

SNP Manifesto 2021

What we're doing for culture and creativity

Culture is central to who we are as a nation. In government the SNP has always valued culture and creativity, but the pandemic has demonstrated more than ever how vital it is to our wellbeing, mental health and sense of belonging as well as to our economy and society.

We know that for many artists the pandemic has been particularly difficult with fewer opportunities to work. The SNP in government has put support in place through Creative Scotland and taken steps to help freelancers. We know artists and performers want to get back to engaging with audiences again and we will ensure restrictions are in place for no longer than they need to be.

Re-elect the SNP to:

Ensure fair funding and access

We want to create a more sustainable funding model for culture which benefits organisations and freelancers. Learning from countries such as Ireland and the Netherlands, we will establish a "Percentage for the Arts" scheme which will create a requirement for a percentage of the overall cost of a construction project for new public buildings, places or spaces to be spent on community art commissions.

To aid future planning and recovery, we will agree 3 year funding settlements for Scottish Government core funded cultural organisations.

We will also continue our culture recovery funding to get support to those who continue to be significantly affected by restrictions.

We will protect free access to our National Galleries and Museums and continue to fund non-national museums and galleries through support for Museums & Galleries Scotland.

Expand our programme

We will expand our Culture Collective programme, giving artists and communities the length and breadth of Scotland even more opportunities to collaborate on creative activity, supporting a sustainable creative recovery from the pandemic.

We will establish our first regularly funded Youth National Performing Company, to showcase the creative gifts of Scotland's young people, and help grow the talent of tomorrow.

We will create a new £2 million fund for public artwork which broadens the range of representation in public spaces of Scotland's history and culture, in particular the contribution of women and minority ethnic communities.

Improve support to creative industries

Recognising their vibrancy as well as their potential for domestic and international growth, we will work with Scottish Enterprise and Creative Scotland to improve the business support available to creative industries to

ensure a better breadth of expertise is available for the many different parts of the sector.

We will support tax relief for culture and creative industries including the games sector, high-end and children's TV production, animation, film, theatre and orchestras.

We will also support the digital capabilities of artists and creative businesses with a £1 million programme of workshops, mentoring and courses.

Ensure cultural connections

We will call on the UK Government to work with the EU to deliver free movement for performers, artists, musicians and freelancers, and ensure there are no-barriers to those looking to tour and perform in Scotland and the UK.

And we will utilise our international network to better support Scottish-based artists to work internationally, and help to facilitate new cultural connections between Scotland and the rest of the world.

Support a National Centre for Design

Dundee is the first UNESCO City of Design in the UK, recognising the huge contribution the city has made to design worldwide. To build on this prestigious award, we will support V&A Dundee to become a National Centre for Design, working in close partnership with organisations from across Scotland.

Build on the success of our screen sector

Our screen sector has gone from strength to strength in recent years, supported by the creation of Screen Scotland and new studio infrastructure. We want to build on this success to make Scotland the go-to destination for production.

We will support studio space in Scotland and double skills provision, boosting training, apprenticeships and skills opportunities.

We will call on the BBC to increase production from Scotland, and appoint more commissioners in Scotland.

Support festivals and Towns of Culture

We will continue the highly successful EXPO fund for Edinburgh's major festivals, Celtic Connections and Glasgow International, reviewing how it can continue to meet its aims of ensuring the Festivals maintain their global competitive edge, increasing the funding available to Scottish artists and practitioners, and encouraging creative collaborations.

Taking Wigtown, Scotland's National Book Town, as a model, we will extend the reach of the arts by launching an open competition for further National Towns of Culture for example, Scotland's National Live Music Town, Folk and Trad Town, or Scotland's Visual Art Town.

Ensure the long-term future of Gaelic

Gaelic is an integral part of Scotland's culture and we remain committed to ensuring it has a sustainable long-term future. In particular we will have a focus on arresting the intensifying language shift in the remaining vernacular communities.

We will also explore the creation of a recognised Gàidhealtachd to raise levels of language competence and the provision of more services through the medium of Gaelic and extend opportunities to use Gaelic in every-day situations and formal settings. In particular, we need to ensure specific support that makes it possible for the Gaelic language to be used more often in the home and community.