** ARTISTIC POLICY**

**POLICY STATEMENT**

**This policy enables Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop to position itself at the forefront of artists’ provision, support and development in Scotland and through integrated working and planning with artists, provide innovative research and learning programmes that are supported by a national and international network of partnerships.**

This policy enables Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop to further establish itself as a vital organisation within the Scottish cultural community, a flagship institution that is recognised locally, nationally and internationally both for its professional artists’ facilities and innovative projects, learning programmes and partnerships that are driven by its membership.

**VISION**

Our vision is to create the best environment in which to support artists as they build their careers, to contribute to the development of critical thinking and creative learning within contemporary sculpture and to create outstanding experiences for audiences.

**AIMS**

Our aims are to build a vibrant visual arts sector by:

* supporting artists in the development of their careers
* promoting the professional role of artists
* facilitating meaningful access to the arts by a diverse audience
* promoting Scotland internationally in order to attract and retain talent

ESW will

**(a)** Provide facilities, promote opportunities and organise events that will attract emerging and established artists and meet the demands of sculpture and contemporary artistic practice

**(b)** Continue to support a climate that responds to changing contemporary theory and encourages debate, research and collaboration and supports artistic activity which is redefining contemporary practice.

**(c)** Involve a broad audience in a high quality programme of activities, projects and talks

**(d)** Support emerging and established artists in their professional development

**(e)** Develop local national and international partnerships that support our aims and objectives and add value to our activities.

**OBJECTIVES**

**(i) To encourage artistic excellence, experimentation and innovation through the provision of space, access to equipment, training, opportunities and funding for artists.**

**(ii) To broaden participation in the visual arts through education programmes and opportunities that engage diverse socio-economic, ethnic and age groups.**

**(iii) To support the development of sustainable artistic careers through training and staff support.**

**(iv) To generate new knowledge and facilitate knowledge transfer between organisations and individuals through research activities.**

**Programme**

To continue to develop a programme that reflects the vision and aims of Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop

**Partnerships & collaborations**

Develop partnerships locally and nationally that support the development of ESW’s organisational objectives.

Develop international links to facilitate cultural exchange, promote ESW, Edinburgh and Scotland as an important centre for visual arts activity.

To continue to develop the existing partnerships with Edinburgh College of Art School of Art, School of Architecture and Edinburgh College and to forge new links with H.E institutions nationally and internationally.

To consult with partners and other relevant agencies or organisations to support future professional development for artists.

**Select and curate at all levels of activity**

Use invited independent selectors to select artists for studios, residencies and commissions.

Use the programme team (Director, Assistant Director, Curator - Research, Curator - Learning and the Technical Manger) plus a member’s representative to select proposals for projects, events and exhibitions that are submitted to the organisation.

The Curator for Learning is responsible for the selection of tutors for all aspects of the education programme.

**Continually review and evaluate all aspects of ESW activity**

Conduct an annual review of equipment in consultation with ESW users and staff

Conduct an annual review of the artistic programme with participating artists and staff.

Conduct an annual review of the education programme with participants, tutors and staff.