

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 12 November 2019

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Visit to Chengdu – Feedback from Councillor Wilson

The Convener of Culture and Communities attended the 2nd World Cultural Capitals Tianfu Symposium in Chengdu, held 23-25 July 2019, where he delivered the keynote speech. Feedback from the visit is appended to this Bulletin.

Broughton Walking Netball

Since September this year a new walking netball session has been running at Broughton Community Sports Hub, in partnership with Netball Scotland and through the Sportscotland GO LIVE! Get Active programme. Walking Netball is a great way to get more physically active, it is just like regular netball but played a little slower! The game is easy to play, even for people who have never played netball before. Feedback from the sessions has been that it is great fun and a very sociable way to improve your fitness. For more information about Walking Netball please contact Jayne at Jayne.smith@ea.edin.sch.uk



IFSC European Climbing Championships

The European Climbing Championships were held at Europe's largest indoor climbing facility, the Edinburgh International Climbing Arena (EICA), Ratho on the weekend of 5 and 6 of October. Sport Climbing will be an Olympic sport for the first time in the Tokyo Olympics next year, and this competition attracted some of Europe's top climbers in pursuit of their Olympic qualification. 179 athletes from 19 countries competed in Lead and Speed Climbing. Edinburgh climber William Bosi holds the current British record for Speed Climbing but didn't quite manage to make the podium against some very tough European competition. Watched by a sell-out crowd, the Men's Speed competition was won by Russian athlete Vladislav Deulin, who achieved a time just 0.15 seconds outside the world record. The Women's Lead Championship and the Women's Speed Championship were won by Lucka Rakovec from Slovakia and Aleksandra Miroslaw from Poland respectively. IFSC President of the European Council Wolfgang Wabel declared: "Edinburgh put on a fantastic show of climbing and paraclimbing in 2017, and they have created a proud legacy at the IFSC European Championships for Lead and Speed in 2019." The event was attended by Joe Fitzpatrick MSP, the Scottish Minister for Public Health, Sport and Wellbeing.



Photos: David Wardrop

Duke of Edinburgh Gold Expedition

Broughton High School Duke of Edinburgh Gold group completed their practice canoeing expedition in Northern Ireland on Lough Erne. The group consists of nine girls/young women and a non-binary member which is helping to address the under representation of these groups in outdoor learning opportunities.

A partnership consisting of City of Edinburgh Council, Glenmore Lodge and Bridge8 Hub is facilitating the project, and the group is busy fundraising in order to do their final expedition in Canada next year.



HSBC UK Let's Ride Cycling Event

The third Let's Ride mass participation cycling event was held in the city on Sunday 22 September in partnership with HSBC UK, British Cycling and Scottish Cycling. Despite the threat of rain, the event was once again a huge success, with 7,500 people cycling around the traffic-free loop which started and finished in the Meadows. A cycling-themed event village was set up in the Meadows, and there was plenty for families to take part in, including daring demonstrations of extraordinary bike skills, and challenging cycling courses for children to have go on. There was also a variety of stalls and stations displaying bike-related activities, including free bike maintenance, information and advice on cycle routes in the city, and Just Eat bikes available to hire on the day.



Sportscotland and SAMH Launch Partnership

Tynecastle High School hosted the launch of a new partnership between Sportscotland and SAMH (Scottish Association for Mental Health) on Mental Health Awareness day, Thursday 10 October. Sportscotland is the national agency for sport and SAMH is tackling the barriers that prevent people with mental health problems from improving their physical fitness. The partnership aims to further their combined work to promote good mental health through sport and physical activity. Sir Chris Hoy is the leading Ambassador for SAMH and he posed for photographs, interacted with pupils and was interviewed by the BBC. Our thank go to Tynecastle High School for hosting and to Active Schools Co-ordinator Ricky Karoyan for organising the event.



Outdoor Learning Challenge



During September 2019, the City of Edinburgh Council Outdoor Learning Team, in partnership with Dynamic Earth and Historic Environment Scotland, organised and delivered the Outdoor Learning Challenge at Holyrood Park. This was spread over two days with three clear aims:

- to provide free outdoor learning provision to P6 pupils (excluding transport);
- to showcase Outdoor Learning providers/supporters working in and around Edinburgh; and
- to inspire and demonstrate to school staff how they can take the curriculum outdoors, including low cost solutions.

Just under 2400 City of Edinburgh P6 pupils from two special and 47 primary schools attended. 38 separate partner organisations contributed to the activities/ stations over the course of the whole event; between them running 60 different stations over the two days. This included a number of stations involving physical activity and significant support from our colleagues in the Sports Team. A twilight workshop was held for around 200 attendees, providing the opportunity to gain new ideas and meet providers. A number of schools walked or used public transport to get to the event. This showcased affordable and environmentally sustainable outdoor learning.

Active Girls Day

Active Girls Day was on Friday 4 October. 170 girls from S1 at Forrester High School and P7 at Broomhouse, Carrick Knowe, Gylemuir and Murrayburn Primaries took part in Kin-ball, netball, football, judo, cheerleading, gymnastics and glow stick aerobics. The activities were run by Community Sport Hub clubs, Forrester HS Girls Ambassadors and PE staff. One P7 teacher said 'It's great to see girls who don't normally enjoy sports, taking part, having fun, and enjoying the activities'. The girls received information on how they can get more active locally and several have already taken up these opportunities. For Active Girls Day our sports ambassadors in primary and high school as well as some of our female coaches stated why they want more girls to get involved in sport and physical activity and its benefits. The link to this video is <https://video214.com/play/MhUrLnhEWkaTU49Boy85pA/s/dark>



Sports Academy Success

Qing Yang won the U11 National ladies singles title on Sunday 6 October 2019 at Scotstoun Sports Centre in Glasgow. She follows Julie MacPherson who was the first City of Edinburgh Council Sports Academy player to win this title. Qing is a member of the development squad and she played outstanding to win! A former Academy player, Ingrid Wang, won the ladies doubles with Qing as well!! Congratulations to Qing and Ingrid!



Link below of winners:

<http://www.badmintonscotland.org.uk/news/2019/october/u11-national-champions-are-crowned/>

Active Girls Day – Tennis Skillz Programme

On Friday 4 October 2019, we celebrated ACTIVE GIRLS DAY!

Activities took place across Scotland at various venues, clubs, schools and sports hubs - celebrating the amazing work going into girls' sport, the progress around girls' participation, and the incredible role models making it happen. Within our Sports Development Team we have a Racquets Development Officer who currently works with a group of P4 girls within the Tennis Skillz programme. The girls received Tennis Skillz taster sessions within their schools last year and then were invited to attend the Pre-Development Squad as the first stage in their development pathway. The programme is delivered in partnership with Tennis Scotland.



Whale Arts kids (Our Edinburgh) – Exhibited at the Scottish Parliament

In the spring of 2018 Learning in Museums and Galleries Edinburgh collaborated with Whale Arts in Wester Hailes. Local photographers partnered with our learning team and worked with the kids of Whale Arts to photograph parts of the City focusing on their immediate area in Wester Hailes. This resulted in an exhibition called My Edinburgh showing the children's unique view of the City. It was shown at the Museum of Edinburgh in the spring summer of 2018. We have an established partnership with Jessops who produced the exhibition for us, covering all costs. The exhibition is now touring and is currently exhibited at the Scottish Parliament.

Beneath the Surface Exhibition

Beneath the Surface – 16 November 2019 to 1 March 2020, City Art Centre

Beneath the Surface features work by nine contemporary artists - Sara Brennan, Michael Craik, Eric Cruikshank, Kenneth Dingwall, Callum Innes, Alan Johnston, James Lumsden, Karlyn Sutherland and Andrea Walsh. Each of them articulates a minimalist aesthetic through abstraction in their work, ranging from constructions, drawings and paintings to ceramics, glass and tapestry.

Beneath the Surface is accompanied by a catalogue with an insightful essay on the history of Scottish abstract art by Kenneth Dingwall. The exhibition continues this narrative by showcasing a group of contemporary artists currently working in Scotland in the field of minimal abstraction.



From left to right:

Eric Cruikshank, *Untitled 1*, 2019. © the artist

Andrea Walsh, *Collection of Contained Boxes - Clear Frit, White and Clear*, 2018. © the artist. Photography by Shannon Tofts

Karlyn Sutherland, *Artist's Residence, Toyama (3)*, 2019. © the artist

Michael Craik, *Vestige 2019_44*, 2019. © the artist



From left to right:

James Lumsden, *Fugue (30/11)*, 2011. © the artist

Sara Brennan, *Old Grey Band I (Series I)*, 2019. © the artist. Photography by Shannon Tofts

Kenneth Dingwall, *For Paul Overy*, 2018. © the artist

Callum Innes, *Exposed Painting, Charcoal Black/ Red Oxide*, 2000. © the artist

Alan Johnston, *Untitled*, 2014-15. © the artist

Beneath the Surface Exhibition

Associated Events Programme – Workshops/Events

Booking is essential. To book any of these events, or for more information, please visit www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk or contact the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993.

Saturday 11 January 2020, 2.00pm - *In Conversation*

Saturday 25 January 2020, 10.30am - 3.30pm - *Personal Narrative and Mindful Stitch*

Sunday 26 January 2020, 10.30am - 3.30pm - *Landscape Abstractions: A Window of Memory*

Sunday 2 February 2020, 10.00am – 4.00pm - *A line, a strip, a field of colour: Tapestry Masterclass*

Saturday 15 February 2020, 2.00pm - *BSL Interpreted Tour*

Friday 28 February 2020, 10.30am - 3.30pm - *Minimalism in Focus: Subtraction and Extraction*

Saturday 29 February 2020, 10.30am - 3.30pm - *Ways into Abstraction: Printmaking Workshop*

Edinburgh selected as a Creative Climate City

The World Cities Culture Forum has launched a new report celebrating 14 cities across the world becoming smarter and more sustainable with culture as their driver. The report celebrates good practice, highlighting creative climate initiatives across four thematic areas: policy and strategy; resource and support; partnerships and innovation; and creative programmes and campaigns. The report, published in partnership with Julie's Bicycle, illustrates creative climate initiatives across the four thematic areas. Edinburgh has been selected as one of the 14 Creative Climate Cities, in recognition of the work done in the cultural sector to promote sustainability, as well as its status as the third most sustainable city in the world (Sustainable Cities Index 2018). Edinburgh has a well-deserved reputation for connecting creative and climate action across the city, much of it driven by Creative Carbon Scotland (CCS), a charity which exists to embed environmental action within the cultural sector. CCS receives in-kind financial support from the Culture Service and the Culture Team worked together with CCS to pull together information for this report. The report, which can be accessed via this [link](#), points to areas of good practice and suggests area for future policy development, such as collaboration across Council departments and further training and development opportunities for cultural professionals.

Victoria Crowe: 50 Years of Painting

Mesmerising”; “Inspirational”; “a pure joy”

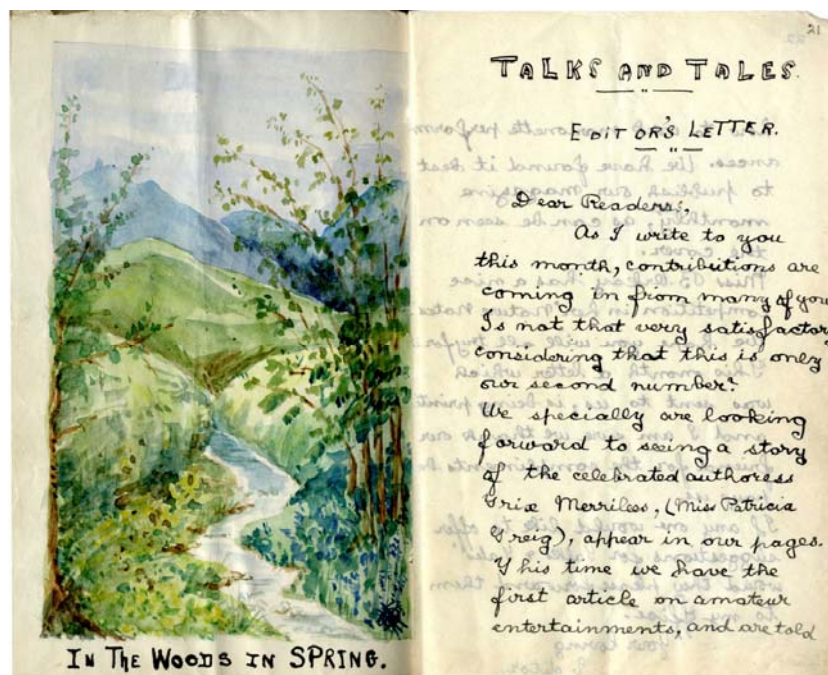
This year’s summer exhibition at the City Art Centre has now closed. It has been a fantastic success, garnering five-star reviews from the press and being hailed by many visitors as one of the standout exhibitions of 2019. The display comprised of over 150 loans from 77 public and private collections throughout the UK and America. During the run almost 40,000 visitors came to the gallery, museums staff delivered 105 public events ranging from lectures and guided tours to creative writing workshops and a fashion show, and coordinated a schools programme that included 33 full day workshops for Edinburgh Primary Schools. Over 1400 catalogues were sold together with thousands of postcards and other retail goods, and well over a thousand comments have been left in our visitors book (with one guest recording they had visited 11 times!). The exhibition had been over two years in the planning, and would not have happened without the tremendous support of the artist herself, her husband Mike, and staff at the Scottish Gallery.



Image caption: Victoria Crowe, Italian Reflections, City of Edinburgh Museums and Galleries

Talks and Tales: the childhood writing of Christine Orr - 21 August 2019 - 22 March 2020

Edinburgh author, Christine Orr (1899-1963) published her first novel, *The Glorious Thing*, at the age of just 19 and 2019 marks the centenary of the publication. She went on to write poems, plays and a further 17 novels, as well as working for BBC Radio. Orr also founded three theatre groups in Edinburgh and her company, *The Christine Orr Players*, became known as one of the 'uninvited eight' who performed 'on the fringes' of the first International Festival and initiated the Festival Fringe. For the first time, some of Christine Orr's childhood writing and personal possessions from the Museum of Childhood's collection will be on display, highlighting the precocious talent of this once well-known writer.



Fair Fringe and Fair Hospitality Charter – Effectiveness of Charter

During the summer Festivals, work has continued with the Council's venues and those registered by the Fringe to ensure fair working practices are in place. For the Council's venues and those across the wider city, this is the [Edinburgh Festivals Workers' Welfare Commitment](#); for those venues registered with the Fringe it is the Fringe Society's [Guidance on Good Employment Practice](#). The Fringe Society has also produced a [list of venues](#) whose employment practices are aligned with their Good Employment guidelines, which includes the Council's venues. The Festival Fringe Society will complete their independent survey of Fringe workers in 2020, providing an update on the employment conditions since the implementation of the sets of guidance. This will be reported to the Committee in the autumn of 2020.

Scottish Album of the Year Award – Assembly Rooms

On 7 September the Assembly Rooms was abuzz as Vic Galloway and Nicola Meighan announced the 2019 Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) award was won by Auntie Flo. In its debut Edinburgh outing, the SAY award brought a sold out crowd of nationwide music fans, artists and industry professionals to the capital, showcasing both the city, the venue and the breadth of talent coming from across the nation. The night was hailed as a great success by all in attendance. Robert Kilpatrick, General Manager of the Scottish Music Industry Association said: “A huge congratulations to Auntie Flo for winning 2019’s Scottish Album of the Year (SAY) Award for the incredible ‘Radio Highlife’. This was chosen from 293 eligible albums submitted. This year’s campaign saw 293 eligible albums submitted, the highest number of any SAY Award campaign to date. Not only does this highlight the fact that Scotland’s recorded output is in great health, but it also shows that in spite of being in the age of algorithm-driven playlists, the album as a format still deeply matters to both artists and music fans. Albums remain the best delivery mechanism for artists to truly showcase their creative output and artistic identity. I’m incredibly proud that year-on-year, the SAY Award continues to go from strength to strength, showcasing the undeniable talent and diversity of Scottish artists and illuminating our music scene with the ambition, credibility and commitment it so richly deserves. A huge congratulations to each of this year’s Shortlisted artists on outstanding album releases, and thank you for playing such an important part in Scotland’s ever-evolving and inspiring cultural identity as a nation.” There was a packed house to listen to some lovely music throughout the evening from some of the nominees and also from other bands like Cucina Povera, Heir of the Cursed, LYLO and Man of Moon. The audience of artists and industry along with music fans partied the night away in the Assembly Rooms Ballroom where there were DJ sets to keep them entertained. The winner’s prize is £20,000, with the runners-up all receiving £1,000 alongside a commemorative award curated by Local Heroes. They commissioned Edinburgh artist Emma McDowall who created the totems based on inspiration from Salisbury Crags.

Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Usher Hall highlights during September, October and November included:



Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone In Concert - 13 September 2019

Ant Middleton – Mind Over Muscle - 21 September 2019

Britten-Shostakovich Festival Orchestra - 22 September 2019

Pixies - 23 September 2019

Hozier - 25 September 2019

Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

SCO: Leleux conducts Brahms and Dvorak - 26 September 2019

BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra: Mahler Symphony No. 5 - 29 September 2019

Bill Callahan - 1 October 2019

Keane - 2 October 2019

RSNO Season Opener: Strauss & Mahler One - 4 October 2019

Diversity – Born Ready - 5 October 2019



SCO: Mozart's Requiem- 10 October 2019

RSNO Rachmaninov Piano concerto No3 - 11 October 2019

Daniel O'Donnell – Gold Hits Tour - 12 October 2019

Sunday Classics: Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra - 13 October 2019

RSNO Shostakovich Ten - 18 October 2019

License to thrill: The Music of Bond - 19 October 2019

Havana Moon - 23 October 2019

Mike McGeary and Friends - 25 October 2019

Will Young - 26 October 2019

Children's Classic Concerts: Weird Science - 27 October 2019

Sunday Classic: Flanders Symphony Orchestra - 27 October 2019

Marina – Love + Fear Tour Part 2 - 28 October 2019

Ludovico Einaudi - 29 October 2019

RSNO Saint Saens' Organ Symphony - 1 November 2019

The Australian Pink Floyd - 2 November 2019

A Evening With The Tallest Man on Earth - 3 November 2019

Forthcoming events:

Rival Sons - 6 November 2019

Vampire Weekend - 7 November 2019

RSNO The Lark Ascending - 8 November 2019

Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events



Wet Wet Wet - 9 November 2019

Sunday Classic: Prague Symphony Orchestra - 10 November 2019

The Forth Awards - 14 November 2019

Jack Savoretti - 15 November 2019

Karine Polwart - 16 November 2019

Emeli Sande - 17 November 2019

Calexico and Iron & Wine + Lisa O'Neill - 18 November 2019

Adam Ant - 19 November 2019

SCO: Beethoven Symphonies Nos 1 and 3 'Eroica' - 21 November 2019



RSNO Tchaikovsky's Pathetique - 22 November 2019

Now That's What I Call The 80's Live - 23 November 2019

The Scottish National Jazz Orchestra in concert with Jazzmeia Horn - 24 November 2019

Steve Hackett – Genesis Revisited Tour 2019 - 25 November 2019

Sigrid - 26 November 2019

Worby and Farrell - Masquerade - 28 November 2019

RSNO at the Movies: Danny Elfman Gala - 28 November 2019

The Twilight Sad - 30 November 2019



Rhiannon Giddens with Francesco Turrisi - 1 December 2019

Snow Patrol - 2 and 3 December 2019

Usher Hall Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Lewis Capaldi - 5 December 2019

RSNO: The Nutcracker and the Mouse King - 6 December 2019

Bootleg Beatles - 11 December 2019

SCO: Beethoven Symphonies Nos 2, 4 and 5 - 12 December 2019

RSNO: Nicola Benedetti - 13 December 2019

Love Actually Live on Screen - 15 December 2019

Dermot Kennedy - 16 December 2019



A Christmas Wish - 19 December 2019

Now That's What I Call Christmas - 21 December 2019

RSNO at the Movies: The Snowman - 22 December 2019

Ronnie Spector & the Ronettes - 23 December 2019

The Music of Zimmer vs Williams - 28 December 2019

G4 Christmas 2019 - 29 December 2019

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra – Hogmanay Celebration - 30 December 2019

For full details of these events please visit the website – [here](#).

Assembly Rooms Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Assembly Rooms highlights during September, October and November included:



Justin Hayward: The Voice of The Moody Blues - 8 September 2019

The Music of Cream: 50th Anniversary World Tour - 5 October 2019

Singalong Shenanigans - 6 October 2019

Kate Rusby - 11 October 2019

Assembly Rooms Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Preloved Vintage Kilo Sale - 12 October 2019

The Scottish Listed Property Show - 26 October 2019

Startup Summit 2019 - 30 October 2019

Forthcoming events:

European Outdoor Film Tour 2019/20 - 10 November 2019

Jo Sarsby Management presents Animal Families and Me with Gordon Buchanan - 22 November 2019



Fane productions: My Last Supper with Jay Rayner - 23 November 2019

3D2D Christmas Craft, Art and Design Fair - 7 and 8 December 2019

AbbaMania - 12 December 2019

Baby Loves Disco - 15 December 2019

Hogmanay Snow Ball Ceilidh - 31 December 2019

Edinburgh Wellbeing Festival – 1 – 2 February 2020



For full details of these events please visit the website – [here](#).

Ross Bandstand Highlights

Ross Bandstand highlights during September and October included:

Fly Open Air – 21 and 22 September 2019

Diwali - 26 October 2019



Church Hill Theatre Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Church Hill Theatre highlights during September, October and November included:



Showcase 2019: Supporting Macmillan Cancer Support - 17 - 21 September 2019

Edinburgh Gay Men's Chorus present One and Other Numbers - 5 October 2019

Blackwell's Edinburgh present How to: An Evening with Randall Monroe - 10 October 2019

The Edinburgh Gilbert & Sullivan Society (EDGAS) present Rodgers and Hammerstein's Carousel – 23 – 26 October 2019

Allegro Musical Productions present Made in Dagenham - 29 October - 2 November 2019

Forthcoming events:

The Cycling Podcast: Grand Tour 2019 - 27 November 2019

Church Hill Theatre Highlights and Forthcoming Events

Balerno Theatre Company present Hairspray - 4 - 7 December 2019

Edinburgh People's Theatre present Aladdin by Ben Crocker, the Pantomime - 13 - 21 December 2019



For full details of these events please visit the website – [here](#).

Completion of “Dressed for Success” costume storage upgrade project



Edinburgh Museums and Galleries' 'Dressed For Success' project was completed in early October. The project aimed to move more than 300 items in our exceptional costume collection from unsuitable storage at the People's Story to the Museum Collections Centre in Broughton. The outcomes are a better stored collection that safeguards the costumes for the future, better access for visitors and research, and enabling curators to increase their use of costume material in exhibitions and events. The project was funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, and led by Collections Care Officer Gwen Thomas and History Curator Vicky Garrington.

Completion of “Dressed for Success” costume storage upgrade project

A team of volunteers and staff updated each item’s catalogue record, before a thorough condition check and basic cleaning were carried out where required. Items were then re-housed in acid-free boxes with individually-designed padding. Over 300 items from 18th century dresses to 1940s suits and ceremonial robes to pantomime costumes, have been processed during the project. Other benefits of the ‘Dressed For Success’ project are that six volunteers have been trained to condition check and pack costume in line with conservation best practice. Two volunteers have enjoyed the work so much that they are planning further study in costume history and textile conservation. The project has been shared extensively on social media, creating greater awareness of the costume collection and our service as a whole.

Lauriston Castle Programme

For more than 400 years, enchanting Lauriston Castle has overlooked the River Forth at Silverknowes, near Cramond. Set among 30 acres of woodland and beautiful gardens, Lauriston Castle is a special place to visit. The Castle itself has a beautiful Edwardian interior, from which we take inspiration for many of our workshops. Downstairs are the servants’ quarters, including the maids’ hall and the atmospheric old kitchen, where a warm welcome awaits you during the winter months.

Booking

Pre-booking and advance payment are essential for all events. Methods of booking:

Online – visit the website at

www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk

Telephone - telephone the City Art Centre on 0131 529 3993 (Monday to Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm)

In person – visit the City Art Centre, 2 Market Street, Edinburgh EH1 1DE (Monday to Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm)

For full details of all events please visit our website – [here](#), or contact Margaret Findlay, Learning and Programmes Manager for further information (by email at

Margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk or by telephone on 0131 529 3963.



EVENTS:

Lectures

Tuesday 12 November 2019, 10.30am - *Liketh, Loveth, Getteth and Useth Maps*

Thursday 14 November 2019, 10.30am - *The Lost Medieval Towers of Edinburgh Castle*

Wednesday 20 November 2019, 10.30am - *Grantont, the Home of Dukes, Earls and Lords*

Tuesday 26 November 2019, 10.30am - *The Making of a 21st century Edinburgh Castle – Fortress, Barracks, Monument and Commodity*

Thursday 28 November 2019, 10.30am - *The Struggle for Constantinople*

Tuesday 3 December 2019, 10.30am - *Mary Cameron: Life in Paint*

Costumed Performance

Sunday 15 December 2019, 2.00pm and 3.00pm - *It is Christmas at the Castle in 1910*

Special Events for Families

Sunday 1 December 2019, 10.00am–1.00pm - *A Family Enchanted Christmas*

Saturday 7 December 2019, 2.00pm - *Christmas Ghost Stories*

Saturday 21 December 2019, 10.00am-10.45am or 12.00pm-12.45pm - *Magic Show: Christmas Tricks*

Special Events for Adults

Sunday 24 November 2019, 2.00pm - *Charles Dickens' The Haunted House*

Sunday 8 December 2019, 3.00pm - *Christmas with Bel Canto*

Adult Craft Workshops

Saturday 23 November 2019, 10.30am-3.30pm - *Sparkling hand-made Christmas cards*

Wednesday 4 December 2019, 10.30am-3.30pm - *Christmas Felt garlands and Country Bunting*

Thursday 5 December 2019, 10.30am-3.30pm - *Personalised Christmas Stockings*

Friday 13 December 2019, 10.30am-3.30pm - *Cranberry Scandinavian Wreaths and Ivy Garlands*

Saturday 14 December 2019, 10.30am–3.00pm - *Green Wreaths*

Sunday 15 December 2019, 10.30am–3.00pm - *Fresh Wreaths*

Friday 20 December 2019, 10.30am-12.30pm or 1.30pm-3.30pm - *Enchanted 3D Christmas Pictures*

Family Workshops

Saturday 22 December 2019, 10.30am–1.00pm - *A Crafting Family Christmas*

The King's Progress

Managed by Capital Theatres, the King's Theatre redevelopment continues apace. It is, of course, a complex, historical, ambitious building project on a restricted site.

The Project's Objectives are to:

1. modernize, preserve and showcase the theatre's heritage;
2. transform access to achieve equality of experience for all;
3. re-energize the artistic programme by attracting a greater breadth and the best available local, national and international productions;
4. create a transformed, highly enjoyable, theatre-going and visitor experience; and
5. create an enabling environment to foster lifelong cultural engagement.

Recent developments include an updated cost plan for the concept design stage, and realignment of the initial aspirational designs to fit the budget, which of course happens with many ambitious capital redevelopment projects. With careful focus on design priorities, the final budget has been agreed at £25m. Capital Theatres remain confident that the final project budget is achievable, particularly in light of active funding interest already generated to date. The project is on track for a 2021 start.

Transformation will still be achieved with radical improvements visible throughout. There will be improvements to the streetscape and sense of place that the King's takes in Tollcross. Opening up the façade will provide new sightlines in and out of the building showing an active and dynamic space open throughout the day. Opening up the bars and front of house circulation spaces will make wayfinding much more intuitive and the building much easier to use.

The updated design will:

- radically improve circulation and access with two new front of house lifts and stairwells servicing all floors;
- transform the stage house with a flat stage, new flying system and increased height in the fly-tower, to meet the modern demands of existing producers as well as supplement the repertoire with additional work;
- deliver a new Learning and Participation space at high level, albeit with a reduced capacity for performance, a new café space to draw people in during the day and a new Stalls bar to improve commercial capability;
- deliver the hospitality and event space in a new flexible space between Dress and Upper Circle levels, rather than on the roof which offers much better access during an interval;

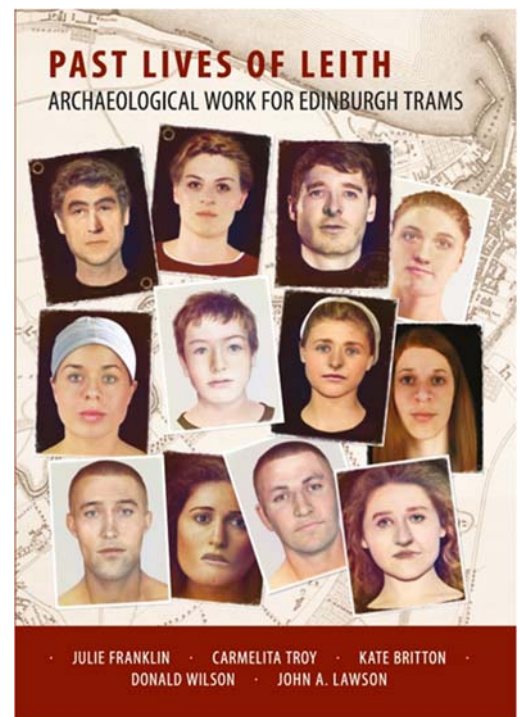
The King's Progress

- largely refurbished Dressing Room block rather than being completely rebuilt, ensuring a better use of available space; and
- provide a revised front of house production lighting scheme which will be housed in a new suite above the control position.

The city therefore can look forward to a transformed King's Theatre which offers both the traditional and beloved theatre-going experience and atmosphere, whilst ensuring the most attractive, modern and user-friendly experiences both front of house and backstage. A theatre set for a fantastic future.

Past Lives of Leith – Archaeological Work for Edinburgh Trams

The archaeological investigations in Leith and beyond in preparation for Edinburgh's new tram network provided an unprecedented opportunity to find and compare remains over a wide area. This section of the proposed tram route cut a line the length of Leith Walk and Constitution Street, from the edge of old Edinburgh, through the land between and across the breadth of early Leith to the point where it met the Firth of Forth. Along the way it has re-written the accepted history of Leith's Parish Church of St Mary's by discovering that its graveyard pre-dates its foundation by over a century. It has found evidence for the dramatic events of 1560 when the Reformation came crashing into the Scottish establishment and also evidence of the 'lost' medieval Chapel of Greenside. It also, rather poetically, uncovered evidence for Edinburgh's early cable tram network. Leith has a long and proud history as a community and as Edinburgh's port. This project has helped to illuminate that history and above all to illuminate its people. The remains of 388 people were recovered over the course of the works making to date the largest excavation yet undertaken on a medieval urban cemetery in Edinburgh. Archaeological Forensic analysis has let their stories be told while a series of facial reconstructions has allowed us to look again upon the faces of the people who lived, worked and died there over five centuries ago. An exhibition is currently on show in the Museum of Edinburgh and runs until 8 December 2019 and a book has been produced associated with the project. This project is also being discussed in a session at the Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders Archaeology Conference 2019 on Saturday 16 November.



St Andrews Fair Saturday – 30 November 2019

Council signed up to St Andrew's Fair Saturday Movement - Saturday 30 November 2019

The City of Edinburgh Council has joined the Scottish Government in support of St Andrew's Fair Saturday which is Scotland's contribution to the Fair Saturday movement. Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan is leading the initiative in Edinburgh with the ambition of having all Edinburgh's cultural providers display their support. The Fair Saturday initiative first emerged in Bilbao, Spain in 2017 and aims to "positively respond to the commercialism of Black Friday by delivering a festival of arts/cultural each of which makes a contribution to their chosen social cause". Councillor McNeese-Mechan has encouraged all the Council's cultural partners to support this worthy cause by registering existing cultural activity on the Fair Saturday website

<https://standrews.fairsaturday.org/> and displaying the Logo. Thousands of cultural organisations across Scotland, the UK and the world have now signed up. Councillor McNeese-Mechan would also like to encourage you to make contact directly with the St Andrew's Fair Saturday staff to hear more about what the ambition for the movement is. The contact based in Edinburgh is Marina Landabaso, Project Manager UK, marina@fairsaturday.org.



The Future Management and Ownership of Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve

Easter Craiglockhart Hill Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is maintained by the Council in partnership with the Friends of Easter Craiglockhart Hill (FECH). In 2018, the group secured £45,000 from the Big Lottery to appoint a Community Engagement Officer for three years, which has enabled an increase in community-led management and reduction of direct works by Council officers. 9.71ha of woodland owned by Craighouse Partnership was transferred to the Council on 30 May 2018 along with the sum £150,000 to manage these. The site management plan has recently been updated to include this, with an extension of the LNR boundary to include the woodlands planned for next year. A stakeholder analysis was undertaken in 2013 to gauge public opinion on how future management/ownership of the LNR should operate. 86% of respondents indicated a preference for Council to continue to own and lead management, a third supporting potential community ownership at some future point. Over the next few years FECH wish to reconsider community ownership as one of a range of possible options, also including status quo, a service level agreement with budget devolution, and a lease arrangement. Viability would be dependent on enhancing capacity and land management skills, a sustainable Business Plan, and on community approval following another community consultation exercise. This would likely take place after the summer of 2021 when the Big Lottery Scotland funding for the Community Engagement Officer expires.

Proposal for a Conscientious Objectors Memorial in West Princes Street Gardens

In October 2018 the Transport and Environment Committee agreed to support the construction of a memorial to Conscientious Objectors in West Princes Street Gardens. The proposed memorial will take the bronze form of a Handkerchief Tree, with a granite gabion seat. Nearly £60,000 has now been raised by the memorial sponsors towards the project budget of £167,773 and a pre-application submission is being drafted for consideration by Planning. A location midway between the Ross Fountain and Ross Theatre is favoured, although this may be subject to alteration.

Libraries Week – Celebrating Libraries in a Digital World

This year Libraries Week, 7-12 October celebrated libraries in a digital world. Public and school libraries joined in this nationwide celebration of Libraries with events and activities offered to get library users participating in a digital world, showcasing the amazing range of digital resources our customers have access to at <https://yourlibrary.edinburgh.gov.uk/web/arena/a-z-eresources>. A computer was not always necessary as some of our younger users learnt the basics of coding by making binary bead bracelets. There was also the opportunity for Bee-Bot Robot fun, programming bees to guide them along paths and mazes and introductions to Micro-bits using pocket-sized computers to create simple games. Participants also had the opportunity to try stop motion animation, game programming and experience VR courtesy of the BBC's innovative Virtual Reality programme. In addition to all the events for children and young people there were lots of opportunities for customers to learn about all the great services for downloading the latest magazines, newspapers, books and audiobooks to their own phone or tablet. The Week was a great opportunity for Libraries to highlight the range of activities and services offered to customers all year round.

The Pentlands Book Festival – 13 October – 30 November 2019

Now in its 5th year, the Pentlands Book Festival is organised by and for the Pentland community in conjunction with the library service. The festival brings an eclectic mix of events with something for everybody - from the acclaimed Scots Makar Jackie Kay to the comedy and murderous thoughts of Denzil Meyrick and Craig Robertson. The popular scientific supper and Local Author's event are back, and there are visits to the School of Scottish Studies celebrating Hamish Henderson's centenary and an historical walk along the Balerno Branch line with model railway display and exhibition. There are also two free workshops – one on writing and one on book illustration. Further information about what is happening at the Festival can be found [here](#).

Libraries Week – Deputy First Minister Visits School Library Mental Health Project



Deputy First Minister John Swinney visited The Royal High on Thursday 10 October to learn about an innovative school library project aimed at tackling mental health issues and promoting positive mental wellbeing among teenagers. The visit coincided with Libraries Week (7- 12 October) and provided the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills with the opportunity to see the impact of how the School Library Improvement Fund (SLIF) has been invested. Mr Swinney met with school library staff and pupils from four Edinburgh schools involved in Escape, Connect, Relate, which aims to improve the wellbeing of young people through bibliotherapy, a therapeutic approach that uses literature to promote positive mental health. The project received £18,100 from the SLIF in 2018 following a joint bid from The Royal High, Craigroyston, Liberton and Gracemount secondary schools. Funding allowed school librarians and pupils to create a toolkit on how to support pupils with bibliotherapy, including links to resources. A bibliotherapist worked with the schools to develop story cafes, reading dogs and 'readaxation' sessions. The next round of successful SLIF bids will be announced in the coming weeks.

This year's Libraries Week celebrated the role of libraries in the digital world and, during his visit, Mr Swinney also launched the school libraries Professional Learning Community (PLC) on Education Scotland's online platform Glow, the national intranet for Scotland's schools. The PLC provides school librarians with a digital networking forum to share ideas and information, which is particularly important for the school librarian community as many of them are lone workers. Both initiatives have been driven by and meet the strategic aims of the national school library strategy, Thriving Libraries, Vibrant Schools. A total of £550,000 has so far been awarded from the £1 million SLIF to improve the school library sector. It was launched in 2017 and is administered by the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) on behalf of the Scottish Government.

Tabletop Games Club

Muirhouse library run a weekly Tabletop Games Club in conjunction with Craigroyston High School library for S1/2 students. Each Thursday a session is run in the school library at lunchtime, playing small scale games and model painting. The schools session sees 15 kids, both boys and girls, taking part which is the maximum for the session. A two hour session is also run in Muirhouse library on Friday afternoons, where kids can play larger games or take more time to paint models. There is a core group of six kids who attend every week with several other joining in occasionally. The kids being attracted by this are generally those who have been recognised by their school as those struggling to make friends, have issues with social situations or are in supported learning classes because they have additional needs. Having this outlet where they can engage with others has been a great benefit to them. From the libraries point of view, this has given the service a way to engage kids we wouldn't normally see and continue to broaden the use groups.

Wester Hailes Celebrates #Apollo50



On the 20 July, Wester Hailes Library hosted Mooniversary, a special drop-in event to commemorate 50 years since the Apollo 11 Moon landing. Children (and their adults) who came along started out by brushing up on their Apollo knowledge with a scavenger hunt around the Children's Library and then moved on to study the Moon itself with genuine meteorites, a 3d printer recreating the Copernicus crater, and by making lunar surfaces with marbles, flour, cocoa powder and a lot of enthusiasm. Once the hands-on science was done, the children went to make straw rockets and tissue paper stained glass pictures of the Moon.

Wester Hailes Celebrates #Apollo50

Over 30 children and adults took part in the Mooniversary and everyone went home happy and covered in flour. Mooniversary was the first full day event as part of the library's new FUNgineers programme which aims to get kids aged 4+ engaging with STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) topics in a fun, accessible way. FUNgineers ran weekly on Fridays at 3pm for the summer period and is continuing, alternating with Tiger Tales.



Baby STEM at Muirhouse

Muirhouse Library have been running a Baby STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) event after their weekly Bookbug session. After a one-off event received great feedback, they decided to make this a regular part of their programme. Not only have we noticed that Baby STEM builds on the skills we encourage in Bookbug, but also it builds on some other skills too such as:

- Hand eye coordination
- Shape and Colour recognition
- Matching and Counting
- Taking Turns
- Social development with other children
- Adult-children interaction

From Baby STEM, we have seen children develop from struggling to find the right part when prompted and having difficulty with the fine motor control needed to put the blocks together to being able to follow the flash cards and build everything themselves!

Other Library News

Dog Friendly Day

Central, Oxfords and Stockbridge launched their first ever dog friendly day on Thursday 3 October. Ten dogs visited across the libraries, including Liam who came to Central Library with his human Nicole who joined the library because she could bring her dog. There was lots of media coverage including a spot on STV news and an article in the Edinburgh Evening News.

Doors Open

Fountainbridge Library took part in Doors Open Day this year on 28 September. Three tours of the library during the day were led by the National Galleries' Senior Curator Alice Strang who is a very knowledgeable and passionate regular user of the library.

Macmillan Information and Support

Our five Macmillan Information and Support Service points held in Craigmillar, Portobello, Leith, Morningside and Drumbrae Libraries joined in for the World's Biggest Coffee Mornings on Monday 23 to Friday 27 September. We raised £535, saw over 150 people and engaged with 12 people on a one to one basis who required support from the service.

Central Library

We have a group of 19 very enthusiastic 3rd Year Architecture Students who, as part of their course work, are working on a project to look at Central Library's place in the built environment and how it has been adapted over time. We are looking forward to seeing the results of their work in December.

Central Library contributed to the celebrations of the longstanding partnership between Edinburgh and Krakow on Saturday 21 September by holding a Polish Bookbug session, which was attended by the Polish Ambassador. Central Library also played host to two workshop sessions for children, one in Polish and one in English.

Green Pencil Competition

Entries have been arriving for Green Pencil, the Edinburgh Libraries annual environmentally-themed writing competition. This year's theme is "Going, Going, Gone - Scottish Wildlife in Danger?" and was launched at Blackhall library by Vivien French – who held a writing workshop with children from Davidson's Mains Primary School.

October Break

Events for children and young people happened at various Edinburgh Libraries during the October break. Highlights included Spanish classes at Craigmillar Library, Owl crafts at Moredun, Spooky crafts at Sighthill and Ratho and a daily autumn themed craft at Gilmerton and South Neighbourhood Libraries.

Coverage of Culture in the Media

A selection of stories that have appeared in the media:

Date	Item	Link
7 September 2019	Galleries: Don't Miss: Italian Connection (City Art Centre)	https://www.heraldscotland.com/arts_ents/17887564.galleries-alberta-whittle-flexible-can-make-mouth/
7 and 9 September 2019	Scottish Album of the Year Awards	https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-49620044 https://completemusicupdate.com/article/auntie-flo-wins-scottish-album-of-the-year-award/
8 September 2019	Event listing: A Magical Christmas (Museum of Childhood)	https://www.list.co.uk/event/1391483-a-magical-christmas/559-museum-of-childhood-edinburgh/
9 September 2019	The complete Edinburgh itinerary: 3 days in Edinburgh (Writers' Museum, People's Story Museum, Museum of Childhood, Museum of Edinburgh)	https://theplanetd.com/edinburgh-itinerary-3-days/
10 September 2019	Interview with Susan Gardner about Talks and Tales - the childhood writings of Christine Orr. (Uploaded approx. 14:20)	https://www.facebook.com/ThatsTVHeadlineNews/
17 September 2019	At Museum of Edinburgh – Past Lives of Leith (Museum of Edinburgh, Lauriston Castle)	https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/09/at-museum-of-edinburgh-past-lives-of-leith/
21 September 2019	On a Literary Tour (Writers' Museum)	http://www.newindianexpress.com/lifestyle/travel/2019/sep/22/on-a-literary-tour-2036100.html

Coverage of Culture in the Media

Date	Item	Link
28 September 2019	Ghostly tours, seances and a horror drag show, just some highlights of Edinburgh's 2019 Horror Festival (Lauriston Castle)	https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/things-to-do/ghostly-tours-seances-and-a-horror-drag-show-just-some-highlights-of-edinburgh-s-2019-horror-festival-1-5010435
28 September 2019	The Italian Connection at City Art Centre	http://www.studentnewspaper.org/the-italian-connection-at-city-art-centre/
4 October 2019	The Artistic Hidden Gems Day Tour in Edinburgh (City Art Centre, Scott Monument, Nelson Monument, Writers' Museum)	https://scotlandtraveloholic.co.uk/artistic-hidden-gems-day-tour-edinburgh/
5 October 2019	Some of the stunning images to feature in the 'Classical Edinburgh' exhibition (City Art Centre, City Observatory)	https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/news/edinburgh-news/gallery/stunning-images-feature-classical-edinburgh-17037514
5 October 2019	Listing: RSPB Scotland at Lauriston Castle	https://www.primarytimes.co.uk/edinburgh/listings/rspb-scotland-at-lauriston-castle-202419
9 October 2019	Art reviews: The Italian Connection - 4*s Modern: 20th Century Art and Design John Byrne (City Art Centre)	https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art-reviews-the-italian-connection-modern-20th-century-art-and-design-john-byrne-1-5020402
15 October 2019	City Art Centre exhibition was the most popular in years	https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/culture/city-art-exhibition-was-the-most-popular-in-years/

Coverage of Culture in the Media

Date	Item	Link
18 October 2019	Which of these 12 Edinburgh Horror Festival events would send a shiver down your spine? (Lauriston Castle)	https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/things-to-do/which-these-12-edinburgh-horror-festival-events-would-send-shiver-down-your-spine-816274
21 October 2019	Nelson Monument bedecked in flags for Trafalgar Day	https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/10/nelson-monument-bedecked-in-flags-for-trafalgar-day/
23 October 2019	Listing: Mary Cameron: Life in Paint (City Art Centre)	https://www.artfund.org/whats-on/exhibitions/2019/11/02/mary-cameron-life-in-paint-exhibition
24 October 2019	A trio of exhibitions heading to City Art Centre	https://www.scottishfield.co.uk/culture/a-trio-of-exhibitions-heading-to-city-art-centre/
29 October 2019	FEATURE: Scottish artist and poet Alec Finlay's quest to make wild places accessible for all (Travelling Gallery)	https://www.thecourier.co.uk/fp/lifestyle/entertainment/1006386/feature-scottish-artist-and-poet-alec-finlays-quest-to-make-wild-places-accessible-for-all/?sso-c=MC43MDYzMzcwMCAxNTcyMzQ1NTcx
29 October 2019	You can meet actors portraying 1940s war volunteers as part of Edinburgh Open Streets event (Museum of Edinburgh)	https://www.edinburghlive.co.uk/be-st-in-edinburgh/whats-on-news/you-can-meet-actors-portraying-17161253
1 November 2019	News in pictures: Friday November 1, 2019 (Mary Cameron, City Art Centre)	https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/news-in-pictures-friday-november-1-2019-vf7mg3q6x
1 November 2019	At the City Art Centre – Classical Edinburgh (City Art Centre)	https://www.theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2019/11/at-the-city-art-centre-classical-edinburgh/

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener
Councillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convener
Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

Members

Councillor Wilson (*Convener*)
Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convener*)
Councillor Brown
Councillor I Campbell
Councillor Doggart
Councillor Doran
Councillor Howie
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Osler
Councillor Rae
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CONFERENCE/CIVIC VISIT FEEDBACK FORM

Report by Donald Wilson, Convener of Culture and Communities Committee	
Event name and location: 2019 the 2 nd World Cultural Capitals Tianfu Symposium Chengdu	
Authorising Committee: Culture and Communities	
Event organisers: Chengdu Municipal Government.	
Nature of event e.g. conference /seminar, civic event. 2019 the 2 nd World Cultural Capitals Tianfu Symposium	Date(s) of attendance: 23 – 25 July 2019
Purpose of attending: To give keynote speech on behalf of the City of Edinburgh.	
Key areas which you found particularly useful:	
<p>Day 1. (23.7.2019)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting with Governor of Chengdu. Official welcome. Small speech in response on behalf of city. • Meeting with Deputy Mayer and two representatives of the creative industries in Chengdu. • 2019 the 2nd World Cultural Capitals Tianfu Symposium Welcome Dinner (official welcome dinner). Crystal Hall of Century City International Convention Centre. <p>Day 2. (24.7.2019)</p> <p>The formal day of the symposium. (Held in the Crystal Hall of Century City International Convention Centre broadcast live on CCTV and local Chengdu channel.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interview for CCTV. Questions of Edinburgh’s festivals and the role of Culture in the City. • Opening Ceremony and Main Forum (9-12.20). Crystal Hall. • Promotional Video of Chengdu City. • Speech by Yang Xingping, Vice Governor of the People’s Government of Sichuan Province. • Speech by Jidi Majia, Member of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress and Party Secretary. • Speech by Tang Chuanping Director of the Standing Committee on Changdu Municipal Peoples Congress and Party Secretary. • Speech by Paul Owens, Director of World Cities Culture Forum (organisers of the Symposium). 	

- Unveiling of 'Panda Envoy for the Round Trip' Project.
- Speech by Kevin Watt, Managing Director of Nielson Sports and Entertainment on the Cultural and Creative Charm Index New Growing Cities in the World.
- Project Promotion of Chengdu the New Economic Vitality Zone.
- Global Release of Tianfu Intelligent Media City Project.
- Signing Ceremony (Edinburgh not involved).
- Speech by Shan Jixiang, former Director of the Palace Museum (Forbidden City), Director of the Palace Museum College and President of the Chinese Society of Cultural Relics.
- Panel Discussion.
- Keynote Speech Robert Govers, Chair of International Place Branding Association. Speech Topic: Imaginative Cities: How Culture Shapes Reputation.

Afternoon Session (14.00-16.35). Crystal Hall

- Speech by Christina Hedin, UNESCO Creative City Representative.
- Address by Leaders of High Tech Zone.
- Speech by Marllena Pillati, Deputy Mayer of Bologna Italy. Speech Topic: Bologna Capital of Music.
- Keynote speech by Cllr Donald Wilson Speech Topic: World Festival Capital - Edinburgh.
- Speech by Tom Campbell, Head of Creative Industries , Knowledge transfer Network. Speech Topic: Audience of the Future.
- Speech by LIN Liang, Director of Digital Government for China, Huawei Technology Co. Ltd.. Speech Topic: Digital Economy Leads the City to Rejuvenate.
- Project Promotion: Promotion of FICO Food Expo Park.
- Panel Session

Evening:

- Visit to 'Game On'. Global Gaming Trends Exhibition and Festival. Held in the Chengdu Eastern Suburb Memory Park International Exhibition Hall of Art. Combination of outdoor Exhibits and indoor galleries. Including VR reconstructions of the inventions of Leonardo Da Vinci and 'History of the Video Game'.

Benefits of attendance for the Council:

Opportunity to promote Edinburgh, it's festivals and creative economy on a world wide stage.
Opportunity to learn from a wide variety of countries (cities) their approach and work in the creative industries and culture.