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Dear Isle of Man Arts Council

I write in strong support of Manx Wildlife Trust's application for funding for a Biosphere Artist in Residence.

The world is experiencing climate and biodiversity emergencies that threaten our existence.

UNESCO Biospheres connect people with the issues around this and prompt interest, care and, ultimately, the actions that will reverse these emergencies.

Manx Wildlife Trust, a major stakeholder in UNESCO Biosphere Isle of Man, does an excellent job caring for, and connecting people with, nature.

However, we all engage with issues in different ways and we must strive to find new and imaginative ways to bring about this connectivity between human activity and the rest of nature.

Art is a powerful medium through which to demonstrate the value of, and challenges to, nature. It prompts people to stop, look, think and feel, which are the precursors to action.

*'Art at its most significant is a distant early warning system that can be relied on to tell the old culture what is beginning to happen' – Marshall McLuhan.*

The recent exhibition 'Ellyn: A Tale of Manx Contemporary Art', was a powerful example of this, and a Biosphere Artist in Residence in 2022 will build on this and other recent creative projects and strengthen that connection between art and us appreciating and caring for our environment.

The innovative initiative supports the following aims and ambitions in our strategy [Working Together for a Sustainable Future](#):

**Environment:**

Connect people with nature and their surroundings; help people to understand the importance of, and the



United Nations  
Educational, Scientific and  
Cultural Organization  
Isle of Man  
Biosphere Reserve since 2016  
Man and the Biosphere Programme

**WORKING TOGETHER FOR A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**

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challenges facing, nature.

**Education:**

Foster understanding of how the way we live, and the decisions we take, affect sustainability.

**Enjoyment:**

Celebrate and promote all that is special about the Isle of Man and its surrounding seas; encourage people to access and appreciate our nature, culture, heritage and community; celebrate and contribute to our 'sense of place.'

As the Isle of Man is the only entire nation Biosphere, the UNESCO MAB Programme views with great interest how we connect our community with its core functions of conservation, sustainable development and learning.

This exciting initiative also has the potential to further enhance our international reputation as a place that fully embraces the Biosphere ethos and the innovative approaches it encourages.

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Yours faithfully**

*Jo Overty*

**Jo Overty  
Project Officer.**