

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 26 April 2022

EDINBURGH
THE CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL

Central Library Building Improvement Works

A major investment in Central Library has now started with a £1.8m programme of building works designed to make the building more resilient, efficient and safer to operate. Scaffolding has been erected all the way round the building to allow for the refurbishment of windows and repair work to the roof and stonework. Inside the building, new lighting will be installed in many areas, and work will be done to improve the electrical system. A new dry riser system will be installed to allow the fire service to easily access water should it be required. The scaffolding will be removed in November, and internal work should be finished by September 2022.



Update on New Peoples Network Investment for Libraries

On [10 February](#) the Council approved plans to invest over £400,000 to upgrade the People's Network, an ambitious project to replace public computers across Libraries and upgrade software. The introduction of wireless printing and the provision of more up to date software, including Office 2019 Professional Plus and Windows 10 Education, will greatly improve the network's digital offer, modernising the library service ensuring it better appeals to and meets the needs of users across the city whilst supporting learners and digital skills – also offering new sources of revenue. Work has begun on the project and the improved service will be available to customers from Summer 2022.

Opening of The Fort – Temporary Pop Up Library Provision in Leith

Plans to open the new temporary library service provision in The Fort Community Centre are now complete and the new service for Leith opened to customers on 8 March. The temporary library provision at The Fort will remain open until the permanent service at Leith Library, Ferry Road can reopen. The service has been designed to fit into the Community Centre gym hall space which has been successfully adapted and kitted out to allow the provision of the following services: the loan, return and reservation of books and other media; bus pass applications; Hey Girls sanitary provision; Hearing Aid batteries; Food recycling bags; Bookbug under 5s rhyme times for children and their parents/ carers. Library staff will be working closely with The Fort Early Years staff team and the North Edinburgh Childcare out of school provision to ensure that the children benefit from the on-the-doorstep library service.



Holocaust Memorial Day – 27 January – In Libraries

Wester Hailes Library: [Making a Memorial Flames display- for Holocaust Memorial Day](#)
Children, young people, and families visiting Wester Hailes Library made a special memorial flame display to 'Shine A Light' in the Library window. A special craft event was organised for children, families, and members of our youth group to decorate handprints symbolising those who have lost their lives through genocide. We also talked about what HMD is and discovered the experiences of some people who were affected using this year's theme of 'One Day' – to ensure that we both learn from and remember the past.



Stockbridge Library: [Film Show](#)

"A Beautiful Life" by Roberto Benigni, followed by refreshments and a short discussion. [Here.](#)

LGBTQ Month – February 2022

Community Libraries across the city hosted book displays based on our LGBTQ stock. All Libraries supported Facebook posts.



School Libraries across the city also had book displays and the GSA (Gender and Sexuality Alliances) groups met students in discussion groups.

Currie Library – Throughout the month, in partnership with Our Story Scotland, the library displayed the Love Out of Bounds exhibition and collected stories from library users about their experiences of love denied by society whilst preparing those stories for archive. The library also hosted a number of exciting events:

- Artist Nick Askew helped participants to create a collaborative art piece for display in the library, on the themes of 'Coming back to our Communities'. Library Supervisor Hannah McCooke discussed with Nick their working relationship as artists and poets within the Queer community, but participants may define their own communities.
- Sigrid Nielsen and Bob Orr, founders of Scotland's first LGBT bookshop 'Lavender Menace' led a presentation and talk on Iona McGregor, Edinburgh author, lesbian activist, and schoolteacher under Section 28.
- The Edinburgh Zine Library led a hands-on workshop in the art of Zine Making.

Westerhailes Library – The library hosted a 'Love Out of Bounds' exhibition, partnered with OurStoryScotland. The exhibition showed some of the 'episodes' (life stories) collected by OurStory Scotland. (<https://www.ourstoryscotland.org.uk/>); and invited participants to reflect on their experiences of having a love that was not accepted by the people around them. A story box was provided for visitors to the library to tell their stories and submit them to be archived. They also hosted a zine-making workshop with the Youth Group on the theme 'Love Out of Bounds'.

Stockbridge Library – The library programmed an LGBTQ film "Carol" on 26 February with discussion and refreshments at the end. The film is based on a book by Patricia Highsmith, and was accompanied by a book display.

Portobello Library – The library hosted an OurStoryScotland (<https://www.ourstoryscotland.org.uk/>) display to collect 'episodes' (stories) from the LBGTQ community. We used the same materials as the display at Currie that were provided by OurStoryScotland and LBGTQ interest book stock. We provided a posting box for stories to be collected. These were collected at the end of the month, to be archived by OurStoryScotland and the Libraries Edinburgh Collected.

Central Library - For [LGBT History Month Scotland](#) this February we've collaborated with colleagues from Museums to highlight a selection of items from the collections of Museums and Galleries Edinburgh which chronicle the LGBTQ+ story in Edinburgh. [Click here](#) for the full Tales of One city blog.

World Book Day

The 25th Annual World Book Day was celebrated across the city as libraries welcomed back classes from our local primary schools, nurseries and early year settings. Along with hearing about libraries, the pupils took part in a range of events including, character hunts, book cover designs, quizzes, turning tatties into book characters, staff in fancy dress and as always lots and lots of stories. For some classes who were unable to get to the library, staff went into schools to tell them about what was on offer.

Our school libraries were just as busy with special assemblies, quizzes, silver themed book hunts and book cafes.

<https://www.facebook.com/currielibrary/videos/3126770907570123>



International Women's Day

Zoe Johnstone a member of staff at Central Library, secured £8,500 funding from Creative Scotland to host an inspirational International Women's Day project that will last a lifetime. The project will be based on an interview with Scottish activist and writer Sara Sheridan, artist led workshops held in Tynecastle Boroughmuir, Forrester, Royal High, and Liberton schools and four Community Libraries. These workshops will create a large stencil of women who mean something to Edinburgh. Once collated the stencil will be displayed in Central Library. This initiative will be offered to other cities across Scotland. Full information can found on our [Tales of One City](#).

Work started at Boroughmuir High School – see the Mural below



Reading Moment – A Scotland and UK-wide Initiative

Edinburgh Libraries will be taking part in a Scotland and UK wide initiative. The Scottish Information and Library Council (SLIC) launched Reading Moment, (a pledge to read for 1-6 minutes), on World Book Day, 3 March 2022 and the Reading Moment will be on 11 May 2022.

Participants will pledge their minutes via the Tachometer on the SLIC website. Our Community Libraries will reach out to their communities and each Locality will have its own Reading Moment. The initiative is called “Keep the Heid and Read” It is supported by Education Scotland, SamH, Scottish Publishers and more.

Living Knowledge Network

Living Knowledge Network (LKN) is a UK network of Libraries, Edinburgh Libraries are one of the two Scottish Authorities that are members, all in association with The British Library. Each year LKN launch a theme and all UK members take part. The theme for 2022 is Breaking News which will run from 22 April to 21 August. Edinburgh Libraries will host an exhibition in Central Library that will change monthly with a new theme;

- Edinburgh Breaks the News, A History of Crime, Campaigns and Scandal, Health, Sport and Festivals.
- The Digital Team will combine our Edinburgh Collected and focus on Science, Writers and Science.
- Children’s and Young People’s service will focus on the animals of Edinburgh.
- Community Libraries will combine, Reading Moment, Year of Scotland’s Stories and Breaking News, in competitions and events, online and in-house, across the city.

Other Libraries Events/News

Portobello Library: [Celebrating Portobello’s Collected Heritage](#)

A Party related pop-up from the Museums and Galleries Service. The team behind the Museum’s Collections Project [‘Auld Reekie Retold’](#) brought some of the object discoveries relating to Portobello’s history and heritage to Portobello Library for a ‘story catching’ event around local knowledge and experience of our collections.

Fountainbridge Library: #STEM: Fountainbridge Library’s STEM club delivered an Arithmancy decoding activity for children to celebrate Harry Potter book night. The community room was transformed into Hogwarts Arithmancy class! We had a fun Harry Potter quiz to start the session.

Fountainbridge Libray: Online Event – Blurring Borders: A reading and Q&A with Andrés N Ordorica. On 21 February, on the Edinburgh Libraries Facebook page, Poet Andrés N Ordorica performed work from his debut collection ‘At Least This I Know’. His collection touches on themes of ancestry, racism, nationhood, activism and queerness. This was followed by a Q&A with the

poet. The event was pre-recorded and is available to watch back on Edinburgh Libraries youtube. [Click here](#)

Stockbridge Library: One of our Library Link customers turns 100!

Jean, a lifelong reader, a library member and one of our beloved Library Link Group turned 100 on 18 February. [Click here](#) to read “A Centenary reading with Jean”



Forester High School: BBC Day Out

A group of S1s and S2s had a magical experience being the live studio audience for Authors Live at the BBC studios in Glasgow this February. Not only did they enjoy taking part in some wordplay live on screen with author Patience Agbabi, they also had the opportunity to be involved in creating a short film with the BBC Lab Team, in which they were asked to imagine what the world would be like in 2048, when her novel ‘The Infinite’ is set. Our film was broadcast as part of the live event and pupils got to watch Patience enjoying their film. The broadcast is now available to watch online - [Patience Agbabi - Scottish Book Trust](#). After the cameras had stopped rolling we had the opportunity to interview Patience for Teen Titles Magazine [Teen Titles – The City of Edinburgh Council](#).



Portobello Library

Portobello Library Writers Group meets on the third Monday of every month at 6.30pm in the library. They have continued to meet online throughout lockdown and returned to the library in November. The founder members met 10 years ago through a Live Literature funded course that ran in the library. The group primarily conduct peer reviews of each other’s work at their meetings and occasionally host guest authors who speak to them about writing and getting published. The guest authors are usually funded through Live Literature Funding (matched by libraries) but some have been happy to talk for free.

The library has recently been awarded Live Literature Funding for a hybrid live/online creative writing course facilitated by poet, writer and tutor JL Hall, who has attended the group in the past <https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/authors/j-l-hall>

Macmillan@Edinburgh Libraries Project:

We are pleased to announce the re-opening of three of our Macmillan Services Points in Blackhall, Drumbrae and Portobello Libraries in March 2022. After two years of online, telephone buddying calls and text messaging we are excited about being able to offer our service users a face to face service again in our trusted Libraries settings.

Macmillan@Edinburgh Libraries are in talks with the M&S bra fitting services to encourage women to get professionally fitted post-surgery. We are looking forward to working together.

Work is being done with the Head gardener at Jock Tamson's Gairden to develop a plot of land overlooking Duddingston Loch with the Pentland Hills in view. We are working with Fit for Health and Ageing Well to create an open space for reflection, relaxation and fresh air for people to enjoy.



Fairtrade Fortnight

Libraries worked in partnership with Russell Salton, Chair, Edinburgh Fairtrade City to mark Fairtrade Fortnight with four libraries hosting Fairtrade stalls over two Saturdays in February and March. Our Digital team hosted online content on TVs across our libraries and all our libraries had displays of Fairtrade leaflets. [Click here](#)

Research Focus Groups

Edinburgh Libraries assisted University of Strathclyde Professors, Ian Ruthven and Dr David McMenemy to run two focus groups to further research for non-digital users in Libraries throughout the pandemic. [Ian](#) and [David](#) are compiling a UK wide research piece recording libraries experiences over the pandemic including forced use of digital, spending patterns and user experiences. Whilst they have successfully managed to engage with users virtually, as things relax slightly, they would really like to speak to library users in person who didn't engage digitally about their experiences and the impact it had. Edinburgh Libraries assisted and two well attended highly successful, diverse focus groups took place.

New Mobile Schools Library Service- No Stopping Us

We previously delivered a library service to primary and special schools across the city using a Mobile Library Bus called the 'Book Bus'. Due to technical problems, the 'Book Bus' has been

recently decommissioned causing the service to explore alternative ways to deliver a library service to the schools. Mini libraries have been set up across a number of schools with classes of children visiting to access the books and make use of the service.

We started at end of November and are now visiting 13 primary schools and one special school across the city. We have seen 3363 children in this time and are hoping to add more schools moving forward.



Wester Hailes Library and Scottish Book Trust's Bookbug Exhibition

Wester Hailes Library has been hosting a beautiful Bookbug Exhibition stand from Scottish Book Trust as part of postponed 10th anniversary Bookbug celebrations, marking 10 years of Bookbug Bags. The exhibition includes copies of all the Bookbug books which have been gifted over the decade to babies, toddlers and nursery-aged children, along with a jumbo jigsaw to play with, and a photo 'selfie' picture frame to use. The Exhibition will be travelling throughout Scotland, and we are delighted at Wester Hailes Library to be hosting the Edinburgh stop. To mark the occasion, we have been running several events to celebrate it with our community.

We had a Local Launch Event for families including a Bookbug song and rhyme session, with the Bookbug mascot and organised two special Bookbug sessions for Polish and Spanish-speaking families to celebrate both the Exhibition and our multilingual sessions which run in the city. Our final event, we are hosting a storytelling and craft session for children aged 3-5 with celebrated children's author and illustrator Morag Hood. This has been a truly wonderful opportunity to celebrate the meaning and joy of Bookbug with our families and colleagues across the city.

Ratho Beavers Book Reading Activity Badge

The staff at Ratho Library were delighted to be invited along to Ratho parish church on Tuesday 1 March to help the Ratho Beavers with their book reading activity badge. We spent an hour there, during which we delivered a talk on how to look after a book and where to store them, design a new cover for your favourite book and make a bookmark. Some of the children signed up for our Beast Quest Challenge (read all Beast Quest books).

New Winter WellBeing Collections

Library staff have curated four new Health and Wellbeing collections that will be available at Stockbridge, Morningside, Portobello, and Wester Hailes Libraries. See the collections [click here](#).

Community Sports Hubs

During the February break, Forrester and St Augustines CSH hosted a Scottish Swim Teacher Qualification and two National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification courses. This was in response to a shortage of swim teachers and lifeguards within clubs and organisations, due to a lack of training

opportunities over the last two years.

30 candidates received the funded professional training, the majority being senior pupils from across the city. The training was delivered by Edinburgh Leisure and in partnership with clubs and local swim providers who are providing mentoring and volunteering opportunities for the young people.

Once qualified the candidates will volunteer and support Community Sport Hub, Active Schools and local Club projects which aim to use swimming to positively change the lives of those most in need.



Edinburgh Young Carers – Paddle Boarding with Meggetland Community Sports Hub



Edinburgh Young Carers was approached by Meggetland Community Sport Hub, to work in partnership with our young people to provide the opportunity to participate in ten weeks of Paddle boarding and canoening sessions in conjunction with Edinburgh Schools Kayak Club. The project was designed to give respite to the participants while introducing them to opportunities that will challenge, and subsequently, increase their confidence.

Edinburgh Young Carers provides respite support to young people aged 5-25. Each young person has a significant caring role at home, this could be looking after a parent(s) or guardian(s) or impacted by their siblings' who have long term illness or disability, and young people impacted by their parent's substance misuse. We try to create positive memories and opportunities to broaden their horizons. For many this had been their first experience of paddle boarding, it was such a positive experience for everyone, there is something therapeutic and magical about being on the water! It definitely allowed the young people to get a break from home and have some fun, the laughter coming from the young people was testament to that!



Team United – Autism Football




Maths is much more interesting when its taught using football. I cant wait to play football again next week as well. Its my favourite lesson.


St Thomas HS cluster / City wide

What happened ?

St ThomasRC HS in partnership with 'Team United ' aims to break down the social barriers faced by children and young adults living with Autism when participating in sport.

We acknowledge the social challenges involved for our participants and we aim to use the topic of football to encourage development in all areas of academics, health and fitness and social inclusion.

Together we delivered a 6 week programme targeting 18 pupils consisting of both practical and classroom based sessions which included all areas of the curriculum from English and Literacy to Mathematics and Sciences and of course sports through the medium of football.

Impact

The impact was great. We had targeted 18 pupils who would not normally attend sports clubs. We boosted their confidence and esteem and now after the 6 weeks the pupils are attending Team united sessions outside of the school day.



Reflections:

The communication and organisation between Team United, Active schools and St Thomas HS was excellent.

The teachers involved, and Team United members Connor and Johnny were so enthusiastic and personable working with the children.

The response for the children was so positive. They worked really well every week in classroom tasks and enjoyed the practical football sessions as well.

If we were to do anything different it would have been great to have access to a wet weather alternative, but the kids showed great resilience dealing with the harsh Scottish winter weather.

Active Schools and Stepping Stones Partnership

Since October 2021 Active Schools have been working with Headteachers and council swim teachers to identify pupils in P3 – P6 who would benefit from additional swimming lessons. Those identified for the program are from a low-income home, ASN or those identified from the swimming teachers who are not meeting the curriculum level. These pupils who have been

identified have been offered a free place in the Active Schools/Stepping Stones Programme. So far 46 pupils have attended the free sessions and there have been some incredible stories of progression. This has been a great partnership with the schools, council swimming teachers, Active Schools, Stepping Stones for the Drummond/Leith Cluster where these pupils are gaining valuable lifesaving skills for free. See below the story of one of our swimmers.

Swimmers Name: Rujita Basnet

Star Swimmer: When Rujita entered the lessons she was not a confident swimmer, however within a few weeks her confidence grew and she starting to try lots of new things in the pool. Adrianna her teacher pushed Rujita to keep trying new things and now after only eight lessons Rujita is confidently swimming on her front and back, loving life in the pool. The Active Schools programme supported and delivered by Stepping Stones has help build her confidence in small focused classes and has transformed Rujita into a confident young swimmer. – Well Done, Keep up the great work!



Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) – Cycle Training (Cycling Scotland)

The SOLU via the Bangholm Outdoor Centre staff and in partnership with Katherine Soane (Council Senior Project Officer – Cycle Hire Scheme) and Beth Harley-Jepson (Cycling Scotland) will be delivering a wide range of cycle training across five Edinburgh Colleges and Universities.

During 2022-23, Bangholm Outdoor Centre is poised to deliver:

- 20 x Learn to Ride courses (each four sessions over four weeks);
- 30 x Essential Cycle skills courses;

- 4 x Ride leader session;
- 1 x Velotech cycle maintenance Instructor course;
- 1 x First aid training; and
- 60 x Bike maintenance courses.

A future report to Education, Children and Families Committee will provide more detail regarding those sessions delivered.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) – Adventure Activities Licensing

During February 2021, the SOLUs Bangholm Outdoor Centre successfully completed its Adventure Activity Licensing Authority Inspection ([Adventure Activities Licensing](#)). This Licence allows The City of Edinburgh Council to deliver a range of adventurous outdoor activities including climbing, mountaineering, hill-walking, gorge-walking, mountain biking, canoeing and kayaking.

The Bangholm Outdoor Centre is located in Edinburgh and is available to support the delivery of adventurous activity, including a comprehensive kit store.

License number is R0620/L64081, and details of the Licence can be found here:

https://aala.hse.gov.uk/aala/provider_detail.php?ref_no=R0620.

Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (COLU) – Outdoor Learning and Incremental Restart of Schools Residential

The Council's Benmore and Lagganlia outdoor centres reopened in early Autumn. By the end of January, over 1600 young people from 35 schools have attended a residential. Attendance is approximately 92%, which reflects significant work around supporting residential costs, providing financial guarantees, repatriation solutions and good communication with parents/carers. These are sector-leading figures and represents a significant achievement by schools, families, Centre staff, wider Council staff and Health Protection Lothian. The Council has developed a range of resources and repatriation solutions to minimise transmission risks. SOLU staff are co-leading the development of national materials to support other local authorities in restarting and sustaining school residentials.

The next step is to permit residential visits to non-CEC venues. A few pilots have taken place and a partnership meeting took place with providers in late February. Again, resources have been developed to ensure safe practice and minimise financial risks (linked to the Council no longer being able to access appropriate pandemic cancellation insurance); including a newly proposed approved residential providers list. This will evolve in February.

Following the hugely successful P7 EPICS DAY programme at Bonaly Scout Centre last year delivered to approximately 3000 Edinburgh young people, SOLU via the Bangholm/Edinburgh-based staff has recently recruited a small temporary team of instructors to support the delivery of targeted provision at Bonaly and the surrounding area to pilot a new enhanced transition programme; Discover! holiday support; youthwork outdoor activity including many young people experiencing significant poverty; short duration residential offer for younger pupils; and two-night

residential visits to support a very small number of schools with their P7 visits for this year.

A school evaluation toolkit resource is being finalised by SOLU which will assist schools in reviewing outdoor learning and excursions linked to equity, equality, environmental sustainability and educational effectiveness.

This is an exciting time for outdoor learning and SOLU continues to support and develop a progressive range of experiences and outcomes associated with onsite, local and residential outdoor learning.

Thank you again to all the schools for their superb support and dedication to residential visits and outdoor learning in general. Thank you also to the brilliant families across Edinburgh. The many positive comments about restarting residential visits have been uplifting and the work continues to ensure every child in Edinburgh has the opportunity to undertake the very best experiences.

Auld Reekie Is Being Retold

The Auld Reekie Retold team started returning to the Museum Collections Centre and other stores in August 2021, albeit on a reduced venue capacity. While the team was entirely working from home, we have made remarkable progress on getting our collections information records in shape, bringing together digital images onto the system, and tried out a good number of different ways to engage with our local audiences online. But it's been great being back with the collections and picking up on the inventory of objects, finding new stories to share, and to start doing more in person engagement.

As of end of February, the project team has collectively located and updated over 10,000 individual objects, added over 11,000 high quality object photographs to the records (which are already being used for generating income), and is continuing to uncover and capture new stories about the collections. We have acquired new skills to deliver content in a range of different media for different audiences, with [9 podcasts](#), [25 blogs](#), [2 Cooking up the Past videos](#) (episode 2 due for release Spring 2022), and weekly short films published on Instagram. In addition, more recently, we have begun rolling out the "Story Catching" element of the project, with in-person meetings, workshops and heritage open days. This has given us valuable new insight into objects we knew less about, and we look forward to more sessions in the coming months.

The Collections Engagement strand of the project is funded by Museums Galleries Scotland, and is due to complete at the end of April 2022. This has brought about a reinvigorated approach to how we can bring objects in store out into the spotlight, with an appetite among permanent staff to continue the online engagement beyond the project's lifetime. Project legacy is already shaping up to be substantial, with significant improvements to equipment, skills learnt and shared, and an updated set of standard procedures for using and managing collections. The project set out to engage with new local audiences, and anecdotal evidence from engagement online strongly suggests that our digital outputs have far exceeded our expectations had we delivered the project entirely from the Collections Centre.



Auld Reekie Retold Heritage Open day in partnership with Portobello Heritage Trust at Portobello Library, January 2022



Photograph of 15th century linked to Cardinal Beaton taken, processed and recorded at the Collections Centre by project team



Filming for an online practical workshop on plastics

City Art Centre Prepares New Exhibition on Pioneering 20th Century Art Society

In May 2022 the City Art Centre will open a major new exhibition on a pioneering art society that built Scotland's first national collection of modern art.

The Scottish Modern Arts Association was founded in Edinburgh in 1907. Established by artists and their supporters, the Association aimed to secure for the nation a representative collection of modern Scottish art. For more than fifty years, it actively acquired work by leading artists of the day, developing an outstanding collection of over 300 paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures. The majority of these artworks were transferred into the care of the City of Edinburgh when the Association disbanded in the 1960s. They are now maintained by the City Art Centre, forming the heart of its renowned holdings of historic and contemporary Scottish art.

National Treasure: The Scottish Modern Arts Association reveals the story of this unique organisation, and the art it preserved for posterity. The exhibition presents the highlights of the collection, with work by the Glasgow Boys and Scottish Colourists, as well as individuals such as William McTaggart, John Duncan, Anne Redpath and Joan Eardley. Arranged over two floors of the City Art Centre, this impressive exhibition celebrates Scottish art of the late 19th and early 20th centuries – an era marking the dawn of modernism.

National Treasure: The Scottish Modern Arts Association is presented as part of Edinburgh Art Festival 2022. The exhibition opens on 21 May and runs until 16 October 2022. For visitor information see: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/national-treasure-scottish-modern-arts-association>



John Duncan, *Tristan and Isolde*, 1912. City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh.

Museum of Edinburgh Environmental Exhibition Showcased Artworks by Children from Edinburgh Primary Schools

What is climate change, what causes it, and what can we do about it? A new exhibition at the Museum of Edinburgh seeks to encourage discussion about these big questions through an exploration of our museum collections together with artworks created by children from Edinburgh primary schools.

For the past few months our schools workshops have explored environmental themes and have taken inspiration from current City Art Centre exhibitions. Children learnt about species of fish and animals that are endangered or at risk in Scotland due to over-fishing, loss of habitat and climate change and produced vibrant collages and prints of these creatures influenced by the artworks of Ade Adesina and Donald Smith. Pupils recycled by using old newspapers to create eye-catching interior collages, inspired by the paintings of home by John Henry Lorimer and drew their favourite green spaces and parks whilst considering the importance of spending time in nature. Using objects from our museum collections, the exhibition also looks at how our lifestyles have changed and what impact this has had on the environment.

Think Local, Act Global has been co-curated with children from Royal Mile Primary School and funded by Museums Galleries Scotland. The exhibition runs from 3 March – 19 June 2022.



Sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi Among Recent Donations to City Art Centre

The City Art Centre's collection of fine art is recognised as being nationally significant. Containing over 5,000 individual artworks in a variety of media, it traces the remarkable history of the visual arts in Scotland from the 17th century to present day. The collection is developed and enriched

every year with new acquisitions, and this process has continued throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Along with purchases from artists and galleries, artwork donations are a crucial part of growing the collection. Over the past two years, staff at the City Art Centre have been delighted to receive a range of artworks as donations and bequests. Some of these have been offered by artist's estates, while others have come from members of the public. They include a 19th century Highland landscape by James Lawton Wingate; a group of etchings and screenprints by Helen Hay, Hetty Haxworth and Philip Reeves; a pair of 1970s abstract paintings by Jon Schueler; and three early oil studies by Martin Churchill.

Perhaps one of the most touching recent donations was a sculpture by Eduardo Paolozzi (1924-2005). This work, entitled *Puchan*, was offered by Rosalind Newton, a member of the Friends of the City Art Centre and Museums. Rosalind was a personal friend of the artist, and received the plaster maquette as a gift from him in the 1980s. After displaying the sculpture in her home for many years, she finally decided to donate it to the City Art Centre so it could be enjoyed by others. *Puchan* is one of a series of artworks that Paolozzi made on the theme of toads and frogs. It is only the third sculpture by the artist to enter the collection.

A selection of recently acquired artworks, including *Puchan*, can currently be seen in the exhibition *Incoming: New Acquisitions at the City Art Centre*. This display runs throughout 2022 until spring 2023. For visitor information see: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/incoming-new-acquisitions-city-art-centre>

Credit lines to accompany images:



Artwork donor Rosalind Newton with plaster maquette by Eduardo Paolozzi



Eduardo Paolozzi, *Puchan*, plaster maquette, 1988 (on display at City Art Centre)

Summer Showstopper for the City Art Centre

This summer the City Art Centre hosts a major retrospective of one of the outstanding living Scottish artists, Will Maclean (b.1941). Entitled 'Points of Departure', the exhibition will provide a fresh insight into his practice from a variety of perspectives. Maclean's work is anchored in the history, archaeology, and literature of the Scottish Highlands and the Highland people, as well as his family background and personal associations with the sea.

Born in Inverness where his father was harbour master, Maclean's family history is inextricably linked with the Scottish west coast and the Isle of Skye. His first ambition was to follow in his father's footsteps and go to sea himself but a failed eye test cut short his career and Maclean entered Gray's School of Art in Aberdeen in 1961. He spent another period at sea in 1968 as a ring-net fisherman which led to an important bursary in 1973 that enabled him to study this traditional fishing method in detail. The body of work is now in the collection of the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art.

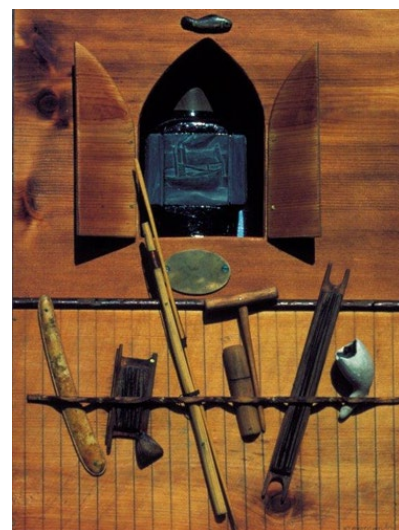
In 1981 he was appointed lecturer at the Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design, University of Dundee, where he remained for fifteen fruitful years, becoming Professor of Fine Art in 1994 and now Emeritus Professor. He was elected Royal Scottish Academician in 1991 and in 1997 he designed and as part of the team, won the Scottish Natural Heritage Supreme Award for three Memorial Cairns in Lewis.

Perhaps best known for his wall constructions, Maclean is equally at home in sculpture, drawing, printmaking, video and installation. Combining exquisitely hand-made pieces with found or (on occasions) mass produced objects, his work balances between simplicity and complexity and invites the viewer to linger, to admire and to contemplate the universal themes which he explores.

Definitely not an exhibition to miss. It opens on 4 June and runs to 2 October. Admission charges apply.



Will Maclean in his Tayport studio. Photograph by Antonia Reeve



Memories of a Northern Childhood, 1977, by Will Maclean. Private Collection.

Kickstart Trainee Moves Onto Employment

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh is taking part in the Kickstart Scheme – a UK Government-funded scheme that provides funding to create new job placements for 16-24 year olds who are on Universal Credit and at risk of long term unemployment.

Between June – December 2021, Claire Robertson joined museums via the Kickstart scheme as Digital Outreach Assistant. Claire created digital resources for schools and community groups based on our object handling boxes that couldn't be used while restrictions were in place. She also led sessions for our Art in the City group, a monthly programme for people living with dementia and their carers. Since finishing her placement, Claire has gone on to secure full-time employment at the Palace of Holyroodhouse. This is a fantastic achievement and we are delighted to have helped Claire kickstart her career.



Claire Robertson

Mural Painting at Museum of Edinburgh: Local Schools Engage with the Climate Emergency

Museums and Galleries Edinburgh received funding to run a project based at the Museum of Edinburgh that will highlight and engage people with the climate emergency.

'Think Local, Act Global' is focused on bringing new life to the Museum of Edinburgh's historic courtyard and will aim to improve the biodiversity and carbon capture potential of the soil in the space. As part of this project, P7 pupils from Royal Mile Primary School were invited to paint a nature mural that will be permanently displayed on our courtyard walls. The mural celebrates wildlife commonly found in and around our cities. P7 pupils from Abbeyhill Primary School will join us next month to complete the mural.

The project is funded by Museums Galleries Scotland's Climate Beacons Ideas Fund.



City Art Centre - Schools Visits are Back!

We were delighted to welcome children from Sighthill Primary School, Craigroyston Primary School and Royal Mile Primary School to the City Art Centre in January and February. We had some fantastic in-depth discussions about the artworks on display in our current exhibitions *Tapestry: Changing Concepts* and *Reflections: The Light and Life of John Henry Lorimer*. Children gave their opinions and views on a range of pieces from sculptures and abstract drawings, to textile designs and paintings. Classes made a variety of unique artworks using printmaking, collage and painting and then shared their fantastic creations with one another at the end of each session.

Our Schools Engagement Officer will be running a series of outdoor art workshops with North Edinburgh primary schools in the grounds of Lauriston Castle in the month of May. In June, more pupils will visit the City Art Centre to view our new summer shows. The City Art Stars digital workshops are continuing to run alongside these trips and there will be another schools art competition at the end of March.

In addition to £152,000 funding received from a private trust to enable us to host these schools visits, we have also secured a further £100,000 to pay for private travel for schools in our poorest areas of the city to come to the City Art Centre, removing a major barrier for them visiting. This is for the whole of 2022.



Edinburgh College Fashion Shows

On Saturday 19 March the City Art Centre held our annual Edinburgh College partnership collaboration: 'Stories and Light'. This partnership is an ongoing partnership which supports the Learning of young people in the City. Students come and study an exhibition and use it to create garments as part of a textile HND course. They then create a public fashion show which fosters working together creatively and supports their CV's as they prepare to leave college. As well as textile students make-up artists, students and photography and film students get involved to get valuable experience. It also brings a very different audience into the City Art Centre. This time we were taking inspiration from the work of the artist John Henry Lorimer.



This was part of long series of events for the Lorimer exhibition. The last two weekends of the Lorimer exhibition saw the return to In person gallery events for the first time since Covid.



Young Persons Guarantee Placement

Museums and Galleries Learning and Programmes are supporting a six month placement as part of the Young Person's Guarantee scheme. The Young Person's Guarantee is a commitment to bring together employers, partners and young people. It aims to connect every 16 to 24 year old in Scotland to an opportunity. This could be a job, apprenticeship, further or higher education, training or volunteering.

Arlo Harty is 17 and recently left school so we are supporting him with an array of task to build his CV. Arlo has just been with us less than three months and has already completed many tasks, such as:

- Creating a digital video tour of his first impressions of the City Art Centre.
- Creating a digital exhibition about his top 20 choices of paintings in the City Art Collection. You can view it [here](#).
- Creating a series of reels looking at National Days and highlighting the Museum of Childhood book collection for social media.
- Helped at school workshops in the City Art Centre.
- Creating a series of videos documenting the school workshops about why the children are so proud of their work.

- Creating a video highlighting the Climate Change exhibition at Museum of Edinburgh.
- Helped at the in-person events at the City Art Centre.

Arlo is currently working on three key projects:

- Creating a digital version of the upcoming exhibition 'National Treasure' at the City Art Centre. Featuring 20 paintings.
- Getting experience in curatorial work by digitising the placards used in the Black Lives Matter protest in Edinburgh in 2020.
- Working on several videos for upcoming National Days.

Crankstart Scholars

Two Crankstart Scholars, from Oxford University, start on placement within Museums and Galleries Learning and Programmes in April 2022. The Crankstart Scholarship provides a programme of enhanced support to UK residents from lower-income households who are studying for their first undergraduate degree. Eligible students with a household income of £27,500 per year or less will receive generous bursary support, access to funded internships, volunteering opportunities and social and community building events. The Scholars will be looking at some aspects of digital engagement and creating some resources relating to our collections.

Return to In-Person Events at the City Art Centre

As well as the fashion shows the return to in person events included a lecture highlighting the work of female Edinburgh Suffragist and Campaigner for Women's education rights, Dame Sarah Elizabeth Siddons Mair (her portrait was in the Lorimer Exhibition), a Family craft event exploring themes of the home and place, poetry readings by former Edinburgh Makar Christine de Luca who wrote 12 poems inspired by the Lorimer exhibition and a curator's tour of the exhibition. There was also a robust digital programme right through the Lorimer exhibition including a large digital lecture and talks programme, digital poetry readings, digital art workshops, and digital family sessions.

New Acquisitions Programme and Other Learning and Programme News

Museums and Galleries Learning and Programmes have a series of events planned in association with the New Acquisitions exhibition:

Kate Downie: The Art of Crossing – Wednesday 3 August

Tessa Asquith-Lamb: Treasures and Foxes – Thursday 4 August

Nicola Murray: The Eclectic Back Catalogue – Friday 5 August

More information and booking can be done through the website – [here](#).

Programmes are being formed for the summer exhibitions at the City Art Centre (Will MacLean and National Treasure) and also for the autumn exhibitions. Work is also continuing on accessible

tours with several more digital BSL and Visually Impaired Tours planned.

Usher Hall Events

Future events scheduled for the Usher Hall:



FOALS – Wednesday 20 and Thursday 21 April

RSNO Spring22 Shostakovich Spectacular – Friday 22 April

Diversity – Connected 2022 – Saturday 23 April

Scribble Showdown – Sunday 24 April

The Divine Comedy – Wednesday 27 April

SCO: Beethoven's Sixth – Thursday 28 April

RSNO Spring22 Søndergård Conducts Alpine Symphony – Friday 29 April

Scott Bradlee's Postmodern Jukebox – Sunday 1 May

The Good, The Bad and The Rugby – Tuesday 3 May

Nick Mason's Saucerful of Secrets – The Echoes Tour – Wednesday 4 May

Rumours of Fleetwood Mac 2022 – Thursday 5 May

RSNO Spring22 The Music of Star Wars – Friday 6 May



Rock the Opera – Saturday 7 May

Test Match Special – Sunday 8 May

SCO: Maxim's Firebird – Thursday 12 May

RSNO Spring22 Sibelius Five – Friday 13 May

Bianca Del Rio: Unsanitized – Tuesday 17 May

Dirty Dancing in concert – Wednesday 18 May

RSNO Spring22 Gershwin & Rachmaninov – Friday 20 May

Steve Steinman's Anything for Love – The Meat Loaf Story – Saturday 21 May

Tony Hadley – Tuesday 24 May

UB40 2022 – Wednesday 25 May

Lorde – The Solar Power Tour – Thursday 26 May

RSNO Spring22 Nicola Benedetti Plays Simpson – Friday 27 May



John Barrowman – I Am What I Am – Saturday 28 May

John McLaughlin & The 4th Dimension – Tuesday 31 May

The Smile – Wednesday 1 June

Paloma Faith – Thursday 2 June

RSNO Spring22 Søndergård Conducts Beethoven Nine – Friday 3 June

Scottish Fiddle Orchestra – Summer Concert – Saturday 11 June

Sunday Classics 2022: Concerto Budapest Symphony Orchestra – Sunday 12 June

Mavis Staples – Tuesday 14 June

Dionne Warwick – Wednesday 15 June

The Forth Awards – Thursday 23 June

Here Come The Boys – Friday 24 June

Fran Lebowitz – Sunday 26 June

Leon Bridges – Gold-Diggers Sound – Monday 27 June

St Vincent – Tuesday 28 June



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

Assembly Rooms Events

Future events scheduled for the Assembly Rooms:



Kae Tempest – 23 April

Duncan Chisholm – 29 April

Hannah Peel and Paraorchestra with Charles Hazelwood – 5 May

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

The Queen's Hall to Stage Diverse, Intimate Music Strands in New Performance Space

The Queen's Hall emerges post-pandemic with two distinct new strands, covering our nation's breadth of contemporary music. Taking advantage of its newly expanded foyer and bar area these upcoming and established artists will be showcased in a relaxed, welcoming setting.

AMPLIFI is a series of three shows curated and compered by writer, editor, and speaker Arusa Qureshi ('Flip the Script') and podcast producer, writer, PR, and marketer, Halina Rifai, to highlight the sounds of modern Scotland. Supported by Creative Scotland and the City of Edinburgh Council, the nights feature artists hand-picked for their exciting work across the hip hop, R&B, electro, alternative, spoken word and acoustic music disciplines. Performers include Ayrshire's Brownbear, seen recently at their own sold-out shows and in support slots for The Libertines and Michael Kiwanuka; Glasgow-based rapper Bemz; Scottish Alternative Music Award winner (Best Newcomer) Bee Asha; Scottish Album of the Year Award-nominated artist AMUNDA and many more.

Arusa and Halina say, "Scotland is home to so many incredibly talented artists of all backgrounds and disciplines, who demonstrate perfectly the vibrancy of our music scene. AMPLIFI is a way to spotlight some of our very favourites, while also welcoming audiences back to live music in a more intimate setting. We're thrilled to be working with The Queen's Hall on this series and can't wait to celebrate these brilliant emerging voices with fellow music fans!"

Evan Henderson, Chief Executive of The Queen's Hall says, "Launching this new performance space with AMPLIFI (..) is really exciting and by working with some great talent it allows us to relaunch with a refresh of our programme after a long break. With this development we aim for QH to become even more open and relevant to changing tastes and audiences, to innovation and eclecticism; and to promote musicality and be supportive of new musical talent."

AMPLIFI dates:

Wednesday 16 March, 8pm: Brownbear, Paix, Bee Asha

Wednesday 6 April, 8pm: Bemz, Washington, AiiTee, Clarissa Woods

Wednesday 25 May, 8pm: AMUNDA, jayda, Djana Gabrielle

Tickets are on sale now at www.thequeenshall.net/whats-on with numbers strictly limited.

Supported by the City of Edinburgh Council's Culture Service (Diversity Programme).



King's Theatre Redevelopment Update

Project Team

With around six months to go before work starts on site, the architect's team is re-engaged and working hard on the design development. Contractor procurement is underway, using the council's framework, with an appointment expected in early April for an early works package for the successful contractor to be able to fully engage with the challenges of what will be a complex project in good time.

Capital Theatres has appointed an internal Project Manager to support its management of the project. There has been productive engagement with the Council's Estates team on finalising the new lease for the King's, along with the transport team coordinating the work on the Meadows to Lochrin Basin cycle scheme with the planned King's Theatre external works in Tarvit Street.

Funding

Capital Theatres is closing the funding gap with £1.2m of the £25m project cost to raise which, at this stage, is very encouraging. Alongside funding from the Scottish Government, Capital Theatres' own contribution, the Council and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, there has been great support from over 7,000 people to date, from low level giving to larger philanthropic gifts from individuals and trusts. At the time of writing there is £425,000 pending in bids to Trusts and Foundations as well as proposals with corporate sponsors.

Over twenty staff (including Duncan Hendry, former Chief Executive, and Panto star, Jordan Young) will be running the Edinburgh Marathon in May to help raise funds through our project Crowdfunding platform.

Local Communities

Capital Theatres have been engaging with local schools and communities in Tollcross to ensure they are involved, informed about, and interested in, the project and indeed a King's Donors and Community Open Day is planned for late May to keep everyone informed of progress.

Capital Theatres can't wait to unveil the city's beautiful new King's Theatre, and community-hub-

by-day, in Summer 2024!

City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) Update

The UK terrorist threat level is currently “substantial” which means an attack is “likely”. This is assessed and reported to support and ensure public and business awareness across the city. The Council has a civic role in ensuring the safety of the public, alongside our partner agencies such as Police Scotland and we are likely to have a duty placed on us when the Protect Duty comes into force in 2023/24. These responsibilities, to employ security measures at publicly accessible locations, are expected to apply to our partners as well as the local authority, but the detailed proposals have yet to be confirmed.

The city centre currently has six sites where what is described as the National Barrier Asset (NBA) is sited. These are substantial barriers which can be deployed to protect city centre public event sites. The Council received written notification from the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO), who own the NBA, of their intention to commence charging a substantial monthly rental from June 2022. Discussions are ongoing, but it is hoped that given the positive steps taken so far by the Council to lead a citywide partnership on the development of both flexible and permanent barriers providing HVM measures, this charge can be deferred for at least a year, until 2023.

Essential funding of £180,000 was confirmed at the Full Council meeting in February of this year, towards the further development of the partnership project. This will substantially contribute to £70,000 already identified, alongside a contribution from Police Scotland of £20,000.

A Partner Forum to look at a citywide approach to the further development of flexible and permanent HVM protective measures, was held in March 2022 and over 50 partner organisations including event organisers, venue owners and other key stakeholders attended. The Forum model and the presentations from the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), Police Scotland and the Council’s Public Safety team on a future HVM city plan, were all very positively received. Forum discussions will continue, including modelling how a partnership approach can be developed, and the next meeting has been set for 29 April 2022.

Discussions with the Home Office and Scottish Government are also ongoing and they are very supportive of the proactive approach being taken by the City of Edinburgh Council in responding to the Protect Duty, protecting Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs), and the inclusion of security measures in the Edinburgh Street Design guidance. Managers, engineers and officers from the Council’s Transport and Public Safety Teams have attended training delivered by the CPNI to increase their knowledge and this is already being applied to the George Street project.

A report will be submitted to Committee when further concrete progress has been made, and there is a draft city plan and full funding strategy for elected members to consider.

Edinburgh Festivals 2021

Since 2019, the city’s eleven major festivals have shared an annual overview of their activities with the Council, and 2021 was no exception. It is a testament to their resilience and contribution to the social and economic recovery of the city, and their many achievements in another COVID-

impacted year. Given that the festivals take place throughout the year and are evidently so varied, an Appendix capturing 2021 summaries for each festival is attached to this Business Bulletin.

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener

Councillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convener

Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan

Members

Councillor Wilson (*Convener*)
Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convener*)
Councillor Booth
Councillor Brown
Councillor Doggart
Councillor Doran
Councillor Key
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Osler
Councillor Staniforth
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FESTIVALS 2021

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S FESTIVAL

25 MAY – 6 JUNE 2021

A performance programme of seven digital productions from the UK and Ireland, including two commissions and a live performance of *Down to Earth* - a work designed for children with ASN. Highlights were the two commissions both of which have subsequently attracted international interest and touring opportunities:

- *Mixed Up* by Katy Wilson, in partnership with Starcatchers, an adrenaline-filled dance film. In addition, schools received a box of surprise art materials and guidance on how to use them, alongside the performance film and a series of workshops led by the artists.
- *'Mixed Up, is a gorgeous hip-hop inspired short dance film with animated graphics, designed to reflect the shifting emotions of young people during lockdown, featuring beautiful performances'* ★ ★ ★ ★ Joyce McMillan The Scotsman
- *The Super Special Disability Road Show* by Birds of Paradise, a hilarious, energising multi-media show looking at how we talk about disability today, performed by two disabled adults and two disabled children.
- *'A characteristically funny and provocative performance'* ★ ★ ★ ★ Mark Fisher, The Guardian

A new, free to access, Family Encounters programme was created across the city in four venues with 10 live performances in the Royal Botanic Garden and live performances at North Edinburgh Arts, Lyra and the Roxy. The Festival facilitated visits of families from Lyra and Multicultural Family Base to the Botanic Gardens. The programme included the commission *The Swings*, with its 5m high giant swing set, with aerial artists performing on two swings and post-performance, children could play on the swings activating a soundscape, including a swing for children with access needs.

- *'The quality of the shows was astonishing. My kids even loved the performances aimed at much younger kids. It was the most magical day out!'* Audience member

The Digital Delegate programme offered access to the digital performances and a curated events programme, it attracted 286 delegates from 22 countries.

EDINBURGH SCIENCE FESTIVAL

26 JUNE – 11 JULY 2021

The Edinburgh Science Festival brought live exhibitions and events back to Edinburgh in 2021, supported by an online programme. They provided paid work for creatives and those in the event supply chain. This was particularly important after so few opportunities during the pandemic. Their live events created local economic opportunities and supported the wellbeing of visitors by providing fun, educational experiences. Highlights included:

- In Memoriam: art installation by artist Luke Jerram at the Botanic Gardens, providing a temporary memorial to remember lives lost from Covid. This was the Scottish premier of the artwork, attracting press attention.
- Women in STEM street art trail: Local Scottish artists Shona Hardie and Kerry Wilson celebrated remarkable women through murals displayed across the city. We partnered with community centres including Citadel Youth Centre to choose the mural subjects for their centres, involving communities who don't traditionally engage with the Festival.
- Pale Blue Dot provided interactive activities about oceans and coastlines as part of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters.
- Edinburgh Medal, awarded to Prof. Heidi Larson, the Founding Director of the Vaccine Confidence Project. The Medal Address was broadcast on YouTube to audiences around the world.
- Oscillation in Light and Sound: outdoor interactive art installation in St. Andrew's Square, designed by multidisciplinary design firm, The Urban Conga.
- Human Nature: free outdoor exhibition on Portobello Promenade.

They partnered with Dynamic Earth and others to collaborate on art murals and programme activities. A research collaboration with the University of Edinburgh's Futures Institute led to AWEN, a self-guided climate walk, prompted by global climate data and science.

Creative practitioners involved:

- 15 photographers contributed to Human Nature
- 3 videographers contributed to online programme
- 1 Medal Maker/Engraver and 1 Calligrapher

Original works:

- 2 artists produced 9 Women in STEM Street Art Commissions
- 1 Digital Immersive Experience
- 2 Pale Blue Dot artwork commissions

EDINBURGH JAZZ AND BLUES FESTIVAL

16 – 25 JULY 2021

The Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival 2021 focused on Scottish artists presenting new projects, new commissions and new collaborations. Highlights included Laura Macdonald with Zoe Rahman and Helena Kay, Brian Kellock's Marty Party, Katie Whittaker singing Bessie Smith, Sandy Tweeddale with Lyndon Anderson, Playtime with Soweto Kinch, Matt Carmichael's Quartet with Charlie Stewart and Mark Hendry's new work inspired by the environment. It also featured world premieres of new commissions from Seonaid Aitken, Georgia Cecile and Aki Remally.

The Festival continued to collaborate with year-round jazz promoters: The Edinburgh Jump Jive Club and the Jazz Bar as well as the Scottish Jazz Archive to deliver jointly curated programmes. The

Festival also included international content from USA, Ireland, Italy, Luxembourg and Taiwan. They offered free access to community groups including Gig Buddies, Vocal Carers and presented three free access Jazz for Kids workshops. In association with Edinburgh Napier University they presented three online workshops which were offered free to students across Scotland via Music Advisers. EJBF21 delivered 342 Scottish musician engagements, and 61 non-Scottish musician engagements.

The Edinburgh Festival Carnival presented three days of online programme, celebrating the creativity of over 360 Scottish participants delivering carnival arts across the city mainly in disadvantaged areas. Scottish-based Carnival practitioners included Rohan Seilman and Jose Rojas Navea (percussion), Spyros Gkoumas (costumes), Kasia Wypiorczyk (capoeira), Priya Shrikumar and Albina Esther Mendoz Cruz (dance), Nicholas Kisitu (music), Elizabeth Lisa Williams and Rosalind Ann Sanderson (visual arts). All these artists worked with local community groups and in association with community organisations such as Strengthening Communities for Race Equality Scotland, Goodtrees Neighbourhood Centre, PASSION4FUSION, the Drill Hall, Creative Sparkes, Dance Ihayami and Discover Edinburgh. The Carnival showcased content from Edinburgh Caribbean, Latin American and Palestinian communities.

The online content was presented by three young Edinburgh presenters: Jonelle Carabello, Arwen Seilman and Brad Gibb. The online Carnival also included 11 international groups (from Coata Rica to Zambia) who filmed bespoke content for EFC in their home countries.

EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

29 JULY – 29 AUGUST 2021

Edinburgh Art Festival 2021 saw a successful return which included a month-long programme of 40+ exhibitions programmed in partnership with the city's visual art community. EAF were also pleased to directly support 110+ artists, freelancers and creatives through a range of roles across the programme.

Following cancellation of the 2020 edition, the 2021 edition returned to showcase Edinburgh's vibrant year-round visual arts scene, with a programme which included major new commissions and premieres by 100+ leading Scottish, UK and international artists alongside support for emerging artists. Taking place at 25+ venues across the city, the programme included a special programme of online events and presentations.

In 2021, they featured for the first time a special programme of online events and presentations, to allow wider audiences to engage with the festival. This included series of online artist talks and EAF's digitally reimagined 'Art Late' events. To further engage their audiences, all digital events were live-captioned, and subsequently available to view on their website. They also continued to grow *DIY Art*, their downloadable artist-led activity packs, inviting audiences of all ages to get creative at home.

Through their online events they have continued to build on their experience in digital programming, supporting their ambition to continue to maintain Edinburgh's profile as a destination for experiencing exceptional visual art, even during travel restrictions due to the pandemic. In 2021 they were pleased to have 154.2k page views on their website, reaching 35 countries and six continents.

Their community programme continued to work with groups who are under-represented in culture, supporting them to access and benefit from the festival. In total 19 community groups, totaling 153

participants, from across the city were welcomed to 21+ events and online activities, working across 10 wards, as well as through city-wide initiatives.

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL FRINGE

6 – 30 AUGUST 2021

Fringe Player was created as a platform for online work, providing an opportunity for artists and venues who lacked the resources or knowhow to stage work online. It was provided at no extra charge to artists above the usual cost of registration. 429 shows registered for Fringe Player and overall audience engagement was just over 9,000 views.

Additionally, Fringe Connect was developed and launched in 2021 as a digital platform to bring artists and industry together. This was designed as part social network, part events space, to allow industry professionals to exchange ideas and information, and create lasting working relationships.

The Fringe consulted with 30+ community groups ahead of 2021 and based on their wishes they ran a scaled back version of Fringe Days Out ticketing scheme with access to both in-person and digital shows. In 2021 they enabled 470 to attend in-person shows, and 54 to attend digital shows through ticket vouchers.

Another outcome of the consultation was that some groups did not feel confident in attending the festival. As a response they sent out Fringe street performers to do socially distanced performances in locations that were safe, known and local. They sent performers to several locations including Craigmillar, Wester Hailes, East Pilton, Leith and Calders in Edinburgh.

ROYAL EDINBURGH MILITARY TATTOO (REMT)

6 – 28 AUGUST 2021

Unfortunately, the REMT took the difficult decision to cancel for the second consecutive year due to the COVID pandemic.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL (EIF)

7 – 29 AUGUST 2021

In 2021 there were 170 live performances that took place in seven venues that included three bespoke outdoor venues that were designed especially for live performance and had a focus on audience safety. EIF welcomed 988 artists of 25 nationalities, bringing internationally renowned conductors and soloists to Edinburgh and celebrating the artistic riches of Scotland and the UK. EIF commissioned 15 new works and had 19 world premieres.

EIF ran *Festival Favours*, whereby 31 groups and communities across the city were offered a slice of the festival as artists offered a bespoke experience to each group. These included workshops and mini performances. They continued to work with their Residency School, schools and community group across the city. During the Festival they also had free performances of works such as *Curious Seed* in Holyrood Park.

Due to restrictions in place during the Festival, opportunities for arts and creative practitioners were limited. In 2021 they ran an Industry Day for 12 Scottish dancers to work with four choreographers (three of whom were international). They also offered Artist as Audience tickets and International Festival staff members have continued to engage in conversations with freelancers throughout the year.

Throughout 2021 EIF have continued to work in partnership with organisations including Scottish Opera, Barbican Centre, National Concert Hall of Ireland. They also offered in-kind support to fifteen Edinburgh and Scottish based organisations.

EIF delivered a digital programme enabling them to both reach audience members who could not attend the Festival and to share some performances with the world. Online content was viewed in over 60 countries. EIF had 3,509 mentions in the media in 31 countries. Press coverage: 16% regional, 23% international, 22% UK national, 18% Scottish national, 20% Scottish regional.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL BOOK FESTIVAL

14 – 30 AUGUST 2021

2021 was a year of experimentation and transition for the Book Festival. They brought their community back together, built confidence amongst authors and audiences and continued to reach new audiences through broadcasting their events online.

The Book Festival staged over 250 events with 300 authors in three hybrid theatre spaces at Edinburgh College of Art. Their new home, part of their long-term strategic partnership with the University of Edinburgh, was a success, with a footfall of over 25,000 over the 17 days, including those who watched events streamed live onto the Big Screen in the Festival Courtyard.

Authors from across the world joined the Festival in person and online. All events were broadcast live through the Book Festival website and have been viewed across 83 countries. Over 56,000 online and in person tickets were sold, a number which increased daily via watch 'on demand'. The Festival closed with Douglas Stuart in conversation with First Minister Nicola Sturgeon live, in person and in front of a sell-out audience in the New York Times Sculpture Court for his first appearance in Scotland since Shuggie Bain won the 2020 Booker Prize.

The Baillie Gifford Children's and Schools Programme welcomed families both in person and online – from daily Draw-Alongs on Facebook with children's illustrators to books on sharks, pirates, building dens and climate change. The Baillie Gifford Schools Programme streamed events to schools across Scotland and concluded with a virtual Gala Day with eight live events for primary school pupils.

Participants in the Book Festival's Citizen project enjoyed a community meal under canvas in the Festival courtyard provided by Scran Academy which was followed by a showcase of readings, stories and short films. Authors also delivered readings and workshops to prison groups in HMP Edinburgh, HMP Kilmarnock and HMP Perth and groups in the Tollcross area, part of their ongoing work to build connections and dialogue with their new community.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL (EIFF)

18 – 25 AUGUST 2021

With their strong commitment to equality, diversity and inclusion, 62% of in-person screenings were captioned and 47% audio described. 81 screenings and events across the programme were BSL interpreted. In addition, 96% of films on the Festival's online platform, Filmhouse at Home, were captioned and 75% audio described. For the first time, independent cinemas across Scotland hosted EIFF screenings, expanding their reach to local communities and widening access to new cultural experiences.

EIFF celebrated the diversity of Scottish and world cinema, with a programme of online and in-person film premieres, filmmaker Q&As and special events. Highlights included: a special Preview Screening of Everybody's Talking About Jamie with the film's protagonists Jamie Campbell and Margaret Campbell in attendance and a pre-screening drag queen celebration; the World Premieres of Cindy Jansen's documentary Prince of Muck and Richie Adams' pre-WW1 drama The Road Dance, set on the Isle of Muck and Isle of Lewis respectively; and the UK Premiere of Annette, a rock opera from French Cinema enfant terrible Leos Carax straight from Cannes.

Film Fest in the City returned to St Andrew Square, with a programme of free film events running every day during the Festival, while Film Fest on the Forth brought opportunities for the audiences to watch film against the beautiful backdrop of the Forth Bridges.

The 2021 Industry programme took place entirely online, allowing both established and early-career film professionals to attend digital Press & Industry screenings, panel discussions and talent development programmes.

Their flagship education programme for young people, EIFF Youth, provided further opportunities to explore a range of career paths in the industry, gain new creative skills and learn more about film.

SCOTTISH INTERNATIONAL STORYTELLING FESTIVAL (SISF)

15 – 31 OCTOBER 2021

SISF 21 had an Open Call for programme proposals, which were considered by a panel of diverse practitioners, thereby increasing significantly the number and kind of artists involved. The PLACE programme continued to enable work in local communities and in specific venues such as community gardens and schools. This was expanded in 2021 to include a Talking Statues programme exploring Edinburgh's monuments. There were over 100,000 proactive social media engagements with this project, alongside live workshops and events. SISF 21 had the largest and most widely extended press coverage since the inauguration of the Festival.

In the COVID context they continued to offer digital access in addition to safely distanced live events. The IMAGINE commissions from 2021 will be broadcast as suite for the 2022 Year of Scotland's Stories. In the run-up to COP 26, SISF held a series of Global Lab workshops in partnership with Earth Charter International and The Earth Stories Collection, in which the Festival is a founding partner. Accompanying this was a series of online Global Hearths with participants from Asia, Africa, the Pacific, the Americas and Europe.

EDINBURGH'S HOGMANAY

30 DECEMBER 2021 - JANUARY 2022

Underbelly programmed Edinburgh's Hogmanay '21 to celebrate being 'Back Together' after the uncertainty and separation that the COVID pandemic brought. Unfortunately, just 10 days before the event, the Omicron variant response meant that Scottish Government implemented tighter measures, including the cancellation of large-scale gatherings.

The original programme included a Torchlit Procession to Holyrood Park (30 December), a series of performances in Greyfriars Kirk by Scottish artists (29-31 December), the Party at the Bells on Princes Street (31 December), and the Loony Dook and Message from the Skies (1 January). Despite not being able to present everything that had been planned, highlights of the delivered Edinburgh's Hogmanay '21 programme included:

Fare Well - Underbelly took the opportunity to re-release Fare Well, the critically acclaimed series of short films from Edinburgh's Hogmanay '20 programme as their message of hope still resonates. The films were available to view for free online, between 28-30 December. Since the original release in December 2020, Fare Well has now been viewed 6,765,699 times by people across the globe.

Journeys Home - Underbelly made a new short film, based on a short story written exclusively for Edinburgh's Hogmanay by Kathleen Jamie, the Scots Makar, about the resilience and unwavering sense of community that Scotland as a nation has shown throughout the pandemic. Looking at people's plans for Hogmanay through four individual and different stories, the film also featured a specially composed soundtrack by Rura, one of Scotland's most highly acclaimed folk bands and was directed and filmed by local Edinburgh company Arms & Legs. Originally intended as the launch event of the wider programme on 29 December, it was shared online from 5pm on 31 December, free on www.edinburghshogmanay.com and was watched by people all over the world. The film was made possible by funding received through DCMS.

Message from the Skies; 'Earth Calls' - Continuing Underbelly's programme of Message from the Skies, Earth Calls was the poetic response of three specially commissioned Scottish artists to the climate emergency with their message to the skies. Although commencing over 2 weeks later than originally planned due to COVID restrictions, Underbelly was delighted to present this free to attend beautiful and atmospheric installation in Trinity Apse from 19 January. Anna Fleming, Andrés N. Ordorica, and Mara Menzies' thought-provoking words were underscored by a powerful, specially commissioned soundscape from Calum Paterson. The vibrant, animated projection was created by designer Hazel Dunn and digital studio NOVAK. This project was funded by the EXPO Fund from Scottish Government and was delivered in partnership with the Edinburgh International Book Festival.