

# Latest News

**Culture and Communities Committee**  
**10.00am, Thursday 11 May 2023**



## **Meadows Jawbone Update** **(Wards Affected: 11 City Centre)**

Since the last report to Committee on [1 February 2022](#), officers have explored spaces for the relocation of the Jawbone Arch such as Central Library, the National Museums Of Scotland, and Scottish Historic Buildings Trust at Custom House but nowhere has been deemed suitable. The instability and poor condition of the bones as described in the report, as well as the challenges of setting them in the necessary scale of armature to reduce further damage and risk to the public, means that officers are leaning towards recommending disposal of the Jawbones. Officers will be consulting with relevant partners including Edinburgh World Heritage and Friends of the Meadows in advance of submitting a more detailed report to the August Committee, as well as identifying potential funding sources for the bronze cast replica.

## **Culture Strategy Action Plans** **(Wards Affected: All)**

In [December 2022](#), Committee approved the Citywide Culture Strategy 2023-30. The Culture and Wellbeing team have since been working on their first annual action plan, designed to begin to implement the strategy's aims. The aims of the strategy are;

Aim 1. All Edinburgh residents can easily access cultural experiences that they find meaningful in their local area and everyone has the opportunity to contribute to shaping local cultural provision.

Aim 2. Edinburgh is a welcoming and supportive city in which a broad spectrum of creative and cultural practitioners choose to develop their careers, creating work that is internationally celebrated and locally relevant.

Aim 3. Edinburgh is a world leading cultural capital, an environmentally responsible host city where ideas are exchanged freely and the diversity of its residents is celebrated.

The four teams within the service; libraries, sport and wellbeing; cultural strategy and

partnerships; heritage, cultural venues and museums; and community empowerment have compiled a joint action plan which is available to read in Appendix 1. The plan identifies actions and success indicators and will be reviewed at the end of the financial year.

### **WASP Studio Space in Dalry (Wards Affected: 7 Sighthill/Gorgie)**

At its meeting on 31 January 1995, the former Edinburgh District Council Policy and Resources Committee approved the purchase of the property at 2/3 West Park Place. It was also agreed that the property would be leased to WASPS for the provision of artist space for a period of 25-years with an option to purchase at the end of the lease for £1.

WASPS exercised the option and the building was sold. As part of the sale a provision was agreed in the event that WASPS sold the property in the future. This provision requires that any sales proceeds should be spent on artist provision in Edinburgh and, if not, the Council could claw back 50% of the purchase price.

WASPS have been reviewing the investment required to bring the building up to modern standards and condition. The capital cost involved is prohibitive and their strategy is to acquire a more modern larger building in the Gorgie/Dalry area in which all existing occupiers in 2/3 West Park Place would be offered relocation. The capital receipt from the sale of 2/3 West Park Place would be reinvested in acquiring the new establishment thereby fulfilling the obligations from the former sale of the building.

### **Pilot Approach to Community Wealth Building in North Edinburgh (Wards Affected: 4 Forth)**

In the update on Community Empowerment in [December 2022](#), Committee noted the intention to provide financial support to support the development of voluntary sector networks to respond positively to models of working post-pandemic.

A pilot approach to local co-ordination to support local Community Wealth Building has been established with Fresh Start in North Edinburgh. Fresh Start has made significant progress in developing the pilot model (R2) to support local communities to recover from the pandemic and it is intended that this pilot will be used as a model to improve community co-ordination in other parts of the city in the future.

The pilot will also support other work which the Council is progressing (for example to develop a test site for Local Outcome Improvement Planning in the area, as a priority for integrated service delivery and the learning from this pilot will be used to develop local co-ordination arrangements across the city). The contribution will be split over two financial years and will be matched by funding from the Scottish Government.

### **Amplification of Noise in Public Spaces (Wards Affected: All, particularly 11 City Centre)**

On [13 December 2022](#), Committee considered a report on the amplification of sound in public

spaces. This report set out the legislative framework which governs the control of amplification of sound and provided information on the circumstances in which a bye law may be considered. The report noted that the time taken to introduce a byelaw varies but generally will take around 18 months.

In order to develop an evidence based to consider whether a byelaw may be appropriate, Committee requested that the Festivals and Events All Party Oversight Group (APOG) discuss, design and carry out a consultation with residents and businesses. A survey for citizens has now been developed and will be published on the Council's [Consultation Hub](#) on 8 May 2023. The survey will run until 31 August 2023, and it is expected that the results will be reported back to Committee on 5 October 2023.

### **Edinburgh Nature Network Update – Linking Leith's Parks Pilot**

**(Wards Affected: 13 Leith, 15 Southside/Newington, 16 Liberton/Gilmerton, 5 Inverleith, 4 Forth)**

As part of the Council's Thriving Green Spaces Project, a Nature Network was developed for the city. The Edinburgh Nature Network (ENN) is the first of its kind to be developed by a local authority in Scotland. The project team is being funded by the Future Parks Accelerator programme and one of the actions is to pilot implementation in Leith, one of the ENN priority areas.

The project team have been successful in bidding for "Nature Restoration in Parks" funding, the Scottish allocation of the Levelling Up Parks Fund provided to the Scottish Government by the UK Government (Greenspace Scotland is managing the funds on behalf of the Scottish Government).

A total of £41,000 has been awarded and will go towards development work to enhance a network of greenspaces in the area – Linking Leith's Parks. The project will also create a "nature pocket park" in Leith Links as part of the Wilding Wee Spaces programme which aims to provide all Edinburgh schools with an area of ground as a learning resource. This is consistent with the recently developed masterplan for Leith Links. An update on all four park (Leith Links, Inch Park, Inverleith Park and West Pilton) masterplans developed as part of the Thriving Green Spaces project will be provided in a future business bulletin.

In addition to the funding for the Leith pilot, a further £40,000 was awarded for tree planting and woodland protection at Bonaly Country Park in the Pentlands Regional Park.

### **Million Tree City Update**

**(Wards Affected: All)**

In 2022/23, Edinburgh recorded a net increase of 30,362 trees over the course of the year. This supersedes the initial target of 25,000 trees in 2022/23 and represents 22% of the 2030 target. This is shown in the table below.

#### **Net increase in numbers against annual target**

<b>Year(s)</b>	<b>Target</b>	<b>Tree numbers</b>	<b>% on target</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>24,332</b>	<b>97%</b>

<b>2022/23</b>	<b>25,000</b>	<b>30,362</b>	<b>121%</b>
<b>2021 to 2023</b>	<b>50,000</b>	<b>54,694</b>	<b>109%</b>

The activities which have contributed to this have included undertaking the first tree giveaway event aimed at encouraging residents to plant trees in their gardens, further tree planting events as part of Edinburgh Million Tree City project and reinforcing the Council's commitment to tree planting and aftercare within the Trees in the City Strategy.

### **Cultural and Community Cinema Provision** (Wards Affected: All)

The recent closure of Filmhouse has meant the loss of core cultural and community cinema screening and engagement opportunities in the city. With this in mind, an exploratory development project will be undertaken in partnership with creative community hubs across the city. It will investigate options to potentially develop the provision of both cultural and community-generated screenings and related events on a sustainable basis.

The project will take a dynamic and practical approach to film exhibition provision in the city. It is anticipated that a minimum of five hubs will be engaged in the project, with up to 15 co-curated screening events and shared touring film programmes presenting a wide range of independent cultural films. The project timeline is from May to November this year.

The project research scope will also include looking at options to partner with film festivals and other cultural organisations' programmes and to work together to present a variety of locally generated screenings and events.

Researching potential links with other screening initiatives, such as the libraries screening programme and independent film exhibitors including film clubs and community groups is in scope too.

Following project completion, the evaluation report findings and recommendations will be used to further inform the city's future partnership strategy for cultural and community cinema provision.

A budget of £30,000 has been committed to the project. This is the balance of the Council's Strategic Partnership grant previously allocated to CMI, the Filmhouse parent company which went into administration in 2022.

### **Auld Reekie Retold Project Ends** (Wards Affected: All)

The three-year [Auld Reekie Retold](#) project came to an end with the closure of the exhibition at the City Art Centre. Back in October 2019 when the project began, the overarching aims were to improve how the Council looks after its collections, seeking new ways to use them to engage with local audiences, and celebrating the public and shared ownership of the collections by the people of Edinburgh. A more detailed project evaluation will follow in the coming weeks, but initial findings show that despite the 15 months spent away from the collections during the COVID pandemic,

these goals were achieved.

The project culminated in March 2023 with being named Highly Commended in this year's [Collections Trust](#) award. The Collections Trust is a national body which publishes, oversees and advises on museum information standards. Its annual award highlights the often-unsung achievements of those who manage the collections that lie at the heart of all museums. This year Collections Trust would like to celebrate recent collections-based work related to revised cataloguing and use of collections procedures; something the Auld Reekie Retold project had been working on since its inception.



While the project did not cover as much of the physical inventory as originally hoped, it exceeded its targets for research, photography and engagement. In doing so, the team created a lasting legacy of clearer procedures and workflow for recording information, digitisation and producing online content, developed new skills, and fostered a culture of knowledge sharing across the various collections.

The exhibition successfully reached a local audience, and comments show how much they value their civic collections. Many visitors were moved by the items on display they had a lived experience of, loved the interaction with objects, staff and other visitors, and left wanting to know more. A [poetry competition](#) held during the exhibition had 56 entries, all inspired by items on display and demonstrating the power of objects in creating emotional responses. The exhibition was also a pilot as part of the Digital Engagement Strategy work to explore how using QR codes to share digital content in a physical exhibition can work. Data has shown the trends in behaviour of different visitor profiles, and that there is an appetite for accessing content in future exhibitions.

## Custom House Update (Wards Affected: 13 Leith)

Scottish Historic Buildings Trust (SHBT) continues to engage community groups and stakeholders in Leith to explore the approach an interpretive plan for the heritage space in Custom House might take.

The potential for a 'story-led' focus that enables both established and new community members to be represented would present opportunities for regular updates, and to involve younger people

and contemporary history too. This approach also allows for creative presentation of the Leith collections using interpretive tools such as oral history, light and sound installations to make sure the space is accessible and multi-sensory.

The Museums and Galleries team will develop this work over the summer, in partnership with SHBT, and will facilitate online engagement using the Consultation Hub for wider community input while funding options to create a temporary Community Engagement post are investigated.

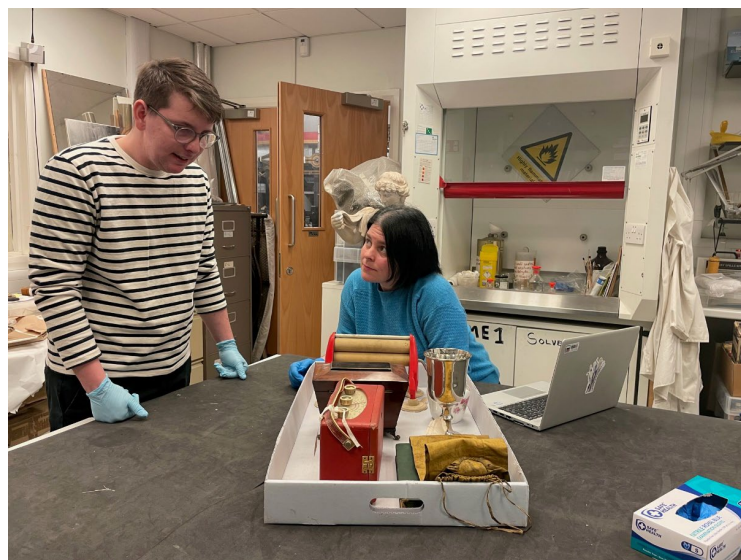
SHBT will be updating its fundraising plan to reflect its aim to submit an application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for funds in 2024/25 and will be participating in the new city-wide Local Heritage Network being created by Archives to support and bring together community-led heritage groups in Edinburgh.

## **New Collaboration Enables Better Access to LGBT+ Collections** **(Wards Affected: All)**

This month sees the start of a new placement with Museums and Galleries Edinburgh's (MGE's) social history collections. Rowan Rush-Morgan, a doctoral student at the University of Edinburgh, has received funding from the Scottish Graduate School of Arts and Humanities (SGSAH) to work alongside curators and collections management staff at the Museum Collections Centre for three months to improve the searchability of LGBT+ collections.

Rowan will be improving catalogue records to ensure key terms relating to each object are tagged, making life easier for public researchers. Rowan will also explore links between the LGBT+ collections and the wider social history collection. In addition, the project will scope out a future placement at MGE for a young person with lived experience of the LGBT+ community who does not have an academic or museums background. Ensuring input into our collections from those with relevant lived experience is a key goal of our service over the next three years, as is making space for a greater diversity of people to work directly with our collections.

Committee will be kept updated on the impact of this important project, which is hoped will become a model for working with specific community collections.



*Image: Rowan Rush-Morgan discussing objects from MGE's social history collections with Collections Care Officer Gwen Thomas*

## Edinburgh Performing Arts Development (EPAD) – Reflection on Key Issues and Opportunities by the City’s Independent Performing Artists (Wards Affected: All)

EPAD, a key partner in City of Edinburgh Council's Theatre Partnership, facilitates and supports connections for those who work independently in the performing arts in Edinburgh - helping to build a stronger, better integrated and more democratic future for the city's professional performing arts community. Feedback gathered from EPAD's networking meeting in December 2022, captured how Edinburgh's performing arts workers are feeling now and what they value, fear and desire going forward:

“Still impacted by Covid, exhausted and fearful but resilient, our network values the power of live performance, collaboration and community. They seek open-ness and shared thinking and they fear empty seats at theatres, lack of equity and barriers to inclusivity; They desire greater value to be given to what already exists in the city and more access for independents to the city's spaces. They are fearful of a rush to the future without due care for the wellbeing of the city's independent performing artists.”

These findings will inform the shaping of EPAD's future programme. A Summary Report (with a more detailed appendix) can be found [here](#).

Thanks to continued funding from City of Edinburgh Council, EPAD will continue its valuable work in 2023/24, supporting the city's freelance playwrights, actors, choreographers, directors, sound designers, producers and technicians. Ongoing work includes monthly support surgeries and co-working days which provide a warm and supportive environment and opportunities to meet and chat with peers from across the city's performing arts community.



## Fair Fringe and Fair Hospitality (Wards Affected: All)

In [May 2018](#), the Council adopted an Edinburgh Festivals Workers' Welfare Commitment to demonstrate the city's support for fair working conditions within our cultural venues and community centres. An update report was presented to Culture and Communities Committee in [September 2019](#) to investigate the possibility of using the Licensing system as a means of enforcing compliance with the commitment. Since then, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society has continued consultation with the Trades Unions and industry stakeholders to further develop Fair Work Practices during the Fringe and have compiled guidance on the [Fringe Society website](#).

A survey of all stakeholders (artists, employees, volunteers) is to be undertaken during and after this year's Festival to help assess the impact of the guidance and identify what areas may require improvement or clearer guidance. The Council will engage with the Fringe Society following completion of this survey to ascertain if our own Commitment needs revised (including updated rates of pay under the Scottish Local Government Living Wage) based on the feedback gathered. An update on this will be reported to Committee in late 2023.



### **Convener**

Councillor Val Walker

### **Members**

Councillor Walker (*Convener*)

Councillor Glasgow

Councillor Heap

Councillor McFarlane

Councillor McNeese-Mechan

Councillor Mitchell

Councillor Meagher

Councillor Munro

Councillor Osler

Councillor Staniforth

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## Upcoming Exhibitions and Events

### Peter Howson Exhibition (27 May to 1 October) – Associated Programme of Events (Wards Affected: All)

Running alongside the Peter Howson Retrospective at the City Art Centre – When The Apple Ripens: Peter Howson at 65 – Museums and Galleries will be running a series of events – further details and booking information can be found [here](#).

The programme has been designed to pick out key themes in his work and also to explore issues like wellbeing and neurodiversity. A film about Peter Howson and the themes that have shaped his work as well as living with Aspergers, is also being produced and will be exclusively launched on the eve of the exhibition.

### Lauriston Castle Events (Wads Affected: All)

For more than 400 years, enchanting Lauriston Castle has overlooked the River Forth at Silverknowes, near Cramond. Set among 30 acres of woodland and beautiful gardens, Lauriston Castle is a special place to visit.

Museums and Galleries have a wide-ranging series of events taking place at Lauriston Castle – further details and booking information can be found on the Museums and Galleries Edinburgh website – [here](#) or by telephone on 0131 336 2060 (Monday-Sunday 10am-4pm). Margaret Findlay, Learning and Programmes Manager can also provide information about any events (non-booking information) on 0131 529 3963/ [margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:margaret.findlay@edinburgh.gov.uk).

It is hoped the programme will bring audiences back to the Castle following the Covid pandemic, including re-establishing relationships with existing partners and building relationships with new partners, such as the Friends Gardening Group.

Work is also ongoing with the Edinburgh Living History group and a filmmaker to produce a documentary film mapping the last 19 years that the group has been in existence.

### Anniversary of Windrush (Wards Affected: All)

A series of events will be held at the City Art Centre to mark the Anniversary of Windrush - key dates are 22 and 24 June. Further information will be available in due course on the Museums and Galleries website – [here](#). Colleagues are also working with local writer Jeda Pearl Lewis to create some creative writing responses to Windrush involving Caribbean communities in the City, and it is intended that this will form an exhibition in the community space at Museum of Edinburgh.

### Usher Hall

## **(Wards Affected: All)**

Details of the upcoming events at the Usher Hall can be found here -  
<https://www.usherhall.co.uk/whats-on>.

## **Assembly Rooms (Wards Affected: All)**

Details of upcoming events at the Assembly Rooms can be found here -  
<https://www.assemblyroomsedinburgh.co.uk/whats-on>

## **Churchhill Theatre (Wards Affected: All)**

Details of upcoming events at the Church Hill Theatre can be found here -  
<https://churchhilltheatre.co.uk/whats-on>:

## Recent Events and Activities

### Museum of Childhood Reopening (Wards Affected: All)

The Museum of Childhood reopened 1 April 2023 celebrating the start of Edinburgh schools' Easter break following post Covid essential repairs.

The entire holdings of the Museum are Recognised by Scottish Government as being of National Significance, and while the building has been closed, the team has been working behind the scenes on a number of important collections care and interpretation upgrades, partly funded with grant aid from Museums Galleries Scotland.

Work continues to undertake important buildings maintenance, which means two of the galleries will not be open until later this year, however the team was pleased to start welcoming local families back to our most popular museum venue to enjoy the spaces and activities that are freely available 7 days/ week.



Photos: Gillian Findlay

### Warm and Welcoming Spaces (Wards Affected: All)

#### Family Fun Days

Free public events for families have been held across the city, taking place in Leith Library, Drumbrae Library, Oxfgangs Library, Craigmillar Library, Westerhailes Library and Gilmerton Library. The events were targeted at families, with a focus on information and services that would provide support for parents, children and older people.

In partnership with colleagues in Culture, we developed the content and offered a range of facilitators and artists from diverse and inclusive backgrounds. Each event was enhanced by fun and interactive activities or performances including 'Once Upon a Raindrop' – an interactive play and show for toddlers, dance workshops, storytelling, face painting and balloon sculpting. Working more closely together ensured that families could experience a free fun day out whilst accessing vital information and support.

Stallholder Organisations included Macmillan, Age Scotland, Council's Family and Housing service, Council's Benefits and Advice service, People Know How, Changeworks, Volunteer

Edinburgh and Access to Industry. These organisations reported having quality engagement with those attending, and felt it useful having the opportunity to network with each other.

Each event had over 300 people attending, with positive comments made on the day, including, "Great event. My mum has mild dementia and I have had loads of advice from the stalls. 'Women into Work' made a great contact and hope to join a course in 2023. My daughter loved her first face paint (butterfly)- beautiful with glitter!"



### **Lunchtime Concerts at the Central Library**

As part of the initiative to make Central Library a warm and welcoming space, staff in the Music Library are running a series of lunchtime concerts on Saturdays at 1.00pm until June.

The Music Library have welcomed the guitarists of The Accidentals and Clarsach player Steph Humphreys. By the end of the Spring season they will have welcomed a singer, a solo cellist, a Guitar duo, a Jazz ensemble, and two separate guitarists.

The positive benefits of music are well documented and we are delighted to be able to offer everyone the opportunity to listen to free live music, making more people aware of the amazing music resources we hold at Central Library.



## **Libraries Update (Wards Affected: All)**

### **Army of Terracotta Readers**

As part of the Living Knowledge Network and our partnership with British Library under the Chinese and British Exhibitions, Edinburgh Libraries with young readers have made their own Army of

Readers. Libraries across the city have been making their armies, which were gathered in the Central Library from 16 March to 22 April. This also celebrates Edinburgh City Councils twinning with city of X'ian

Portobello, MacDonald Road, South Queensferry, Kirkliston, Newington, Fountainbridge, Craigmillar, Stockbridge Boroughmuir High School, Craigmount High School and Forester High School all took part.



## EDGE2023 – Edinburgh Libraries Conference

2 and 3 March saw Edinburgh Libraries host their 14<sup>th</sup> EDGE self funding conference. Speakers from USA, Europe and across the UK spoke to over 120 delegates, including members from our own staff teams, on inspirational Library projects happening across the globe. We were privileged to have Councillor Cammy Day, Leader of the Council open the Conference. Delegates were leaders in their field, from New Zealand, Germany, Belgium, and the UK. Feedback received from participants has once again been incredibly positive.

The EDGE Awards took place on Thursday evening, with the following winners announced – Libraries Hacked for Digital, Stirling Libraries for Physical and Aberdeen City for Social. [Link to the awards page](#)



Time to push the boundaries of public service delivery  
Join us for **EDGE2023**  
**Book Now**



**Amine Shah, Scotland's National Librarian**  
Our newly appointed National Librarian talks about her ideas and projects for the future

Time to push the boundaries of public service delivery join us in Edinburgh for Edge 2022 <https://edgeconference.co.uk/booking/buy-a-ticket/>





**Kelly Saini Badwal, Head of Cultural Services at London Borough of Sutton and Chair of The Library Consortium**  
Building our services to support customers to access libraries digitally but also using digital to build our physical access

## Bus passes @ Edinburgh Libraries

Over 50 million free bus journeys have now been made by under 22s across Scotland. Figures from Transport Scotland show that Edinburgh has had a high uptake with over 71,000 young people having signed up. That equates to 89% of those eligible. Evidence from the Child Poverty Action Group has shown that free bus travel can save a total of £3,000 in the lifetime cost of a child in Scotland.

Forrester High School's librarian and staff from Sighthill and Ratho Libraries supported parents and pupils with their NEC applications at two parent's evenings at the school.

Sighthill Library staff visited the Broomhouse Space Hub to sign up Young Carer groups which was so successful that two further visits were made.

Craigroyston High School's librarian has been working with staff at Muirhouse Library and colleagues in Pupil Support and ICT to make the system straightforward, secure and efficient. The school librarian now processes new bus passes and replacements as well as any change of details.

Leith Library staff have warmly welcomed large numbers of Ukrainian children and young people resident on the Victoria 1 ship at Leith docks, and have supported them to apply for their National Entitlement Cards, as well as using our library services. Staff at Leith have also been supporting and encouraging uptake at local primary schools.

### **Former First Minister visited Westerhailes Library**

The former First Minister took part in a regular Thursday afternoon Bookbug Session, joining a group of local families from Wester Hailes. The session was facilitated by Library Development Leader Susannah who led the group with songs and rhymes. The First Minister read a story to the children. Families really enjoyed The first Ministers involvement in the session.

After the session the First Minister took part in a short video where she talked about her own love of reading and the importance of instilling that love of stories in children, "Bookbug is a brilliant way of encouraging that enthusiasm, and all here in a wonderful community library, and so it's really a lovely way to spread the joy of reading."

The Development Leader was also given an opportunity to add to the video and talked about her own love of working with families to improve literacy and introduce new books and stories to children. The visit was a great success, and good opportunity for the Wester Hailes Library team and local community to celebrate books, libraries and storytelling.

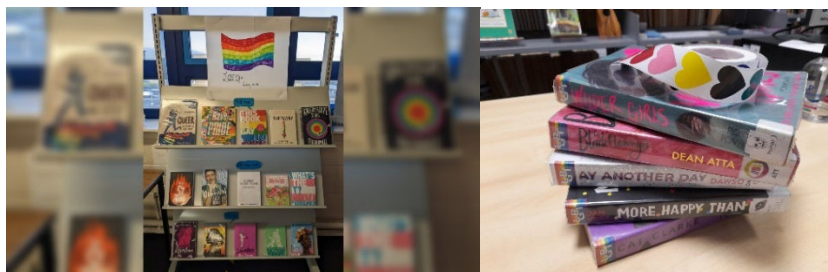
### **Celebrating LGBTQ+ History Month @ Edinburgh Libraries**

Edinburgh School Libraries celebrated with drop in lunches, book displays and group talks.

Queensferry HS library had a book display with relevant LGBTQ+ books all February. Pupils were given a heart sticker of colour of their choice with each book issue or during class visits. The purpose was to share the message 'Love comes to all the colours of the rainbow' and motivate them to discuss LGBTQ+ issues. As the school applied for the Gold Charter status by LGBT Youth Scotland, the library has been awarded funding to enrich the LGBTQ+ book collection.

Boroughmuir HS Library and the school's Gender and Sexuality Alliance had lunch and a book browse in the school library. Members of the group provided recommendations for books already in the library and books they would like to see. There were also displays and posters in the library to promote the month.

Westerhailes HS library hosted meetings for the Equalities Group and had a display of relevant LGBTQ+ social history titles.



Drumbrae Library celebrated LGBTQ+ History Month with two events. A joint event with Andres N. Ordorica, poet and Harry Josephine Giles, who won the Arthur C. Clark award for her novel *Deep Wheel Orcadia*. The second event was session *Lavender Menace* Queer Archive. These were aimed to reach and develop our adult audience.

## International Woman's Day

International Women's Day began at Central Library on the 7 March with an amazing talk from feminist creatives Blunt Knife Co, who spoke about their missions and activism. They discussed the history of zines and how they can be used to express creativity in many forms. This was followed by a zine workshop using prompts such as 'Women who inspire you' or 'What issue do you think needs addressing?'.

Corstorphine Library hosted a talk on the 15 March for Women's History Month, with feminist *Se7en Magazine*, this was repeated at Newington Library on the 29 March.

Zine workshops were also held for International Women's Day across the city, in community and school libraries, and our communities have come together to give us a collection of women-inspired zines that will be collated, once complete and tour the libraires.



## World Book Day Events

Renowned and Crime author Harry Fisher, has been on a book tour of Edinburgh Libraires with his books based in Leith, telling his life story and giving his insights as to why Leith is so important in his novels.

Author Ebtisam Al-Beiti visited Stockbridge Library on World Book Day to read her children's book '*Citrus The Smoothie Sloth*'.

Westerhailes Library hosted a Reading Carnival to celebrate World Book Day. Families and people of all ages came along to participate in bookish-themed games to win tickets. Those tickets could then be traded in for prizes. Themed stalls included : How to train your Beebot; Hook-a-Story; Higher or Lower; and Knock-a-Book. The carnival proved very popular with people from around

Edinburgh travelling to the library to participate in the event. Attendance reached was 75 children and 15 adults

### **STV visit Craigmillar Library**

Craigmillar welcomed STV to their Bookbug around the world session on World Book Day. Edinburgh Libraires were delighted to share this joyful weekly session of multi-lingual songs with STV 6 o'clock news viewers across the country. Supported by evidence showing that children as young as 4 months can differentiate different languages, this programme builds valuable neural pathways to assist with language acquisition later in life- as well as allowing parents and children to share songs in the languages they speak at home. The addition of British sign language to the sessions also helped pre-verbal children to learn useful signs for communicating their needs and to build motor skills and flexible thinking; as well as making the sessions even more inclusive.

### **Partnership working**

**Craigmillar Library** held multiple workshops facilitating use of their seed library, a first of its kind partnership with local organisation Craigmillar Community grows; and (at the request of our young climate activists) built a partnership with the University of Edinburgh and Edinburgh's Bio quarter to deliver climate science workshops to the teenagers. The teenagers have learnt about the geology of Edinburgh and the natural carbon cycle, and have visited Super Lab and learnt about carbon capture technology and the latest science to reverse climate change.

The library is continuing with the Arts Award programme, 'Duke of Edinburgh for Arts' delivered in partnership with and funded by the University of Edinburgh. Halfway through this programme all participants were continuing with the project and on track to receive their certification. The Bronze Arts Award is eligible for UCAS points and will help our young people with college or university applications in the future.

### **Edinburgh Libraires help out The Herald**

Edinburgh Libraries' Digital Team were delighted to get a phone call from a journalist asking to feature their latest Capital Collections online exhibition in an article for the Herald on Sunday.

The 'Scottish Loch Scenery' exhibition contains a series of delightful, coloured images by A.F. Lydon and text by Edinburgh-born Thomas Allan Croal. Published in 1882 it features 25 lochside views from across Scotland. Croal gives descriptive notes on the most picturesque lochs and must-see sights along with practical information for the intrepid traveller.

Browse all the pictures alongside snippets of Croal's text at [www.capitalcollections.org.uk/view-item?i=52683](http://www.capitalcollections.org.uk/view-item?i=52683)

**Westerhailes Library** and Heriot Watt University are collaborating on a Language Café, all posters have been translated into Arabic, Hindi, Mandarin, Polish, and Ukrainian. This space is for multi-lingual individuals to socialise in an informal English-speaking environment. Held on the second (open to all) and fourth (women only) Fridays of every month.

### **Art and Design Library**

The March exhibition in the Art and Design Library is "CIRCLE", a thematic exploration using traditional photographic techniques by members of Edinburgh LoFi. The group were inspired by the

recent Barbara Hepworth retrospective at the Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art. Some of Hepworth's most recognisable works contain the circle motif - as a body, an eye, an aperture, and amongst the exhibits was an edition of the journal, CIRCLE, which touched the imagination of the members of Edinburgh LoFi Photographers Group.

### **Impact report on Community Workshops for the Ron O'Donnell Exhibition (Wards Affected: All)**

A grant of £1,500 was received from Napier University to engage with hard-to-reach community groups in Edinburgh around our Ron O'Donnell exhibition. Four workshops were set up with groups working with outreach colleagues, with Ron O'Donnell present. The groups were Edinburgh Caribbean Association, Edinburgh Recovery Activities, Citadel Youth and Invisible Cities. A short impact report on the sessions is included as Appendix 2.

### **Edinburgh School Sports Academy – Success Story (Wards Affected: All)**

Ewan Ramsay (Queensferry High School) and Cole Turnbull (James Gillespie's High School) applied to the Edinburgh School Sports Academy in 2018 due to their interest in volleyball and beach volleyball. They were in S2 and following successful applications, the academy provided 10 weeks of coaching at the Pleasance facilities at Edinburgh University (pictured), followed by 10 weeks at the courts on Portobello Beach. This programme focussed on skills development on the court, but also provided education around the mental side of the game as well as support with strength and conditioning for young athletes. Ewan and Cole were soon hooked on beach volleyball and when they left the academy in S3 they progressed to the Scottish Junior National Team programme where they formed a team and started to compete together.



They have since competed in UK Beach Tour events achieving a podium finish (bronze) at one of the Scottish legs of the Tour in Troon. In 2022 Ewan and Cole continued their journey onto the European stage when they competed in the under 18 European Championships, winning one of their qualifying matches. In February 2023, they were invited to the senior Scotland training camp in Tenerife (pictured), where they were immersed in a high performance environment with the opportunity to train twice a day with Scotland's top beach volleyball athletes.

Ewan Ramsay: "One of my favourite things about the academy was getting to play with others outside of my local club. This allowed me to make lots of new friends that I still have now. The academy was also the first glimpse I had of a pathway into international volleyball and being able to represent Scotland. This really inspired me to work hard throughout and made the experience more enjoyable. A brilliant example of the academy providing added value to young aspiring athletes and supporting them to make the important step from club to national team squads."

Cole Turnbull "The academy helped expose me to a higher level of coaching than I was used to. This helped me develop my skills further as well as expand my love of the sport. I'm now training with the senior national team, and I don't think I would have taken volleyball as far as I have without the volleyball academy. It also introduced me to beach volleyball which I have come to really enjoy. I have represented Scotland internationally at an U18 level and hope to represent at an even higher level in the future."

## CULTURE STRATEGY ACTION PLAN 2023/24

Outcome	Narrative
<b>Aim 1. All Edinburgh residents can easily access cultural experiences that they find meaningful in their local area, and everyone has the opportunity to contribute to shaping local cultural provision.</b>	Cultural provision is essential for wellbeing therefore residents need to have easy access to relevant resources and opportunities no matter what their personal circumstances or where or how they live. Local community facilities allow trusted relationships to grow, they are places where interests and talents can be explored, uncovered, and developed, they promote social cohesion and confident cultural identities, prevent isolation and loneliness and enable signposting to other services. They provide a focal point for debate and discussion and facilitated creative activity enables local voices to be expressed and heard.

Priority	Lead	Partners/ Resources	Year 1 Delivery Actions	Due Date	Compl eted	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators
1.1 Ensure Cultural provision is embedded in Council plans for 20-minute neighbourhoods and community planning	All	Other Council services areas (led by Sustainable Development); public sector partners, third sector and community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Represent Culture and Wellbeing on the Council's 20-Minute Neighbourhood Board and ensure cultural provision is considered on an ongoing basis within community planning</li> </ul>	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cultural provision embedded in Council plans</li> <li>Elected Members supportive of plans</li> </ul>
	Lib		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify and develop opportunities for library services to be delivered from shared co-located spaces</li> </ul>	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunities identified and library services delivered from co-located spaces</li> </ul>
	CE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribute to the development of cultural component of Local Improvement Plans (LIP)</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number, type and location of LIPs that have a cultural component</li> </ul>
	HCVMG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop City-wide music strategy strand to provide free access to live</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver and agree strategy</li> </ul>

			performances at local parks, hubs and libraries			
1.2 Work in collaboration with other council teams particularly in sustainable development, public health, social work, and education services to ensure the contribution of culture to wellbeing is recognised, included in planning, and the use of resources is maximised.	Lib/ CE	Libraries; public sector partners-health; third sector and community organisations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Apply the learning from the warm and welcoming initiative to continue the cultural activities programming delivered in libraries alongside local access to relevant information/ advice services</li> </ul>	12/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of programme of cultural events/ activities across community libraries in partnership with range of relevant partners/ Nos attending</li> </ul>
	Lib/ CE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop links with public health partners to highlight the positive contribution of libraries to wellbeing</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Numbers of community centres hosting public health activities</li> </ul>
	CPS	Granton Regeneration Team Project Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Granton Culture Strategy – deliver local creative practitioners development opportunities</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding Programme reported/delivered</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ERASMUS STEAM project delivered with Creative Learning team</li> </ul>	10/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bid success; project initiation via Edinburgh schools.</li> </ul>
1.3 Ensure project funding supports organisations in a wide range of postcodes.	CE	Public and third sector partners via EVOC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure Shared Prosperity Fund (SPF) workstreams is spread equitably across the city</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of community centres supported by SPF</li> </ul>
	CPS	Flexible Funding programmes  Creative Scotland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver annual project funding programmes designed and promoted to maximise citywide awareness and opportunity to participate and create employability and work development opportunities between freelance creatives and organisations engaging</li> </ul>	Programme application deadlines TBC		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Funding programmes / agreements delivered citywide</li> </ul>

		Project Funding	<p>with audiences and participants across the city.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deliver citywide Visual Arts and Crafts Artist/practitioner Funding programme facilitating practice development opportunities</li> <li>• Deliver Feasibility Project – to assess the delivery of sustainable cultural and community film exhibition</li> <li>• Launch Culture Map of Strategic Partners citywide community engagement programmes</li> </ul>	<p>Programme deadlines TBC</p> <p>10/23</p> <p>06/23</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Citywide individual creative practice development fund</li> <li>▪ Feasibility study delivered with recommendations for next steps</li> <li>▪ Website launched and promoted</li> </ul>
1.4 Provide support and opportunities for local cultural organisations to share knowledge and experience and facilitate connections between the local and centrally based organisations	CPS	<p>Funding programmes</p> <p>Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>Flexible Funding</p> <p>WHALE Arts</p> <p>EPAD/Creative Edinburgh Partnership</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fund Strategic Partnerships (27) delivering mentorship, engagement and networking programmes e.g. Edinburgh Performing Arts Development (EPAD)</li> <li>• Deliver year-round mentorship programme bringing together individual and organization-based practitioners;</li> <li>• community engagement projects</li> <li>• Project funding eg WHALE Arts Continue Working Better Together programme;</li> <li>• Progress sustainable arts-based Community Hubs network development programme</li> <li>• THRIVE programme to deliver creative practitioner mentorship</li> </ul>	<p>09/23</p> <p>03/24</p> <p>10/23</p> <p>03/24</p> <p>03/24</p> <p>10/23</p> <p>03/24</p> <p>10/23</p> <p>03/24</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Project targets met.</li> <li>▪ Agreement targets delivered - October 2023</li> <li>▪ Reporting use of 'working better together' model in the balanced development of partnership arts-based community hub engagement practices with established cultural organisations</li> <li>▪ Reporting against Community Hubs and</li> </ul>

		Project Programme	programmes; practice development spaces and programmes			THRIVE programmes agreements
		Diversity Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support the network of community engagement and EDI officers across the city, incl. mainstream venues and community hubs through (peer-to-peer) learning, information and knowledge exchange and joint diversity and inclusion action plans</li> </ul>	03/24		
1.5 Review Museum and Gallery service delivery to explore ways of making collections more accessible outwith the city centre	HCVMG	Property/Asset teams, Lib, Archives, Business Growth and Inclusion, HLF and other funders, planning, finance, HR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce Outline Business Case for a new Collections Centre</li> <li>Produce Income Generation Plan for the service focussing on City Art Centre and Royal Mile venues</li> <li>Museums and Galleries Transformation input to 20 Minute Neighbourhood Board and Corporate Property Strategy</li> <li>Communication Plan for Elected Members</li> <li>Work with Museums and Galleries service on utilisation of libraries and community venue estate</li> </ul>	07/23 11/23 07/23 09/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Outline Business Case approved by CLT</li> <li>Income Generation Plan developed that identifies sustainable business and financial model for service</li> <li>Museums and Galleries Transformation contained in 20 Minute Neighbourhood Strategy and Corporate Property Strategy</li> <li>Elected Member support for transformation</li> <li>Number of libraries and community venues involved</li> </ul>
1.6 Review the council estate to explore ways cultural services can be more effectively delivered across the city	CE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake department wide audit of infrastructure and services to assess synergies, gaps and opportunities</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Service audit report produced and recommendations agreed</li> <li>Information updated on the Libraries website and</li> </ul>

	Lib/CE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a review of community room and other space across libraries and make information more easily available to partners</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>made available to key partners</li> <li>Number of community centres involved</li> </ul>
	CPS	Procurement/ Town Centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retender of Edinburgh's Christmas to expand footprint beyond city centre</li> </ul>	12/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Appointment of contractor based on agreed criteria</li> </ul>
		Estates/ Granton Waterfront Regeneration Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of new spaces within Public Spaces Management Plan for cultural programming, e.g. Granton Station, Powderhall</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of events programme(s) in new spaces</li> </ul>
1.7 Develop the core cultural service offer available across the city's libraries in response to local need and focussing activities and opportunities in communities where participation levels are historically low	Lib	National Library Scotland; UNESCO City of Literature	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake activity assessment across libraries to determine existing service provision and set agreed targets for future service delivery against core offer</li> <li>Identify good practice and share knowledge across library teams to support service development e.g. creation of resource packs for library managers</li> <li>Develop closer partnership working with National Library Scotland and City of Literature to expand the cultural offer</li> </ul>	03/24  03/24  Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Core offer agreed and targets set for all libraries/ Increase in range of services available across libraries</li> <li>Publication and sharing of resource packs</li> <li>Involvement in one joint initiative with National Library Scotland and City of Literature.</li> </ul>
1.8 Improve access to the libraries cultural resources including books, heritage collections, digital resource,	Lib		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver library service provision in the new Macmillan Hub at Muirhouse and in the new Ratho Hub</li> </ul>	12/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Library service provision delivered in Macmillan Hub and Ratho Hub</li> </ul>



	CE		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake community consultation to shape future structures of the community centre estate</li> </ul>			<p>relevant actions undertaken</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Record of community consultation and feedback gathered</li> <li>Quantitative and qualitative indicators of cultural content.</li> </ul>
	CPS	Strategic Partnerships Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Include community engagement practice requirements in funding agreements</li> </ul>	10/23 03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SP funding agreement monitoring programme</li> </ul>
		WHALE Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Progress sustainable arts-based Community Hubs network development programme</li> </ul>	10/23 03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reporting against funding agreement</li> </ul>
		Event Management Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on extensive consultation to deliver final Use of Public Spaces guidelines and policy</li> </ul>	10/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Policy delivered and agreed</li> </ul>
1.10 Encourage cultural organisations to diversify their Boards to ensure the population is more accurately represented	CPS	Diversity Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Build on board development programme: offer governance training to aspiring and existing board members of ethnically diverse backgrounds; promote board membership opportunities, and supporting recruitment processes</li> </ul>			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15 places offered to individuals and organisations to participate in the governance programme.</li> <li>At least 20 further board membership opportunities advertised</li> <li>Guide five new board members in joining an existing board or setting up their own organisations</li> </ul>

1.11 Review ticket pricing structures for cultural venues to ensure a fair balance between income generation and affordability	HCVMG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review Fair Ticket Policy in line with other venues</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Revised Fair Ticket Policy defines balance between income and affordability for those that need it most</li> </ul>
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore possibility of Contract Waiver sponsorship of event tickets</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Contract Waiver social responsibility support for access to events</li> </ul>

Outcome	Narrative
<b>Aim 2. Edinburgh is a welcoming and supportive city in which a broad spectrum of creative and cultural practitioners chose to develop their careers.</b>	A creative workforce that feels supported and is valued is essential to the delivery of all our cultural services and to creating the vibrant cultural ecology we seek to sustain. Creative practitioners need time and space to develop their practice and appropriate and safe places and resources to work with others to produce quality outcomes. Whether they are freelance or employed by organisations, an artist or an arts administrator, they and their work enliven spaces and inspire others. Volunteering has benefits for organisations, localities and the individuals taking part, it is to be encouraged where appropriate and must be done in a safe, managed and fair way that respects the volunteers and interns and is mindful of why they are making this contribution.

Priority	Lead	Partners/ Resources	Year 1 Delivery Actions	Due Date	Compl eted	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators
2.1 Ensure EDI and Fair Work principles are proactively implemented in all organisations and projects to which we provide funding.	HCVMG	HR, EDI bodies, Creative Scotland, MGS, CEC Equalities Network (def)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDI working group meets regularly to oversee development of divisional plans</li> <li>• Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Review (ESCR) Group established with new Chair and funding for delivering recommendations</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Service area plans in place</li> </ul>
	CPS	Strategic Partnerships (27 organisations across the city)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• EDI and Fair Work reporting are requirements across all funding streams</li> </ul>	Agreement reporting dates		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Monitoring reports evidence continuing active adoption, adaption and implementation of practice</li> </ul>
		Fringe Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of Festivals Workers' Welfare Commitment</li> </ul>	6/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ New guidelines approved by Culture and Communities Committee</li> </ul>
		Diversity Programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support arts organisations in reviewing their EDI policies and plans as part of the network of community</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Four quarterly networking meetings with community engagement officers / EDI</li> </ul>

			<p>engagement and EDI officers in line with the CEC grants conditions,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a guide to Edinburgh's cultural sector in partnership with ethnically diverse artists, local arts and culture organisations and projects welcoming international artists and creatives to the city, helping them navigate through the funding and work opportunities market, and encouraging greater engagement and contribution to Edinburgh' arts, culture and heritage offering</li> </ul>	09/23		<p>officers focusing on aspects of EDI policies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1:1 Meetings with revenue funded organisations where require</li> <li>Publish Guide developed in consultation with the ethnically diverse artists and creatives network members representing a range of art forms and experience of living and working in Edinburgh. A minimum of 25 artists directly engaged on reflecting and engaging with the sector and working as freelance creatives in Edinburgh</li> </ul>
2.2 Work with FE/HE partners to identify and fill creative industry skills gaps	CPS	<p>Creative Scotland</p> <p>Edinburgh College Creative Learning Service Science Festival</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work in partnership with providers/representative bodies to contribute towards the further development of tailored formal and informal training opportunities, Film Office to explore funding to deliver schools film careers programme</li> <li>Deliver the 'FabConnectHER' project with Edinburgh College, Science Festival and Creative Learning to increase uptake of girls in STEAM subjects through Fab Labs/Creative Industries</li> </ul>	<p>On-going</p> <p>08/23 03/24</p> <p>03/24</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Training and further development opportunities promoted and reported</li> <li>Successful bid application; project implementation</li> </ul>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continuation of the 'Story Valley' ERASMUS project</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of Year 4 workplans</li> </ul>
2.3 Work collaboratively with Creative Edinburgh to ensure the voice of freelancers is reflected in plans and developments	CPS	<p>Creative Edinburgh</p> <p>Diversity Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular updates/meetings programme</li> <li>Continue support for participation of ethnically diverse artists and creatives in professional development and networking opportunities offered by Creative Edinburgh in addition to a bespoke capacity building and networking programme for ethnically diverse artists and creatives</li> <li>Continue hosting regular netoworking and professional development sessions engaging ethnically diverse artists and creatives in addition to the cross-sectoral meetings offered by Creative Edinburgh</li> </ul>	Every 2 months from 03/23	On-going	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Inclusion of feedback in relevant plans and developments</li> <li>Agreed programmes delivered by Creative Edinburgh</li> <li>Four quarterly networking meetings for ethnically diverse artists and creatives complimented with online professional development a minimum of 15 sessions focusing on fundraising, finance management, media and partnership building</li> </ul>
2.4 Support the development of EPAD's directory of available space for creative practitioners and proactively seek to make new spaces available	CPS	<p>CE</p> <p>Diversity Programme</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued EPAD Strategic Partnership</li> <li>Continued free space access offer for ethnically diverse artists; and ensure more diverse groups of artists are</li> </ul>	<p>10/23</p> <p>03/24</p> <p>03/24</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Report on activity and any further developments</li> <li>Programme progress report on the provision of a minimum of 1,000 hours of free access to spaces for</li> </ul>

			aware of and can access EPAD's directory			ethnically diverse artists and creatives throughout the year
2.5 Streamline monitoring and evaluation processes with other major funders to minimise duplication of effort whilst remaining transparent and accountable	CPS	Creative Scotland Event Scotland Scottish Government	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue and build on work with funding partners on streamlined methodology of, and timelines for, reporting against strategic priorities and funding agreements</li> </ul>	On-going throughout year concluding 09/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Incorporate relevant outcomes into new Strategic Funding Partnership agreements commencing April 2024</li> </ul>
2.6 Ensure good practice guidelines for volunteering and internships are applied in all organisations and projects to which we provide funding	HCVMG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Museums and Galleries Volunteering Policy updated</li> </ul>	12/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Museums and Galleries Volunteering Policy approved</li> <li>Baseline number of volunteers established</li> </ul>

Outcome	Narrative
<b>Aim 3. Edinburgh maintains its position as a world leading cultural capital, and enhances its reputation as an environmentally responsible host city where ideas are exchanged freely and the diversity of its residents is celebrated.</b>	<p>A world leading cultural capital requires year-round infrastructure built on sustainable business models and a cultural ecology that connects the local and global. The city should be an incubator of homegrown talent and a compelling cultural destination, offering citizens new ideas and perspectives and attracting a diverse spectrum of the world's most exciting artists to come and create or present work here while experiencing and contributing to the unique creative and cultural mix that Edinburgh has to offer. Residents across the city should feel the benefit, the challenge and the inspiration this meeting of local and international talent brings and their diversity should be reflected in and connected to the programmes on offer. The environmental impact of all activity must be carefully considered and in line with the Council's goal of achieving a net zero city by 2030</p>

Priority	Lead	Partners/ Resources	Year 1 Delivery Actions	Due Date	Compl eted	Success Measures/ Performance Indicators
3.1 Support cultural organisations with multi-year funding agreements where possible	CPS	Strategic Partners  Creative/cultural sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement planned/reported review process of Strategic Partnership 3 year cultural funding programme</li> <li>Consult on next iteration draft plans with current recipients and related sector representatives</li> </ul>	Implem ented from April 2024		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consultation completed</li> <li>Recommendations agreed by committee</li> </ul>
3.2 Work in collaboration with other council services to contribute to the net zero goal and work to ensure that in the context of events, our green spaces are respected and used in line with the parks manifesto	HCVMG	Green Venues Guide, EMU, CCS, ECVG, MGS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organise Green Venues Seminar</li> <li>Establish Cultural Venues Sustainability Working Group</li> <li>Produce a net zero plan for Cultural Venues</li> </ul>	06/23 06/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number of city-based cultural venues attending seminar</li> <li>Four meetings of working group</li> <li>Written Sustainability plan for cultural buildings produced</li> <li>Number of public complaints regarding environmental breaches</li> </ul>
	CPS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop events in parks guidelines</li> </ul>	03/24		
	Lib	Partners tbc: Remakery, Tool	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create, design and open a new Lend and Mend Service at Wester Hailes</li> </ul>	6/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lend and Mend Service established at Wester</li> </ul>

		Shed, Repair Café, WHALE Arts, Health Agency. Funded externally through SLIC as part of the John Lewis Circular Future Fund	Library which supports the local community to repair, reuse, rent and upcycle contributing to the circular economy			Hailes Library/ Record of use established
	CPS	Parks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue carbon reduction plans requirements from all funded organisations</li> </ul>	10/23 03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Improvement reflected in Funding agreement reporting of carbon management plans</li> <li>▪ Film Office and Parks Events continue feasible green/carbon management requirements</li> </ul>
		Event and festival producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• work with funded organisations and sector to continue to reflect up to date green resources and technology requirements in location and funding agreements</li> </ul>			
		Creative Carbon Scotland				
		Film producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade power sources in Princes Street Gardens minimising need for generators</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Power sources upgrade in red blaes section of West Princes Street Gardens to support small scale events and installations</li> </ul>
		Screen Scotland including Albert <a href="https://wearealbert.org">https://wearealbert.org</a> (Environmental sustainability within the film and tv sector, provides guidance and a certification scheme to which productions can sign up)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of formalised Tree Protection Conditions for inclusion in all Parks events agreements</li> </ul>	10/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Conditions published</li> </ul>

3.3 Facilitate collaboration between the city centre organisations, festivals and local creative hubs for mutual benefit and to ensure the diversity of residents and their needs are reflected in planning	CPS		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require use of the Working Together Better guidelines by funded organisations in community engagement programmes across the city</li> <li>• Further promotion of the developing arts-based Community Hubs network as a first point of contact for working with community hubs in the development of community engagement programmes</li> </ul>	On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Positive report from Community Hubs network programme on liaison / project development / and Working Better Together implementation/use</li> </ul>
3.4 Facilitate the regular networking of the international cultural attaches based in Edinburgh	CPS	City Consulates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement programme of engagement meetings and comms</li> </ul>	On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ CPS participation and facilitation of meetings/networking and info share/advice</li> <li>▪ Monitor outcomes: opportunities for international work, local and visiting, are embedded in programme curation and planning in cultural provision offered by the Strategic Partners and other external partners</li> </ul>
3.5 Through our application and reporting processes, ensure all organisations and projects to which we provide funding have considered their environmental impact and how to minimise this	CPS	<p>Strategic Partnerships</p> <p>Creative Carbon Scotland</p> <p>Film producers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include practical requirements in all Funding programmes and related Agreements</li> <li>• Continue inclusion of maximising practical mitigation of environmental impacts requirements in EPOGs (Event Planning and Operation Group meetings)</li> </ul>	On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Included in agreements and related reporting requirements</li> </ul>

		Event producers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Include practical requirements in locations use advice</li> <li>• Include in all application processes</li> </ul>	10/23		
3.6 Support organisations where possible to lever funding from other sources	HCVMG CPS	Finance, Arts and Business	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review current and historical (last two years) fundraising within the service</li> <li>• Work in partnership with Arts and Business to provide sectoral support to external organisations</li> </ul>	03/24  03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Fundraising review document produced</li> <li>▪ One meeting in partnership with Arts and Business</li> </ul>
	Lib	Blackhall Friends of the Library Group	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Blackhall Friends of the Library Group to continue to develop and assist local service improvement</li> </ul>	3/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Additional activities offered/ number of participants</li> </ul>
	CPS	Strategic Partnerships  Project Funding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to advocate and support matched/partnership funding with external funders and public partners</li> <li>• Letters of support provided as requested and appropriate, for example local football clubs and small-scale cultural events</li> </ul>	On-going  On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ partnership funding/match funding reported by strategic partners</li> <li>▪ Continue supportive provision year round</li> </ul>
3.7 Lead on convening regular city-wide events and public safety planning	CPS	BID partnerships  Emergency Services  Public Transport providers  Council teams	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue City Wide Summer Festival meetings to ensure coordinated approach and information sharing between key stakeholders</li> <li>• Continue to hold multi-agency safety advisory group meetings for events to ensure a coordinated approach to planning, ensure public safety and minimise disruption to the City.</li> <li>• Follow best practice and ensure Zone Ex/grey space is considered for all</li> </ul>	10/23  On-going  On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Regular meetings to take place, including a debrief post festival</li> <li>▪ Meetings to take place for all events which require multi-agency input</li> <li>▪ Zone Ex meetings take place and HVM plans are included when appropriate</li> </ul>

		<p>Event and festival producers</p> <p>Cultural venues</p> <p>Event Scotland</p> <p>Film location managers</p>	<p>large scale events, including when appropriate, the procurement of temporary rated hostile vehicle mitigation to ensure the safety of the public.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lead on coordinating filming activity within the city</li> </ul>	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Maintain filming activity taking place in the city and captured in annual committee report</li> </ul>
3.8 Liaise with Visit Scotland and Event Scotland to promote Edinburgh as a destination	CPS	<p>Event Scotland</p> <p>Visit Scotland</p> <p>ETAG</p> <p>Forever Edinburgh</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• continue liaison and co-operation to attract and facilitate events / opportunities for the city - reinforcing the city's role as leading cultural, events and locations destination and as UK/Scottish gateway city</li> <li>• maintain comms with Visit Scotland</li> <li>• promote city through movies filmed here</li> </ul>	On-going		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Edinburgh visible in International and national events calendar</li> <li>▪ Continued engagement with ETAG membership</li> <li>▪ Edinburgh featured in Visit Scotland / Forever Edinburgh marketing programmes</li> <li>▪ Annual Film Office report</li> </ul>
3.9 Make the case for any future Transient Visitor Levy to contribute to the upkeep and development of the cultural infrastructure	HCVMG		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Attend and inform Local Visitor Levy (LVL) Working Group</li> </ul>	03/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Culture representative confirmed on LVL Board and ensure needs of cultural sector inform LVL developments.</li> <li>▪ Written priorities report includes "cultural activity and infrastructure" as a named priority</li> </ul>

3.10 Proactively encourage international connections and networks across service delivery areas	Lib		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Plan and deliver Libraries Edge Conference 2024 with input from across the UK and internationally</li> </ul>	3/24		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Delivery of Edge Conference 2024 and record of numbers attending</li> </ul>
	CPS	European forums/networks including funders/Creative Europe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue outward looking liaison; exchange; project development and networking via Cultural Partnerships and Strategy Service including:</li> <li>Maximise benefits of network membership including Eurocities, European Festivals Association, UNESCO Creative Cities</li> </ul>	Ongoing		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Contribution to relevant forums and networking meetings to raise Edinburgh's profile and secure partnership projects;</li> <li>Participation in at least one new partnership project</li> </ul>
		International forum/networks		03/24		
		UK forums/networks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities for Edinburgh to participate as Associate Partner in EU-funded projects</li> <li>Support local festivals through European Festivals Association</li> <li>Continue to develop bilateral professional cultural relationships and host visiting cultural delegations</li> <li>Explore through the existing ethnically diverse network of Edinburgh-based artists and creatives opportunities for cultural exchange developed locally and internationally</li> </ul>	12/23		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition to EU Festival Finder and Arts Festivals Summit</li> <li>Number of delegations supported</li> <li>contributing to at least five new partnerships supported via the Consul and artist networks annually</li> </ul>
		Diversity Programme				

## GLOSSARY

Lib	Libraries, Sports and Wellbeing
CE	Community Empowerment
CPS	Cultural Partnerships and Strategy
HCVMG	Heritage, Cultural Venues and Museums and Galleries
EVOC	Edinburgh Voluntary Organisations Council
EPAD	Edinburgh Performing Arts Development
SPF	Shared Prosperity Fund
HLF	Heritage Lottery Fund
HR	Human Resources
CLT	Council Leadership Team
ELHN	Edinburgh Local Heritage Network
SP	Strategic Partners
EDI	Equality, Diversity and Inclusion
MGS	Museums Galleries Scotland
ESCR	Edinburgh Slavery and Colonialism Review
FE	Further Education
HE	Higher Education
EMU	Energy Management Unit
CCS	Carbon Creative Scotland
ECVG	Edinburgh Culture Venues Group
EPOG	Event Planning and Operation Group
CEC	City of Edinburgh Council
HVM	Hostile Vehicle Mitigation
ETAG	Edinburgh Tourist Action group
LVL	Local Visitor Levy
LIP	Local Improvement Plan

# RON O'DONNELL



## Community Workshop Programme

2023





# Ron O'Donnel

Ron spent time with each group, taking them on a personal tour of his works. The tour encompassed various areas of technique, memory and creative practice.

# Learning Outcomes

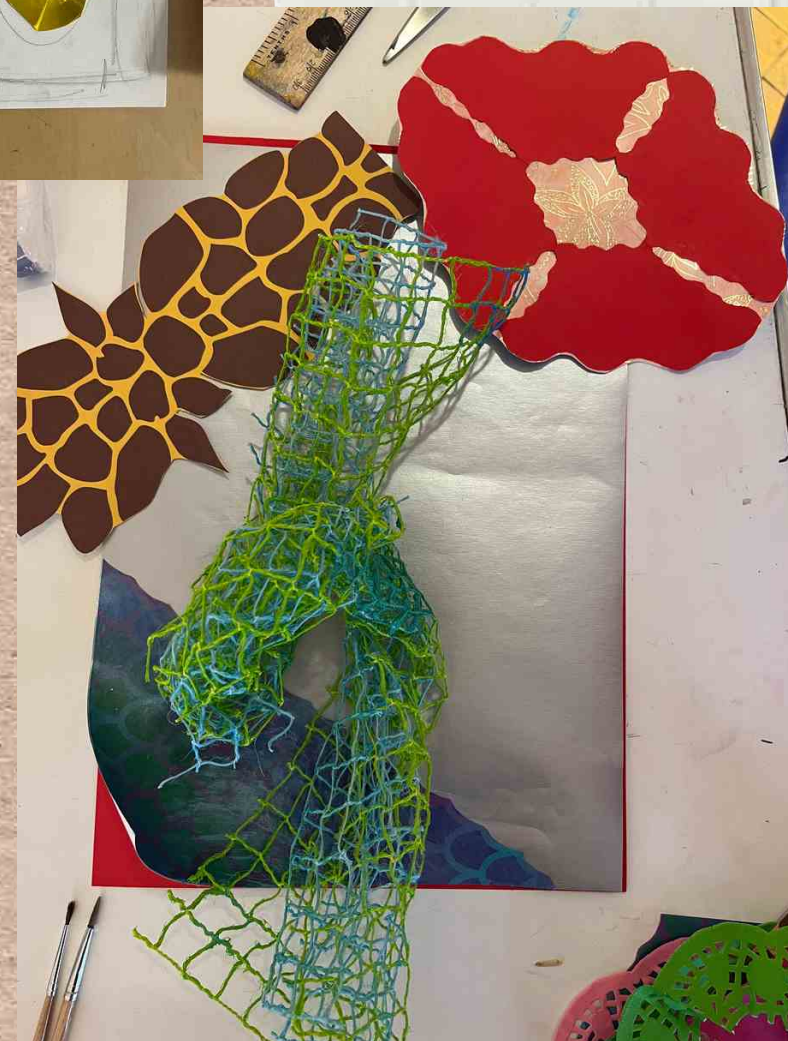
## Observation

## Technical Excellence

# Composition

## Shared Experiences

# Community





## Live tour

Spending an unrushed hour with the artists

## Introductions

Sharing of stories and experience. "Why are we here today?"

## First attempts

Mark making, approaching the blank page. Memory recover

## Making marks

Feeling comfortable, valued, expressive

## Reflection

Pride in the work, taking projects home to work on



# THE METHOD



# LIVE TOUR



Ron's live tour enables the group to reflect and ask questions about the process of capturing technically accomplished images as well as learning how to frame the composition.

# LEARNERS

## Materials

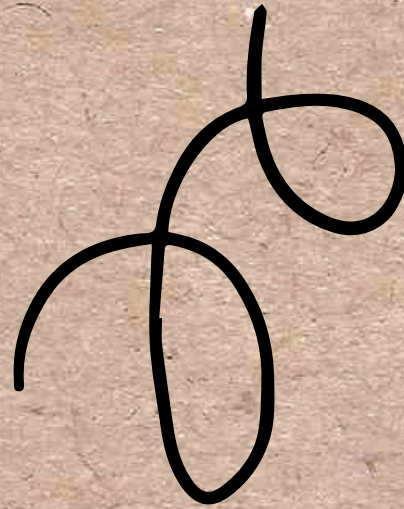
Learners worked with a variety of materials, to suit all sorts of sensory requirements. For some this is the first time they have had access to an art room since school.

## Expression

Leaners were encouraged to start with just making marks on the page. Some of them lacked confidence but that grew by the end of the sessions.

## Future

Some learners felt encouraged to carry on using creative methods. Because the methods incorporated many techniques, there is a choice of expressive medium for the future.



### **Susie Cavill, workshop facilitator**

"Engaging with Ron as the artist feels special to the groups.

The personal element of being able to experience the energy of the person as well as the work in front of them allows them to feel that they too can try to express themselves and connect with their own history. Some of the attendees felt a profound sense of recovery of memories and wishes that they were then able to bring to their work. It was a transformative experience thanks to Ron's patience and kindness, and his ability to reach people from diverse backgrounds and cultures."



## **Jo Tolkein, Edinburgh Recovery Activities**

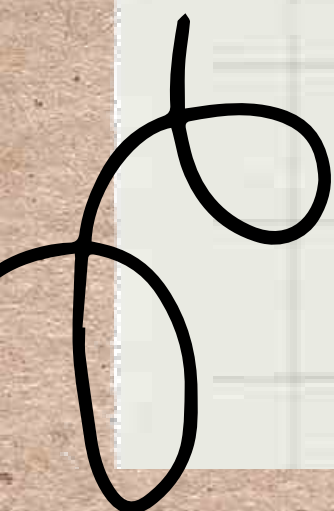
Thank you so much for yesterday, we had a wonderful time! Dalvina kept saying how rejuvenated she felt.

I think she'd become Ron's assistant if he let her.

Everyone really enjoyed the activity. I think it's the first time a lot of us have picked up a piece of charcoal or a pencil in decades!!

## **Danni Taylor, Citadel Youth Centre**

We just wanted to say a HUGE thank you for all the work you have done for our Parent and Carer Drop In at Citadel. From the initial visit to the most recent project and then our trip to City Art Centre, It has all been fantastic and such a fun experience for our parents and carers to explore different art forms.



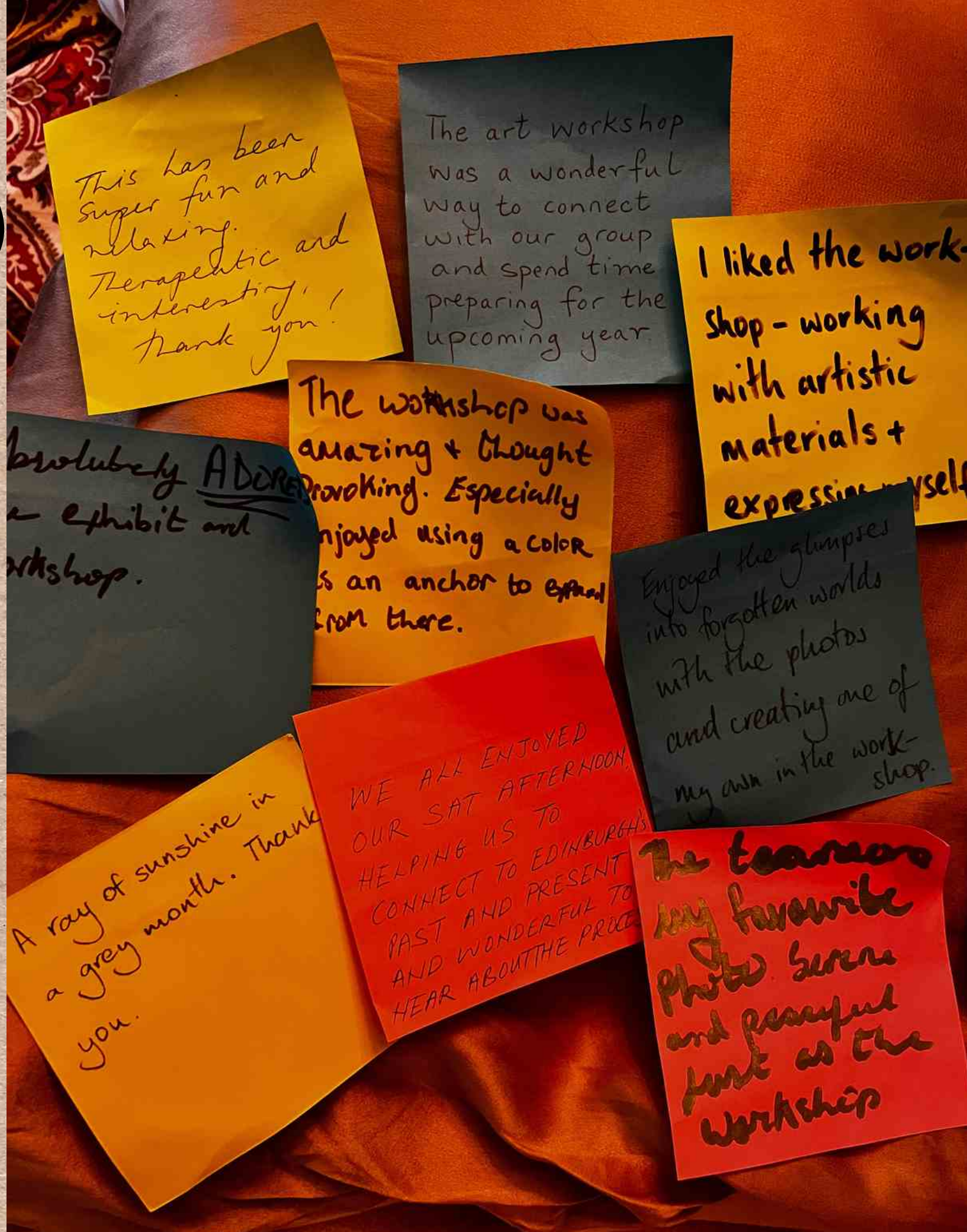
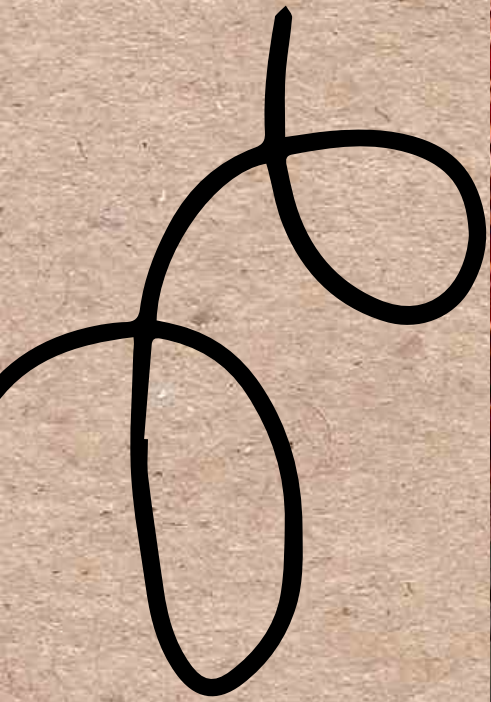


# Accessibility

"Tabitha is the support cat of one of the participants.

Ron was very accommodating and supportive to each individual who attended. Everyone felt welcome."

Susie Cavill



The workshops were accessible, a significant number of the people attending had either disabilities or were on the ASD spectrum.

Feedback was captured using a variety of means in order to make the participants comfortable.





## FEEDBACK FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

"I've been released from thinking I couldn't do this art stuff. I realise it's just for me."

"Making marks on the paper led to me suddenly recovering a memory of my grandmother."

"I wish that art lessons had been more like this when I was younger."



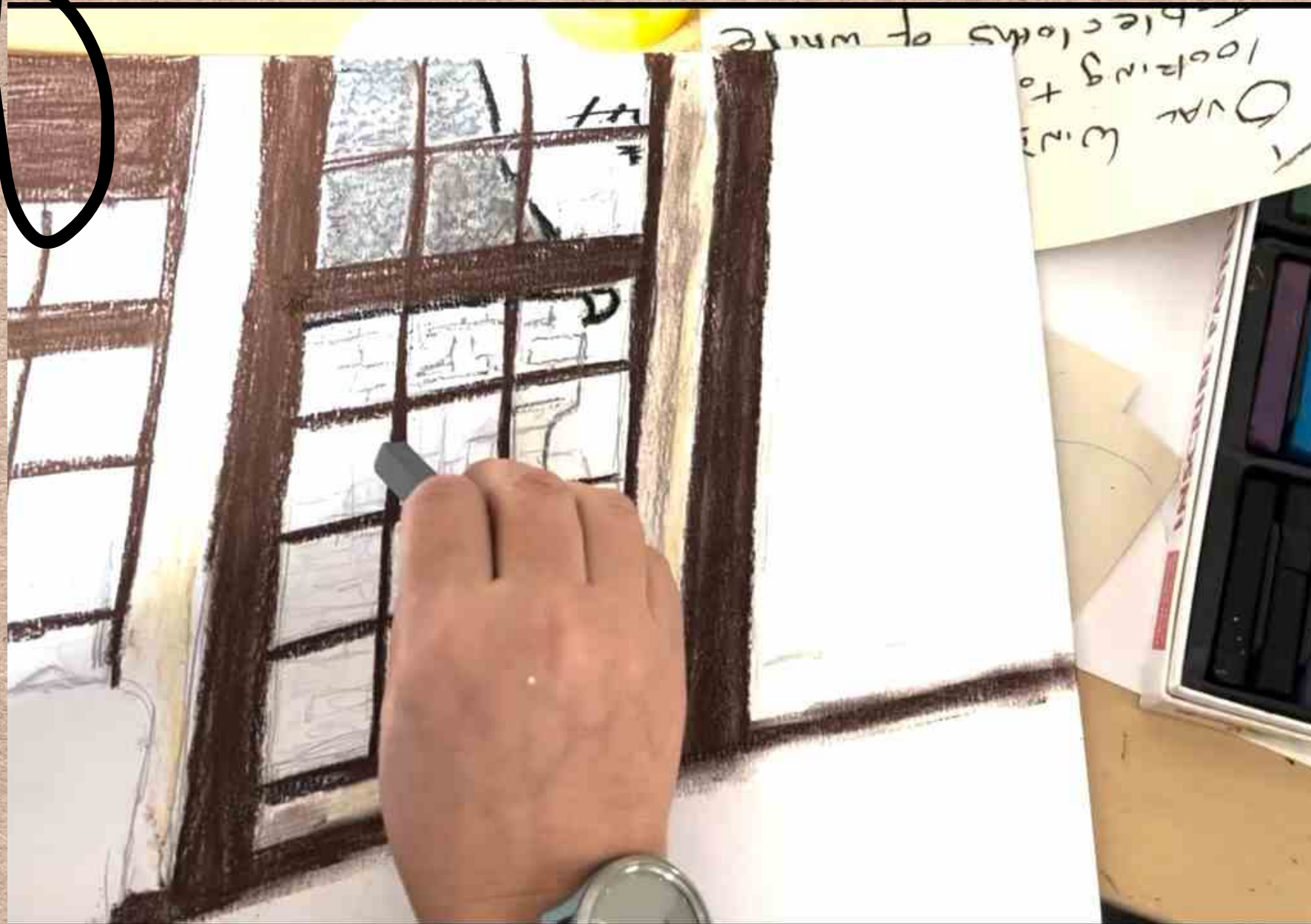
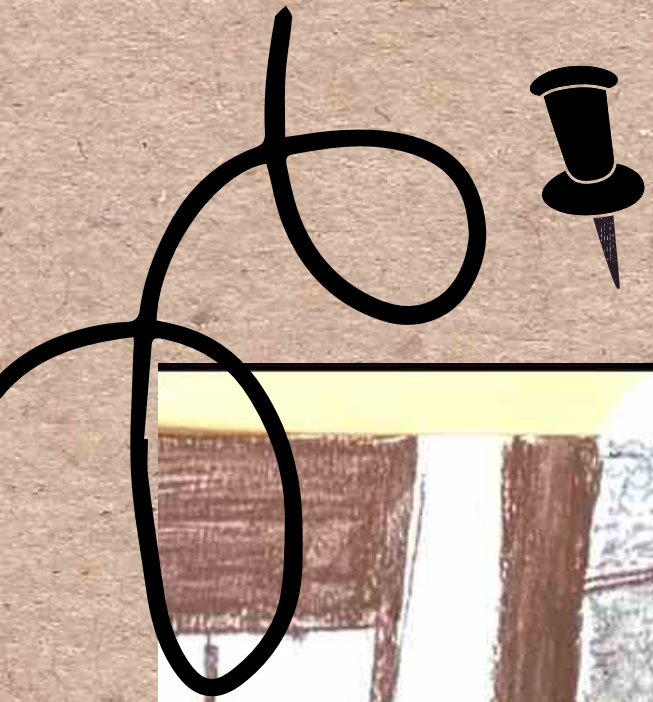
"I can't normally buy art materials  
so having access to an art room  
made me feel happy."

"I remembered how much I  
like doing this."

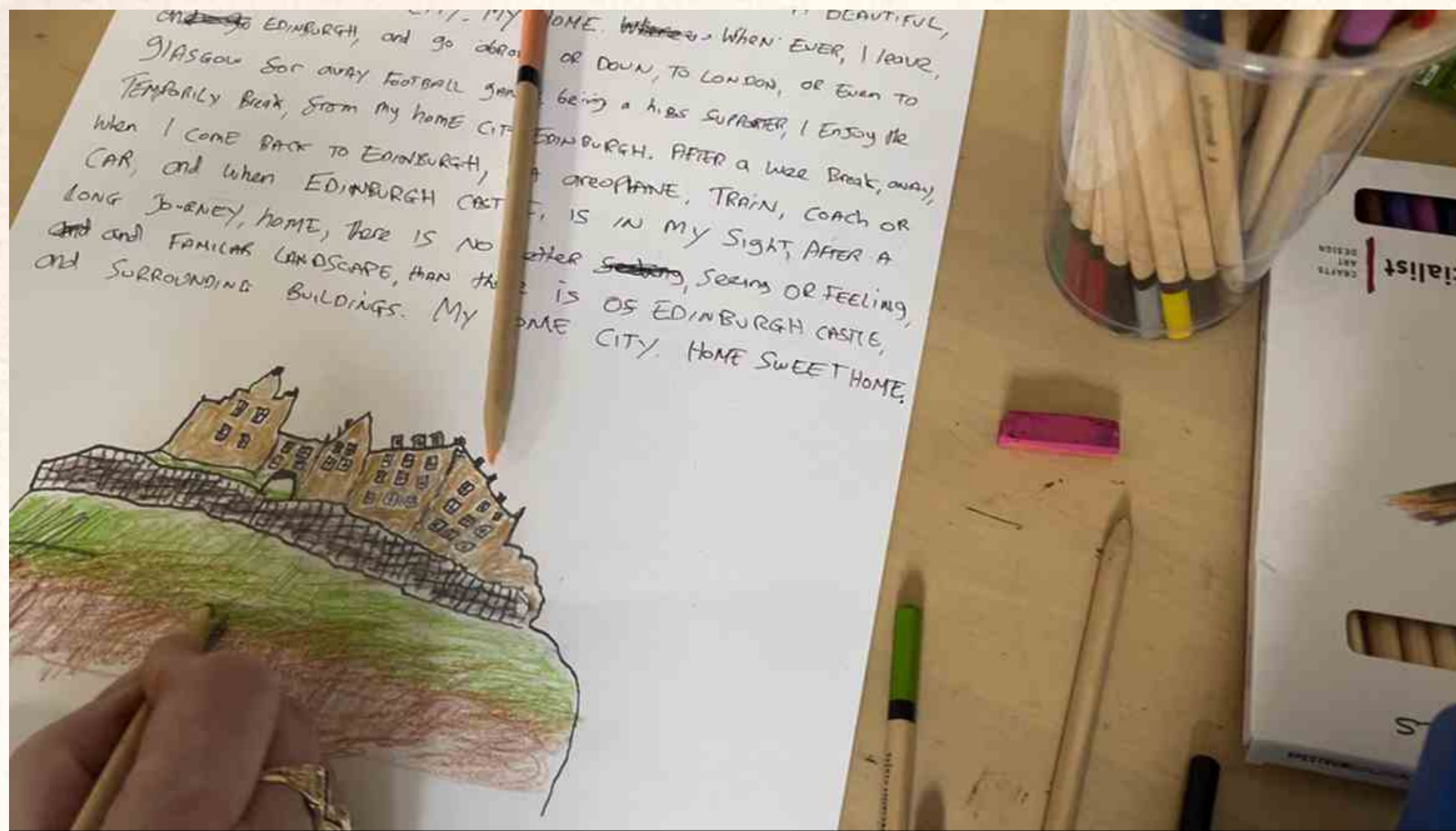


"I feel like I should do this more. It's  
opened my eyes. Ron was so encouraging  
and I felt like I could keep doing it  
because he showed me I could be walking  
around in my own town and see things  
and document them."





"I feel trapped a lot of the time.  
Today I felt free to think of  
things I would like to do and it  
all started coming out on the  
page.  
I was a bit shocked by that.  
It's like a window into the  
future."



"I've never drawn anything before. Never knew I could.  
No one laughed at me. I'm proud of what I made.  
It's about Edinburgh, my home."

