

25 October 2020

Deputy Kirsten Morel
Chair
Economic and International Affairs Scrutiny Panel
c/o Kelly Boydens
Scrutiny Officer
States Greffe
Morier House
St. Helier
Jersey JE1 1DD



Dear Deputy Morel

GOVERNMENT PLAN REVIEW – JERSEY ARTS CENTRE response

Thank you for your letter of 20 September, and further to the meeting of the Management Committee of the Jersey Arts Centre Association on 24 October, please find detailed below our summary response to funding, as it relates to Jersey Arts Centre, in the proposed Government Plan:

- **Deputy Tadier's Proposition P40/2019**

Having sat in the Public Gallery in the States Chamber on Friday 3 May, we welcome the decision to increase the level of funding for arts, heritage and culture to 1% in future States budgets. This is by far the single most important piece of cultural legislation these past 10 years and we congratulate Deputy Tadier for this achievement.

- In real terms, the 20% cut in our revenue grant since 2013 has impacted on our operation, programme and facility and there is now an imperative to recalibrate this shortfall and to ensure future inflationary increases to the revenue grant. The current base budget allows for a BAU approach, and whilst our current Strategic Plan supports this, our ambition exceeds it.
- We welcome the recent initiative to carry out a Condition Survey on our Phillips Street building but there is a further imperative that the capital, infrastructure and maintenance needs of the building be fully addressed and funded. We have been told that there is no capital budget available for 2020 and this could prove problematic for us.
- The reduction in our facilities in not having the use of either St. James Church (2000-2013) or the Old Magistrates Court (2013-2016) has had an impact on our operation.
- Jersey Arts Centre supports the need for a new Cultural Strategy but not a further arts review or report. Too many consultative reports exist which have not been acted upon but these could easily inform a new Cultural Strategy.
- We have a good relationship with the department for GHE, and its officers, and we work extremely well with Chris Kelleher, Daniel Houseago and Rick Horsley.

We would like to remind the panel of the value to education, health and culture Jersey Arts Centre – and its former entity: Jersey Arts Council (formed in 1970) – has made to the community of the Island, and in supporting the strategic aims of various States Assemblies, these past five decades by highlighting just some of our achievements throughout 2018:

- 214 ticketed performances with 25,553 attendances
- 13 exhibitions in the Berni Gallery
- 15 exhibitions in the Bar Gallery
- 21 public courses and workshops with 225 participants
- 10 workshops in 9 schools for Holocaust Memorial Day with 301 attendances
- 10 workshops in 8 schools for World Book Day with 272 attendances
- 5 Channel Islands Music Council concerts
- 22 Arts in Health Care Trust concerts across the Island's care settings
- 2 youththeatre productions with one travelling to St. Helier's twin town of Bad Wurzach
- 2 ACT projects
- 1 Junior Drama 'new writing' project: 'this untitled thing'
- The delivery of our 3rd Brighter Futures project: 'conference of the mermaids'
- 3 Residencies, with: Linda Marlowe, Art'Comedia and Simon MacDonald
- Our 16th consecutive year of readings with the youththeatre at Holocaust Memorial Day
- Readings at the Former Internees 74th Liberation Day anniversary at the War Tunnels
- Readings at The Celebration of Armistice Concert at Fort Regent
- The 5th Polish Film Festival
- The 14th Human Rights Festival
- The afternoon celebrations on Liberation Day
- An adaptation of Harper Lee's TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD with 531 attendances over 3 shows
- Our 3rd Christmas production: THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS with 3,052 attendances over 18 performances and 586 attendances at 22 primary school workshops

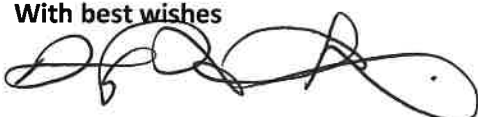
The above was delivered with less than 12 full-time-equivalent members of staff.

Our key purpose is: **to educate, inspire and encourage debate** and we have been doing this since 1970 with the unparalleled support of our members, our staff, our Management Committee and our audiences with enthusiasm, energy, commitment and artistic integrity.

Jersey Arts Centre is not just a building: we have an Island-wide reach and we have influenced the lives of many people. We remain excited and committed to our work with and for the community here in the Island.

Many thanks for this opportunity.

With best wishes



DANIEL AUSTIN

Director

For and on behalf of the Jersey Arts Centre Association