



## Sector Survey 2007 Results Reports

### *Introduction*

This survey was conducted to check and where necessary, update the issues raised in previous research such as the Umbrella Bodies Scoping Survey in 2004 and other information gathering exercises. It was also timely in anticipation of revising our business plan and an application to the Big Lottery Fund Dynamic Inclusive Communities Funding Stream.

The work was done within our own resources – in particularly utilising our own networks through our email newsletter – which we know can reach up to 25,000 contacts. Using Snap survey software, we put a questionnaire up on our website and invited people to fill it in. We also sent hard copies versions out to people who receive our e-newsletter by post on a monthly basis – with a freepost address for return. We also had them available at a few events we attended such as The Gathering.

124 replies were received directly. We also intend to complement this work with a meeting with umbrella bodies and contacting other organisations directly.

As this research project was not funded directly, this report has not been written for wider public consumption, but as a record of responses that can be then used as a resource for our advocacy and development work. We have not edited responses (except for legibility) and they appear in the order that they were entered into the survey software.

### **Q1. How you would classify yourself?**

<i>Description</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Small group based in the local community	31	25.4%
Medium sized group based in the local community	13	10.7%
Large group based in the local community	4	3.3%
Unincorporated Association (a group with a set of rules/constitution)	14	11.5%
A registered charity	50	41%
A company limited by guarantee (with memorandum & articles)	27	22.1%
Small national organisation	11	9.0%
Medium sized national organisation	6	4.9%
Large national organisation	4	3.3%
An art-form umbrella body	9	7.4%
Local authority	8	6.6%
Government department / agency	11	9.0%
Individual	22	18.0%
No reply	2	1.6%
Other results:		

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Large regional organisation;</li> <li>• Development Agency;</li> <li>• Do a lot of community plays as a freelance director;</li> <li>• local authority YMI coordinator dealing with voluntary arts groups; community artist so work with various organisations;</li> <li>• Fifished Theatre Company has paid members, a board which fundraises, volunteer members who assist with the development of the Inclusive Theatre Arts in the Company and a growing membership of Children, Youth and Adults who are from all areas of the Fife Community engaging in practical work to co-create a dynamic Theatre company to serve as a model for Inclusive Theatre in Scotland;</li> <li>• Small record label, various music groups, traditional music festival; An umbrella Chinese organisation;</li> <li>• A Business Partnership;</li> <li>• Small OEG, Part of NHS;</li> <li>• A 'community of interest' group based in one local authority area with members from 9 LA's in all;</li> <li>• Festival Partners;</li> <li>• GRB Development officer in local Authority.</li> </ul>		
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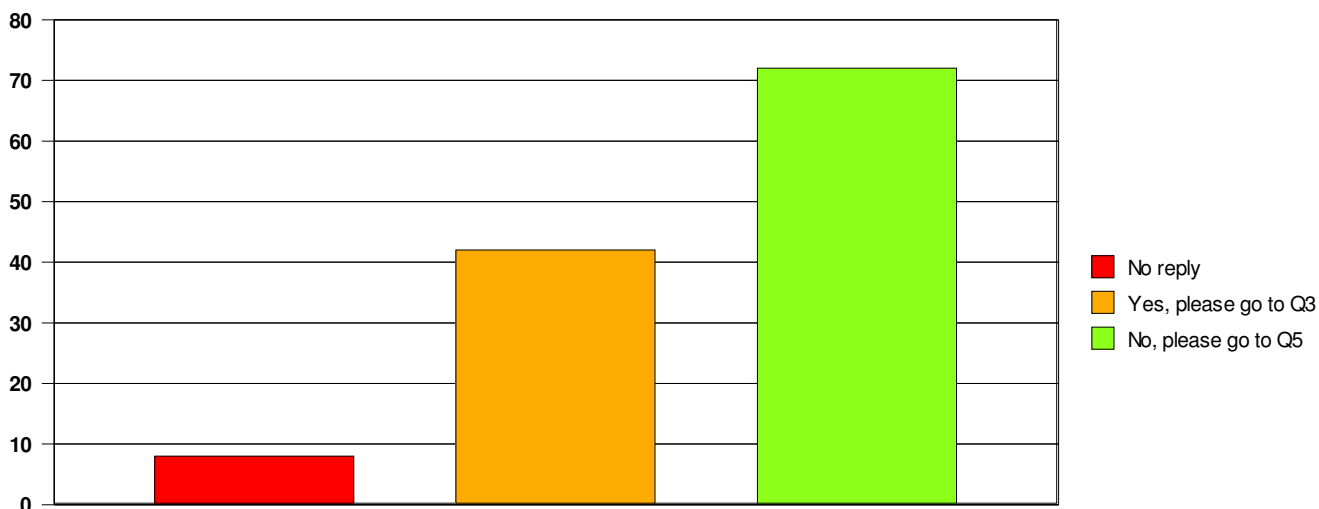
*Points to note*

Diversity of the audiences Voluntary Arts Scotland is currently serving, operating under different rules and regulations and expectations.

**Q2. Is your organisation a member of any umbrella bodies?**

Yes, please go to Q3	42	34.4%
No, please go to Q5	72	59.0%

Is your organisation a member of any umbrella bodies? (fo...



**Q3: If yes to question 2, please list the names of the bodies**

People indicated they were 'members' or linked to the following umbrella bodies

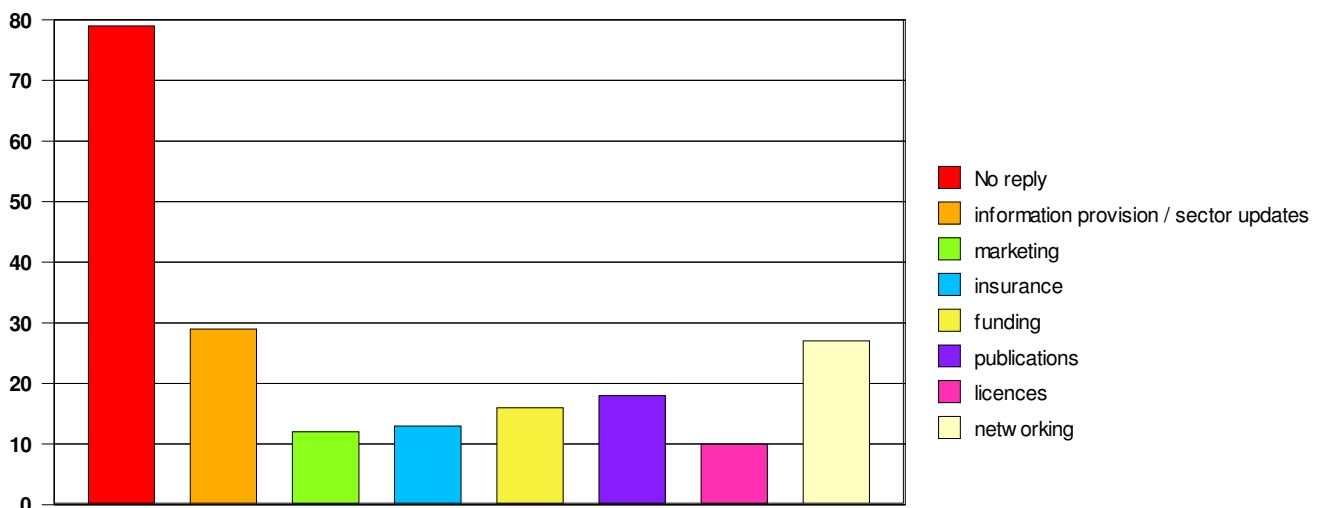
- Promoters Arts Network (PAN) 10
- Making Music Scotland 5
- Twenty thousand Voices (i.e. Making Music n.e. England),
- Literature Forum Scotland 2
- Federation of Scottish Theatre 2
- VAN
- National Rural Touring Forum
- Associated with NEAT (North East Arts Touring)
- Literature Forum for Scotland
- Arts & Business 2
- SCVO
- Dance UK
- Scottish Arts Council
- Ngaen (North Glasgow Arts Regeneration Network),
- GCVS (Glasgow Council for the Coluntary Sector) 2
- SCDA (Scottish Community Drama Association)
- 39: The Celtic Congress (Scotland)
- Inverness Arts Forum
- as an individual - member of Musicians Union 2
- Cumbernauld Theatre
- As an individual, not an organisation, I am Scottish Rep for the National Dance teachers' Association – UK-wide organisation for dance in education.
- Also member of Foundation for Community Dance and UK
- Alliance for Professional Teachers of Dance.
- Regeneration Network 2
- We are associated with chickenshed theatre co. in London.
- We are housed within The Adam Smith College, Brycedale Priory Campus supported by BskyB funding until now and Fife Council's Creative Links programme.
- NODA (National Operatic and Dramatic Association) 2
- Traditional Music & Song Association (TMSA) of Scotland
- Highland Theatre network 2
- Volunteer Development Scotland 2
- Eke Out Network
- Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council
- Live roleplay UK
- The West of Scotland Guild of Weavers, spinners & dyers is one of well over 100 such guilds in the UK and abroad and, like them is affiliated to the national body, the Association of Guilds of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers.
- Argyll & Bute Concert tours
- Enterprise Music Scotland
- Islay & Jura Council of Voluntary Service.
- SDEF
- Inverness Arts Forum
- Scottish Local History forum
- Scottish Association of Philatelic Societies
- Lothian Association of Youth Clubs,
- Youth Scotland

- West Lothian voluntary arts association - recently disbanded.
- VAWL Voluntary Action West Lothian.
- One reply was unreadable (no 38)

**Q4. What do these bodies help you with? Please tick all that apply**

information provision / sector updates	29	23.8%
marketing	12	9.8%
insurance	13	10.7%
funding	16	13.1%
publications	18	14.8%
licences	10	8.2%
networking	27	22.1%
No reply	79	64.8%

What do these bodies help you with? Please tick all that ...



**These bodies also help with:**

- Training
- Tis is not a financially constituted body, it brings together organisations in the literature sector to work together on policy and strategy, particularly with regards to education.
- Policy
- Payroll Services
- Making representations to local authority for improved provision of essential facilities e.g. for training, fundraising and performances. Inverness arts forum.
- premises
- Adam Smith College supplies premises and administrative support systems, office equipment etc. It also
- has a Community Arts department within which we have a manager.
- Employment opportunities
- N/A - I used to work for the arts and now work for a cause-related charity but still subscribe as I hope to involved work with the arts in our project work here.

- HITN [Highlands & Islands Theatre Network] - is effectively not appropriate, and our presence is Historical (and probably temporary)
- External Facilitation for team sessions. Some Training
- The Association of Guilds of WS&D organises: 1 a national biennial exhibition and 2 a one week summers school in alternating years, mostly at some distance from Scotland. Similarly 3 an AGM or AGM and weekend conference in alternating years. It sends out an internal newsletter for each guild. It also publishes the weavers journal and an annual calendar with tear-off postcards, photographs of work submitted by guild members nationally. Several years ago it instituted the National Exhibition.
- PAN helps with motivation and networking annual meeting is really valuable
- Coordinated tours
- Training, Resource Library

### *Points to note*

More groups could belong to umbrella bodies – need them to be more relevant and effective for groups to consider paying the membership fee! May be gaps in provision too.

**Q5. If not a member of an umbrella body in Q2, please indicate why not - please tick all that apply:**

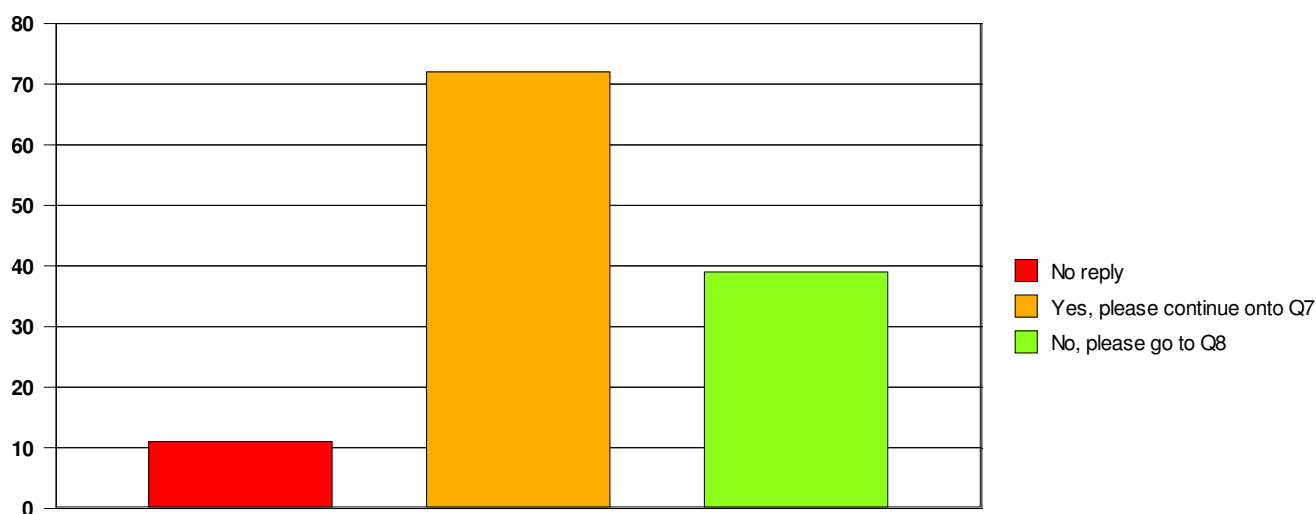
- We value our Autonomy and Independence
- We are members of the Federation of Scottish Theatre.
- Don't know if anything suitable exists. One body REFUSES to invite us to join
- not relevant
- We are a mental health facility that has links with various other groups but not bodies.
- I am still developing my own art practice and have not decided on whether to be part of an organisation or not.
- I am an individual, not yet part of any group/body
- Co-Ordinate an Umbrella group ourselves. "Edinburgh Arts & Social Inclusion forum"
- Have not been asked to join any arts groups and do not budget for this.
- Important to have knowledge of umbrella organisations & to advise local groups to join - but not appropriate for local authority to be member.
- NADFAS is established itself to cultivate appreciation of the decorative fine arts in the widest sense & to assist in the formation of societies having similar objectives included the umbrella of NADFAS the national association in other words we are not under the umbrella of any other organisations.
- new company, registered base is in England, although we are a cross border company. Have linked to some England umbrella orgs. and want to do the same in Scotland, but it takes time to find them all!
- as local authority tend to link differently
- none really appropriate
- Scottish Enterprise is an economic development agency
- Currently a student and not part of any body.
- We've just not seen it as appropriate for us at the moment
- Individual & SEN school
- We simply don't have time to look around
- I am an independent artist interested in the voluntary sector
- I am an individual artist who is not a UK citizen. I very much want to do an art project in Scotland and am only seeking information about opportunities
- local authority
- I'm not in an organisation
- I'm a solo artist and at the moment its not advantageous to be part of professional body

- We are a grass roots organisation which uses community groups as the bases of our programme.
- Just an individual.
- We are an umbrella organisation with 16 member organisations.
- Not aware of any bodies we could affiliate with officially apart from European Mela Network, which we are members of.
- Work for NHS Occupational Therapist (Small Department)
- there is not a relevant umbrella organisation
- Lack of time to attend extra meetings etc
- I am new to working in Scotland so I am in the process of making contact with a number of umbrella bodies
- Too early in our development

**Q6. Do you work in partnership with any other organisations /...**

Yes, please continue onto Q7	72	59.0%
No, please go to Q8	39	32.0%
No reply	11	9.0%

Do you work in partnership with any other organisations /...



**Q7. If so, how does this partnership work and help you?**

- They raise the funds that pay for my employment as well as organise the groups that I work with.
- We organise our own specialist singing courses in baroque music which bring performers from all over Britain to our rural area. We market through other choirs and involve specialist tutors and performers
- We work in partnership with a huge array of partners & value the input of all.
- similar goals which complement each other
- Helps Bring in Funding, Share Ideas, Broaden Audiences, Offer Support
- We work with other literature organizations in education initiatives; we work with libraries in training programs; we work with schools; we work with art galleries to provide education programs, we work with foreign language institutes on events of shared interest.

- Helps to share ideas and information. Also helps with funding issues. Keeps us up to date on what is happening.
- Information Swap, Networking, Collaborative Voice Advocacy
- We have a formal association with the MacDonald Academy of Arms which enables us to share performers and rehearsal spaces
- Project Collaboration when appropriate
- We are contracted by Highlands & Islands enterprise, funded by SAC and work with a series of art from related networks.
- Sharing good practice and expertise, e.g. cultural diversity and inclusion, joint arts projects and programmes, networking and audience sharing, supporting practice development
- Enable the entire choir to stage larger works (Jumbo choir)
- Work with other Dance Organisations & Individuals to help achieve our aims of promoting Scottish traditional dance & encouraging participation.
- Art South Edinburgh Constituted community Arts group - acts as umbrella organisation for local arts groups. Oversee the community learning & development arts in the community plan. Local group & department meet to plan, deliver & do joint project work & funding applications. Quite small local scale projects - aim to build community capacity using the arts.
- Mental health team & psychiatrists
- We share information, promote events: encourage candidates/ to apply to the partnership for small grants.
- A partnership assists in producing projects, providing contacts and critical views of the work.
- As we are not a Delivery Organisation, more an 'enabler' partnership work is vital to our work of linking policy to practice
- We are funded by SAC and SBC. We operate our own programme and admin
- Incidental Steering Committees per play
- Work in partnership with wide range of community orgs and voluntary sector groups to facilitate activities, events and developments in the community . Also have a key role in supporting the development and skilling of these groups
- Makes funding go further; girls additional apprentices; two heads better than one.
- Community Planning and other public/private sector partnerships, with relevance to economic development
- expands possibilities, synergy
- We get ideas from other fora and can take part in their events in other geographical areas.
- Working on collaborative projects/ exhibitions. gaining experience.
- share ideas, skills expertise. Joint working opportunities
- share ideas, skills expertise. Joint working opportunities
- helps with motivation
- Enables us to expand our activities and enables partner organisations to expand theirs
- Contact with other artists and new ideas
- Glasgow OPW Committee provide us with opportunities to play our music for groups of old people
- promote myself learn about other organisations network rewarding for myself
- Share skills and knowledge in funding applications
- Visiting music specialists Motivates and engages pupils
- Adam Smith College gives us a Theatre within which to work, access to costumes, lighting and sound equipment. They also created the space for Chickenshed to seed the Company. The college also gives us secretarial support. Our Project Manager is also a staff member and other departments are willing to help with advice, as well as drama students volunteering with us.

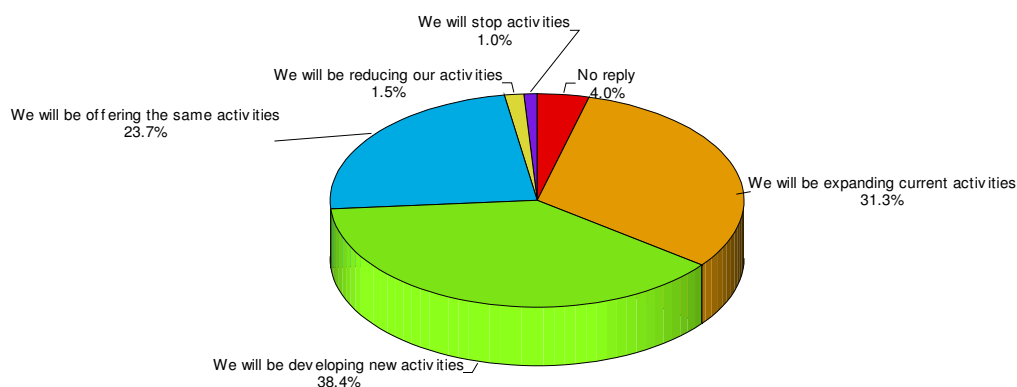
- We work with the Scots Music Group, maintain mailing lists in common and draw on the people in their classes for our audiences at the Fiddle festival
- bigger voice - sharing info - funds
- Ability to brain storm, exchange ideas, stimulates and expands creativity of projects
- Project based partnerships that vary over time and according to artform etc.
- Project based work
- mutual support and networking
- South Lanarkshire Council fund our programme and provide art workshops.
- General one hand washing the other help. We offer a range of skills and outlets to let community groups showcase their skills. Individuals help us on projects.
- Our members and local agencies and voluntary organisations
- Joint projects and funding initiatives
- New members, new ideas, funding.
- Helps to lobby and campaign on the wide issues.
- Shared resources and expertise, joint initiatives to provide a higher standard of service
- provision of workshops, some funding
- PARTNERSHIP WORKING GIVES US ACCESS TO ESTABLISHED COMMUNITY RELATIONSHIPS IN AREA WHERE WE PRESENT OUR WORK. IT ALSO WIDENS THE RANGE OF ACTIVIES AND FUNDING WE CAN PROVIDE AND ATTRACT FOR EACH PROJECT.
- To deliver a culturally diverse programme of excellence ·To facilitate a creative dialogue between the participating arts orgs ·To promote partnership work among BME and Scottish arts groups ·To promote audience development ·To facilitate networking ·To lay the foundation for future partnership work on a cost-sharing basis
- Support, Advice, Skills and Access Their resources
- We draw on a pool of self employed performers living in the highland oe with highland connections to stage larger projects. We work in venues that are often owned or managed by community interests, and they often offer marketing and ticket sales support.
- Work in Association with the Grassic Gibbon Centre. They help with Admin, publicity, ticket production etc.
- We work with other arts orgs and mental health organisations. Means our work has more impact and that we can access more resources. Partnerships essential to client/participants' informal 'referral' from NHS & to general audience development.
- Each of the 10 Scottish Guilds produces its own Newsletter to circulate to its own members and send a copy to the other 9 guilds in Scotland. To improve communications between the Scottish Guilds we now have 8 with designated e-contacts for the transmission of time sensitive information & urgent messages, hoping that this will develop into a valuable electronic tool for all sorts of uses, including the sending of newsletters or indeed a joint newsletter for Scottish Guilds website etc. With better communications we can more easily share expensive speakers from a distance, organise joint exhibitions etc.
- Partnerships events with 'Blas' worked really well. Easy to handle & good marketing.
- Their community groups do festivals etc e.g. Cromarty 2007 events
- lots of Ways, especially re selecting artists and sometimes in Joint promotions
- Local Authority Highland Community Care forum
- Our group is a joint venture between like minded textile groups but all with different disciplines - so we help each other with ideas/skills etc.
- Promoting specific events Organising & funding specific elements of the festival.
- With MSD (Local youth drama school) - involves more participants in out work etc. GAP (Garioch Area Partnership) - discuss funding; joint working, others to be involved.

- Financial Support, In-Kind Support, Publicity & Marketing of shared resources, access to each others networks & agreed resources, mutual support.
- Shared provision of expertise, x enable us to reach wider geographic area, x shared marketing & promoting opps.
- National Theatre of Scotland has seconded a Dramaturg
- West Lothian Sports Unit, West Lothian Arts unit, West Lothian Community Education Service

**Q8. Which of these will apply to your organisation over the next 3 years?.**

We will be expanding current activities	62	50.8%
We will be developing new activities	76	62.3%
We will be offering the same activities	47	38.5%
We will be reducing our activities	3	2.5%
We will stop activities	2	1.6%
No reply	8	6.6%

Which of these will apply to your organisation over the n...



**Q.9 Please identify issues you believe will be important to your organisation or group over the next three years**

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A. Improved venue facilities	54	47.0%
B. More/better office facilities	24	20.9%
C. Securing tutors/conductors/artists	45	39.1%
D. Training to improve art quality	38	33.0%
E. Researching possible new audience/participants	64	55.7%
F. Attracting bigger audiences	58	50.4%
G. Attracting a wider range of people as audience members	63	54.8%
H. Attracting a wider range of people as group members	54	47.0%
I. Making funding more secure	87	75.7%
J. Funding for staff	52	45.2%
K. Funding for more events/performances	60	52.2%
L. Finding funding to involve socially excluded people	42	36.5%

M. More/better arts equipment/ instruments	34	29.6%
N. Recruiting and keeping your volunteers	45	39.1%
O. Finding new committee/board members	56	48.7%
P. Training committee/board members	30	26.1%
Q. Getting computers or IT training	21	18.3%
R. Linking with other arts groups	61	53.0%
S. Developing ways to evaluate your work	55	47.8%
T. Linking with other groups in the community	45	39.1%

*Other results*

- Database where bad practice can be identified and open forum where problems can be aired/solved before
- they impact on the groups we work with.
- Data base where bad practice can be identified and open forum where problems can be aired/solved before they impact on the groups we work with.
- Yes - the lot!
- Loss of charitable status (possible)
- V: Improve Communication & Marketing; W: Financially Stabilising the Organisation
- developing cross border links with arts projects
- Cultural / Arts-based tourism will be important to economic development in the Borders
- Developing web presence.
- Finding funding to develop work.
- Helping co-create other Sheds in Scotland to expand the access individuals have to Inclusive Theatre
- Ensuring continuity of leadership
- Increasing perception of the value of culture
- Developing new activities

**Q10 Please list the top three issues identified in Q9 you believe will be important to your organisation or group over the next three years**

(percentages rounded out to 2<sup>nd</sup> decimal place, based on number of completed replies to the question)

*Priority 1*

A	11	10.09%
B	1	0.92%
C	3	2.75%
D	5	4.59%
E	7	6.42%
F	4	3.67%
G	6	5.50%
H	7	6.42%
I	27	24.77%
J	11	10.09%
K	8	7.34%
L	4	3.67%
M	1	0.92%
N	4	3.67%
O	4	3.67%
P	1	0.92%
Q	0	0.00%

R	2	1.83%
S	0	0.00%
T	2	1.83%
U	1	0.92%

*Other replies given:*

Funding  
Funding  
E,F,G,A,J

*Priority 2*

A	2	1.90%
B	3	2.86%
C	4	3.81%
D	3	2.83%
E	7	6.67%
F	8	7.62%
G	8	7.62%
H	5	4.76%
I	15	14.29%
J	13	12.38%
K	6	5.71%
L	6	5.71%
M	1	0.95%
N	4	3.81%
O	4	3.81%
P	1	0.95%
Q	1	0.95%
R	4	3.81%
S	3	2.86%
T	3	2.86%
U	4	3.81%

*Other replies given:*

Equipment & use of  
L,K,H,C

*Priority 3*

A	6	5.94%
B	2	1.98%
C	7	6.93%
D	7	6.93%
E	3	2.97%
F	2	1.98%
G	4	3.96%
H	3	2.97%
I	6	5.94%
J	2	1.98%
K	11	10.89%
L	5	4.95%
M	4	3.96%
N	2	1.98%

O	5	4.95%
P	0	0.00%
Q	2	1.98%
R	7	6.93%
S	9	8.91%
T	11	10.89%
U	2	1.98%
V	1	0.99%

*Other replies given:*

Committee development  
S,O

*Q10 Priorities collated*

1. Funding more secure/staff/ more events/performances
2. More and wider range of members/audiences/participants – including excluded people
3. Finding new committee/board members
4. Recruiting and keeping your volunteers
5. Improved venue facilities
6. Linking with other groups in the community including arts ones
7. Training to improve art quality
8. Developing ways to evaluate your group
9. securing tutors/conductors/artists
10. More/better arts equipment/instruments

*Priority 1 top ten*

1. Funding more secure
  2. Funding for staff
  3. Improved venue facilities
  4. Funding for more events/performances
  5. More members
  6. Researching possible new audience/participants
  7. Attracting a wider range of people as audience members
  8. Training to improve art quality
  9. Finding new committee/board members
  10. Recruiting and keeping your volunteers
- (Also finding funding to include more excluded people and bigger audiences)

*Priority 2 top ten*

1. Funding more secure
  2. Funding for staff
  3. Attracting a wider range of people as audience members
  4. bigger audiences
  5. Researching possible new audience/participants
  6. Funding for more events/performances
  7. finding funding to include more socially excluded people
  8. Attracting a wider range of people as members
  9. Finding new committee/board members
  10. Recruiting and keeping your volunteers
- (Also securing tutors/conductors/artists and linking with other arts groups)

### Priority 3 top ten

1. Funding for more events/performances
2. Linking with other groups in the community
3. Developing ways to evaluate your group
4. securing tutors/conductors/artists
5. Training to improve art quality
6. linking with other arts groups
7. Funding more secure
8. Improved venue facilities
9. finding funding to include more socially excluded people
10. Attracting a wider range of people as audience members
11. (Also more/better arts equipment/instruments)

### Q11. Which of these things do you believe will be important to the voluntary arts and crafts sector over the next three years

	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
A. A voluntary arts support body for Scotland	79	64.8%
B. Increased information flow	57	46.7%
C. Building links with local authorities	77	63.1%
D. Building links with Scottish Government Departments	67	54.9%
E. Attracting younger people	67	54.9%
F. Building links with the rest of the community/voluntary sector	64	52.5%
G. A regional strategy for voluntary arts in Scotland	48	39.3%
H. A body to speak up for the voluntary arts	59	48.4%
I. Opportunities to consult with Government and its agencies	52	42.6%
J. Introducing new technology to groups	25	20.5%
K. Finding ways to involve excluded groups	57	46.7%
L. Building recognition of the role voluntary arts play in the community	87	71.3%
M. Access to funding	86	70.5%

### Other results

- proper training and monitoring of arts workers
- proper training and monitoring of arts workers
- Dialogue with other artists bodies and representative groups
- Bringing voluntary and 'professional' arts closer together.
- helping new artists to get started, graduates struggle to be able to get going and it should not just be dependent upon prizes but perhaps grants or start up loans.
- Research to prove the positive impact of art on health
- lobbying for the arts
- SAC support for voluntary arts?

### Q12 Please list the top three issues identified in Q11 you believe will be important to the voluntary arts and crafts sector over the next three years

(percentages rounded out to 2<sup>nd</sup> decimal place, based on number of completed replies to the question)

### Priority 1

A	9	8.04%
B	11	9.82%
C	10	8.93%
D	3	2.68%

E	11	9.82%
F	6	5.36%
G	1	0.89%
H	5	4.46%
I	1	0.89%
J	3	2.68%
K	2	1.79%
L	15	13.39%
M	34	30.36%
N	1	0.89%

*Other replies given:*

Speak up focus

M,A

*Priority 2*

A	10	9.26%
B	3	2.78%
C	11	10.19%
D	11	10.19%
E	10	9.26%
F	5	4.63%
G	2	1.85%
H	6	5.56%
I	9	8.33%
J	1	0.93%
K	16	14.81%
L	10	9.26%
M	12	11.11%
N	2	1.85%

*Other replies given:*

Speak up focus

B,C

G,F,E,C,B

H and or A

Improve funding

*Priority 3*

A	3	2.83%
B	6	5.66%
C	10	9.43%
D	5	4.71%
E	7	6.60%
F	15	14.15%
G	6	5.66%
H	9	8.49%
I	8	7.55%
J	3	2.83%
K	8	7.55%
L	13	12.26%
M	12	11.32%
N	1	0.94%

*Other replies given:*

Government  
L,H,D

*Q11 Priorities collated*

- 1 Access to funding
2. Building recognition of the role voluntary arts play in the community
3. Building links with local authorities
4. Building links with the rest of the community/voluntary sector
5. A body to speak up for the voluntary arts/ A voluntary arts support body for Scotland
6. Attracting younger people
7. Finding ways to involve excluded groups
8. Increased information flow
9. Building links with Scottish Government departments/ Opportunities to consult with Government and its agencies
10. Introducing new technology to groups

*Priority 1 top ten*

- 1 Access to funding
2. Building recognition of the role voluntary arts play in the community
3. Attracting younger people
4. Increased information flow
5. Building links with local authorities
6. A voluntary arts support body for Scotland
7. Building links with the rest of the community/voluntary sector
8. A body to speak up for the voluntary arts
9. Building links with Scottish Government departments
10. Introducing new technology to groups

*Priority 2 top ten*

- 1 Finding ways to involve excluded groups
2. Access to funding
3. Building links with local authorities
4. Building links with Scottish Government departments
5. A voluntary arts support body for Scotland
6. Building recognition of the role voluntary arts play in the community
7. Attracting younger people
8. Opportunities to consult with Government and its agencies
9. A body to speak up for the voluntary arts
10. Building links with the rest of the community/voluntary sector

*Priority 3 top ten*

1. Building links with the rest of the community/voluntary sector
2. Building recognition of the role voluntary arts play in the community
3. Access to funding
4. Building links with local authorities
5. A body to speak up for the voluntary arts
6. Finding ways to involve excluded groups
7. Opportunities to consult with Government and its agencies
8. Attracting younger people
9. a regional strategy for the voluntary arts in Scotland

## 10. Increased information flow

### **Q13. Do you have any suggestions or comments about Voluntary Arts Scotland's work so far, or what we can do in the future to support you?**

- It seems very distant to me and extremely "p.c."
- This is a great information forum which is important in our sector.
- Support CPD for professional arts workers, community and agenda arts, working conditions and training. Artist's often choose to work as volunteers because they see this as a way of sustaining their practice and improving their opportunities to gain paid arts work too.
- The Briefings are useful. I feel that the work is aimed more towards small community groups rather than more professional organisations - that may be a faulty perception - which is fine, as we get support in other ways from SAC
- Should VAS Develop a working paper/Strategy to build better contacts with the SNP Government which would presumably be more supportive of indigenous Arts than previous administrations.
- Valuable Help is given at all times. Keeps the organisation up to date on what is happening.
- The information you provide is excellent. Our issue is to disseminate it to our members.
- I wish there was some means of addressing gender and cultural bias in arts residencies. These are selected behind closed doors without any "audition" and inevitably reflect the gender and cultural origins of the administrators, rather than the community.
- Briefings and E-Newsletters are both Excellent
- Really useful information portal, useful for marketing and recruitment as well as fundraising
- Excellent!
- SGS would have used VAS for our new website but it was far too expensive. We have now got what we want through a commercial designer
- Continued help with child protection issues. Not especially VAS - but the VAN updates are very useful.
- I'm so glad I discovered you. I think your doing brilliant work. Great info. The conference in Edinburgh was really good.
- Being a Mental Health Art Facility we are disappointed not to be included in your arts programme
- Thanks you for promoting the various events and projects I organise. Keep up the good work.
- Very helpful website and a great organisation.
- Very impressed. Possibly encouraging organisations to offer more opportunities for volunteering
- Continue to supply info & briefings
- SBC Arts should receive your information with email for info on funding.
- In my work as arts development officer, the information VAS produces and circulates is immensely valuable to allow me to inform voluntary organisations in the locality.
- Does a great job - Keep going!
- Excellent source of information and support.
- Excellent, very valuable organisation. I recommend your website to every arts group or person I meet, voluntary or otherwise
- Perhaps it would be good to have genre support officers who could run advice sessions and networking opportunities.
- I really rate the emails that I receive keeping updated f opportunities and work and related funding events, that keep me informed of current art trends.
- More detailed news of dynamic groups, ages and content

- I find VAS extremely helpful, informative and i look forward to recieving the newsletters
- Valuable Newsletter - thank you
- just about web site... this is the best site that I saw so far, usefull, with many different information.
- I probably have not used your services all that wisely so far, but it would be helpful to place a description of our organisation on some kind of organised list which could be accessed appropriately
- Grateful for the work opportunities we have found through VA Scotland. Thanks!
- Voluntary Arts Scotland should do more to promote fair pay for artists and should take a stance by refusing to advertise jobs and opportunities which do not offer this basic right.
- More press releases about successful wee community arts groups as well as the ones which struggle for funds. Funny wee stories about how communities have been enriched by an art group, how Granny Mutch is learning the fiddle at 82 etc ...
- The email newsletter is invaluable
- NO
- Thank you for all your efforts.
- Keep up the flow of information. VA is a valuable shop window and voice for the arts and it is good to hear what other areas are involved in. Look forward to the regular newsletter.
- I would really like more work on validating community arts in terms of community development work. Specifically gaining recognition of the potential vitality of Community Dance which encourages participation and promotes the idea that dancing belongs to everyone in our community and is not solely a performance art.
- We find the newsletter and the bulletins very useful indeed
- Very worthwhile...useful information / advice....bigger voice/lobbying....keep it up
- I would appreciate a listing where I and others like me could offer our services. I can afford to pay my travel expenses but would need accommodations, either from a volunteer or a small stipend. I believe an interchange of artists from other places has great value.
- local network group on social basis through meetup.com
- Great and useful information comes in, jobs, training, exhibitions etc. like what you do, how you do it. Perhaps you could lobby to help for better support, instead of hand to mouth, particularly for individuals and smaller. Worry that large umbrella will end up helping larger orgs and not small ones!
- The newsletter and job opportunities in particular are essential to my understanding of what's happening in Scotland and helping me link up to organisations and sustain my solo practice
- Need to meet to discuss what is on offer that would help us.
- I am not the typical respondent since I no longer work in the Arts but value it for many different reasons and want to make it work for the Young People I now work with so feel your newsletter is an important link into that world as a starting point.
- The information sharing through the network is a priceless resource. More opportunities to make links with other groups would be great
- VERY USEFUL RESOURCE
- I feel it is a really, really helpful circular and I can only say - Keep up the good work!
- Continue to share info, ideas & updates. I appreciate the indirect support.
- Having only been aware of VAS for 3 days, I have found a ream of crucial and interesting information in back copies of the Briefings!
- Excellent e Newsletter!
- In that VAS encompasses a vast diversity of voluntary creativity in Scotland, engages with the political decision makers at national and local level, maintains contact with a great many organisations with similar or complementary aims, voluntary arts Scotland's work so far is nothing less than essential to the future of Voluntary Arts/Crafts organisations in Scotland.

Too few individuals, including members of Voluntary Arts organisations, are interested or even aware of the importance, implications and significance of VAS's work as yet. Maybe this is an area to focus on more in the future.

- Just found out about VAS - very interested to hear your existence.
- Good information source, keep it coming!
- Briefing sheets look V. Useful, will be in touch.
- We would welcome help and advice with regards to a business place and funding opportunities + access to training - trainers.
- Reinforce Message of Inclusion for Disabled People
- The e-newsletter is very useful.
- Updates are V. useful I like receiving newsletters on email and it's not all relevant to our work but there's always one thing of interest or that's useful.
- Doing an excellent Job with not enough resources. Thank you
- Really knew nothing about Voluntary Arts Scotland until today
- As a Local Authority arts officer I value highly the relationship between my role & voluntary arts sector. More support in supporting officers to change the negative perception of arts within Local Authorities would be gratefully received.
- Doing well with limited resources
- The regular newsletters are great, especially when it comes to new funding sources and job opportunities. Very informative. Could it be more involved with Scottish Music? E.G. help run events?
- We appreciate the Information & news items

**Q14. Do you have any suggestions or comments about the arts and crafts in Scotland now and in the future?**

- I admire your aims and wish you and other arts organizations all the luck of the angels for the coming 3 years.
- Let the professional staff get out and about round the country - 95% of the population live on 5% of the land area. I get the impression that nobody ever gets into Berwickshire or attempts to grapple with the apartheid problem that we have as our major problem. Half our membership lives in England so we lose support from our Scottish funders when we perform over the border and get no support from English funders because we meet in Scotland. This is true racial discrimination encouraged by the Edinburgh and London governments.
- We must all continue to fight for recognition and funding
- There should be more opportunities to get training and education in all areas of artistic practice. I believe that this should be started at primary school level.
- I have very little sense of a 'voluntary arts sector' outside my own speciality, and don't know how a sense of an arts & crafts community could be conveyed. I hope that music, dance, drama, and all the crafts are as keen as the literature sector to show what a great contribution they make to personal well-being as well as community achievement.
- Arts organisations need to work together to present the economic case for funding of the arts. Presently the link to education and lifelong learning, the cultural & economic benefit of the arts is the key to securing a long-term funding strategy.
- More funding would give better security. particularly long term funding to allow for planning. Better recognition of what is being achieved of vital importance.
- Collective pressure on Scottish Government to create institution - Creative Scotland - that work.

- We need to distinguish between arts which are governed by fashion and those which relate to culture. As it stands only the former is subject to funding - the latter is in effect censored.
- Everything depends on the new government defining its priorities for the arts, and also defining the role of local authorities.
- Concerns about reduction in funding from the National Lottery and the impact this has on the voluntary sector, lack of revenue funding avenues for the arts and difficulties in engaging in community planning partnerships, health sectors, business etc as well as the ambiguity around cultural entitlements.
- The organisation of regional art/craft fairs to sell work for 1 / 2 times a year would be a great incentive for isolated communities that have a limited market.
- Like to see more opportunities for individual artists to showcase their work as in the Somerset House/Chelsea crafts show.
- We need more government support to promote Scottish based artists, craft people. More grants - design council shop for Scottish Arts & Crafts. No 'twee' stuff
- Make it more accessible to minority groups - funding etc.
- Ongoing funding support for various arts & crafts events through out Scotland. Sharing of events and ideas from the various organisations that submit events to voluntary arts.
- Keep up net-working opportunities and maintain high levels of output which is high quality and self regulated. Avoid being written into standards and policy documents so that artists can be autonomous.
- SBC change in Arts Funding to a single annual centennial application means it takes too long to get any decisions. I.e. apply April any confirmation not until Sept.
- There is a dearth of suitably appointed accessible and affordable facilities in the fast growing city of Inverness to enable small amateur arts groups to pursue their respective interests, viz performance spaces, rehearsal facilities, fundraising facilities, secretarial services, storage provision etc. Support from VAS through pressure on local authority would possibly help to reinforce local groups efforts to secure appropriate provision.
- Arts and culture sector needs to be more confident and assertive (voluntary as well as professional). Government, public and private sector need to acknowledge the value of arts in society in general, to people's and community confidence and to the economy - in their own right, not just as an adjunct of tourism, education, etc.
- good stuff already - limitless potential
- The most difficult thing we have to do is marketing events and if there are ways VAS can help then we want to know about them!
- There are pockets where good things happen but this should be more widespread
- I think that there need to be more consideration/awareness of the benefits of social enterprise joint working and intertrading
- The Scottish Arts Council & other funding bodies and arts organisations should work to ensure that artists receive a fair pay for their work and are not exploited. They should do more to ensure that visual artists are always paid a fair fee for exhibiting and they should discourage organisations from offering flat fees for commissions-leading to competitive tendering where artists are under pressure to spend the budget on materials and to work for very little. I would hope Voluntary Arts Scotland would take a stance by refusing to advertise jobs and opportunities which do not offer this basic right to fair pay. It's about time visual artists were recognised as highly-skilled professionals and the wider economic and social impact of their work should be acknowledged.
- Not enough is made of the Scottish tag. Not 'Tartanry' but an exploitation of the Scottish name and ethos is long overdue.
- It is a growing area of interest for young professional individuals. This is a potential audience that should be tapped into.

- Recognise and encourage the true artists in all areas who have always been marginalised by the consensus reality because they are its critics. Create stronger links between groups who share common ideals and practises.
- We would welcome more information on where small groups like ourselves can access funding to help with productions and source tutors and training for our cast members, eg. special workshops for drama etc.
- Participation is the key to bringing arts and crafts in to the ownership of the community. I would like to see more funding aimed at this. e.g. public funding of community arts events, such as community arts exhibitions, community dance events, refurbishment of community events in which to base such events
- Must gain better recognition / acknowledgment by government, communities, private sector, tourism sector, etc, etc, IN ITS OWN RIGHT.
- stress the value to our nation of our creative and artistic abilities, the role in the diaspora and the wealth of talent we create in these areas that can be developed as more traditional industries lose out to lower cost bases in the far east in particular. eg our computer games industry can be a national revenue earner through our creative potential in this field, which is competitive on a global scale.
- very diverse and evolving. keep helping to sustain economically, loans, social enterprises, co-operatives, etc. difficult to set up without sustainable income.
- I think that linking the arts sector to tourism is a viable strand of management, encouraging links with Scottish artists to elsewhere without directly forcing them out of the country. Also I think that voluntary arts practice could benefit from the expanding tourism market.
- Working as an individual I am keen to promote my art and really want to make my hobby into my living. I would like to see arts and crafts taught by professionals in schools and for practitioners to be valued for their contribution to make the link between the practical and aesthetic for healthy living
- Needs to move forward but using the bases of our traditional skills. Recently visited Finland and they were using traditional weaving techniques to produce modern designs and products.
- It's quite doom and gloom where we are right now as there are many uncertainties with regards funding streams - we need a more stable environment to develop staff skills and community work.
- CAMPAIGN FOR SECURE/LONGTERM FUNDING FROM SAC/SCOTTISH EXEC.
- we feel that SAC and the local authorities under fund the Arts in Scotland and rely on the passion of the individual artists and performers and small organisations to absorb efficiency gain after efficiency gain and still provide a diverse and high quality of culture in Scotland without much support or recognition.
- More developments regarding the arts & the beneficial effects to emotional & mental health
- in 1974, at a fringe festival meeting, Andrew Cruikshank made an impassioned plea for the demolition of barriers between "professional" "commercial" and "amateur" creative activities. These still exist, and, too often prevent the development of sustainable, dynastic, economically useful, community-orientated projects.
- Need to foster links with creative Scotland
- more cross-fertilization between voluntary arts organisations - joint ops. Where appropriate. Viz recent collaboration between a London based Opera Company and Weavers and Spinners on Shetland.
- needs wider recognition of the public benefits that community arts delivers ~need to get wider recognition & support from our local authority (Argyll & Bute Council) for the arts & what they deliver in the wider rural development context.
- People are taking a more professional approach.

- 105: Expecting the voluntary sector to not only run the events but lobby for more support fund raise for even more time as well as be responsible for H&S, volunteer checking & training for POCSA by one organisation is unrealistic. People only do a certain amount of paperwork - I volunteer etc & it has to be LESS than the parts they enjoy - the way its all going the active voluntary arts people you have soon wont be interested!
- Need for Quality to be a Priority
- There is definitely a feeling of revival and is should be encouraged.
- New Government (-new attitudes?) Time to get in there and influence their policies before default settings click in.
- They should be inclusive
- Need better facilities for individual artist & groups to use - workshops/exhibition space etc.
- There is very little or no support for finding a permanent place. That you could use to work and exhibit in at a reasonable cost.
- Arts in Scotland beyond the central belt needs to be promoted & have increased funding & support.
- Still not recognised as the bedrock of the arts
- Training more widely available for craft practitioners to improve quality, marketing etc.
- More support needed to encourage children in traditional music needed, can VAS help?

**Q15. If you are happy to have your comments identified - please write your name, organisation (if relevant) and contact details here. This also means we can enter you in the draw for vouchers . . .**

These contact details are listed elsewhere for data protection purposes.