

CULTURAL COMMISSION: PHASE 2 CONSULTATION

CULTURAL LEADERSHIP

The Phase 2 consultation included questions about cultural leadership. I offer two postscripts.

Firstly, in addition to where cultural leadership comes from, we need to consider how it manifests itself.

Culture can be defined as the total of ideas, beliefs, values and knowledge which constitute the shared basis of social action. It follows that culture has a key role to play in social change – it can make the difference between renewal or stagnation. I'm assuming that cultural policy would be predisposed to culture as an agent of renewal rather than stagnation, and so cultural provision should in turn be predisposed to intellectual challenge – as exemplified by the work of art which sparks debate, or the historical reinterpretation which encourages people to rethink their cultural identity.

Cultural leadership therefore lies with those with the ideas conveying the intellectual challenge, and with the vessels (organisations or other bodies) prepared to support them.

Secondly, I would ask the Commission to take account of how the quality of leadership in the professional cultural sector is nurtured. For several years, leadership in the sector has been identified as a development need (see research work by Clore Duffield, Demos, Cultural Heritage NTO, and Comedia). This background influenced the creation of a leadership development project in the Scottish museums sector, funded by the Scottish Executive, and mentioned elsewhere in submissions to the Commission. The project involves 13 museums across Scotland, in partnership with the Scottish Museums Council and the Scottish Leadership Foundation.

The project is due to finish with the end of the funding in 2006. To my knowledge, it is the only leadership development project presently operating in the cultural sector in Scotland, and I would draw the Commission's attention to it as a possible model for wider application across the cultural sector beyond the completion of the present project funding, for example, under the aegis of the forthcoming Sector Skills Council for Cultural and Creative Industries.

If you wish further information on this project, I would be glad to supply it.

Peter

Ack 27/1/05

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Ian

From: peter.stott@falkirk.gov.uk
Sent: 17 January 2005 14:52
To: info
Subject: Cultural Leadership[Scanned]



Attachment
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Hello,

I hope the attached is of help.

Peter Stott
(Falkirk Museums)