



BAD TASTE Harrison and her Facebook cover



Quango award artist £15,000 of public money just to not leave Glasgow for whole year

WHAT A LOT OF OLD ARTS

► **AIDAN KERR**
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AN ARTIST has been given thousands of pounds of public money just to live in Glasgow for a year.

London-born Ellie Harrison has won a £15,000 grant from Scottish Government quango Creative Scotland after vowing not to leave the city for all of 2016.

But her "durational performance" – called the Glasgow Effect – has attracted furious criticism on Facebook.

Some critics called it a middle-class "poverty safari" and accused Harrison of poking fun at the city's poor diet and health record.

The Glasgow Effect is a term used to describe the poor life expectancy of working-class Glaswegians and the project's Facebook page is illustrated with a picture of chips.

Harrison, who has lived in Glasgow for several years, claims the project will allow her to "increase her sense of belonging... testing what becomes possible when she invests all her ideas, time and energy within the city where she lives".

The project's Facebook page was last night littered with abuse from angry members of the public.

"It seems very short-sighted to assume that what you're doing isn't already a reality for vast patches of the population," commented Andrew Perry.

Scott MacDougall called the project

► **Plenty of people could tell her about what it's like to be poor in Glasgow** FRANK McAVEETY



NOT IMPRESSED Artist Loki, left, and the critics on Facebook

HiFi Harry
2 hrs · 🌐

If, like me, you strongly object to this utter waste of public money, creative Scotland can be contacted on 0845 603 6000. They open tomorrow. Please call them & make a formal complaint. You can also email formal complaints to enquiries@creativescotland.com

As a director of a non profit organisation, trying to raise funds to save & renovate Scotland's oldest Kings Theatre, I find this sickening that £15k has been awarded to this. Creative opinions aside, if found to be true, ...

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Keefe McKie
21 mins · 🌐

Tell you what hen. Go and do something actually useful. Go and use this year you have free and volunteer with the refugee crisis. Not some self indulgent funded art project. Or better still use the funding to help children across the city.

Genevieve Vavance
4 hrs · 🌐

This is completely ridiculous! Staying in large city for a year is not art. It's called life. Pretentious crap!

Glasgow and not leaving the city for a year.

"If she contacts our Poverty Leadership Panel, we can put her in touch with legions of single parent families living in poverty who can tell her in minutes what it's like to be poor in Glasgow and how that affects family health and prevents you from ever getting out of the city.

"That's called the poverty trap. It shouldn't take Ellie a year to discover it."

The £15,000 is being provided by Creative Scotland through their allocation of lottery funding.

A spokeswoman said: "Ellie's project met the criteria for Open Project Funding to develop her practice and we await with interest the outcome of her project."

Harrison's past work includes installing 12 giant confetti cannons to be exploded in the event of a Yes vote in the 2014 independence referendum.

Creative Scotland have been hit with a 3.6 per cent cut to their £80million budget this year as part of Finance Secretary John Swinney's £20million slashing of the overall culture budget.

It is not the first time they have faced a backlash over their funding decisions.

In 2011, the Scottish Parliament heard how the body awarded £58,000 to fund a dance programme on the works of Alfred Hitchcock and a trip to Tonga to study Polynesian dancing.

McAveety was also sceptical about the benefit of the project.

He said: "She aims to study what is termed the Glasgow Effect – the effect that staying in the city has on much of its population.

"It's not that encouraging that the website for Ellie's project has a picture of a plate of chips with what we assume to be Ellie pointing to it.

"The poverty and health projects in Glasgow are way beyond the 'chips effect' in defining Glasgow's problems.

"Ellie's project is centred on living in

"just a paid holiday" and another Facebook user asked Harrison: "I haven't left my flat in three days, can I have some money please?"

Glaswegian artist Loki said last night: "There are thousands of artists who articulate what living in poverty is like. These artists are often marginalised.

"It's horrendously crass to parachute someone in on a poverty safari while local authorities are cutting finance to things like music tuition for Scotland's poorest kids."

Glasgow City Council leader Frank