

Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee
10.00am, Tuesday 17 November 2020



Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (VACMA) 2019/20

The City of Edinburgh Council's Culture Service in partnership with Creative Scotland runs the VACMA Edinburgh grants schemes to support visual artists and craft makers living or based in Edinburgh.

The Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards offers grants of up to £1,500 to individual artists/makers towards the costs of developing new work.

The Development/Mentoring Bursary Scheme supports two successful applicants per year to develop and progress their creative practice over a year. The programme is tailored to the individual artist/maker and includes mentoring which may lead to the development of skills/training, creation of new work, presenting and marketing work. Successful applicants are awarded £1,500 as a bursary with further budget available for additional support that may be needed.

In addition, last year saw the introduction of a £500 bursary aimed at recent graduates/emerging artists. This bursary has been set up to try and support those in the early stages of their career who show promise but have a limited track record.

There were two rounds for each award scheme. The first deadline was Tuesday 8 October 2019 with the panel meeting taking place on Thursday 14 November 2019. The second deadline was Tuesday 4 February 2020 with the panel meeting taking place on Tuesday, 12 March 2020.

The awards panel was made up of a jeweller, a visual artist/curator, Director (Edinburgh Sculpture Workshop), Visual Arts Officers (Creative Scotland) and Cultural Development Officer (CEC).

Advice Sessions were held on Tuesday 3 September 2019 and Friday 24 January 2020 held at the City Art Centre with a combined total of 40 people attending. These events were well received and

Visual Artist and Craft Maker Awards (VACMA) 2019/20

provided a good opportunity for participants to network as well as to seek advice from the Creative Scotland team and CEC Cultural Development Officer on funding opportunities for visual artists/makers via a 1:1 advice slot. A total of 47 applications were received and 29 grant awards made.

Feedback from former recipients of VACMA funding include:

[Andrea Geile](#) (Visual Artist)

"The bursary made me consider mentoring for the first time as a way of furthering my practice. The guidance and advice I have received as a direct result has been invaluable and is now leading to new professional opportunities and a step up in my practice."



[Mirka Janeckova](#) (Jeweller)

"It pushed me to explore a new territory"



[Tamara Elkins](#) (Visual Artist)

"I was more confident because of the funding, knowing that people believed in my project and was able to talk about my work in a more professional way."



VACMA 2020/21 application information, guidelines and deadlines have been posted on the [Culture Edinburgh](#) website.

Edinburgh Multicultural Festival is returning with an exciting online programme

A unique selection of storytelling, theatre, music, poetry and dance will be featured in this year's Edinburgh Multicultural Festival with poets Roshni Gallagher and Lola Shoneyin in collaboration with music artist Diljit Bhachu and projection artist Robert Motyka, dance artist Luciano Santos Souza, theatre makers Lubna Kerr and Ida Casilli and music acts including a Taiwanese classical composer Oli Jan, Middle-Eastern traditional music group duo Hyperborea, Afrobeat/Rap band Ramuyapiko, and a Vocal Collective of South African Singers who will grace the screens throughout the 2020/21 fall/winter season.

"Thanks to the support from the City of Edinburgh Council Culture Service, we are able to create development and performance opportunities for independent artists from ethnically diverse backgrounds and curate and commission new collaborations between performance and visual artists," says Morgan Njobo, festival Artistic Director. "With this filmed programme we aim to showcase multi-artform and multilingual talent that is part of the fabric of Edinburgh's culture and communities," adds Soweto-bred vocalist and choreographer Njobo.

Apart from new exciting artistic exchanges, this year also offers two new curatorial collaborations with poet Raheema Sayed and Edinburgh Diwali. The festival programme is currently in production with the filmed live performances to be made available on a bi-weekly basis via the festival's YouTube and social media channels from 31 October 2020 onwards.

"We will mark the last day of the Black History Month with a selection of African classics in new arrangements performed by Natalie Toyne, Wayne Topley, Khanyisani Beato, Zanele Patricia Ndlovu, Lwando Bam and Nomhle Letsholo. These songs of resilience, freedom and joy will reflect on the spirit of Africans across the continent and around the world. So join us, this time online, and enjoy the vibrancy of our voices, stories and dance," invites Morgan.

#EDMCF @edmcf [YouTube](#) [Website](#) [Facebook](#)

Photos available at <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1vJ-bU3JbRfxmFI9UDP9QB1LWPez6ZJO?usp=sharing> [Credit: Kat Dlugosz]



Photo: Kat Dlugosz

The City's Festivals Adapt and Innovate for 2020

The city's festivals have demonstrated exceptional flexibility in their response to the impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic on their events. Appendix 2 offers a selection their offer to date – a panoply of opportunities for city and worldwide audiences to engage with and enjoy. An amazing achievement by all concerned.



STORY VALLEY Project

Officers in Culture are participating in a new partnership project with four European UNESCO Cities of Literature – Leeuwarden (NL), Ljubljana (SI), Nottingham and Edinburgh.

The STORY VALLEY project, which will run from November 2020 to August 2023, will use oral history as a driver for preserving cultural heritage and enriching it with linguistic diversity and the heritage of other cultures by combining the areas of literacy development, oral history and creative expression. In partnership with Edinburgh College, students (including those from migrant backgrounds) will explore their own and each others' oral history, language and literacy in an engaging and creative way. STORY VALLEY is an inclusive project which aims to stimulate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding by fostering exchange which raises awareness of the importance of cultural heritage, how it shaped the present and how it can shape the future. The project will stimulate innovative and creative thinking and expression by the creative transformation of stories through the involvement of creative practitioners. The project particularly seeks to target students with limited language and literacy skills involving them in an innovative process of peer and interdisciplinary learning by combining fields which are traditionally taught separately (language, literacy and literature with media, art and drama). This €450,000 project is entirely funded through ERASMUS+ European funding.

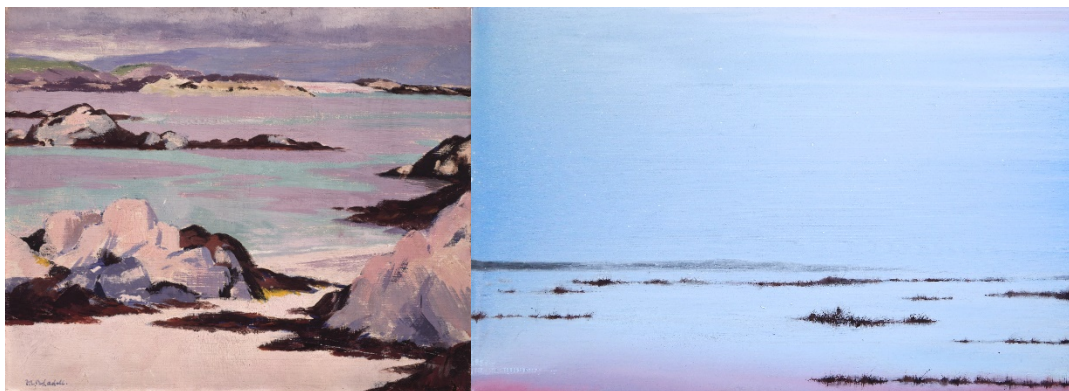
Edinburgh's local creative partners are the Scottish Storytelling Centre, Edinburgh International Book Festival, The Scottish Poetry Library and UNESCO City of Literature. Further information can be found here: <https://www.learninghubfriesland.nl/Projects/Story-Valley>, and see also Appendix 1 to this bulletin.

Edinburgh Makar - Update

Alan Spence was appointed as the fifth Edinburgh Makar by the Culture and Committee on 12 September 2017 for a term of three years from 1 October 2017 until 30 September 2020. He has enjoyed an active term so far and has engaged fellow poets and many citizens of Edinburgh through a range of projects and podcasts. However, due to the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic his work has been severely restricted, and it was agreed by the Convenor and Vice-Convenor to extend his term for a further one year until 30 September 2021. This will allow live projects to be completed and time to select potential candidates for the role. A detailed update on the work of the Makar will be reported to Committee in summer 2021.

City Art Centre – Jock McFadyen Goes to the Pictures – 14 November 2020 to 7 March 2021

This winter the City Art Centre presents a two-floor exhibition of works by contemporary artist Jock McFadyen RA, whose impressive career has spanned over four decades. Timed to mark his 70th birthday, this major exhibition showcases new and existing paintings by McFadyen paired alongside artworks from the City Art Centre's rich and varied collection.



F. C. B. Cadell, Iona, unknown date

Jock McFadyen, Uist, 2011. © the artist

City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh

McFadyen was born in Paisley in 1950 and as a teenager went to Saturday morning classes at Glasgow School of Art. Aged 15, he moved to England and attended Chelsea School of Art in London from 1973 to 1977. His work from the 1980s is mostly associated with figurative painting, often featuring marginalised members of society in Chicago, New York, Berlin, Belfast, London and Edinburgh. However, since the 1990s his paintings have largely focused on man-made landscapes such as dilapidated industrial sites, abandoned buildings and deserted streets.

This show by McFadyen displays his urban and rural landscapes, as well as some of his figurative paintings, next to works from the City Art Centre's collection of historic and contemporary Scottish art. Over the last year McFadyen has regularly visited the picture stores to carefully select works for

City Art Centre – Jock McFadyen Goes to the Pictures – 14 November 2020 to 7 March 2021

the show. His choices range from 'old favourites' by renowned Scottish artists, to ones that have rarely been seen by the public.

Through a series of fascinating pairings, the exhibition encourages viewers to take a closer look. Works that might initially seem unrelated reveal unexpected connections and relationships. Some of these juxtapositions are witty; some are striking or surprising. By showcasing these artworks side by side, the exhibition aims to highlight common visual threads that connect all pictures, confounding the traditional boundaries of period, style and artistic posture.

The exhibition runs until 7 March 2021. It is admission free but pre-booking is essential. For further information please go to [edinburghmuseums.org.uk](https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk)

Coming Soon to the City Art Centre – Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay, 22 May to 3 October 2021

Ian Hamilton Finlay (1925-2006) was an internationally renowned Scottish artist and Britain's most significant concrete poet of the 20th century. This major exhibition will focus on the maritime theme in Finlay's work. It was a central element of his art, and one to which he returned throughout his life.

Drawn from the artist's estate and the City Art Centre's collection, and including loans from the National Galleries of Scotland, this exhibition will showcase artworks from across several decades, ranging from stone, wood and neon sculptures to tapestry. The show will also feature prints, postcards and booklets from Finlay's Wild Hawthorn Press and is being presented in partnership with the estate of the artist.

Originally planned for summer 2020, the exhibition had to be postponed and is now running from 22 May until 3 October 2021. *Marine: Ian Hamilton Finlay* is admission free and will be accompanied by an exhibition catalogue and exciting events programme. For further information please go to: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/marine-ian-hamilton-finlay>



Ian Hamilton Finlay (with Patrick Caulfield), *Marine*, 1968.

© The Estate of Ian Hamilton Finlay.

City Art Centre Prepares New Exhibition on Edinburgh Artist Charles H Mackie

In May 2021 the City Art Centre will open a major new exhibition on the Scottish painter and printmaker Charles Hodge Mackie (1862-1920). Based in Edinburgh, Mackie was one of the most versatile artists of his generation. He worked across an impressive range of media, producing murals, woodblock prints and book illustrations, as well oil paintings and watercolours. His sources of inspiration were similarly diverse, drawing from French Symbolism, the Celtic Revival movement and the landscapes of his European travels.

Charles H. Mackie: Colour and Light will be the first large-scale public exhibition to focus on Mackie in over a century. It aims to investigate the artist's significance, charting his career and creative development from his early Scottish landscapes to his spectacular late Venetian scenes. Showcasing the breadth of Mackie's talents, the exhibition will feature over fifty artworks brought together from public and private collections, including the National Galleries of Scotland, the Royal Scottish Academy of Art and Architecture and Perth Museum and Art Gallery.

Charles H. Mackie: Colour and Light opens on 15 May 2021 and runs until 10 October 2021. For more details see: <https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/charles-h-mackie-colour-and-light>



Credit: Charles H. Mackie, *There were Three Maidens pu'd a Flower (By the Bonnie Banks o' Fordie)*, c.1897. City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh.

Lets Make Travelling Gallery Greener!

While Travelling Gallery has been off the road during lockdown the team has taken the opportunity to focus on their Environmental Policy and Action Plan.

“The considered Environmental Policy and Action Plan is the accumulative result of the Travelling Gallery team’s commitment to not only reducing our carbon emissions but to understanding that through excellent practice visual arts and culture can create an important place for environmental discussions and learning, from big Global issues to small community changes. We recognise that art can change lives and we create fair conditions and remove barriers to allow access and engagement to audiences across Scotland in their own familiar environment. Through the artists we work with and our own actions we believe we can lead by example by bringing environmental values to the forefront of our organisation.”

When Travelling Gallery's 13-year old generator broke and needed both extensive and expensive very repairs, it was seen as an opportunity to action a key aim in the Environmental Action Plan: to reduce our carbon production. Replacing the generator with a new carbon-efficient model will not only reduce emissions but be a more compact, lighter, quieter, efficient and modern model!

Without the funding needed a Crowdfunder campaign was launched called ‘Let’s make Travelling Gallery greener!’ <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/travelling-gallery>



We were delighted to raise £6,470 from 101 supporters including a very generous £800 donation from Friends of the City Art Centre. We are now looking for ways to raise the final amount needed for the new fuel efficient generator.

The new generator will reduce power output from 12kVA to 8kVA and ensure maximum efficiency by running according to the load demand, e.g. only powering what's switched on and necessary. Ultimately, a new, more efficient, generator would allow a 25% reduction in power consumption by varying its output and only powering what is necessary.

Collections Inventory Project - Auld Reekie Retold



Back in September we reported progress on the collections project, and things are really picking up pace. The team is really making the most of working from home to tackle a huge record cleaning exercise. The team has cleaned, improved and enhanced well over 50,000 individual records and added over 2000 object photographs to the database. This all means that the team can identify and manage the collections so much more effectively, and it will improve efficiency when working on loans and conservation. The images are also of high enough quality to offer them up for commercial retail via the [Capital Collections](#) site.

The eventual aim is to publish our collections information, with images, online on the Museums and Galleries site so users can search our entire collections; this is a long-term plan, but simply can't happen without the work being done now.

The project's Collections Engagement Officer has recently started work with the team and will be working on creating opportunities for a wider audience to get involved with the stories from our collections. While we hope to resume face-to-face engagement as soon as it is safe and appropriate to do so, the team will be promoting the project and delivering a programme of engagement events online.

The project was launched on 22 October, and we will begin to share some of the stories we've uncovered to date. The past few months has given us time to explore new ways of communicating the wealth of stories we have to share and we'll be rolling out our first season of podcasts and videos in the coming weeks. Auld Reekie Retold can be accessed on the Museums and Galleries Edinburgh website – [here](#).

Film Edinburgh

Filming in the city resumed in July when Scotland moved into Phase 3 of the Coronavirus pandemic health management protocols. Since then, the city has hosted 61 commercials and factual TV programmes, representing 50% of the usual number of productions of this nature over the summer months.

Factual and commercial productions employ 3-15 people per shoot, film for only one or two days, and have minimal impact on the community. In 2019, 278 factual and commercial shoots generated £4m in direct revenue for the city: 28% of the total economic impact.

Highlights this year include: *Location Location Location*, *The Grand Tour*, *Britain's Most Historic Towns*, *EDF Zero Carbon* advert, *LNER* advert, *Darren McGarvey On Poverty* documentary, *Scotland's Home of the Year*, *Joeseef* music video, and CBeebies *Let's Go For A Walk*.

Drama is beginning to show signs of return, with one feature film currently being made on a country estate on the edge of the city. In the pipeline, and with ambitions to begin filming before Christmas, are a further four dramas, of which three are feature films and one is a TV drama. Locations and filming duration are yet to be confirmed though they are exploring options to film in Edinburgh city centre in order to establish a recognisable Edinburgh to audiences. Film Edinburgh is working with the production teams to minimise disruption while ensuring public and crew safety are paramount. Drama employs between 60-100 people as standard, but up to 500 people for major international 'blockbusters'. In 2019, 19 dramas generated £10m of the £14.4m of direct economic benefit to the city region.



All filmed productions have to adhere to sector guidelines for safe working during Coronavirus as outlined by Scottish Government, with further guidance regarding filming in the public realm outlined in Edinburgh's Covid-19 annexe to the Code of Practice, agreed by the Coronavirus Incident Management Team in August 2020.

Gracemount Primary- Dr Bunhead Shows

In the last couple of years Gracemount Primary has invited a whole host of performers to come to the school as part of their Edinburgh Fringe experience. The school were aware that many children didn't experience the Fringe or see performances at the venues in the centre of town and teacher Jon Carstairs recruited artists from all over the world to give up their time. They had jugglers, musicians, storytellers, actors and even members of the official Tattoo!

This year with no performers and visitors encouraged in to school the school were delighted to be approached by Dr Bunhead (Tom Pringle) the amazing scientist! Dr Bunhead has organised shows for all the classes from P2 – P7 using TEAMS and he has been doing experiments, teaching science and causing explosions all from his kitchen table and broadcast in to the classroom. The children have been asking him questions and interacting with the experiments. Mr Dimeck, headteacher, is delighted at the school preparing the future Scientists of tomorrow in their scaled down version of "The Fringe at Gracemount 2020."

A New Outdoor Learning Map

The Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) team has designed and recently launched an exciting new and innovative online resource: <https://www.outdoorlearningmap.com/>. This is a key tool for sharing good practice outdoor learning, including sport and physical activity across the City and beyond. Users can search for a variety of content based on different criteria. Contributors need to register and once approved can then share their ideas via the map. The resource is driven by its contributors and SOLU will continue to expand this network over the coming months and years to ensure the map has a sustainable future. This Council resource is already attracting significant national attention.

Children, young people and their families will in time be able to locate affordable outdoor learning opportunities, including free ideas. The project is funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and Scottish Forestry, which includes working with schools on developing its use. Training can be provided for Council teams and partners: contact Andrew.Bagnall@edinburgh.gov.uk.

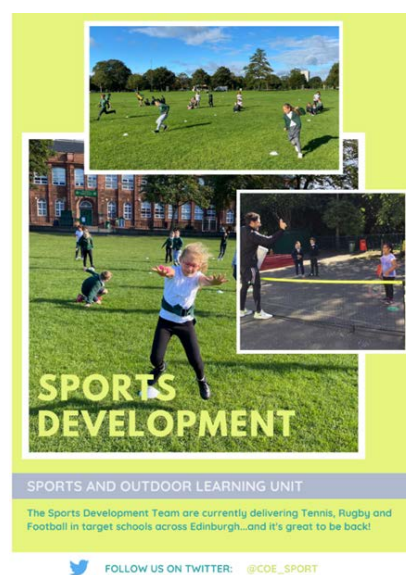


Hub Biking Sessions and Other Outdoor Activity

Colleagues in the Sport and Outdoor Learning Unit (SOLU) team worked with locality teams to design and deliver bike provision at a range of hubs over the last three months. This included the keyworker, Discover! and Barnardo's hubs. SOLU worked in collaboration with key partners including Bridge8, Water of Leith Conservation Trust and the Green Team to deliver specialist activity to support targets groups. Significant parts of this project were part-funded by Cycling Scotland and the kind support of our partners. Feedback was excellent, and it was excellent to see children, young people and their families undertaking outdoor physical activity. Some children learnt to ride a bike, whilst others developed their confidence all within a safe environment.

The Sports Development Team Support the Return to School

The Sports Development Officers have been supporting primary schools with curricular sport delivery providing a mixture of tennis, football and rugby to P3-P7 pupils. The team has hugely enjoyed being back out interacting and engaging with the pupils. While sport-specific activity has been involved, the main focus of the sessions has been fundamental and transferrable movement skills and helping the young people fall back in love with, and remembering the importance of, sport and physical activity. The Sports Development Team are committed to working in schools until at least the October break.



Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund

A number of Edinburgh venues were successful in their applications to the Scottish Government's Performing Arts Venues Relief Fund through Creative Scotland. The Usher Hall has received a total of £240,450 with others as follows:

King's and Festival Theatres £250,000

The Queen's Hall £175,000

Leith Theatre Trust £138,214

Assembly Theatre/Roxy £85,000

Out of the Blue £67,034

Further details can be found in the press release [here](#).

Coverage of Culture in the Media

A selection of stories that have appeared in the media:

Date	Item	Link
8 September 2020	Brightness and Shadow of the Roaring Twenties at Edinburgh City Art Centre	https://artmag.co.uk/brightness-and-shadow-of-the-roaring-twenties-at-edinburgh-city-art-centre/
11 September 2020	Art News: CAC Reopens	https://artmag.co.uk/magazine/artmag-130/docs/artmag-130.pdf
14 September 2020	Edinburgh's Museums and Galleries see income soar after cut in opening hours reversed	https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/politics/edinburghs-museums-and-galleries-see-income-soar-after-cut-opening-hours-reversed-2969172
18 September 2020	5 Star Art reviews: Edinburgh City Art Centre at 40 Bright Shadows: Scottish Art in the 1920s	https://www.scotsman.com/arts-and-culture/art/art-reviews-edinburgh-city-art-centre-40-bright-shadows-scottish-art-1920s-glasgow-boys-and-girls-2977018
19 September 2020	Jock McFadyen Goes to the Pictures @ Edinburgh City Art Centre	https://www.reviewsphere.org/news/jock-mcfadyen-goes-to-the-pictures-edinburgh-city-art-centre/
21 September 2020	Exhibition of Scottish art marks 100 years since 'Roaring 20s'	https://www.thenational.scot/news/18734833.exhibition-scottish-art-marks-100-years-since-roaring-20s/
21 September 2020	City Art Centre Celebrates Artist Jock McFadyen's 70th Birthday with Exhibition	https://radiosummerhallarts.com/2020/09/22/city-art-centre-celebrates-artist-jock-mcfadyens-70th-birthday-with-exhibition/
5 October 2020	City Art Centre exhibition will explore 'challenging hinterland' of Scottish photographer Hornel's photographs	https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/whats-on/arts-and-entertainment/city-art-centre-exhibition-will-explore-challenging-hinterland-scottish-artist-hornels-photographs-2991581

Coverage of Culture in the Media

Date	Item	Link
8 October 2020	Edinburgh Art Festival Announce Platform: 2020 Exhibition	https://www.broadwayworld.com/scotland/article/Edinburgh-Art-Festival-Announce-Platform-2020-Exhibition-20201008
22 October 2020	Project launched to catalogue 200,000 fascinating Edinburgh artefacts	https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/project-launched-catalogue-200000-fascinating-edinburgh-artefacts-3010994
25 October 2020	Auld Reekie Retold @ Museums and Galleries Edinburgh	https://www.reviewsphere.org/news/auld-reekie-retold-museums-galleries-edinburgh/
26 October 2020	Britain's most enchanting secret gardens for autumn (Lauriston Castle)	https://www.telegraph.co.uk/travel/destinations/europe/united-kingdom/articles/best-secret-gardens-in-uk-for-autumn/
30 October 2020	Shoving From All Sides: Edinburgh Art Festival Platform 2020	https://www.theskinny.co.uk/art/features/shoving-from-all-sides-platform-2020
5 November 2020	E. A. Hornel: From Camera to Canvas' opens at Edinburgh's City Art Centre	https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/11/e-a-hornel-from-camera-to-canvas-opens-at-edinburghs-city-art-centre/

Culture and Communities Committee



Convener

Councillor Donald Wilson



Vice-Convener

Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

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Councillor McNeese-Mechan (*Vice-Convener*)
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Councillor Doggart
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Councillor Mitchell
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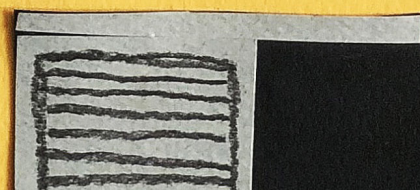
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Story Valley

Framework: Erasmus+ KA2 Strategic Partnership in Vocational Education and Training 2020

Lead Partner: Friesland College

Anticipated start: September 2020

Completion: August 2023



STORIES SHAPE THE FUTURE

Is it possible to teach literacy, language, cultural heritage, European culture, creative expression, migration, critical thinking, citizenship and inclusion all at once? YES! Through oral history and its integration in education.

What happens when multimedia students and migrants make a movie together about the oral history of a migrant? The process encourages them to get to know each other (integration), practise their English (when students of different EU countries interact), the national language (when local students and migrants work together) and learn about each other's culture.

Cultural heritage, improving literacy skills, inclusion and transnational friendships: that's what Story Valley is about!

Oral history as a driver

Story Valley brings oral history together with innovative and creative literacy techniques to reinterpret stories using visual, audio and digital materials across disciplines. The programme is developed in a way that students strengthen their key competences literacy and language in and learn in a fun and engaging way.

- Students learn about their oral history, the oral history of fellow Europeans and people with migrant backgrounds to stimulate inclusion and integration. They are stimulated to read, write and speak in different languages resulting in stronger social, language and literacy skills. They research their oral history by using different types of sources to turn it into a creative production.
- Teachers learn how to integrate language, literacy and oral history in an engaging way in their curricula and to better deal with other cultures.
- Colleges are sustainably linked to the local knowledge network in the field of literacy and language.

As Leeuwarden recently became a member of the UNESCO Cities of Literature network, it made sense to connect the needs of Friesland College with the rich knowledge sources and tools this worldwide network has to offer. The participation of the founder, president and vice president of the network in Story Valley lays the foundations for a project with real impact: knowledge, support and the channels to tell our story worldwide are all a phone call away. Story Valley bridges the gap between the needs of schools and the opportunities and aims of the Cities of Literature network.

Literacy, multilingualism & cultural awareness: key competences for European citizens

Basic literacy skills have a major impact on life chances, being positively associated with a range of important economic and social outcomes both for individuals and countries. They are very important in vocational education and training, as jobs require basic, transferable skills as well as occupation-specific skills. This is in contrast to the 68 million Europeans only reaching basic levels of proficiency in literacy and numeracy; skills are at the core of their ability to perform in most jobs.

The objectives of the project are to stimulate students to read, write and speak in different languages, to use their creativity to translate oral history to new media and platforms. In this way, students will be able to strengthen their key competences in literacy and language in a natural, non-formal way.



European key priorities

Story Valley is innovative in its approach of using oral history in an interdisciplinary way of learning to contribute to several local and European key priorities:

Raising awareness of the social and educational value of European Cultural Heritage

Telling, writing and reading stories has been a common tradition all over Europe for centuries. The stories are told and passed on from generation to generation. This oral history is valuable because it shaped our communities: our intangible cultural heritage.

Strengthening key competences in VET

Basic skills of literacy have a major impact on life chances, being positively associated with a range of important economic and social outcomes both for individuals and countries. They are very important in vocational education and training, as jobs require basic, transferable skills as well as occupation-specific skills.

Social inclusion: supporting integration of people with migrant backgrounds

STORY VALLEY includes students and other people with migrant backgrounds and their oral history, to stimulate intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. We believe that inclusion and integration starts with understanding each other and the belief of having things (stories) in common.

Project outputs

The project will develop 3 concrete products that will be made available for all schools in (and beyond) Europe to use. They will be shared and promoted actively to and by the UNESCO Cities of Literature in the world.

Student Programme and Teacher Pack

The Student Programme and Teacher Pack will provide teachers and students with all that is needed to reach the objectives of the project. It's the training programme for school teachers including the methodology, lesson plan and evaluation plan, loaded with practical tools.

Online Community and Platform

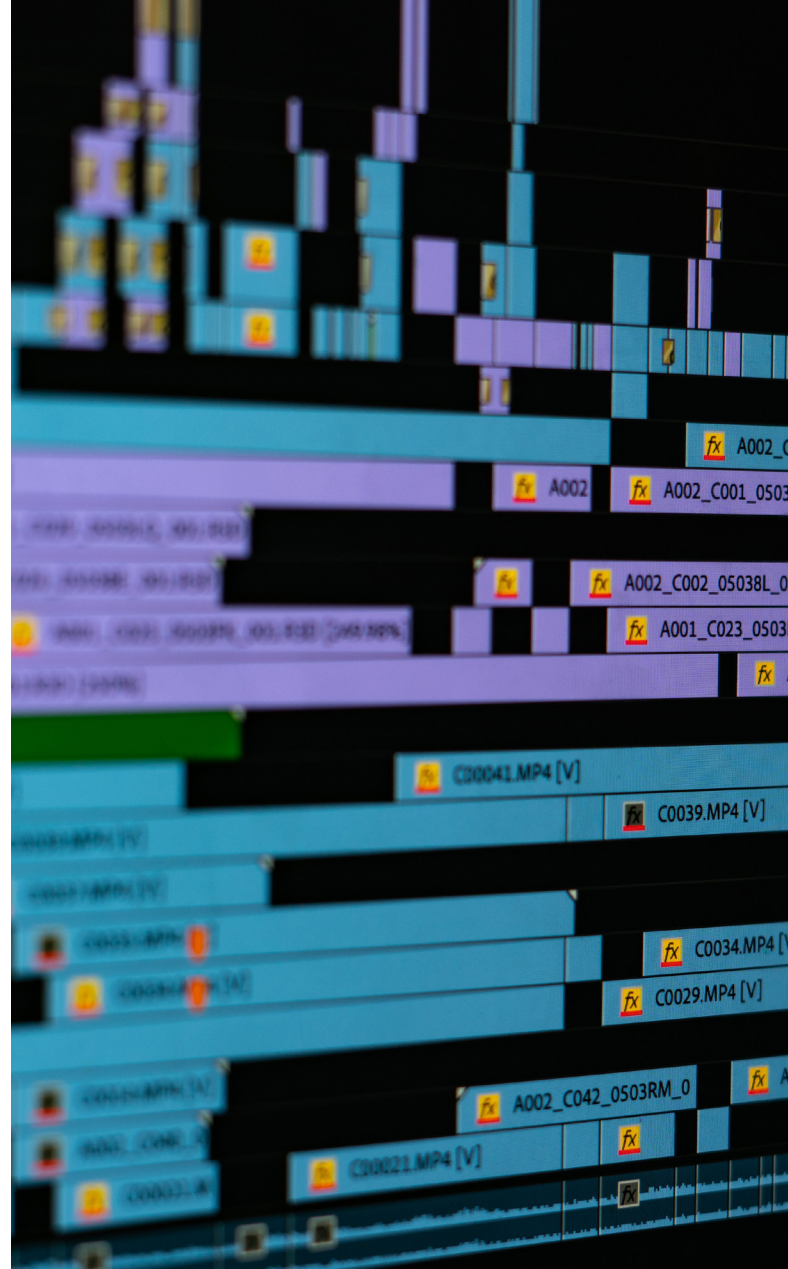
The Online Community and Platform will provide a teaching, learning and collaborative network for students, teachers and specialist in the field of literature, literacy and the creative industry. It is the (virtual) place where everything comes together and is also the main legacy of the project.

Policy Advice

The Policy Advice will ensure that VET is at the forefront of development in the language & literacy sector, specifically targeted at the 39 UNESCO Cities of Literature organisations worldwide. UNESCO'S Creative Network 'Cities of Literature' and other European creative networks in the field of literacy, heritage and multilingualism are a huge driver to beat illiteracy and encourage multilingualism worldwide. Some networks already include VET as standard part of their projects and strategies. However, this is not the case everywhere. The role of education and training systems in driving innovation has often been focused exclusively on Higher Education institutions with VET playing only a minor role. Vice versa, VET schools aren't aware of the expertise and network close at hand in their city and how to use this in their curriculum. The Policy Advice targets the 39 UNESCO Cities of Literature and other similar networks, in order to get VET at the forefront of development within these networks and their effort to beat illiteracy.

Timeline

The project proposal was submitted in 2020, with the project due to start in autumn 2020 if approved. The three-year project will last until the summer of 2023.



Project partners:



Learning
Hub
Friesland



National
Literacy
Trust



Edinburgh Science Festival

- This was the first of the festivals to cancel and in less than a month they pivoted to a digital alternative, *Elements of #EdSciFest*, exploring science's role in addressing the biggest global environmental challenges through five strands – Air, Earth, Fire, Water and Aether - consisting of online entertainment, curated articles and downloadable resources. Live streamed content included talks from broadcasters and partners, while the University of Edinburgh prepared a range of videos exploring climate change and Digital World (Skills Development Scotland) shared a range of digital workshops and online learning with fun tasks
- Instead of the *Dinosaur Weekend* at the Pleasance, the Festival designed a series of dinosaur crafts that children could download and make at home. Plus, two events planned for the Festival's flagship family venue, the City Art Centre, took place in digital form as part of a takeover of the popular *Earth Live Lessons* YouTube series. And in celebration of Scotland's Year of Coasts and Waters, a large-scale, well-spaced outdoor photography exhibition - *Into the Blue* - took place on Portobello Promenade exploring Scotland's coastline.
- The 2021 Festival will move to summer for the first time, as they respond to a changing world - and back for the summer term will be their world-class learning programme, Generation Science, ringing science, technology, engineering and maths into the heart of classrooms across the country.

Edinburgh International Children's Festival

- With a programme of 15 international productions, nearly a hundred Scottish artists performing at the Family Day and over 90% of schools tickets already booked, this year's Festival was shaping up to be a real success. On cancellation, efforts re-focused on supporting the artists with and finding innovative ways to deliver the year-round programme.
- The festival launched a special Ideas Fund, an initiative to develop artist-led ideas and projects for children, families and schools while supporting artists in the sector - including Niamh O'Loughlin's Fort Building, Christine Urquhart and Zoe Bullock's story of Granny Fenella told over a series of three animated films, artist Alice Cooper's short film that combined the voices, stories and artworks of young people from Edinburgh, the Isle of Iona and Kolkata, India all answering the question 'What do you see outside your window?', and *Play Dates* a fun digital programme of interactive workshops and activities created in partnership with National Theatre Scotland.
- The Festival is currently seeking new production ideas from Scottish based artist/s or companies for their next edition in May 2021, which will go ahead in a different form to the usual mode of delivery with many of the performances expected to be presented in school buildings and the programme for families likely to be largely outdoors – with the new practical challenges seen as an opportunity for experimentation, trying new ways to connect with audiences.

Edinburgh International Film Festival

- With the closure of all cinemas, the Festival moved online and created #EdFilmFestatHome in a unique partnership with Curzon Home Cinema, featuring a brand-new film presented each day of the 12-day festival, with films playing for between 2 and 12 days.
- The programme retained the festival's world renowned record for premieres, including the UK premiere of *Capital in the 21st Century*, directed by Justin Pemberton and based on the bestselling book by Thomas Piketty, and *Last and First Men*, the late, great composer Jóhann Jóhannsson's directorial debut and narrated by Tilda Swinton. Alongside the Curzon Home Cinema programme, the Festival continued their annual series of Q&As with film producers, directors and actors, moving the 2020 series on to their Youtube channel – including Q&A with legendary film director Ron Howard who was showcasing his latest documentary, *Rebuilding Paradise*, to UK audiences for the first time, and Q&A with the cast of *Fanny Lye Deliver'd* including Maxine Peake and Charles Dance.
- With Filmhouse remaining closed in the summer, the Festival went in to partnership with Unique Events, the team behind the capital's successful 'Film Fest in the City' outdoor cinema events, to produce a Drive-In Movie weekend at Edinburgh Airport – with the event due to be repeated during Halloween, November and December.

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival

- Following the cancellation of the other festivals in April, the Jazz and Blues Festival immediately presented an online weekend Scottish blues extravaganza during April, reprising the live shows that took place at their Scottish Blues Weekend in February at St Bride's Centre – and this programme prepared the ground for the main festival.
- During July, the Festival streamed a variety of gigs across their website and social media channels - 21 concerts, 5 talks, 2 films, 2 DJ sets, 1 workshop, 1 jazz quiz. The music on offer ranged from performances from previous festivals to specifically recorded "live" sessions from locked-down Scottish favourites, emerging stars and virtual visitors from abroad, all creating an exciting, inventive platform for music. With support from the Scottish Government's EXPO funding, the Festival was also able to delve into its digital archives to present music made by musicians from all over Scotland and to help develop a growing body of oral history interviews conducted with pioneers of the Scottish jazz scene on behalf of the Scottish Jazz Archive.
- The Festival remains committed to its educational and community aims, and the next Edinburgh Jazz School term will run from October–December 2020 as an online series of masterclasses with Fergus McCreadie, Joe Williamson, David Bowden, and other young professionals from the Scottish Jazz Scene leading masterclasses based around simple principles of jazz performance and improvisation.

Edinburgh Art Festival

- As everyone reflected on a period of unprecedented global upheaval, the Festival invited ten artists to mark the dates of what would have been their 2020 festival - combining archival presentations chosen for their resonance to the current context (local and global), alongside specially conceived responses, the selection included

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online screenings and live performances, available via the festival website, as well as a small number of projects in public sites around the city.

- Prominent amongst the commissions were the fluttering flags flying from rooftops across the city - on libraries, hotels, galleries, museums, consulates, government buildings, schools and community parks – with the simple inscription HELLO. The flags were the brainchild of artist Peter Liversridge who felt that as we emerged from a period of isolation, and look to find new ways to be together, communities across Edinburgh should send a collective greeting to each other and world. The Festival also created DIY Art, a free series of activity packs specially designed by artists to give children an insight into an artist's practice, showing them how to use processes and techniques to create your own unique artwork.
- Not willing to consign some other plans to the past, the Festival has just announced details of this year's *Platform* exhibition - the annual showcase supporting artists in the early stages of their careers to make and present new work - which will take place in the City Art Centre across November.

Edinburgh International Festival

- During the first weekend of August beacons of light were visible each night from vantage points across the capital in a dazzling display created by Scottish lighting designers Kate Bonney and Simon Hayes, as a 'ghost light' commission for the Festival.
- As a part of its August programme - My Light Shines On - the Festival also commissioned some of Scotland's major national artistic companies to create works that audiences could enjoy from their own homes. In a tribute to the enduring spirit of the Festival City, they brought light and life to sites that must stay empty this year, such as the National Theatre of Scotland's filmatic journey evoking moments from Scottish theatrical performances past, present and future recorded in the city's empty Festival Theatre. The Festival's 26 digital productions, which featured specially staged performances involving about 500 artists, musicians and technical staff, were watched 1.013m times in nearly 50 countries worldwide. Not everything was in the digital world though, with the Festival creating performances with chamber ensembles which were relayed to speakers scattered across Princes Street Gardens at lunchtimes throughout August.
- The Festival is now considering its future plans and has revealed that it is thinking of having an "extended season" of events, as well as suggesting that filmed elements of shows and productions would play a major part in the festival's plans in future.

Edinburgh Festival Fringe

- The Fringe moved online in August, with almost 300 listings registered by artists and venues on a dedicated site, with everything from throwback Fringe shows to brand-new lockdown-inspired creations on offer, including a one-person show about an opera queen, a virtual disco for babies, a (socially distanced) improvised musical, an online dance-a-thon and a soundscape of a Stirlingshire sheep farm. The AJ Bell Pick n Mix also provided a platform for creativity, with nearly 400 videos uploaded to create a 'Fringe in miniature' for audiences.

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- Throughout the month, venues and artists across the Fringe have also been fundraising to help them return in 2021. FringeMakers – a festival-wide crowdfunding campaign developed in association with Crowdfunder – raised just under £250,000 to support creatives so far. Further support for artists came with the new Fringe Central virtual hub 2020 – a space for artists and industry colleagues to attend events, collaborate, network and learn. Fringe Marketplace was also a new online showcase platform connecting arts industry to professional tour-ready work that was made for Fringe 2020 and hosts more than 100 tour-ready shows available to be seen by nearly 400 programmers who accredited from 31 countries.
- The Fringe's community engagement work also continued during the festival, with 456 art packs delivered across Edinburgh to 14 community partner organisations – and they are currently looking for submissions from artists and practitioners interested in creating and delivering digital pilot events to bring arts-based learning into classrooms.

Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

- Every August the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo usually graces the Castle Esplanade but this year was obviously very different. The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo paid homage to its audiences, performers and staff on what would have been the show's opening weekend with a specially created tribute which was released on their social channels.
- The Tatoo decided to fill the absence of this year's 70th anniversary show through a number of initiatives. Working with the BBC, who were seeking to fill the gap in their schedules, past editions of the Tattoo were screened throughout August and episodes included unseen footage from behind the castle ramparts with some of the cast and characters. In the real world, on Princes Street just next to the Scottish National Gallery, an outdoor exhibition of rare photographs marked the Tattoo's platinum anniversary - and Monday 24 August, with very little fanfare, to avoid crowds gathering, the Royal Air Force Aerobatic Team, the Red Arrows, swooped down for a jaw-dropping flypast over Edinburgh in support of the missing Tattoo.
- Looking ahead, tickets for the 2021 production went on sale on Monday 19 October with a reduced overall capacity and tickets available in sections of up to four seats together. The announcement came as Michael Braithwaite was appointed as the new Creative Director, the first dedicated creative role in the Tattoo's history.

Edinburgh International Book Festival

- While significantly reduced from the expected programme in Charlotte Square Gardens – which last year saw over 900 authors in 800 events - the 2020 online Book Festival welcomed 300 writers and thinkers from 45 countries to participate in 146 live and pre-recorded events.
- Highlights included conversations with Booker Prize winning authors Hilary Mantel and Bernardine Evaristo and the first interview with the winning writer and translator of the 2020 International Booker Prize Marieke Lucas Rijneveld and Michele Hutchison. Executive VP of the European Commission's Green Deal Frans Timmermans explored the future of Europe after the Pandemic, democracy activist Joshua Wong spoke live

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from Hong Kong and former US Ambassador Samantha Power reflected on her career as Human Rights Advisor to Barack Obama. The online programme included 44 events in the Baillie Gifford Children's Programme ranging from daily Facebook Drawalongs, conversations on YA writing with George Lester, Dean Atta and the bestselling US author Cassandra Clare, to former Blue Peter Presenter Helen Skelton joining Lily Dyu to discuss adventurous women.

- Innovations that will be part of thinking for future Festivals include the specially created production studio in the Assembly Rooms, a newly developed online viewing platform, an audience chatroom for every event, live Q&A sessions, BSL interpretation and subtitles for a large selection of talks, and online book signings, where authors met audience members face-to-face.

Scottish International Storytelling Festival

- The Festival began on 17 October 2020 and over 100 performers will take part from such countries as USA, Colombia, Canada, Italy, Spain, Kenya, Holland, Iran, Sierra Leone and Iceland. 93 events in total will take place with a number of these planned to be in-person experiences, subject to Scottish Government Guidelines. This year's theme 'In the Flow' presents *Voyage*, a series of new online performances developed by storytellers and musicians for Scotland's 'Year of Coasts and Waters', sharing tales of real and imaginary voyages that have connected Scotland to other coastal countries, near and far. Flowing alongside the Voyage series, the Festival is celebrating Scotland's own coastline and rivers, collaborating with The Orkney Storytelling Festival and The Wild Goose Festival in Dumfries and Galloway.
- The workshop programme strand Global Lab returns, bringing together storytellers, artists, activists and educators from across the globe to explore sustainability, ecology and healing. Contributors include NYC-based Laura Simms who will speak on Deep Healing and Ecology, social and environmental activist Grian Cutanda who will share his work on the Earth Stories Collection and Julie Cajune and Douglas Mackay whose work explores connections between Native America and Scotland.
- Running alongside the Festival, the Community and Families Programme bookends the festival, with the programme pairing local storytellers with partner organisations across the city in online and small-scale live settings, unlocking the ethos of 'going local'.

Edinburgh's Hogmanay

- Tickets for Edinburgh's Hogmanay Street Party had been on sale since January 1 2020 – and positive discussions were taking place with the City of Edinburgh Council in relation to the Hogmanay programme for 2020/21. However, in the summer it became clear to all parties that the famous Street Party could not take place and so tickets were taken off sale in July, with customers offered full refunds. Two months later the Council and event organisers Underbelly announced that, following advice and discussions with public health experts, the festival could not go ahead as planned this year. With national restrictions on gatherings and the potential strain on services over the winter, focus will move away from crowded gatherings like the Hogmanay

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Street Party and Christmas markets. Instead of stalls, rides and live on-stage performances, events are likely to be streamed online, with details to be announced in due course.
