

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Thursday, 11 May 2023

Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2023/24

Executive/routine
Wards

Executive
All

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that the Culture and Communities Committee:
 - 1.1.1 Notes the continuation of the Strategic Partnership Funding Programme for a fourth year 2023/24 at Appendix 1;
 - 1.1.2 Approves the flexible and project funding recommendations for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 2;
 - 1.1.3 Approves the retention of Strategic Partnership funds earmarked for the Centre for the Moving Image (CMI) for allocation to cultural cinema exhibition-related opportunities during 2023/24; and
 - 1.1.4 Approves the Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme Review timetable 2023/24, with review outcomes implementation from April 2024.

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Executive Director of Place

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Report

Third Party Cultural Grants Funding 2023/24

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the third party cultural grants fund 2022/23 and requests approval for the funding recommendations for 2023/24. The report also sets out the proposed timetable to review this funding approach, with the outcome to be reported to Committee in October 2023.

3. Background

- 3.1 On [18 June 2019](#), the Culture and Communities Committee considered the outcomes of a review of Third Party Cultural Grants Funding and approved three year in principle funding for the recommended Strategic Partners, the creation of a Flexible Fund and New Models funding programmes.
- 3.2 This funding programme is aligned to provide support for the city's year-round cultural activity and infrastructure as well as the city's festivals. When it began it contributed to the delivery of the Council's [Culture Plan](#), [Thundering Hooves 2.0](#) and Council Commitments. The Culture Strategy, [Business Plan](#) and [2030 Festival City Vision](#) will now inform the priorities for culture funding programmes going forward.
- 3.3 On [1 February 2022](#), Culture and Communities Committee agreed the continuation of the Strategic Partnerships programme for a fourth year (2023/24), acknowledging the need for stability and support for recovery following the on-going impacts of COVID-19 on the city and sector. It was very important for recipients to be assured of the in-principle commitment for 2023/24 at that time.
- 3.4 The Strategic Partnerships funding programme is the Council's revenue funding commitment to the city's cultural sector, currently supporting 27 cultural companies.
- 3.5 The Council continues to play an essential partnership and facilitation role with stakeholders, Strategic Partners, communities and creative practitioners. This is reflected in the [Culture Strategy 2023/30](#).
- 3.6 The Council is now also working with the recently established EVA (Edinburgh Visual Arts) and their shared city strategy development initiative. A summary of their membership, impacts and work is attached at Appendix 3.

- 3.7 As a Council Arms' Length Organisation, the performance of Capital Theatres Ltd is reported annually to Culture and Communities Committee and Governance, Risk and Best Value Committee. The most recent report was provided to Committee on [14 March 2023](#).

4. Main report

Culture Grants

- 4.1 The Strategic Partnerships funding programme has proved to be a lifeline during the exceptional circumstances of the COVID-19 pandemic. It was agreed that the resource would be re-purposed in that period to meet the needs of the companies. This was monitored throughout and many companies utilised it for fundamental company survival, which included work strands such as: staff engagement opportunities and contact; creative programming online and outdoors; online activity providing performances, seminars, training and networking; and project development in anticipation of a return to live activity. This is testament to the creative flexibility and commitment of the vast majority of these companies.
- 4.2 In the last year, the environment has normalised to a degree, as have the Council's funding agreement monitoring and reporting relationships. It should be noted too that new pressures have emerged in recent times, including substantially increasing cost of living and energy prices as well as supply chain issues and staff scarcity and costs, all adding to an already challenging post-COVID environment.

Film

- 4.3 Unfortunately, late last year, CMI (Centre for the Moving Image), the umbrella company delivering both Filmhouse and the Edinburgh International Film Festival for the city, went into administration.
- 4.4 Currently, development of a model for sustainable cultural and communities film exhibition with arts-based community hubs is being progressed. This is not designed to replace residents' access to core cultural cinema provision, but to research potential models to spread co-curated film exhibition opportunities and access more widely across the city. This exploratory project is expected to complete in September 2023 and a report will be brought to Committee with findings and recommendations after that.
- 4.5 The project is being funded using the balance of the 2022/23 CMI Strategic Partnership funding resource of £30,000.
- 4.6 The Edinburgh International Film Festival, in partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival, has been retained in a renewed format and will deliver a programme of activity and screenings in August. This is not currently in receipt of funding from the Strategic Partnerships programme budget.

- 4.7 Alongside Creative Scotland, the Council's partnership contribution to the Platforms for Creative Excellence festivals funding programme earmarked for the Edinburgh International Film Festival in 2023/24 (£62,275) will be re-directed to the costs of delivering a re-imagined event in 2023.
- 4.8 The next steps for the Festival will be reported to Committee in due course and after the renewed event has taken place in August 2023.

2023/24

- 4.9 The proposed cultural grants budget for 2023/24 is £4,589,279.
- 4.10 The Strategic Partnership programme and Flexible Funding recommendations both reflect continued strategic, targeted support for the sector, contributing to the on-going retention of jobs, creative practice and development opportunities, programming and delivery of activity throughout the city.
- 4.11 The range of recipient projects/organisations align to the three aims of the culture strategy and facilitate and support a broad choice of citywide infrastructure and resource access points to creative practitioners, participants and audiences year round.

Strategic Partners and Groupings

- 4.12 Appendix 1 lists the funding allocations of £3,049,000 for Strategic Partners, £1,209,900 for Groupings (theatre and literature) and New Model Partnerships for Year Four of the Strategic Partnerships Funding Programme.
- 4.13 The Strategic Partnerships Review process will be informed by funding monitoring information across both COVID-impacted years and a year of more stable activity and recovery.
- 4.14 The review is taking place from April 2023. A consultation with funding recipients, stakeholders and sector representatives will begin in May. Findings and progress will be shared for discussion with Culture and Communities Committee representatives throughout the process. The agenda for these conversations will be informed by:
- Feedback from current recipients on the first four year programme;
 - Available (in principle) budget;
 - Draft options proposals for the next funding model; and
 - Establishing the core strategic parameters Strategic Partnership funding recipients will be expected to meet.
- 4.16 Understandably, existing recipients will be concerned about stability and continued revenue relationship with the Council, so it will be important to agree the outcomes of the review as quickly and as efficiently as possible.
- 4.17 The outcomes will be reported to Committee in October 2023, with the recommended application process to follow as soon as possible thereafter.

- 4.18 As ever, the Council will plan to manage the outcomes of any subsequent application process via an independent expert panel to ensure accountable, fair and objective funding decisions. All funding panels will be facilitated by Council officers.
- 4.19 Officers will endeavour to report the funding application outcomes to Committee in January 2024 at the latest however, this presents a very tight timeline in the context of Committee reporting deadlines.
- 4.20 The proposed timetable takes into consideration the impact of summer festivals, events and August Festivals on availability of all sectors and personnel involved. If it proves feasible during the course of the review process to move deadlines forward, every effort will be made to do so.
- 4.21 In this context, it is acknowledged that there is more work to do in co-operation and development with the city's visual arts sector. This has been discussed with the Edinburgh Visual Arts (EVA) group (Appendix 3) and will continue with EVA and other sector representatives and Council services going forward to identify ways to progress this.

CMI Strategic Partnerships Grant 2023/24

- 4.22 It is proposed that the funding which would have been allocated to CMI in 2023/24 (£100,000) is retained to fund related film/exhibition-based opportunities, and project activity during 2023/24, including the option of a revised Filmhouse model subject to feasibility.
- 4.23 In this context, other possibilities could include an option to temporarily host a small cinema exhibition resource (Screen Machine) for a minimum of a year which could provide an 80 seater small cinema and auditorium facility. It would, however, require practical venue and staff resources, alongside programming expertise, to support its operation and wherever it is sited. These practicalities would be explored. If viable, a proportion of CMI funding could support overheads.

Flexible Funding

- 4.24 The Flexible Funding programme was designed to ensure the widest access possible to local cultural projects and creative practitioners through a supported open application process.
- 4.25 The programme aims to promote cross-artform and diverse collaboration, developing new partnerships and access to funding opportunities for the creative sector's communities in Edinburgh as well as supporting and sustaining local creative practitioners, and to further develop access to participation and audience opportunities.
- 4.26 To date this funding has resourced on-going citywide creative practice and development, short-term employment, production, training, professional development, new collaborations and networking.
- 4.27 In 2023/24, the budget available is £220,000 (which reflects a reduction of £80,000 agreed as part of the Council's budget process in February 2023). The recommended Flexible Funding Awards for 2023/24 are outlined in Appendix 2.

- 4.28 There were three Flexible Funding programme strands in 2022/23. These were Diversity and Inclusion, Creative Practitioners/Artists Programmes and WHALE Arts Creative Community Hubs network development programme.

Diversity and Inclusion

- 4.29 The Diversity and Inclusion Fund has supported over 40 freelance-led projects, and created a unique opportunity for diverse artists and creatives across arts disciplines to further their ambitions, trial new concepts and better engage with the arts and culture sector and communities alike. Projects have been offered further opportunities for engagement and development, including collaborations with the RSNO, EIF and Berlinale breaking through perceptions of inaccessibility and exclusivity for many communities in the city. Funded projects to date can be found at [Cultural Strategy Diversity Programme](#).

- 4.30 The following funding allocations are therefore recommended for 2023/24:

- 4.33.1 **£10,000 - Guide to Arts and Culture Sector in Edinburgh for Artists and Creatives** to be designed and produced in print and digital formats available in seven different languages (Arabic, English, French, Mandarin Chinese, Polish, Spanish, Ukrainian) enabling international artists, displaced or settling in Edinburgh to better navigate work, funding and collaboration opportunities. The guide will include a map of cultural organisations across the city, practical tips for engaging with visual and performing arts organisations in Edinburgh, and information on funding resources for a variety of cultural engagement models. Currently, there is no other similar concise guide available for diverse artists to assist with their introduction to the arts and culture sector. The need for the guide has been raised by ethnically diverse artists, including displaced artists, in discussions hosted as part of the networking programme.
- 4.33.2 **£7,500** – Partnership project with the Museums and Galleries service developing and delivering **Artistic Programme** to be featured in the first city-wide observance of the annual, UNESCO-designated International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and its Abolition on 23 August 2023 (this recognises the importance of the Council's unanimous adoption of the 10 recommendations outlined the publication of the Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Legacy Review Report). This resource will support the very first event hosted in recognition of the abolitionist movement which laid the foundations for universal human rights.
- 4.33.3 **£2,500** – **Access Focus**: fees to diverse artists and creatives with disabilities towards a new programme aimed at ensuring greater access to work opportunities and engagement with the arts and culture sector for disabled practitioners and audiences.
- 4.33.4 **£70,000** – **2023/24 Diversity and Inclusion Fund** – competitive fund inviting local ethnically diverse artists and creatives to submit proposals for new commissions and work development building on promoting greater visibility and representation of diverse participation, voices and narratives in the sector. In 2023/24 the fund is to focus on stabilising the role and contribution

of independent ethnically diverse artists and creatives and lay foundations of sustainable practice models.

Creative Community Hubs Network led by WHALE Arts

- 4.31 Much work has been done to date to build an active network of creative community hubs and practitioners and participant exchange in the city by working directly with the venues, their communities, participants and practitioners. An update report is attached at Appendix 4.
- 4.32 It is evident from the report that this is an extremely promising model and is attracting a great deal of interest further afield. Most importantly, it is developing a genuine network of exchange and communication between participating Hubs as well as reaching thousands of residents. For example, it has served to enhance a sense of collaboration, including the possibility of sharing resources, between Hubs, and to now look at opportunities to work together on exchange, project development and funding opportunities. It has also served to inform joint planning. Projects are emerging which will involve resident engagement between Hubs and therefore across the city.
- 4.33 The network members have also engaged with the peer-to-peer support group of EDI and Strategic Partners community engagement officers to contribute to better communication and planning of cultural provision across the city.
- 4.34 It is therefore recommended that £100,000 is allocated towards the programme's continued development.

Creative Edinburgh

- 4.38 Creative Edinburgh (CE) is a membership organisation for the independent creative sector in the city. The Council has already worked successfully in partnership with CE during the pandemic to manage support grants to practitioners in the sector. CE have been delivering an extensive mentorship programme across the sector funded via the Flexible Fund 2022/23. It is proposed that a grant of £10,000 is allocated to CE to look at developing a partnership programme to further improve communication and creative practitioner links with the Council. Whilst a high proportion of those in receipt of support during the pandemic joined Council mailing lists there is more to do to build essential and mutually beneficial links to the sector.

Screen Industry Opportunities

- 4.39 A programme designed by Film Edinburgh in partnership with Screen Education Edinburgh to introduce young people in schools to the screen industry as a career option with the participation of professionals from across the industry. The project model of engaging directly with the industry was trialled on a small scale in 2022. It proved to be successful in capturing interest and encouraging young people to see the industry as a real and accessible career opportunity. It is therefore recommended that this is further evolved to include all of Edinburgh's high schools in partnership with Screen Education Edinburgh. The professionals who come to meet and speak to pupils receive a minimum fee. The programme is designed to include legacy planning to leave information and resources in place in schools.

- 4.40 It is therefore recommended that £10,000 is allocated towards the continuation of this partnership project with the expectation of match funding from external agencies.

Music in the City

- 4.41 Music in the City Programme is intended to develop the much-needed first stages of a citywide network of community-based performance platforms for local and diverse musicians, and in their communities. This is intended to form part of a wider strategy being developed by the Council's Performance Venues Service and to explore and identify performance opportunities and partners outwith commercial pubs and venues. A partnership programme budget of £10,000 is recommended.

Project Development Funding

- 4.42 For 2023/24, this budget equates to £110,379. The following allocations are proposed:

- 4.42.1 **Granton Waterfront** - A final year of commitment (year 3) to the work with local communities and practitioners, through actions included in the Granton Waterfront Cultural Strategy, and in particular community liaison, projects and engagement programmes led by creative practitioners in the area.
- 4.42.2 **Edinburgh Visual Artists and Craft Maker Awards (VACMA)** - This small-grant partnership commitment with Creative Scotland delivers practice development and mentoring resources to local visual artists and craft makers.
- 4.42.3 **Culture Mapping Partnership** - The small grant resource towards this City of Edinburgh Council/University of Edinburgh programme partnership has continued to ensure that the Culture Map remains current and updated. This allocated resource is intended to further develop a Cultural Community Engagement online map offering an overview of the extensive work undertaken by the Council's Strategic Partnership funding recipients. This provides an invaluable overview of their work taking place year round in every ward in the city. <https://maps.ella-boo.com/edin/12/> How this resource could align with the new 20 minute neighbourhood toolkit will be investigated. Advice on how to use the map which is currently in development can be found at Appendix 5.

Living Wage

- 4.43 As previously reported to Committee in [November 2017](#), since 2017/18 the Living Wage has been included as a standard requirement in funding application paperwork and agreement conditions. The data supplied is submitted to the Council's Central Grants Register.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 Following Committee's consideration and approval, the recommended projects, review, funding agreements and development programmes would be implemented.
- 5.2 Further development, formats and planned timelines of the recommended flexible funding work strands will be shared with Committee in due course.
- 5.3 The grants programme is included in the Council's Culture Strategy Action Plan.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The proposed budget for the third party cultural grants programme in 2023/24 is £4,589,279.
- 6.2 The grants programmes are set out in Appendix 1 and Appendix 2.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Culture Service team will continue to facilitate cultural development, consult and work with residents, practitioners and communities; co-produce projects, activities, services and funds with strategic partners, providers and service users in line with the Service remit.
- 7.2 The Council's funding of third parties through grant support significantly contributes to the delivery of its Equality Act 2010 duty to seek to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality and foster good relations.
- 7.3 Recommendations for project funding are made in line with the Council's Integrated Impact Assessments (IIAs) guidelines which provide a framework to assess impacts on equality and human rights, environment and climate change and economy, including socio-economic disadvantage.
- 7.4 Grants to third parties contribute to meeting the city's carbon neutral target of 2030 and enables the Council to meet Climate Change (Scotland) Act 2009 Public Bodies Duties.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – 2023/24 Strategic Partnerships.
- 9.2 Appendix 2 – 2023/24 Flexible and Project Funding.

- 9.3 Appendix 3 – Edinburgh Visual Arts (EVA).
- 9.4 Appendix 4 – Creative Community Hubs Report 2022/23.
- 9.5 Appendix 5 – Strategic Partnerships Community Engagement Map – Overview (in development).

2023/24 CULTURAL GRANTS

Strategic Partners

Organisation	Banding (up to)	Level of Grant Award 2022/23	Recommended Level of Grant 2023/24
	£20,000	Year 3	Year 4 of 4
Edinburgh Art Festival		£20,000	£20,000
Edinburgh Printmakers		£20,000	£20,000
Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop		£20,000	£20,000
Stills Gallery		£20,000	£20,000
	£50,000		
Dance Base		£50,000	£50,000
Edinburgh International Book Festival		£50,000	£50,000
Multi-cultural Festival		£43,000	£43,000
	£75,000		
Edinburgh Festival Fringe		£75,000	£75,000
	£100,000		
Artlink		£100,000	£100,000
Centre for the Moving Image *		£100,000	£100,000
Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival		£100,000	£100,000
Imagineate		£100,000	£100,000
	£125,000		
Festivals Edinburgh		£125,000	£125,000
	£150,000		
Edinburgh Science		£150,000	£150,000
North Edinburgh Arts		£150,000	£150,000
	£2,500,000		
Edinburgh International Festival		£1,926,000	£1,926,000
Total		£3,049,000	£3,049,000

Retention of CMI budget to fund alternative cultural and community film provision *		
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Strategic Partners: Groupings

Organisation	Banding (up to)	2022/23 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2023/24
Literature Grouping:	£100,000	Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3
TRACS		£41,000	£41,000
Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature		£47,700	£47,700
Scottish Poetry Library		£10,000	£10,000
Scottish Book Trust		£1,200	£1,200
Total		£99,900	£99,900
Theatres Grouping:	£1,000,000		
Capital Theatres		£585,130	£585,130
Royal Lyceum Theatre Company		£328,830	£328,830
Traverse Theatre		£40,447	£40,447
Lung Ha Theatre Company		£15,593	£15,593
Edinburgh Performing Arts Development (EPAD)		£30,000	£30,000
Total		£1,000,000	£1,000,000

Revenue New Model Partnership Funding

Organisation	Banding (up to)	2022/23 Level of Grant Award	Recommended Level of Grant 2023/24
		Year 2 of 3	Year 3 of 3
Scottish Chamber Orchestra	£50,000	£50,000	£50,000
Queens Hall	£60,000	£60,000	£60,000
Total		£110,000	£110,000

Flexible Fund Recommendations

Flexible Fund Priorities	2022/23 Level of Grant	Recommended levels for 2023/24
Diversity and Inclusion	£100,000	£90,000
Creative Community Hubs Project WHALE Arts	£100,000	£100,000
Creative Edinburgh		£10,000
Screen Industry Opportunities Project		£10,000
Music in the City Programme Development		£10,000
Creative Practitioners Fund	£100,000	
Total	£300,000	£220,000

2023/24 Project Funding

	2022/23 Level of Grant	Recommended levels for 2023/24
Cultural Partnerships and Strategy	£30,684	£28,684
Edinburgh Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (partnership programme with Creative Scotland) (VACMA)	£19,750	£19,750
Diversity Project	£33,600	£33,600
Granton Cultural Strategy (Final Year)	£24,800	£24,800
WHALE Arts (Working Better Together)	£18,000	
Culture Map Partnership Fund Two map projects – overview of residents' cultural infrastructure and SPs citywide community engagement work	£3,545	£3,545
Total	£130,379	£110,379

	Total Budget 2022/23	Total Budget 2023/24
Total Budget	£4,689,279	£4,589,279



EVA

EDINBURGH
VISUAL
ART

EVA is formed by the common goal to provide everyone with amazing art experiences. Five independent art galleries and workshops occupying buildings owned by the City Council, we have been serving Edinburgh for decades, bringing people together to make, view and participate in art and the learning opportunities it offers.

As major events come and go in the annual calendar, we remain open all year round and are always free. From the East to the North, we are a collective engine for Edinburgh's visual arts, supporting and presenting the work of local and international artists. We all train and employ a cultural workforce, playing an active role in the cultural sector in Scotland.

EVA organisations have all received valued investment from the city over recent years, and have more than matched this with significant fundraising, helping create and improve our world-class buildings and the enviable galleries and art facilities within. Our security and future growth rely on hard work to achieve self-generated income through our shops, sales and cafes – all things that help contribute to broadening both our visitors' experience and our audience diversity.

We hope you enjoy this celebratory publication which highlights **EVA's** work, beneficiaries and the value of these cultural jewels to Edinburgh. There is much to be proud of and more to give, through our programmes and committed teams. We appreciate the support of the city's influencers in the coming months and years.

Our newly-formed group shares values, goals, and resources to strengthen our way ahead during precarious times. We hope to welcome you through our doors to experience the joy, improved wellbeing and stimulation to be found through engaging with visual art.



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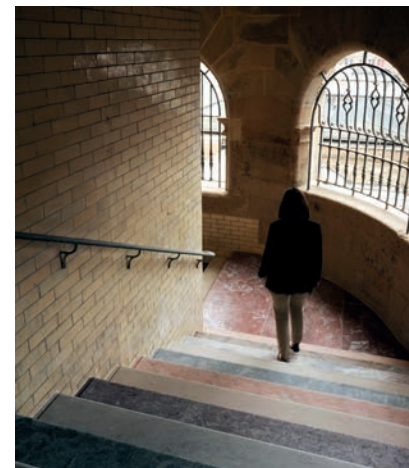


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ROUND, WELCOMING EVERYONE
REGARDLESS OF AGE, GENDER,
ABILITY, SOCIAL CLASS OR
ETHNICITY TO ENJOY THE
STIMULATION AND IMPROVED
WELLBEING ART BRINGS.**



**EVERY YEAR WE COMMISSION
NEW WORK FROM AROUND
50 ARTISTS, WITH HALF FROM
OR LIVING IN EDINBURGH.
427 ARTISTS ARE MEMBERS
OF EVA ORGANISATIONS,
ACCESSING EXPERTISE,
EQUIPMENT AND STUDIO SPACE.**

EVA



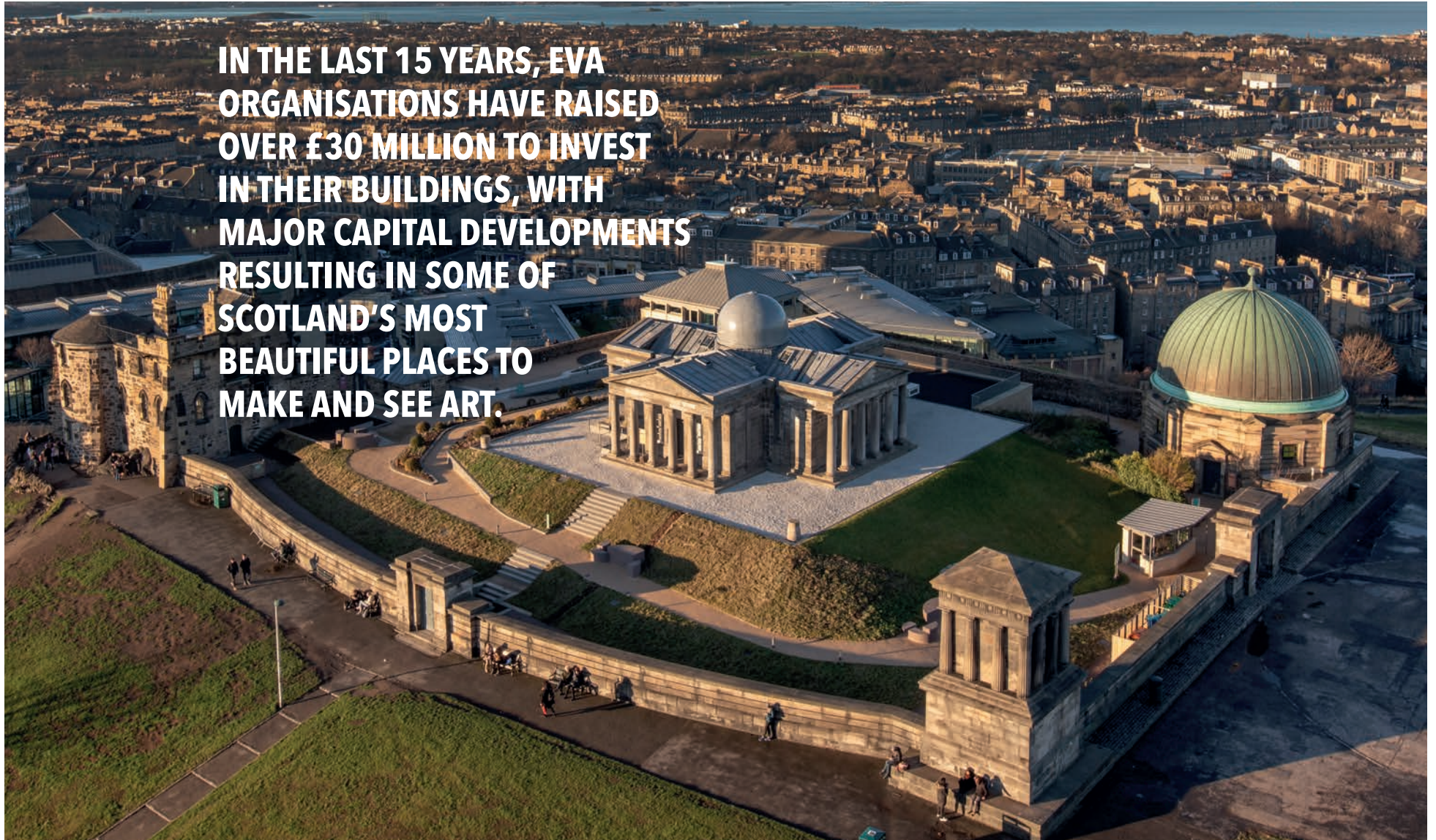


**FIVE LONG-ESTABLISHED,
INDEPENDENT ORGANISATIONS
PROVIDING SPACE FOR THE
CREATION, LEARNING AND
EXHIBITION OF ART ACROSS
EDINBURGH.**



EVA

**IN THE LAST 15 YEARS, EVA
ORGANISATIONS HAVE RAISED
OVER £30 MILLION TO INVEST
IN THEIR BUILDINGS, WITH
MAJOR CAPITAL DEVELOPMENTS
RESULTING IN SOME OF
SCOTLAND'S MOST
BEAUTIFUL PLACES TO
MAKE AND SEE ART.**



**"THE PROJECT HAS BEEN
A REAL LIFELINE FOR US WITH
EVERYTHING THAT'S BEEN
GOING ON. IT'S GIVEN US
SOMETHING POSITIVE
TO FOCUS ON TOGETHER
AS A FAMILY"** WORKSHOP PARTICIPANT



EVA



ENTRY TO OUR EXHIBITIONS IS ALWAYS FREE AND WE GENERATE OVER HALF OUR TURNOVER OURSELVES. THIS IS CLOSE TO THE NATIONAL AVERAGE OF TICKETED UK VENUES WHERE ENTRY IS PAID.





WHENEVER I AM LOST FOR INSPIRATION I LIKE TO DRIFT FROM CITY STREET TO GALLERY SPACE. THE FACT THAT THE GALLERIES ARE FREE IS SO IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, TO WANDER IN AND HAVE THEIR IMAGINATIONS SPARKED. FEELING AT HOME IN GALLERY SPACES MADE ME CONFIDENT IN PURSUING ART AS A CAREER. TESSA LYNCH, ARTIST





EVA

**THE EXPERIENCES
I'VE HAD OVER THE
PAST YEAR HAVE GIVEN
ME CONFIDENCE AND
OPENED MY EYES TO THE
OPPORTUNITIES AHEAD**

BROOKE MILLIKEN, CREATIVE TRAINEE



CREATIVITY IS AN ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL SKILL FOR US ALL. THE READINESS TO SOLVE PROBLEMS, DISCOVER NEW THINGS ABOUT OURSELVES AND OPENNESS TO NEW IDEAS. THESE ARE ALL ASPECTS THAT STAND PEOPLE IN EXCELLENT STEAD RIGHT THROUGHOUT THEIR LIVES, IN WORK AND LIFE.

MAREE TODD, MSP, MINISTER FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE



**WE PROVIDE FREE
ACCESS TO AMAZING ART
ALL ACROSS THE CITY -
FROM THE BOTTOM OF
THE MOUND TO THE TOP
OF CALTON HILL, FROM
THE EAST END TO THE
RIVER FORTH.**





EVA

**21 RESIDENCIES PER YEAR
ACROSS THE VENUES BRING
BOTH NEW AND ACCLAIMED
ARTISTS TO THE CITY FROM
SCOTLAND AND ACROSS
THE WORLD.**

EVA

A photograph of an art installation in a gallery. A large, glowing, six-pointed star is formed by six bright light beams originating from the ceiling and converging towards the center. The room has a warm, orange-brown color palette. In the foreground, a man and a woman are standing and looking at the star. The man is on the left, wearing a dark suit, and the woman is on the right, wearing a light-colored top and dark trousers, with her hand raised as if gesturing. The floor is a light-colored, polished surface that reflects the light from the star.

**THE FIVE ORGANISATIONS,
FORMED IN THE CITY BY
ARTISTS FROM THE 1960s
ONWARDS REPRESENT 212
YEARS OF ART CREATION,
LEARNING AND EXHIBITION.**

Creative Community Hubs Project Report March 2023

In this report we will share a short summary of the Creative Community Hubs project from the past year (2022/23) and the emerging trajectory for this work.

Creative Community Hubs project 22/23

The Creative Community Hubs project is facilitated by Tiki Muir, community development worker at WHALE Arts, and Morvern Cunningham, freelance creative. WHALE Arts is the lead partner. The aim of the project is to fulfil three main criteria:

1. Network building between creative community hubs across Edinburgh
2. Community commissioning grants by the hubs
3. Advocacy of the hubs project at a local and national level

The project has been running for 18 months to date. Started in October 2021 as a six-month scoping project between local community hubs in Edinburgh to find points of resonance and convergence which resulted in the *Working Better Together* report, it has since expanded to include eight hubs around the city:

- WHALE Arts in Wester Hailes
- Lyra at ArtSpace in Craigmillar
- Craigmillar Now in Craigmillar
- North Edinburgh Arts in Pilton and North Edinburgh
- Out of the Blueprint at Out of the Blue Drill Hall in Leith
- Duncan Place Community Hub in Leith
- Granton:hub in Granton
- The Crannie in the Old Town

The network currently spans seven distinct areas of the city, representing a total potential reach of the hubs' cultural work to approximately 65,800 people living in these places; c.12% of the city's total population.¹ Average total footfall across all hubs stands at around 10,000 monthly visits. Between them, the hubs hold over 100 years' experience of community-based cultural work.

In the past year, the hubs network met on a regular basis and shared skills and knowledge through specialist workshops on areas of mutual interest. Additionally, the project delivered a round of small grants to the network (in the region of £7000 per hub), supporting and seeding a diverse range of creative projects within the relevant local communities. Morvern

¹ Based on data taken from Scottish Government statistics for 2021 period: <https://statistics.gov.scot/atlas>

and Tiki continue to advocate for the project at a local and national level.

Aim 1. Network building

What has been achieved to date in 2022/23:

- 10 monthly online meetings for shared learning, network building and mutual support.
- *Working Better Together* report launch event May 2022 at Out of the Blueprint.
- Initiation of an internal hubs e-newsletter.
- A series of three skill sharing workshops based on expertise held by the network and tailored to areas of mutual interest for the hubs, including:
 - (1) Failspace workshop at WHALE Arts, August 2022
Two network members and QMU-trained Failspace champions provided a safe space to talk about failure, to envision potential successes and failures at the start of the project.
 - (2) Co-commissioning workshop with Lyra at ArtSpace, November 2022
Award-winning organisation Lyra shared their process for co-creating with young people, with regards best practice.
 - (3) Community archiving workshop with Craigmillar Now, January 2023
A hands-on workshop with practical archive training and learning from a cutting-edge community-led archive.

Aim 2. Community Commissioning

Half of the total grant awarded to the Creative Community Hubs project for 2022/23 (£50,000) has been allocated as small grants, distributed amongst the hubs. As a result, the confluence of the hubs to form a network is meaningfully grounded in exploratory project delivery. We understand that this is integral to sustaining the overarching project.

Altogether, 10 diverse projects at eight hubs have been seeded or supported to develop by the community commissioning grants. These project grants see 15 paid roles supported at some level across the hubs (this includes local freelance artists, existing hub employees, and the creation of an entirely new paid role by a hub which previously relied solely on volunteers). Over 350 local people directly participate in the projects, while the projects will reach an estimate of over 12,550 people through one off events, local festivals, community consultation, exhibitions, and performances this calendar year.

The design and delivery of the grant process was based on trust and respect for the work and approaches of each hub, following the principles laid out in the *Working Better Together* report. For more detail about the grant delivery and an outline of each grant project see Appendix 1.

The following summary of the grant awards demonstrates the depth and breadth of the community commissioning projects supported by this element of the project:

- *Art for Anxiety Workshops* at Duncan Place Community Centre.
- *Gocomatic*, DIY Merchandise printing opportunity for young artists with Out of The Blueprint.
- *Granton Archive Project* development of a community archive and outreach through Granton Hub.
- Community-led research and business plan for visual art studios at North Edinburgh Arts.
- Workshops and exhibitions with *The Art Club* at The Crannie.
- *SmARTies* youth group co-commissioning creative activities from external cultural orgs with WHALE Arts.
- Tailored support for young audience to engage with Lyra's *Once Upon a Snowstorm* winter tour, research and development for Lyra's *Young Company*, and new initiative *Artist Dinners in the Community* at ArtSpace.
- *Craigmillar Arts and Heritage Trail* with oral histories, digital resources, and printed maps with Craigmillar Now.

Aim 3. Advocacy

This strand of the project has seen Project Leads Morvern and Tiki proactively extend the reach of the Creative Community Hubs project to key stakeholders in both Edinburgh's cultural sector and beyond, and to local and national policy makers and funders. We have advocated for the work and ambitions of the hubs network and partner hubs specifically, as well as for place-based and community cultural work in general.

An initial approach was sharing the *Working Better Together* report widely:

- Directly to 150+ people and organisations (hard copies and via email).
- Via Twitter and other social media channels, seen by thousands of people.
- Read 50+ times online via WHALE Arts' Issuu website.
- Presentation of findings to Festivals Edinburgh's programming and engagement groups

Further advocacy opportunities generated through dissemination of the *Working Better Together* report include:

- **Creative Informatic Capital Fund partnership.** Invited by the Creative Informatics team to support on the design and delivery of their new [Community Creative Tech Fund](#), representing a total of £110K capital investment for data driven creative community projects in Edinburgh and South East Scotland.

- **EPAD space directory.** Working with Edinburgh Performing Arts Development and Creative Edinburgh to better promote the facilities of creative community organisations in existing directories and networks.
- **Creativity Knowledge Cities Conference, Bristol.** Contributing our findings from the hubs project to roundtable event '[Envisioning Futures for Creative Economies: Language and Power](#)' moderated by Vikki Jones, March '23.
- **Community Cinema Hubs project.** New pilot project funded by the City of Edinburgh Council to test the demand and capacity for community cinema screenings through the hubs network in response to the loss of community engagement with cultural cinema due to the demise of the charity CMI and Filmhouse.

In summary

From this brief overview of the Creative Community Hubs project, it is evident how much has been achieved in the space of 12 months. From the critically acclaimed publication of the *Working Better Together* resources, to a growing city-wide creative community hub network rich with workshop and shared learning opportunities, and successful small community commissioned grant allocation. Furthermore, additional creative opportunities and partnerships have been generated for the hubs, which would not have arisen without the advocacy and networking aspects of the project.

Currently, we are compiling key information on the hubs and their facilities to produce a follow-up resource that will raise the profile of the network and promote greater awareness of the hubs across Edinburgh's cultural and community sector. The resource will be designed and printed by Out of the Blueprint and disseminated similarly to the *Working Better Together* report.

Thus, we are confident in reporting that our targets for the project this year have been achieved and exceeded.

Emerging trajectories and momentum.

The hubs network will meet for a collective workshop in April 2023 to critically reflect on the project thus far and to envision our collective hopes and aspirations for the future direction of the network. We will be delighted to share these insights in due course. In the meantime, based on our ongoing conversations with the hubs' representatives, as project facilitators we can make the following observations and recommendations on the emergent potential of the Creative Community Hubs project.

There is real potential for the Creative Community Hubs project to build further upon the great work that has already been produced. This new model of working – collaboration instead of competition – as a wider network is individually and collectively strengthening the profile, resources, and activities of each of those participating, whilst building solidarity across the group. For example, hub representatives have commented that meeting on a regular basis (especially in person meeting at different hub venues) has been of real

personal and professional benefit. We see that natural affinities are continually emerging between the hubs and the diverse community interests they serve, while the knowledge-sharing workshops have provided the space to exchange examples of best practice on a peer-to-peer basis, with tangible applications through the Community Commissioning grant projects. Given time and resource to develop and mature, there is great potential to influence and remodel partnership working beyond the immediate network - across the Edinburgh cultural sector and further afield. There has already been national interest in the outcomes of the project, with the Project Leads sharing the learning to date from the project at the CKC Conference *New Futures for Creative Economies* in Bristol in March 2023.

Several hubs within the network are only operating today thanks to local campaigns by residents to keep their buildings as a local resource (Duncan Place Community Hub, ArtSpace). Others have been purpose-built with the local community in mind (WHALE Arts, North Edinburgh Arts). Still others are reanimating local sites of historic importance within their localities and keeping them publicly accessible through their work (granton:hub, Out of the Blue Drill Hall, Craigmillar Now). Many of the hubs house large performance spaces, office spaces for tenants, and in some cases, significant archives of hubs and local area, community gardens and specialist risoprinting facilities. Combined, the hubs represent over 100 years of experience of working locally in communities, despite some being in their infancy (having only opened during or since the pandemic), while others have been operating for decades. In this context, the network provides valuable peer support across the hubs, with the possibility of future mentoring opportunities and 'buddying' between key members of staff. The depth and breadth of projects funded by the small grants aspect of the project is testament to the range of activities offered by the hubs, and the work they do to empower the community groups they serve.

The addition of the community cinema funding allocated to the project by the City of Edinburgh Council will further diversify the range of activities available and allow community members the ability to lead and suggest the direction of this aspect of the project. The possibility of programming across the network has already been discussed in group meetings, with Craigmillar Now's recent Sandra George exhibition having great potential for future collaborative exhibition possibilities (George worked across Craigmillar and Wester Hailes from the 1980s, documenting the areas through her photography). There could also be the development of shared touring programmes across the hubs in future.

We were gladdened to see reference to the importance of creative community hubs in the proposed new cultural strategy for Edinburgh, which clearly recognises the importance of these spaces and the positive impact for local communities and are pleased to see the recognition of the value of this project and those like it at a policy level. For the Creative Community Hubs network to continue to grow and be sustainable, and for it to be an enriching part of the vision for Edinburgh's cultural landscape, we hope to see continued support into the next financial year, with the network itself helping to shape the overall development of the project long-term.

Creative Community Hubs Report Appendix

Community Commissioning grant process

Overall, our aim was to design and deliver a process based on trust and respect for the work and approaches of each hub, following the principles we laid out in our 'Working Better Together' report. How we approached this:

- The only stipulation for the grants proposals was that they support creative programming in the hubs' localities and that local community members were involved and had input.
- The process for distributing these funds amongst the network was intentionally flexible and lightweight; proposals were invited with facilitated support given, paperwork kept to a minimum, and no hard deadlines attached.
- Feedback and adjustments to proposals were focused on ensuring that core costs to hubs, such as venue hire, were included in their budgets, and that rates of pay for staff and freelancers were in line with recognised advised rates.
- Funds could be spent on existing projects, if there was evidence of a need on the behalf of the community, and co-commissioning was strongly encouraged wherever possible.

Grant project outlines

Craigmillar Now are working to create a new multimedia arts and heritage trail for the Greater Craigmillar area. This ambitious project is thoroughly embedded in the local community, supported by the engagement and expertise of local residents (particularly the volunteers of Craigmillar Now's archive group). The map will be produced in collaboration with Out of the Blueprint and tours of the trail developed with young people in collaboration with Lyra (both fellow members of the Hubs Network).

Extensive community consultation has yielded so many suggestions for the map that Craigmillar Now are now planning to design a series of maps. Accessibility has been addressed in several ways throughout the project, including a 24/7 landline number which can be dialled to hear the recorded oral histories of the trail.

The final outcomes will include: a printed map (3300 of which will be distributed to every residential property in Craigmillar); recorded oral histories connected to sites on the trail (included destroyed historic sites); a digital version of the trail online. The map and trail will be officially launch as part of the Craigmillar and Niddrie Community Festival 2023.

Duncan Place Community Hub are using their grant to support the continuation of a successful pilot of Art of Anxiety workshops. These pilot workshops were organised and delivered in collaboration with local artist Heather Marshall, following a consultation with the community in Leith, which saw many suggestions and requests around the themes of art and mental health.

This grant has enabled the workshops to continue, following extremely positive participant feedback. The proposed project entails 10 workshops culminating in an exhibition as part of Leith Festival 2023. There is no cost for attendees to avoid creating financial barriers. The workshops have recommenced as of February 2023 with waiting list due to oversubscription.

Due to the high levels of demand, we aim to support Duncan Place Community Hub with additional grant money, so that they can double the available workshops in this program (weekly rather than fortnightly).

granton:hub's proposal "Filling the GAP: Granton Archive Project" entails cataloguing and digitising their existing history:hub archive, which contains a wealth of material and resources on the social and cultural heritage of the local area. The project will make the archive more widely accessible, ensure a long-lasting heritage asset for the local community, and engage new and existing volunteers and local people with the hub in the process (for example through artist-led workshops).

The grant has enabled the employment of a paid team member, a freelance Development Worker, a significant step for the hub which currently is entirely volunteer run. The Development Worker began their role in February 2023 and is currently working with existing history:hub volunteers. The current iteration of the project will culminate in an exhibition potentially coinciding with the North Edinburgh Community Festival to maximise impact and reach.

Lyra have used the grant to develop and enhance the creative offer within two existing programmes (Once Upon a Snowstorm and Young Company), as well as developing a new creative initiative called "Artist Dinners in the Community".

In November 2022, Lyra toured their show Once Upon a Snowstorm to various community venues including Whale Arts and SPACE at Broomhouse Hub. The grant enabled Lyra to identify unique barriers to access and offer tailored creative activity to ensure that local audiences are supported to engage. The grant also supported the cost of a BSL interpreted performance.

The grant also supports research and develop for the Creative Team of Lyra's Young Company. This takes the form of weekly meetings and included a 3-day residency at Lyra in February 2023.

Artists Dinners in the Community aims to stimulate new connections for artists and community organisations in Greater Craigmillar over good food and artistic offerings from Lyra's participants. The grant has enabled Lyra to employ a Facilitator who is working to coordinate two community dinners between November 2022 – June 2023.

North Edinburgh Arts propose to research and draw up a business plan for a permanent visual arts studio and making space(s) within the expanded and refurbished NEA venue, due to re-open late in 2023. This work will be led by artist Alice Betts and members of the Art4GrownUps Group. The grant is supporting a paid artist role and a fee to several organisations to facilitate research visits.

This work builds on current community input and aspiration expressed through the Community Asset Transfer and redevelopment of NEA and the interests of existing groups at the hub. NEA are in a position to understand the barriers artists and makers in their community face and want to make access to quality studio and making space possible. It is their aspiration to make lasting and meaningful connections with the organisations and communities of makers around the city through the proposed research visits.

Out of the Blueprint are using their grant to trial a new strand of activity; a DIY merchandise facility called 'Goccomatic'. The aim is to provide open and supported access for young local artists who wish to screenprint their own merch, such as T Shirts or tote bags.

The project would introduce new young people to Out of the Blueprint, teach artists new skills, and enable them to develop an accessible income stream by selling their own products. It may also generate opportunities for artists to collaborate. Funding for the first three months will kickstart the project, enable OOTBprint to test proof of concept, get feedback from young artists, and learn if there are any factors needing consideration.

The Crannie are using their grant to support the continuation of and development of the existing Art Club. The Art Club began as an informal space to paint and draw as suggested during an open day for local residents at The Crannie. The Art Club has grown with participants of the group becoming more involved in deciding the creative activities and small exhibitions of the work displayed in the hub.

This grant has allowed the Art Club to continue and develop with a dedicated freelancer to support the group sessions and artists hired to deliver one off specialist workshops. The group are working towards producing a zine and holding a larger exhibition of their work at the end of March.

Whale Arts will develop and refine a youth-led commissioning project for the first time, learning from Lyra's expertise in youth-led co-commissioning (Lyra delivered a workshop for the network on this topic). The grant will fund a creative activity (or series of activities) that will be co-designed and commissioned by the participants of Whale's Smarties Art Club. The intention is for the commission to be deliverable by an external cultural organisation, as chosen by the young people.

This will enable Whale to invest in a different approach to partnership working. Whale will deepen creative engagement with an existing group of young people, allowing them to

determine and choose the creative activities that are available to them in their community at Whale, rather than incorporating ad hoc external offers into their program.

Strategic Partnerships – Citywide Community Engagement Map University of Edinburgh

In development

User advice

Here's the new link: <https://maps.ella-boo.com/edin/12/>

It's currently restricted to 2019; 2018/19 is almost complete and subsequent input of 21/22 data is pending.

It works as follows:

1. Click on a red dot (funded organisations) to see an organisation's name and numbers of projects (red) and audience reached (yellow).
2. Click on an organisation's name to show the wards it was active in. The darker blue wards show where the organisation was most active.
3. To clear the screen, click on another red dot and then click anywhere to remove the popup.
4. The red circles at the start indicate number of projects per organisation – the menu lets you switch to see number of audience reached per.

In the next version, the following will be added:

- a. A step-by-step walkthrough to explain the process
- b. The option to start with wards

Once you have chosen an organisation and clicked to see which wards it is active in, we can add point data for the venues where the activity took place (we don't have this granular data in full for earlier datasets, only the latest one).