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**Karen**

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**From:** Kate Wimpres [katewimpres@capitalcitypartnership.org]  
**Sent:** 24 September 2004 16:38  
**To:** info  
**Subject:** Response to the Cultural Commission - Cultural Rights[Scanned]

Dear Karen

Please find attached a copy of the submission to the Cultural Commission from the Arts & Social Inclusion Project at the Capital City Partnership, and on behalf of the Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion Forum. I hope this information is of interest to you and the Commissioners.

Could I also use this opportunity to extend an invitation to a Commissioner, or a representative of the Commission, to attend the Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion Forum AGM, which is being held in the Royal Terrace Hotel on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> November starting at 3pm. Please do let me know if you think it would be possible for someone to attend or if I need to contact someone else in the organisation to co-ordinate this.

Yours sincerely

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**Submission to the Cultural Commission  
from the Capital City Partnership Arts & Social Inclusion Project in partnership  
with the Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion Forum (EASIF)**

**Arts & Social Inclusion Project**

Based at the Capital City Partnership offices in Canonmills, Edinburgh, the Arts & Social Inclusion Project aims to:

- position the arts within the wider social justice policy and development framework
- support collaborative arts practice by encouraging arts professionals to work in partnership
- encourage operational coherence across the sector to facilitate a city-wide approach to service delivery
- establish a framework of performance indicators for the arts and social justice
- investigate the development of training and employment ladders within the arts sector

For further details about the Project or the Capital City Partnership please go to the website at <http://www.capitalcitypartnership.org>

**Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion Forum**

The Edinburgh Arts and Social Inclusion Forum, EASIF, was formally constituted in May 2003, and was brought together to assist and direct the work of the Arts & Social Inclusion Project.

The membership of over eighty organisations represents those working within the arts and regeneration sector as well as individual artists, education officers and city and national cultural organisations. The aims of the Forum are:

- To develop a statement of intent and common principles that can be adopted by a wide range of organisations and individuals contributing to the development of arts and social inclusion work;
- To ensure the arts and culture are kept on the agenda of the wider social justice sector via consistent and focused lobbying, information exchange, promotion and publicity;
- To work towards the co-ordination of funds coming into the sector.

## Cultural Rights

As such, both the Arts & Social Inclusion Project and EASIF are very interested in the issue of cultural rights, particularly with respect to ensuring appropriate resources, space and freedom of expression are available for those who are at the margins of society, designated as 'socially excluded'.

In drawing up a set of cultural rights for Scotland we would draw heavily on Article 27 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which states '**everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts**', underpinned by UNESCO's call for the '**indivisibility of culture and development, understood not simply in terms of economic growth, but also as a means of achieving a satisfactory intellectual, emotional, moral and spiritual existence. This development may be defined as that set of capacities that allows groups, communities and nations to define their futures in an integrated manner.**'

The future cultural rights for Scotland must have cognisance of, and demonstrate a commitment to, the alleviation of the poverty of aspiration found amongst some of our most disadvantaged communities. Commented upon by Tessa Jowell, MP in the recently published DCMS document Government and the Value of Culture; '**equality of opportunity to material wealth and chances for material fulfilment are a key part of this Government's overall agenda (but) addressing poverty of aspiration is also necessary to build a society of fairness and opportunity**', this sentiment was pre-empted by Margaret Curran MSP, speaking at an EASIF event in the summer of 2003, who stated the need '**to make the arts and the huge benefits that accrue from exposure to and involvement with them, available to the most disadvantaged and dependent in our society**'.

EASIF are supportive of the nine identified areas relating to cultural rights as being **Access, Opportunity, Ownership, Expression, Education, Knowledge, Environment, Respect, Parity of Esteem**, and would call for the following to be considered when giving meaning to each of those broad rights:

- That sufficient resources need to be attached to each of the rights to allow them to impact on society
- The rights must work to create, and defend, the space, resources, confidence and freedom of expression required for all Scotland's citizens to enjoy cultural democracy, particularly those experiencing socio-economic, and therefore cultural, disadvantage
- The future cultural rights must be upheld independently from the Government of the day
- They must endorse the intrinsic value of culture, over and above its impact on social exclusion and the process of urban regeneration
- But should have a relation to the overarching development and community planning aims
- They should guard against a 'bean-counting' approach to provision

The Parallel Lives partnership project is an example of the type of provision EASIF wish to see developed in breadth and depth. Involving the four main arts organisations based in the Edinburgh SIPs and the National Galleries of Scotland, this project was set up to address the issue of cultural exclusion amongst young people and to support their development in relation to citizenship and participation in society. The project found ways to make key works from the collections of the National Galleries of Scotland more directly relevant to the young people involved, and engaged the participants with contemporary artists in the creation of their own works that address the similarities and differences between life past and present, and make comment on their own lives. Further details and images of all the works produced can be found on the Capital City Partnership website.

The project was instrumental in setting up a new way of working between the partners, it highlighted best practice and suggested new ways for national cultural institutions to make firm and long lasting links with those based within the social inclusion partnership areas. At present the partners involved including Arts South Edinburgh, Craigmillar Community Arts and the WHALE learning centre are further developing work of this kind, looking at how artists can work productively with communities to address the consultation needs of the community planning process.

The development of the Arts & Social Inclusion Project and the establishment of the Forum in Edinburgh should be used by the Cultural Commission to further consult with, discuss and disseminate information to over eighty organisations and practitioners concerned with socially engaged practice.

EASIF and the network established within the city could also be used as a model of good practice and rolled out to other areas, linking, as it does, with the Arts & Communities organisation, engage Scotland, Voluntary Arts Scotland, the forward planning of the Scottish Arts Council and the wider social justice and regeneration sectors.

## **Conclusion**

The Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion Forum and the Arts & Social Inclusion Project welcome the setting up of the Cultural Commission and look forward to discussing in greater depth the development of rights and entitlements and, perhaps of more importance, the methods and structure required for developing and delivering the rights.

**‘The eighty organisations and practitioners making up the Forum bring together a high level of experience and expertise, along with the potential capacity to make a real and lasting difference for many of the city’s residents, in terms of self confidence, skills development and quality of life.’**

Closing remarks from Cllr Ricky Henderson, Executive member for Culture and Leisure, City of Edinburgh Council, in the Arts for Social Inclusion in Edinburgh report,

published by EASIF in May 2004. The full report can be downloaded from the publications section of [www.capitalcitypartnership.org](http://www.capitalcitypartnership.org).

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21<sup>st</sup> September 2004