

ROBERT LIVINGSTON

Kirkhill Associates

The Old School House, Kirkhill, Inverness-shire, IV5 7PE

01463 831239

07595 220299

robert@kirkhillassociates.com www.wholeelephant.co.uk

Recent and current contracts

- Lead consultant with Noble Openshaw to prepare a Cultural Strategy for the Scottish Borders (Sept-Dec 2013)
- Part of team preparing Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Bid for the restoration of Rothesay Pavilion (January-July 2014)
- Managing organisational change for Campbeltown Picture House as part of an HLF Stage 2 application (January-December 2014)
- Partnership with artist Helen Denerley to prepare an Art Plan for the Highland Hospice (February-July 2014) and initial implementation of the Plan (current)
- Lead consultant with Noble Openshaw to advise the eight venues making up the Mid Wales Circuit of Theatres and Arts Centres (April-September 2014)
- Evaluation for the Arts Council of Wales of their 'Our Space' funding programme (September-November 2014)
- Audit of Voluntary Arts groups in Perth and Kinross, for Voluntary Arts Scotland (March-July 2015)
- Feasibility study into use of the Meal House, Banff as a centre for silversmithing (April-July 2015)
- Part-time CEO of Regional Screen Scotland (July 2015—ongoing)

Strengths and Achievements

Over 20 years as the Director of HI~Arts, I had an exceptional opportunity to develop a holistic approach to the role of culture and the creative industries within society--underpinned by Highlands and Islands Enterprise's unique union of economic and social remits--through devising and delivering initiatives that have won national and international recognition. Many of these continue as independent organisations:

- **The Screen Machine**, the UK's only mobile cinema, developed through a partnership of national and regional agencies and the support of local communities across the North and West of Scotland
- **Go North**, Scotland's premier annual showcase for the Creative Industries, originally launched in Aberdeen before being brought to Inverness
- **Craft Scotland**, the national audience development agency for craft, established in partnership with the Scottish Arts Council
- **The Highlands and Islands Theatre Network**, a membership body for over 20 professional performing arts companies
- **The ATLAS Visual Arts programme** on Skye
- **Artsplay**, a creative collaboration between the arts and childcare sectors, still active ten years on through a series of local partnerships

Recent successful programmes which I initiated within HI~Arts included:

- **Talent development** programmes in Writing and Publishing, and Crafts and Designer Fashion
- **Audience development** programmes, not only in the Highlands and Islands, but also the **Growing Audiences North East** programme in Aberdeen Shire and City
- The HI~Arts '**hit team**' approach to stimulating local cultural networking
- **Northings.com**, the award-winning online arts magazine for the Highlands and Islands.

Career:

From July 2015: part time CEO of **Regional Screen Scotland**

A Regular-funded client of Creative Scotland with the remit to improve access to cinema facilities in communities across Scotland

From June 2013: freelance cultural facilitator trading as **Kirkhill Associates**.

1994 to June 2013: **Director of Highlands and Islands Arts Ltd (HI~Arts)** www.hi-arts.co.uk

HI~Arts was an independent charity contracted by Highlands and Islands Enterprise (and funded by Creative Scotland) to deliver a programme of arts development throughout an area from Arran to Shetland. Depending on projects, HI~Arts employed between 10 and 15 full-time, temporary, part-time and contract staff.

1989-1993: **Visual Arts Officer, Scottish Arts Council**

Responsible for project funding for all aspects of exhibition presentation and touring. Assessor for 10 visual arts revenue funded organisations throughout Scotland. Serviced two external panels which allocated grants and funding, and was a member of the staff working party which advised on internal restructuring of the SAC.

1988-89: **Director, Edinburgh Printmakers**

Restructuring of this membership-based fine art printworkshop following a move to larger premises and the departure of the long-serving first Director.

1983-88: **Director of the Crawford Arts Centre, University of St Andrews**

Responsible for the programming, fund-raising and management of a mixed-programme arts centre comprising four gallery spaces, a studio theatre and an artist's studio. During this period I was responsible for recreating the Centre as an independent limited company, in which form it remained active for a further 17 years, before being transformed into Fife Contemporary Arts and Crafts, which is still active.

(1985-88; member of the Exhibitions Panel of the Scottish Arts Council)

1979-83: **Exhibitions Coordinator at the Third Eye Centre in Glasgow**

1977-78: **Stage management at the Dundee Rep Theatre and Northcote Theatre, Exeter**

1976-77: **Research Assistant, BBC Radio Scotland**

Other experience includes:

- Member of the Live Music Now! Scottish Advisory Panel (1996-2013) and now the new LMNS Board
- Member of the Board of Stills Gallery, 1999-2002, including a period as Chair during 2001
- Member of the Scottish Government Town Centre Review External Advisory Group 2012-13
- Arts criticism and journalism for the *Glasgow Evening Times*, *Glasgow Herald*, *Scotland on Sunday* (various times 1973-1989)

Education and Training

First Class MA (Hons) degree in Drama and Art History, Glasgow University, 1976