

# Digital Connections through Culture Pilot with Scotland FAQ

## About Connections through Culture:

Running for nearly a decade, [Connections through Culture](#) is a long-term programme to develop exciting cultural collaborations between creative and cultural organisations, supporting long-lasting relationships between China and the UK.

Scottish Government has been a long-term partner for the British Council China's flagship programme Connections through Culture. This year, we are actively adapting our programme to continue our support to the sector to collaborate digitally, therefore we are running a pilot with the support from Scottish Government to add a digital exchange phase to Connections through Culture programme. This pilot scheme aims to support creative and cultural collaborations between creative and cultural individuals and organisations in five cities in Scotland (Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling) and their peers to collaborate digitally in China.

Partners who complete the Digital Exchange phase will have the opportunity to apply for a Partnership Development Grant of £2,500 to further co-develop their concept or project idea either digital or face-to-face (subject to travel restrictions in 2021).

## How it will work:

Successful creative and cultural individuals and organisations from Scotland and China will be invited to submit an EOI for participating Digital Exchange. Applicants should have a focus on one or more of the following themes: **sustainability, social inclusion** and **gender equality**.

As part of this phase, the British Council will support with the following:

- Provide background information on the cultural and socio-political ecology and landscape of the five cities in Scotland;
- Connect you with individuals and/or organisations of interest and facilitate a 'first conversation';
- Take an advisory role through the duration of the partnership.

The Digital Exchange phase will be flexible in duration, although we anticipate it will take between 8 – 12 weeks for partners to develop ideas for further exploration. During this period, partners will be expected to keep in regular communication and work together on creating a concept or project idea for further development, with agreed milestones and outline workplans.

Partners who participate in the pilot will be expected to contribute to the project evaluation. They will also be invited to join the active community of Connections through Culture Alumni. This will include voluntary opportunities to support new partners in future rounds of the Connections through Culture programme by providing peer-to-peer advice and guidance on developing relationships between the UK and China. Alumni Grants will also be made available to further support partnership building and professional development.

### **Who can apply:**

This grant is open to creative and cultural individuals and organisations that:

- Work in the fields of arts and culture, including theatre, dance, literature, visual arts, museums and heritage, architecture, fashion, design, music, film and gaming;
- Are working as practitioners (artists or action-research based academics) or cultural leaders (such as leading an arts organisation);
- Are either commercial, charitable or non-profit in their status;
- Have a strategic interest and focus in sustainability, social inclusion and gender equality;
- Individuals and organisations from Scotland should be based in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen, Stirling.

Applications are particularly welcome and encouraged from creative and cultural organisations who are, or who are working with, underrepresented groups who face barriers to participation in international programmes, including professionals and audiences who are D/deaf or disabled.

Applicants are also encouraged to think creatively about who might lead and participate in the project beyond the Creative or Artistic Director. For example, it may be a Curator, a Technologist in your team, the Front of House Manager, a member of your Education team, a Creative Associate, your Marketing Officer who speaks English.

### **The following are not eligible:**

- Funding bodies and for-profit companies;
- Creative media agencies and other non-arts cultural freelancers and organisations;
- Councils and policy makers;
- Higher Education institutions (except for creative and cultural organisations which may be part of a HE institution) or solely research projects;
- Individuals living and/or working outside of the cities mentioned.

### **Application process:**

Creative and cultural individuals and organisations based in Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, Aberdeen and Stirling are invited to submit an Expression of Interest (EOI) to initially be part of Phase One - Digital Exchange of this pilot. Chinese counterparts will respond to the EOIs from Scotland for collaborations.

### **Selection and pairing:**

20 individuals/organisations will be selected from Scotland. The British Council and representatives from the Scottish Government will select 20 collaborations who will be invited to collaborate as part of the pilot.

### **Key dates and milestones:**

- Deadline for submitting Expression of Interest from Scotland – **6 November 2020**
- Deadline for Chinese individuals/organisations submitting Responses to EOI – **4 December 2020**
- Successful partners informed of proposed collaboration – **18 December 2020**
- Digital Exchange Phase – December 2020 to February 2021
- Partners feed into CtC evaluation – February and March 2021
- Partners invited to apply for Partnership Development Grant (Phase 2), subject to funding – March 2021 onwards

### **For more information or for general enquiries, please contact:**

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