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From: jean urquhart [jean@theceilidhplace.com]
Sent: 27 September 2004 14:01
To: info
Subject: Feedback for deadline today! [Scanned]

My apologies, by now you will have received two 'feed-back' emails from me. The first was a mistake and then I hadn't realised how little comment you were asking for in that small box. I hope my comments will still be considered. Attached.

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- **Access** For politicians too. Should mean our MP's actually buying their own tickets for events (not only footie) and showing leadership, making it part of their own lives. A weekly visit to Opera, Theatre, Concerts, Rock-bands or Poetry readings. Government, not through the schools, could invite every child to a cultural event every year for the first sixteen years of life. Through schools, like most other countries, we could include our own history, poetry, literature, music, song, language and dance lessons. Everybody would know some gaelic and scots. Really push for audience development - free tickets for homeless/young/old/'those who never go', folk to go to every theatre in the land to a particular performance on a particular night. God knows there is usually plenty of availability. And so on.
- **Opportunity** - A target of knowing that everyone in Scotland gets the opportunity to meet/work with an artist and knows of the existence of those she/he wont meet. Once a year trip to a different part of Scotland for cultural/artistic experience.
- **Ownership** - all of above. But also everyday and ordinary - accepted part of living in Scotland - shared and common experiences. Mentoring might be helpful.
- **Expression** - through the opportunity, the chance, the enthusiasm of educators to recognise the need for.....expressive arts.
- **Education:** Essential to have a Scottish curriculum. Essential to have exchange visits to compare and contrast and essential to develop communication through IT with other cultures, the Diaspora, etc. Important to recognise in education that culture is how we live, work, play, eat, etc. etc. Culture isn't a package that can be delivered to some and not others - if it is to be a 'right', then it is a right for everyone - not the subject of an in-service day's training, not optional for teachers, not selectively applied. Enormous change at teacher training level required.
- **Knowledge** - of the teachers will be important. How many scottish writers, composers, poets, footballers, olympic winners, actors, film-makers, tv producers, radio announcers, musicians of all kinds, painters, installation artists and sculptors do they know, know of, seen their work? Is it an intrinsic part of their lives? Art for the under-fives could challenge the primary teachers! Better communication across Scotland using all of the media. When all of Scotland knows what all of Scotland is offering.....that'll be through the arts pages in the Daily Record (as every real scot knows!) Knowledge of Scotland's geography and press essential. Knowledge of politicians - they are the leaders, they need to know. Opening up channels of communication - starting with Scottish Parliament.
- **Environment** - which one?
- **Respect** - has to come from the top - respect for SO chorus? respect for writers by employing them to raise the game of most of the government departments. Respect for the audience, respect for the players, respect for visiting artists. Respect for festivals and events and civic celebration (by not talking through the musical interlude) or acknowledging the presence of the artist in opening remarks. Respect for literature, music, visual art, sports, design, architecture, by a) learning more about it (I'd wager very few of our M(S)P's have had an 'out of Scotland' education which will have introduced them to our culture) b) by not destroying buildings (Playfair's Academy in Bathgate, 'Greek' Thomson's church in Bath Street, and a million more) c) by really investing in the fantastic opportunities when they arise (Clydeside, renewal of brown fields sites initiative, using different architects to build for local authorities, for civic buildings, for doing something different with property developers who are achieving blandness and mediocrity where-ever they get a free hand.
- Real recognition of the worth of the artist and the creativity of the people being the real wealth of a nation.