



Dear Alex,

I hope this email finds you well. We wanted to give you an update on our 2023 activities regarding our Fellowship position.

We were able to give a Fellowship position this year to Jaden Anderson who has a strong interest in creativity and mental health in the Inverness area. Having Jaden on the team gave us new insights into societal issues within Inverness and gave him experience of exhibition set-up, facilitating an artist walk and meeting other like-minded people at a film and performance event we ran. Jaden also participated in Daylight, an LGBTQ+ youth project we ran with performance artist Gordon Douglas, which featured a trip to Edinburgh pride and the construction of a mobile performance piece for Inverness Pride. Jaden (as a young, mixed-raced, gay man from a single parent family) expressed many barriers to accessing the normal art career pathway; you can read more about Jaden's time with us here.

2023 has been something of a developmental year for us, with intensive periods of evaluation, future planning and application writing, and as such, we were unable to facilitate a second Fellowship. However, we have a placement lined up with a UHI creative writing student from January-April 2024.

Going forward we propose delivering our Internship/Fellowship opportunities so they're more closely aligned with future projects such as our Circus Associates programme. This strand of work aims to give new graduates / emerging artists the ability to establish stronger Highland peer-groups and a greater confidence in their own practice.

We really appreciate the Highland Society of London's ongoing support around younger artists, as we operate within relatively small budgets and currently 90% of our own work within Circus is voluntary. Our commitment to supporting younger artists and those from more disadvantaged backgrounds remains a core principle, and during 2024/25 we want to support a cohort of 8 emergent, Highland based artists over a year long period (this is subject to outstanding funding applications). Our work is always evolving in response to what past Fellowships have found useful; we feel this longer term approach is the right direction and hope that the Highland Society of London agrees.

Kind regards and best wishes for 2024.

Richard and the Circus team

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

<https://circus.scot/>