
**SCOTTISH BORDER COUNCIL COMMUNITY GRANT SCHEME –
GENERIC BUDGET**

Report by Service Director Strategy & Policy

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

24 FEBRUARY 2015

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

- 1.1 **This report recommends an application for funding from the Community Grant Scheme (CGS) Generic Budget.**
- 1.2 The application is from Alchemy Film & Arts which is an organisation based in Hawick but which delivers a range of arts projects across the Borders.
- 1.3 The request is for a support grant to contribute towards the normal running costs of its annual Alchemy Film & Moving Image Festival which takes place, in Hawick, from 16 to 19 April 2015. The organisation is in short-term financial difficulty
- 1.4 £7,121 is available in the CGS Generic Budget and the grant request is for £4,500.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 **I recommend that the Executive Committee approves a grant to the value of £4,500 to Alchemy Film & Arts, conditional on the organisation revising its fundraising plans to bridge this gap in future years.**

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The terms and conditions of the scheme are as set down in the Scottish Borders Council Community Grant Scheme (CGS) application form, attached guidance notes and the Grants Policy and Guidelines. Copies of these documents are available on the Council's website (www.scotborders.gov.uk) or in hard copy from the Strategic Policy Unit. These include the criteria used to judge the suitability of a project and applicant body, procedures for the release of funds and monitoring requirements to comply with the rules of the scheme.
- 3.2 The CGS can provide either project funding or, in certain circumstances, a support grant to groups facing temporary financial difficulty. On 22 March 2006 the Grants to External Bodies Working Group agreed (approved by Executive on 18 April 2006) that, to reflect the intended one-off nature of support grants, a standard condition should apply. The standard condition requests that any group receiving a support grant should review its fundraising plan.
- 3.3 The base budget for the CGS Generic Budget is £10,000.
- 3.4 The Generic Budget was formed following agreement by the Executive Committee on 18 March 2014 to amalgamate the former Borders-wide and non-Borders based budgets into one single budget of £10,000 annually.
- 3.5 An approved ear-marked balance of £9,502 has been carried forward into the 2014/15 generic budget (£1,312 from the former Borders-wide budget and £8,190 from the former non-Borders based budget).
- 3.6 It was agreed by Executive on 26 February 2008 that any underspend in the annual Community Council Support budget should be vired into the Community Grant Scheme for further community benefit. There is no underspend to be transferred from the 2013/14 Community Council Support budget.
- 3.7 A further £1,569 has been paid back into the Generic Budget as a result of grant refunds by community groups in 2013/14.
- 3.8 The total budget for 2014/15 is therefore £21,071 and a balance of £7,021 remains.

4 APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL

- 4.1

APPLICANT:	Alchemy Film & Arts
PROJECT:	Support Grant
CGS No:	CGS/48/14
PROJECT COST:	N/A
GRANT REQUEST:	£4,500
- 4.2 Alchemy Film & Arts is a charitable company limited by guarantee. The organisation's constitution has been reviewed and meets the requirements of the CGS. The organisation has been assessed as operating Borders-wide and is eligible for funding under the CGS Generic Budget.
- 4.3 The organisation's accounts and Equalities Statements have also been reviewed and assessed as satisfactory.
- 4.4 The request for funding is support grant of £4,500 to contribute towards the core running costs of the annual Alchemy Film & Moving Image Festival (see Appendix 1) based in Hawick. This year's Festival will take place from the 16 to 19 April 2015.

- 4.5 It is an international event with a programme which will screen some 100 films (drawn from 500 international film submissions) including 20 world premieres. It will also deliver 6 to 10 "moving image installations" around Hawick using a combination of empty shops, offices and warehouses. Other aspects include film-maker symposiums, short film screenings, artistic performances, school screenings and an evening walk.
- 4.6 The organisation has submitted a budget showing the total costs of the Festival is £26,500. The organisation works closely with Heart of Hawick which provides venue hire at an additional cost of £4,194. However, through a partnership approach with Alchemy, Heart of Hawick has agreed to off-set this charge in exchange for the level of ticket income generated. For the purposes of assessing financial need, the ticket income has been estimated as £3,180. The total project costs are therefore £30,694.
- 4.7 With total project costs at £30,694 the organisation's funding package for the Festival consists of £20,000 from Creative Scotland, £1,500 from the Craignish Trust, £500 in sponsorship, £3,180 from ticket sales and £1,014 in-kind from Heart of Hawick (the difference between the venue hire and estimated ticket sales).
- 4.8 The grant request is for the balance of £4,500 and it will fund the moving image installations, promotional materials, brochure and signage.
- 4.9 The organisation has been assessed as being in temporary financial need as it has made the case for support in 2015 only, based on increased costs coupled with fixed matched funding. The Festival has enjoyed steadily growing support from Creative Scotland since 2012 including £20,000 in 2014 and 2015. The organisation was disappointed not to have secured an increased grant from Creative Scotland in 2015. However, recent discussions with Creative Scotland have resulted in being invited to apply to their recently opened "Open Programme" for the 2016 Festival.
- 4.10 The application has met the full assessment criteria of the CGS and is eligible for funding. A grant of £4,500 is recommended conditional on the organisation revising its fundraising plans to bridge this gap in future years. This condition is the standard agreed condition for all support grants.

5 BUDGET INFORMATION

5.1 The total available in the generic budget is £21,071.

5.2 The decisions made to date are as follows:

Date	CGS No	Description	Award
19/8/14	CGS/14/14	NTC Touring Theatre Co Ltd - Rumpelstiltskin	2,650
19/8/14	CGS/28/14	Survivors Unite - Group Development & Learning Project	1,370
11/11/14	CGS/41/14	Instinctively Wild - Support Grant	4,930
20/01/15	CGS/49/14	Borders Community Radio & Media Ltd - TD1 Radio FM Project	5,000
		TOTAL	13,950.

5.3 The balance available is £7,121.

6 IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Financial

There is sufficient funding within the CGS Generic Budget to cover the recommendation contained in this report and there are therefore no additional financial implications on the Council's resources. Approval of the grant will leave a £2,621 balance in 2014/15.

6.2 Risk and Mitigations

The festival has attracted a high level of external funding from Creative Scotland (£20,000) and Craignish Trust (£1,500) which is confirmed and in place. There is a risk that this external funding will be lost if the organisation is unable to meet the funding shortfall.

6.3 Equalities

In accordance with the CGS assessment criteria, all applications are assessed in terms of how groups have taken account of equal opportunities. It is anticipated that there will be no adverse impact in regard to the protected characteristics (age, disability, gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, poverty, health, marital status) arising from the proposal in this application. Membership of the organisation is open to all. Although the organisation does not have an Equal Opportunities Policy it has provided an equalities statement stating that it operates within an agreed set of values and principles which aims to promote full inclusion, equality, diversity and ease of access at all levels. An EIA Scoping Assessment has been undertaken and there are no apparent concerns. In line with advice received from the SBC Equality & Diversity Officer, the organisation will be advised to develop its own Equalities Policy.

6.4 Acting Sustainably

- (a) There are considered to be no environmental risks associated with the recommendation.
- (b) It is considered that there would be negative economic impact for the town of Hawick if the festival was unable to go ahead. The festival brings in a large amount of visitors to the area which helps to increase trade and boost the local economy. The festival is accessible to all sections of the local community. It is widely promoted to encourage people to participate whether as volunteers, contributing artists or part of an audience.

6.5 Carbon Management

There are no significant effects on carbon emissions arising from the proposals contained in this report.

6.6 Rural Proofing

Not applicable.

6.7 Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation

There are no changes to be made to either the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals contained in this report.

7 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Financial Officer, the Monitoring Officer, the Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Chief Officer HR and the Clerk to the Council have been consulted and their comments have been incorporated into the final report.

Approved by

David Cressey
Service Director Strategy & Policy

Signature

Author(s)

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Background Papers: None

Previous Minute Reference: Executive Committee 18.04.2006; Executive Committee 18.03.2014; Executive Committee 20.01.2015

Note – You can get this document on tape, in Braille, large print and various computer formats by contacting the address below. Linda Cornwall can also give information on other language translations as well as providing additional copies.

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