

CULTURE, TOURISM, EUROPE AND EXTERNAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

ARTS FUNDING INQUIRY

SUBMISSION FROM KEIRA BROWN

Arts Funding

As someone that saw there was a gap in opportunities for journalism students and aspiring writers, I set up a non-money making entity, The Fountain, which is a platform for potential writers to get work published whilst also exposing and pinpointing the excellently diverse and contemporary creative community that Scotland has to offer. As is the situation with journalism, there is a lack of value attached to the profession, and sites like Drowned In Sound and The Quietus are in a position where they have to pledge for money from the everyday reader to make themselves sustainable.

Now why is that? Is it due to the fact that the red tape and bureaucracy involved in the acquisition of funding is a deterrent from going down the creative and arts funding route? It certainly is with us. We are a team of forty or so that all work voluntarily, reviewing and writing to enthuse a creative community, whilst also allowing for the practise of writing and honing a craft. To then fill out the forms involved for the acquisition of funding is almost unbearable and I am sure that you have heard this gripe many times previously.

Perhaps allocated creative tax money should be the way forward, specific allocated arts tax money, and easy to acquire if there is evidence that a community is being benefited by that organisation. It should not involve reams and reams of paperwork, as this is a deterrent for many that are not in a position to apply via this route. We can surely in this day and technological age think up a better solution to the application process. I must admit that I have not even attempted to apply for funding as of yet, as the stigma that surrounds it has put me off thus far. If it was to be made less time consuming and bureaucratic I might be more inclined. Otherwise I may have to put a stop to a volunteer-run organisation that provides daily writing opportunity and a platform to outline the exciting and fresh creative scene that exists in Scotland.