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Hi,

As a writer and one of the founding members of poets in tollcross park which meets the first saturday of every month in the winter gardens in the park from 1 till 3pm, scriptwriter, hopefully by the end of this year screenwriter as I'm taking the ramshorn course in stage and screenwriting and the scottish screen one when it comes about, artist and taking a course at john wheatley to improve my drawing skills in particular and member of the gorbals arts project, hoping to learn to make ^{Do} sculpture and decorative objects, I welcome arts initiatives in the east end, but wasps I would like to go too in the future on a part time basis, is expensive, but if I could get help to pay the expense would gladly go to it. Projects that come out of the public purse with similar facilities where people can go and express themselves without it costing them anything is something I hope will come about and not facilities for those with mental disorders but open access to all.

A friend and I were at the wasps open day on sunday and it turned out that my tutor from wheatley college who is an artist in her own right was there as well and do you know how many people in the east end that either are into the arts or would like to be many, but we haven't got the facilities. Instead what we have are sac an organisation I want to see abolished because they only concentrate their money on the millionaires and not the communities in scottish cities towns and villages. The money that went to pay for the madonna in the pinks for the chattering classes should never again be allowed to happen, as that money could have been better spent turning listed buildings in communities across scotland the east end of glasgow included into arts projects, where the aims would be to give people a different way in which to express their creative talents whether it be in writing painting sculpting acting poetry whatever and exhibiting their works so that others see inside their world and also for the larger community out there and such arts projects with the facilities needed give people tremendous confidence for the future within themselves as they see there is someone who cares and listens to me through what I create.

In the 90's I was writing and researching a book on buffalo bills scottish tours 1891/2 and 1904 of scotland still am only now with a friend and approached sac for a research grant to cover my expenses in travelling to places to see and interview witnesses and there ~~and their~~ family, but they said only famous writers can get such grants such as cookson and archer, now to me this is totally wrong, as how are people supposed to research and write scotland's history that few know about, if the body responsible for people's money won't give grants out to enable historians like myself and friend to cover our expenses. What is needed is a more independent body with greater public involvement in community art writing tourism culture history etc and not a body that only represents the chattering classes as sac presently does.

I'm so glad that Mcaveety has been sacked as he wasn't

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interested in his brief at all. Anyone who says art is watching celtic f.c. should'nt have been appointed in the first place, but I do agree that too much is spent on scottish opera, as most scots aren't interested in it. They have to cut their budgets down like everyone else as they are not a special case nor should be treated like one just to please the chattering classes. If they like opera that much then they should fund it.

Libraries I think have been innovative, but they should have broadband and perhaps a cafe where people can take a break and talk, such as Goma has and the Mitchell. The arts should be highlighted more along with culture and tourism, because without them where would scottish history culture be down the sink, but local community arts and skills as they have in the highlands, borders and islands should be actively encouraged for the following generations as our economy needs them. Things like dry stone dyking, fishing, thatching and many more only the folk in the countryside practice. I along with thousands every year go walking in the hills and islands. We have the most beautiful country in the world here and we need to get across to people and the government that unless we concentrate more on the arts, culture and tourism then we will have done a bad job in promoting Scotland in all her wonderful aspects, because skills in economic fields such as engineering and modelmaking are first taught through the arts and we have many self-taught people wanting to pass on their skills to others, but bodies and government are not giving any impetus of the thought of how big arts and culture truly is to the further development of Scotland with its people and communities being properly funded and supported in all their endeavours and its time they did. The numptie that was sacked wrote to me sometime ago and told me that arts were a good thing for kids in school but once you grow up you do grown up things not art, what an idiot, as our economy would be nowhere without arts and culture involvement in tourism.

There should be more local festivals and events, but that would be up to people to organise in their communities once projects are up and running in their areas. I would like to see the east end festival which takes place in Tollcross Park once a year in mid July get the same funding as the west end of Glasgow and last a week. It would help to highlight the east end in a much better light to outsiders and with personalities coming to play our clubs and community centres as well as Glasgow Green it would boost up the area no end and get a lot more people involved in areas of the arts and culture and put us the map so to speak.

The poets are going to put on a show next year in and outside Glasgow of our material and make our act more visually entertaining and anyone who wants to come and join us is quite welcome and also every Thursday next to the visitors centre in Tollcross Park there is a writers group from 2 till 4pm for anyone interested. And more writing groups, circles and festivals or events should be encouraged.

I hope that my comments are of use to you in the formation of future policies hopefully with greater public involvement and I look forward to hearing from you very shortly.

All the best
Barry Dubber