod 33. Venue: Droothy Neebors pub.

May 2006 - Event - "He had Our Eyes"

Participating artists/bands: The Phantom Band, Dance Generation, Twisted DBs, Neon.

An after-show/end of term event. Venue: Droothy Neebors pub.

June 2006 - Event - "'After' Band Night"

Participating bands: Altres, Stoor. Venue: Droothy Neebors pub.

September 2006 - Event - "Pamela Kurstin World Tour: Theremin Performance"

A world-renowned Thereminist, Pamela has played and recorded with many prestigious artists at venues including New York's infamous CBGB's. Venue: City Function Suite.

### 6.6.3 **National Projects**

August 2005 - Off-site Exhibition - "Pittenweem Festival"

Participating artists: Val Norris, Kate Tempel, Kirsty Whiten, Lee Marshall, Alison Philp, Angus Whitson, Jim Welsh.

August 2005 - Off-site Exhibition - "Magazine 05" - Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop

Participating artists: Luke Collins, Andrew Dodds, Andrew Reid, Derek Lodge.

October 2005 - Off-site Exhibition - "The Visitor and the Other" - The Royal Scottish Academy, The Mound, Edinburgh

Participating artists: Aileen Stackhouse and Andrew Wake

### 6.6.4 **International Projects**

November 2005 - Event - "Borders" Film Screening

Film screening event of 60 one-minute long international films in conjunction with Verkligheten Artists' Initiative, Sweden.

June 2006 - Exhibition - "Lands of Freedom"

Participating artists: Ruth Bowler, Chris Hoeting, Meg Mitchell and Sarada Conaway, Jefferson Pinder, Robert Tillman. An exhibition held in conjunction with Union Gallery, Maryland, USA

September 2006 - Exhibition - "For the North"

Participating artists: Dave Barker, Black Dogs, Emma Bolland, Kelly Cumberland, Luke Drozd, Julie Falia, Pippa Hale. A selection of work from artists based in Leeds and Canada.

6.6.4 November 2006 - Exhibition - "Platforma"  
cont.

Venue: Cooper Gallery, Duncan of Jordanstone College.

Participating artists: Anca Benera, Irina Botea, Arnold Estefan, Caroline Rismont, Catalin Rulea (Romania), Anton Beaver, Miranda Blennerhassett, Steven Cairns, Louisa Preston (UK).

Exploring how artist-led groups can work in collaboration, this exhibition celebrates Generator Project's tenth anniversary by bringing together four artists from Dundee with five artists from a new group based in Bucharest, Romania. Supported by: University of Dundee, Visiting Arts, British Council, Scottish Arts Council, Dundee City Council and Romanian Ministry of Culture.

6.6.5 **Residency Programme**

July 2005 - Exhibition - "Annual Residency"

Participating artists: Samantha Taylor, Louise Briggs.

Generator members were asked to send in proposals for week long residencies in the Generator projects space during July and August 2006.

Selected artists were:

Janie Nicoll  
Ewan Manson  
Aaron McClusky  
Sarah Forrest & Amy Marletta  
Tonya McMullen  
Amy Todman

6.6.6 **Future Plans**

8 December 2006 - Generator's Tenth Birthday Party - City Function Suite.

A birth party is also planned to mark the end of the November shows and Generator's tenth year, coinciding with the end of the University term.

14 January to 11 February 2007 (approximate dates) - Members' Show

A popular exhibition drawing on the work of our 300 plus membership, this exhibition is important for to show continued support of the membership, especially those in their early careers.

25 February - 4 March 2007 (approximate dates) - Un-named Show

Amy Marletta and Sarah Forest, collaborative exhibition. These artists took part in the 2006 Open Season residency to experiment with ideas and develop work for this exhibition.

18 March - 22 April (approximate dates) - Un-named Show

Kevin Reid and Jason Nelson.

6 May - 3 June (approximate dates) - "They had Four Years" (second of our core shows)

This exhibition has become embedded in the history of Generator, and is as popular to members and the public as the Members' Show. This annual exhibition is curated by the committee from the selection of short-listed proposals submitted to us from graduates in 2006, and opens one week before the Duncan of Jordanstone Degree Show. It provides a showcase of previous graduates' work at a prime time when work of current graduates can be seen at Duncan of Jordanstone and Dundee attracts many visitors.

#### "Six Cities" Design Festival

Generator has been approached by the Six Cities of Design Festival organisers for Dundee. Although in the early stages, the committee are keen to take part in this exciting event and are currently in talks with Donna Holford-Lovell, and are exploring various options. It is likely this would be an off-site project within Dundee's city centre.

July 2007 - Un-named Show curated by Steven Cairns.

July - August 2007 - Residency programme.

#### **6.6.7 Publication**

Generator is also planning a publication to celebrate its tenth year. The committee held a panel discussion in May and are using this to inform the content. The committee have approached past and present committee members (including founder committee members) for submissions based on the issues raised during the discussion.

#### **6.6.8 Resource Network**

The current committee are attempting to help provide resources for the artistic community of Dundee and are in discussion with Mark Hunter of the University print workshop and Scott Hudson of the DCA Print Studio to explore possibilities to attain cheaper access for summer residents and /or membership. Generator has recently installed wireless connection to the internet. The plan is to turn the information space into a social and working area for the membership. The hope is to refurbish this area and the committee are looking into providing tools and equipment that are expensive or difficult to access once an artist leaves college.

#### **7.0 CONSULTATION**

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Depute Chief Executive (Finance) have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

#### **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8.1 'None'.

**STEWART MURDOCH  
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITIES  
16 NOVEMBER 2006**