



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact Survey

Venues, Studios & Curators explore the impact
of the UK Lockdown in April/May 2020

*Prepared by Craft Scotland
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Craft Venues, Studios & Curators introduction

The economic impact of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) on Scotland’s makers and the craft infrastructure was immediate and the effects may be evident for years to come.

Our Coronavirus (COVID-19) Impact Survey for Venues, Studios & Curators shows the emerging impacts of the pandemic on the Scottish infrastructure detailing; the loss of income/cash flow and the challenges of pivoting programmes.

Looking to the next 3-12 months, respondents conveyed the potential future impact on their business and what kind of support they might need to recover.

This survey was issued on Thursday 16 April and closed Friday 22 May 2020, there was a total of 18 respondents from across Scotland.

Key quote

“...the impossibility of attaining a sufficient degree of certainty to resume realistic programming”

Survey

I. Respondents provide a variety of craft related services and products:

- 55% Craft workshops
- 33% Studio provision
- 27% Maker training
- 22% Public gallery
- 27% Shop
- 11% Commercial gallery

- 11% Venue hire / Meeting rooms
- 11% Residencies
- 11% Freelance curator
- 5% Freelance producer
- 5% Craft markets

2. Do you employ makers?

- 61% No
- 39% Yes:
 - Class leaders / workshops / self-employed tutors
 - Core staff

3. How has your business/practice been affected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19) in recent weeks? Collated answers:

- Venues closed and loss of audiences
- Significant income lost and future loss of income
- Team furloughed / reduced hours / working from home
- Travelling exhibitions remain immobile at partner venues
- All workshops/courses/masterclasses postponed or cancelled
- Memberships on hold
- Outreach and engagement community projects on hold
- Major craft exhibitions on hold (affecting makers who have been commissioned and freelancers employed on projects)
- Work shifted to communicating with stakeholders and listening to feedback from sector
- Increase digital programming / content
- Embracing new programming - micro-grants, offering advice
- Close studios / teaching studio / residency spaces

4. What do you foresee to be the challenges in the next 3-12 months for your business/practice? Collated answers:

- Loss of income / cash flow significantly affected
- Health & Safety of visitors, staff, studio users
- Adapting buildings to allow for social distancing

- How to encourage new and established visitors to feel confident to attend physical events
- Mobility of artists / makers
- Restrictions on production of artwork
- Uncertainty around partners' future activity
- Uncertainty makes it difficult to plan future activity
- Resilience and survival of arts venues
- Impact of potential future budget cuts for the arts
- Slowdown in the tourism industry will significantly affect their footfall and sales
- How to commission work from makers when their production facilities/processes have significantly slowed down
- Workshop/masterclass programme is dependent on makers having professional development budget – this will be reduced
- How to honor commissioning commitments if venue access is affected
- How to manage the pivot towards online selling
- Loss of promotion from lack of footfall

5. What support do you believe might be helpful to your business? Please detail:

- Health & Safety code of practice
- Common standards/practices between events and exhibitions for social distancing
- New strands of funding for marketing, digital, programme development, online programming, exhibitions, new equipment, events and acquisitions
- Collaborations between Scottish arts organisations who produce exhibitions to share limited resources/touring programmes
- Press and promotion to bring audiences back / joint promotion between organisations
- Support on creating greater accessibility in a post-Coronavirus (COVID-19) world
- Advice on how to adapt teaching practices to accommodate social distancing
- Advice and support on online sales and marketing

6. Feedback on the various new grants and sources of funding that were launched during the pandemic.

- Concern and confusion that some organisations are not eligible for the majority of funding due to eligibility
 - Arts funding excluding any organisation set up as a Limited Company
 - Rates relief is not available if you sub-let your studio/office

- Lack of understanding about eligibility
- Some mention of successful applications:
 - Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (CRJS)
 - Corra Foundation

7. Additional feedback

- It will be hard to understand the full impact of the pandemic until the year has finished
- A respondent mentioned they felt that artists/makers were overlooked in the support package as they have a unique set of circumstances due to portfolio working
- A respondent mentioned they valued Craft Scotland gathering this information at a crucial information

Craft

SCOTLAND

Craft Scotland

Supporting Makers, Promoting Craft

Craft Scotland is the national development agency for craft.

We put makers at the heart of all we do, championing diverse and high-quality contemporary craft.

We help people learn about, appreciate and buy craft, promoting the contribution of craft to Scotland's cultural, economic and social well-being.

Contact

Craft Scotland, Studio 6 & 7, Castle Mills
2 Gilmore Park, Edinburgh EH3 9FN

www.craftscotland.org
hello@craftscotland.org
+44 (0)131 357 3288

Through our exhibitions and events programmes, digital platforms and strategic partnerships, we provide leadership for the sector.

We create opportunities for makers to develop their creative and business practice, and to exhibit and sell work in Scotland and beyond.

We are a registered charity supported by Creative Scotland.