

The Cultural Commission has noted strong support for a National Youth Arts Centre. Such a development would be in keeping with commitments to cultural confidence and cultural renewal. It would also be highly complementary to other initiatives such as Determined to Succeed which seek to reinforce self esteem and confidence in Scotland's youth, encouraging our young people to be creative and enterprising.

Associated with a National Youth Arts Centre should be the development of challenging courses promoting transformational learning.

Throughout Scotland there has been renewed interest in and development of courses such as "Outward Bound". In the most successful of these our young people are challenged to take on experiences of which they are afraid and which are beyond their normal learning opportunities. Thus, for example, a young person is mentored and supported to learn successfully for example to absail, to pot-hole or to canoe. Such activity can have a very beneficial impact.

In a National Youth Arts Centre a contract should be drawn up with the national companies and a major voluntary sector child and youth national organisation to organise Inward Bound courses. These would approximate to the above (Outward Bound) but instead of the challenges being the great outdoors, they would involve the promotion and understanding of a full range of theatre and arts activity. Thus, through participation, young people, perhaps especially those challenged by poverty or dysfunctional family circumstances, could be mentored to achieve through art, ballet, music or digital technology. The list could be considerable, the opportunities great and the benefits wide ranging.

ps A very quick summary note. Happy to discuss.

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