



Jim Hollington

Profile

Over 25 years I have helped organisations in the arts and creative industries to succeed through building partnerships with the public sector, in the UK and internationally.

I have developed and delivered strategy, led teams of specialists across the world, and built relationships that brought in millions of pounds of new funding to arts and cultural organisations.

As CEO or Chair, I have guided Dance Base and Creative Edinburgh through significant challenges, leaving them in a strong position with talented and empowered teams.

Contact

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Knowledge, Skills & Experience

- **ADVOCACY AND INFLUENCING**

Helping organisations in the arts and creative industries work effectively with policymakers, advocating for and securing public funding and policy support.

- **PARTNERSHIP BUILDING AND FUNDRAISING**

Brokering and delivering national and international partnerships between cultural organisations, the public sector, policymakers and funders to secure resource and deliver benefit for all.

- **STRATEGIC DEVELOPMENT**

Developing and delivering effective evidence-based strategies and business plans for public sector bodies and cultural organisations.

- **ORGANISATIONAL LEADERSHIP**

Leading cultural organisations through significant challenge and transformation with widely recognised positive results.

- **EDINBURGH'S FESTIVALS**

Significant experience of working in and with Edinburgh's Festivals, and with their local and national government stakeholders and public sector funders.

- **FINANCE AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT**

Experience in managing finances at an organisational level and of effectively redesigning financial models and the systems that support them.

Work Experience

● **2020 - 2024**

DANCE BASE

Chief Executive - EDINBURGH, UK

Leading Scotland's National Centre for Dance, helping dance to flourish and change lives. This includes:

- setting and delivering strategy to support professionals to develop, and to engage the public as dance participants and audiences
- leading and developing a team, including managing the succession for the founding Artistic Director
- advocacy and partnership building, including relationships with Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council and Creative Scotland
- collaborating with Edinburgh's festivals, including as a significant venue for Edinburgh Festival Fringe, supporting Edinburgh International Festival, and with Children's Festival, Jazz and Blues Festival and Hogmanay
- financial and operational management, including redesigning financial model and systems to respond to significant challenges

● **2020 - Present**

JIM HOLLINGTON ARTS & CULTURE

Proprietor

Launch clients included the Edinburgh International Festival, Culture Central. (the consortium of Birmingham's cultural organisations) and the Glasgow International Jazz Festival.

● **2018 - 2019**

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Head of External Affairs - EDINBURGH, UK

Responsible for developing the Edinburgh International Festival's long-term relationships with public sector funders and partners across the world to drive income and impact. Successful relationships included:

- core funders in Scotland (City of Edinburgh Council, Creative Scotland and the Scottish Government)
- UK Government (including DCMS, Scotland Office, Cabinet Office, Foreign Office and the Department for International Trade)
- foreign affairs departments and cultural agencies from around the world, through offices in the UK and home countries (including Canada, Italy, France, Netherlands, Ireland, China, Japan)
- the British Council, the University of Edinburgh and the BBC

2015 - 2017

BRITISH COUNCIL

Director Arts South Asia - DELHI, INDIA

Responsible for the British Council's work in the arts across Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Iran, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. This included leading on:

- regional and country arts strategies that support the development of prosperous arts sectors in South Asia and the UK
- the development of activity to deliver this, including a focus on using the arts to support positive social change, and developing leadership and skills in the sector
- a partnership with Goethe-Institut for *ARThinkSouthAsia*, developing and training arts leaders across seven countries based on the UK's *Clore Leadership Programme*
- the development of new multinational, multi partner collaborations, including *The New North and South*, a major Arts Council England-funded project to build links between ten visual arts organisations in the North of England and South Asia
- conceiving and developing *Our Shared Cultural Heritage*, a consortium of museums and youth organisations in Glasgow, London and South Asia securing over £800,000 of Heritage Lottery Fund support
- the initial concept development with Culture Central Birmingham for the collaboration project with Pakistan and Bangladesh that later became *Transforming Narratives*
- the development of a dispersed team of arts specialists across eight countries

2011 - 2015

BRITISH COUNCIL

Director Operations & Communications, Arts - LONDON, UK

- managing a portfolio of strategic relationships on behalf of the British Council, including with Arts Council England, DCMS, the British Library and the BBC
- leading the development of Shakespeare Lives and securing £4 million of government funding for new activity to mark the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare's death in 2016, in a partnership with the BFI and the BBC
- ensuring that human, financial and other resources were in place worldwide and working effectively to deliver the British Council's strategy in the arts

2009 - 2011

BRITISH COUNCIL

Deputy Director France - PARIS, FRANCE

Responsible for the design and delivery of the British Council's work in the arts, education and civil society across France.

2006 - 2009

BRITISH COUNCIL

Director South China - GUANGZHOU, CHINA

Responsible for all British Council activity across five provinces of South China, including:

- developing a strategy for all of the British Council's work in South China
- leading and developing a team of 60 full time and 60 part time staff to deliver that strategy
- developing networks at senior levels with Chinese government officials, education and arts sector organisations across South China
- managing relationship with the British Consulate-General and other UK partners present in South China

2002 - 2006

BRITISH COUNCIL

Director Arts China - SHANGHAI, CHINA

Responsible for developing and delivering arts strategy for the British Council across mainland China and Hong Kong including:

- recruiting and developing a team of arts specialists across five Chinese cities
- supporting the development of arts leadership in China, through a multi-year programme of placements
- managing the relationship with Arts Council England to deliver *Artist Links*, a four-year collaboration supporting professional development of English artists
- designing and delivering the cultural elements of *Think UK*, a year of activity in 2003 designed to build better mutual understanding between the countries

1999 - 2002

BRITISH COUNCIL

Arts & PR Manager - JAKARTA, INDONESIA

Responsible for the design and delivery of the British Council's work in the arts across Indonesia.

Other Experience

● 2018 - 2023

CREATIVE EDINBURGH

Board Member & Chair - EDINBURGH, UK

Creative Edinburgh provides networking, business support and advocacy for over 6,500 freelance creatives in Edinburgh, and receives core funding through Creative Scotland.

● 2012 - 2017

RICH MIX

Board Member - LONDON, UK

Rich Mix is a multi-arts cultural centre in East London celebrating the diverse artists and audiences of the area, including its large community of Bangladeshi heritage.
