



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Alyn Smith MEP

Member of the European Parliament for Scotland
Scottish National Party: On your side in Europe

11th February 2015

Our Ref: AES/OrkneyCreativeHub
When replying please reply to: Edinburgh

For the attention of Mr Tibor Navracsics
European Commissioner for
Education, Culture, Youth and Sport

European Commission
Rue de la Loi 200
B-1049 Brussels, Belgium

Subject: Funding for Orkney Creative Hub

Dear Commissioner,

I am writing to you to draw your attention to a fundraising campaign by the Orkney Creative Hub project, who seek to raise £1 million by April to buy and adapt the former Ortak workshop and visitor centre in Kirkwall.

The Orkney Creative Hub will be a central location for education, development and enterprise opportunities for people of all ages and opportunities, will provide supported volunteering and employment opportunities for those less able to join the workplace, and will be a valuable boost to the island's economy.

Are there specific avenues of funding would you recommend for this group?

The project team is asking members of the community to sponsor a square foot of the Ortak building for £10, with the aim of raising £250,000 by April, when the property will go back on the open market if not already purchased.

The Ortak building will provide enough space for a gallery and exhibition space, a shop, a café, and a range of educational and business start-up areas. The range of educational facilities offered by the project cannot be found anywhere else in the islands. In addition to offering support to anyone who wants to turn their talent into a business, the Orkney Creative Hub will support artists in the outer isles and bring exhibitions to the wider community.

I cannot stress enough how important this will be to Orkney and to Scotland as a whole. The Orkney Isles have a long-established creative heritage and the community has spent 10 years planning the Orkney Creative Hub. It will provide a valuable resource for the tourism industry, for local employment, and for the community.

With best regards,

Alyn Smith MEP

alyn.smith@ep.europa.eu - www.alynsmith.eu

EDINBURGH: TechCube, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL, Scotland TEL: +44 (0) 131 290 2149

BRUSSELS: ASP 04F343, European Parliament, Rue Wiertz 60, B-1047, Brussels, Belgium TEL: +32 (0) 22 84 51 87