

# Latest News

Culture and Communities Committee  
10.00am, Tuesday 26 January 2021



## Message of Support from the Convener and Vice-Convener

**Convener, Councillor Donald Wilson:** With all that is going on in the City it is easy to overlook the efforts of those in the cultural sector in what has been a challenging, and in many ways disastrous year. From museums and galleries to libraries and sports facilities, staff and volunteers have fought to bring our institutions and services through. From outright closure to adapted ways of working, the challenges have been immense but the need has in many ways increased. Few could now dispute the value of cultural and sporting engagement in our daily lives. As we look towards our greatest challenge in the weeks ahead, we should also acknowledge those who have struggled to get us through the year. From lost income in cultural venues to the care and maintenance of our world class collections there are unsung heroes everywhere in the cultural and communities sector. Just as we were getting to a position where we could see a way ahead we are faced with yet another battle for cultural survival. This message is a heartfelt thank you to staff and volunteers who have got us to this point and a New Year's wish that the light at the end of this very long tunnel is not too far off. That light for us has to be the return of personal cultural and sporting engagement which as well as being a human right is essential to the wellbeing of every citizen. In the world's first City of Literature and the greatest Festival City you would expect nothing less but we are proud of how Scotland's Capital City has responded to this crisis and that is down to you all.

**Vice Convener Councillor Amy McNeese-Mechan:** I'd just like to add my sincere thanks to all our staff for the amazing work they've done in continuing to deliver services, despite the personal challenges I know so many of us have faced. The Convener and I are very aware of how valued our cultural, library, sporting and leisure services are to the people of Edinburgh. It is perhaps most especially at this time that it becomes clearer than ever how important it is for our physical, emotional and mental wellbeing to have these important resources available to us.

## Macmillan @ Edinburgh Libraries – The Service Team of the Year Award Success!

Macmillan @ Edinburgh Libraries have been successful in being selected by The Awards Panel of Macmillan Cancer Support as the Scotland Regional Winner for the The Service Team of the Year Award (for passionate and determined teams supporting people affected by cancer). Unfortunately, due to the pandemic there was no awards ceremony, but the team have received a letter of congratulations and a Service Team of the Year Award Pin. The team are very proud at having won this award!



## Scotland Street Press – Donation of Books to Edinburgh Libraries

Scotland Street Press made an extremely kind gift to Edinburgh Libraries of 100 children's books for Christmas this year. From Monday 14 December any child who visited one of our re-opened libraries could claim one book\* with four different exciting titles available - *Auntie Robbo* and *Aboard the Bulger* – Ann Scott-Moncrieff; *The Mystery of the Raddlesham Mumps* – Murray Lachlan Young; and *Black Snow Falling* – L.J. MacWhirter.

Libraries worked in partnership with the CEC Communications team to ensure the news of this opportunity was shared with all primary schools. Although visits to libraries had to be booked in advance due to social distancing guidelines, people were able to do this easily by booking online <https://bit.ly/EdLibBook> or by phoning their library. To ensure child safety, we asked that all children under 12 years wishing to collect a book be accompanied by a parent or carer.

One of our Library Development Leaders expanded on the benefits of the donation programme beyond the overt kindness of a free gift of a book:

*“...it had the added bonus of bringing families into the library who maybe otherwise wouldn't have come in during a restricted service period. The gifting of these books was also about reading something different, a core aspect of the wonder of public libraries.”*

Branch	Books given out	Branch	Books given out
Central Children's	5	Kirkliston	6
Craigmillar		McDonald Road	2
Drumbrae	10	Newington	2
Fountainbridge	3	Stockbridge	10
Gilmerton	3	Wester Hailes	5

\* Books were limited to one per child and were supplied on a first come first serve basis to children while stocks lasted. Each library had 10 books to give away.

## Edinburgh Libraries Children and Young People's (CYP) Services

The Edinburgh Libraries CYP services created a dedicated facebook page for our library offering during lockdown making sure we covered all aspects of CYP's core offering ranging from Bookbug, Read Write Count to STEM and bookgroups. The page quickly increased user numbers and alongside its weekly timetable, it has hosted events with our partners such as the Royal Observatory and the University of Edinburgh plus a successful Drag Queen Story Hour event during Pride.

## Book Week Scotland 2020 – 16-21 November

During Book Week Scotland in November, the following events took place and reached over 3,000 customers:

**Citywide** - Prize-winning poet [Michael Pedersen](#) and, designer to the literary stars, [Jon Gray](#) are joined Edinburgh Libraries to champion our virtual poetry jamboree, which encouraged participants to submit lines of poetry to put thoughts and feelings into the open in word. The words are to be gathered together and collaborated into forever memories. A "Future" e-book is to be developed with a hard copy purchased to enable the theme, The Future, to continue for the months ahead.

**Sighthill Facebook Event** – Sara Sheridan gave an online talk on 18 November on "Agatha Christie and about how the 1950s relates to today".

**Central x 2 Events** – An Evening with Alastair McIntosh took place on 18 November and on the 19 November [Gillian Galbraith](#), who was the most loaned eBook author in the UK during lockdown, talked about her writing. These two online events were held in partnership with [Birlinn](#) publishers and supported by [Scottish Book Trust](#).

**Kirkliston** - North West Edinburgh public and school libraries came together for a unique project in partnership with Impact Arts. Impact Arts are Scotland's leading community arts charity, which primarily works with vulnerable communities. Their new group Creative Pathways is aimed at 16-26yr olds and is a creative employability programme for young people not involved in education, employment or training. The young people enjoyed the challenge of thinking about the future and the world around them. They created a survey to share their thoughts, which was shared on social media. As a result of their thoughts and collaboration they have created a comic book influence installation for BWS consisting of four pop up banners. The banners will be showcased initially in Forrester High School and will rotate around NW school and public libraries. They can be used by community branches and secondary schools to promote collections such as the citywide Escape, Connect, Relate bibliotherapy project

**HMP Edinburgh Library** – Michael Pederson produced an audio on BWS and the Poetry Jamboree for the prison radio. Fife College will base their next writing workshop on the jamboree. The prison have donated £3, £5 and £15 as prizes for three winners, and these will be read out on the prison radio.

**Macmillan@Edinburgh Libraries** – For each day of Book Week a “Cancer related” book was featured on their Facebook account with the theme of dreaming/focusing on the future.

**South West Libraries** – An introduction to Visual Poetry and Photography, called Photo Poems, was created along with Arts and Creative Learning (south west). These Photo Poems will inspire those who like photography and the idea of combining images into poetic sequences.

**School Librarians** – A host of activities were held across the city, including designing a literacy mask, COVID safe story sticks using online Wheel of Fortune generator, pupils drawing how they see their future, lunchtime story cafes based on what the future needs to be and how the young of today fit in.

### Museums and Galleries – Looking After Our Collections – A Sticky Problem!

The Museums and Galleries Collections Care Officer has had to think creatively about how to continue to monitor the museum environments and collections while they remain largely inaccessible. Luckily, temperature and relative humidity can be monitored remotely through a web browser. However, checking for insect activity like clothes moths and carpet beetles can only be done in person by placing and checking sticky blunder traps on a quarterly basis. In normal circumstances this would involve the Collections Care Officer travelling around the venues each quarter to swap over the traps. However, during this period of limited access and travel, this wasn't possible. Instead, the Collections Care Officer enlisted the help of colleagues who are carrying out weekly checks of our venues; delivered online pest identification training; posted traps to them at home; and took receipt of used traps for analysis as and when it was possible. These checks proved to be vital, as they flagged up an outbreak of carpet beetles at the Museum of Childhood which is being tackled in a Covid-19 safe way.

Pictured below are two quarters' worth of traps from Lauriston Castle for analysis. The Collections Care Officer was relieved to see that, while we do have a silverfish problem in one of the offices, collections areas are performing well! There are a lot of spiders, which eat the sort of insects that might damage the collections: my enemy's enemy is my friend!





## City Art Centre Visitor Research

The City Art Centre (CAC) re-opened on 12 September following six months of closure caused by the Coronavirus pandemic. This research was commissioned from *CG Research* to measure satisfaction with the Covid-19 safety measures that had been instigated and in order to identify any required changes. We also wanted to understand the visitor profile in this specific time period. The research was conducted as an online survey. The report covered survey responses for people who visited between opening and 18 October. There were 254 responses in a period where there were 3,981 visitors. Comparisons were made in the report with the CAC visitor survey conducted in 2019.

It was to be expected given the ongoing travel restrictions that a much higher proportion of visitors were from Edinburgh itself (75% compared to 16% in 2019), 75% were women and we had an older demographic of visitors (80% over 55). A high proportion of visitors were regular gallery goers, and 88% had visited the CAC before.

Satisfaction with the visitor experience was extremely high. The new booking system, introduced for the first time to limit numbers, was well received with 75% rating it highly. All but one respondent said they felt safe. Only 2% felt the number of visitors felt overcrowded. 80% rated the quality of the exhibitions on show as very good, and 88% rated the staff welcome in the same category. 87% rated their overall experience as very good which is higher than the CAC benchmark (65%) and suggests that visitors are supportive and understanding of the current challenges. 97% would recommend people to visit with the current measures in place. The average length of visit was 76 minutes.

The survey allowed space for open comments, and within those there were some suggestions which we have sought to address. Inevitably there have been some teething problems as both staff and visitors got used to new ways of working and visiting.

Overall, the report presents a very positive picture at this difficult time, and thanks are due to the staff who have helped create a welcoming and safe space for our visitors.



Installation photo: *Jock McFadyen Goes to the Pictures*. Photo: Lloyd Smith Photography and Film

**Platform: 2020 – Presented by Edinburgh Art Festival at the City Art Centre, 31 October to 29 November 2020**

Although Edinburgh Art Festival was sadly cancelled this summer, there was a desire to urgently find a way to present *Platform: 2020*, the annual open submission showcase supporting artists in the early stages of their careers to make and present new work. Working in partnership with City Art Centre, it was possible to re-schedule the exhibition to the autumn. The opportunity has been hugely appreciated by the selected artists - Rabindranath A Bhose, Mark Bleakley, Rhona Jack, and Susannah Stark - who have reported that the exhibition has given them a valuable point of focus through the year, and despite working under the restrictions of Covid-19 the Art Festival have been able to work closely with the artists and to provide a support network for them connecting with fellow artists, selectors, the festival team, and individual mentors. The exhibition brought together four new bodies of work that include sound installations, textile and sculptural works, print-making, film, performance, and text-based works. Across each of the artists' individual practice, a number of themes and approaches are particularly resonant for our present times including:

- the aesthetics of the collective,
- the intense vitality of 'being together' in space;
- strategies for survival; and
- the importance of the sense of touch.

The Art Festival/City Art Centre welcomed over 2,000 visitors over the 30 days of the exhibition and have received positive feedback from press and visitors. The Festival will announce the open call for *Platform: 2021* early in the New Year and look forward to present this within the next festival edition, which runs from 29 July to 29 August 2021.

The exhibition was made possible thanks to the generous support of the PLACE Programme, a partnership between Edinburgh Festivals, Scottish Government, City of Edinburgh Council, Creative Scotland, and the Cruden Foundation. For more info and a video documenting the exhibition see:

<https://www.edinburghartfestival.com/news/item/platform-2020-announcement>



Credits:

Mark Bleakley & Rabindranath A Bhose, part of *Platform: 2020* at City Art Centre, presented by Edinburgh Art Festival. Photo: Tom Nolan.



Rhona Jack, *Trouble Maker Heart Breaker*, 2020. Part of *Platform: 2020* at City Art Centre, presented by Edinburgh Art Festival. Photo: Tom Nolan.



*E.A.Hornel: From Camera to Canvas*. Installation photograph by Lloyd Smith photography and Film

The recently opened *E.A.Hornel: From Camera to Canvas* exhibition at the City Art Centre is the first major exhibition of Hornel's work for 35 years, and it sets out to demonstrate how photography underpinned his work. Organised in partnership with the National Trust for Scotland, the exhibition draws on the huge photographic collection of c1,700 images that Hornel used to create his paintings. Hornel was one of the leading members of the Glasgow School of painters. However, it was his first visit to Japan in the early 1890s in the company of artist friend George Henry that led to a change in artistic direction.

Photography was crucial to Hornel's art. From his own photographs, he chose subject matter for his paintings, in many instances copying poses directly from photographs onto the canvas. It is ironic that a painter known for his expressive brushwork should have relied so heavily on the mechanical technology of photography. The current pandemic has impacted the exhibition to the extent that we are unable to show as many paintings as we would have liked, but the exhibition still conveys the range of Hornel's work and this hitherto overlooked link with photography.

A varied online events programme has been arranged to coincide with the exhibition, details of which can be found [here](#).

*The City Art Centre closed on 24 December 2020 in line with the Scottish Government's Covid-19 guidelines.*



## City Art Centre Exhibition Marks 100 Years Since The Dawn of “The Roaring Twenties”

Over the next few months visitors to the City Art Centre will be able to enjoy the new exhibition *Bright Shadows: Scottish Art in the 1920s*. This display is the latest in a series of exhibitions drawn from the City’s collection of fine art, recognised as one of the best collections of Scottish art in the country.

*Bright Shadows* focuses on artworks produced in the 1920s, an evocative period of striking contrasts. For many people, the 1920s is an era associated with high spirits and glamour; a decade of Art Deco design, jazz music and flapper dresses. Yet this is only one side of the story. It was also a time of sombre reflection and hard realities, with the recent losses of the First World War and ongoing economic instability. Timed to mark 100 years since the dawn of the ‘Roaring Twenties’, *Bright Shadows* explores the events, ideas and styles that shaped Scottish art during this fascinating period. The exhibition showcases a selection of paintings, drawings, prints and sculptures by 30 different artists. The Scottish Colourists are featured, with J.D. Fergusson’s Art Deco gem *Villa Gotte Garden* (c.1920) and S.J. Peploe’s radiant landscape *Iona, Mull and Ben More in the Distance* (c.1929). The progressive but short-lived Edinburgh Group is also represented, with Dorothy Johnstone’s masterpiece *Rest Time in the Life Class* (1923) and D.M. Sutherland’s harbour scene *Concarneau, Brittany* (1924). The Scottish printmaking revival is explored through the work of Ernest Lumsden and James McIntosh Patrick. Meanwhile, avant-garde influences are traced through the progress of William McCance and William Johnstone.

One of the highlights of *Bright Shadows* is *Cecile Walton at Crianlarich* (1920), a bold portrait of the artist Cecile Walton by her husband Eric Robertson. The painting arrived at the City Art Centre on long-term loan from a private collection in late 2019, and this is the first opportunity for visitors to see it on public display. Another highlight is D.Y. Cameron’s *A Garment of War* (c.1926), an epic battlefield landscape recalling the artist’s experiences in the First World War. This canvas recently underwent conservation treatment and has now been restored to its original splendour.

*Bright Shadows: Scottish Art in the 1920s* runs until 6 June 2021. Admission is free but allocated time slots must be booked in advance online. For more details see:

<https://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/whats-on/bright-shadows-scottish-art-1920s>



1 Credit: S. J. Peploe, *Iona, Mull and Ben More in the Distance*, c.1929. (On long-term loan from a private collection. Photo: Antonia Reeve).

2 Credit: Dorothy Johnstone, *Rest Time in the Life Class*, 1923. © the artist’s estate.

3 Credit: D.Y. Cameron, *A Garment of War*, c.1926. City Art Centre, Museums and Galleries Edinburgh.

*The City Art Centre closed on 24 December 2020 in line with the Scottish Government’s Covid-19 guidelines.*



## Auld Reekie Retold

Even though they are still working from home, the Auld Reekie Retold team continue to delve into the depths of the collections to unlock those hidden stories. They have been busy [writing blogs](#) ranging across our collections, from pioneering women artists, to experiments with chloroform via beautifully wrapped historic textiles, silver sugar pots with links to Scotland's failed attempt at Empire building, and stopping off for a spot of needlework on the way! Our first podcast series is also now online, and we have had some [great feedback](#) from listeners.

We've continued making significant progress on cleaning our legacy collections information, with well over 50,000 records individually tidied, cleaned and improved. Many records go back decades and have inconsistencies and errors which make the records hard to find; the work being done now will open countless doors, collections, projects and exhibitions for years to come.

The project has now been engaging with audiences for two months and is amassing a great following on social media. You can follow it with the hashtag #AuldReekieRetold on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. We have been using images of the finds of the project, and project team members at work for an Advent calendar online, which shows the varied strands of the project. Thanks to funding from Museums Galleries Scotland, the project is now looking to deliver a public programme in earnest. The team is already making links with community groups across the city, with plans to contribute to activities in Portobello, Niddrie and a Scots language initiative led by the South West locality team. The first of a series of online "From the Curator" events is scheduled for 21 January and is open for booking – [here](#). The series will explore the what, why, who and how's of the project with key discoveries and an insight into the behind the scenes work of museums.

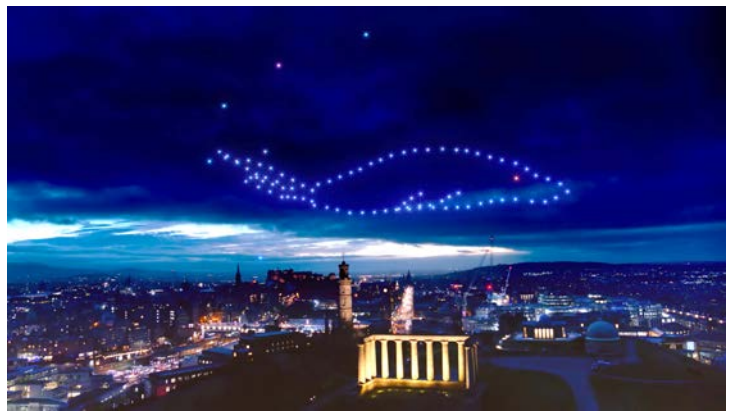


## Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay

The impact of Covid-19 meant that the majority of the Edinburgh's Christmas and Edinburgh's Hogmanay programmes had to take place online this year.

During December, The Mound Christmas Tree was complemented by an LED rainbow of thanks to our key workers and NHS staff and additional festive lighting was provided across the city.

Edinburgh's makers and producers were featured on a new online platform at the [Edinburgh's Christmas Neighbourhood Market](#). In total, 207 local Edinburgh businesses participated in the market, reaching 195,231 people across Edinburgh's Christmas social media channels.



Edinburgh's Hogmanay produced a series of three short films entitled '[Fare Well](#)', featuring a drone swarm choreographed to a specially commissioned poem by Scotland's Makar, Jackie Kay, a soundtrack from Skye band Niteworks and interpreted through the designs of Scottish illustrator Gary Wilson. This was the first time that such technology had been used in the UK.

Released over three nights and narrated by David Tennant, Siobhan Redmond and Lorne MacFadyen, the films have had over 6 million direct views, generating 626 total pieces of media coverage including 126 international broadcast hits and featuring in 129 national titles.



A fuller report on Christmas and Hogmanay will be presented to this Committee in due course.

## **Festivals and City Venues – Planning Responsibly Together**

Officers are continuing to work closely with the city's festivals and venues networks. We are collaboratively exploring and developing options and planning for both events and venues being re-introduced, and in renewed and imaginative formats. Of course, risk assessment and following public health guidance is fundamental to every aspect of this collective approach.

We are working together on the shared priorities of developing deliverable event models and maximising employment opportunities; retaining our city's world-leading festivals status; and on our city's venues being fully prepared to re-open at the first opportunity.

Officers are ensuring all necessary expertise is available to the Festivals, working alongside licensing, business growth and inclusion, environmental health, planning, roads, and parks services.

The festivals are also exploring and developing options and feasibility of re-purposing spaces as well as modelling options using the crisis to think differently including looking at further collaborative initiatives in August.

The city's cultural venues continue to meet regularly through a number of existing, as well as new, networks to manage and mitigate the impacts of Covid-19 on the sector. This has included work on national guidelines for venues and the performing arts, lobbying for financial support, managing diaries and schedules, and keeping audience engagement programmes in place. The focus has more recently turned to developing a road map out of the current restrictions, agreeing to work and share best practice with regard to public and environmental health guidelines, developing shared charter mark standards to build public trust, continued lobbying for financial support, and collaborating on audience engagement projects.

This work has been impacted by the most recent changes in the public health environment and discussions are now taking place to understand likely impacts. Further updates and outcomes on both the festivals and venues collaborative agendas will be shared with Members as early as possible.

## **Creative Play Sessions for Babies age 0-2 and their Parents**

Supported by the City of Edinburgh Council/Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo Culture Project Fund, a series of 12 creative play sessions for babies age 0-2 and their parents are being delivered at weekends across Wester Hailes, Broomhouse and Sighthill by Starcatchers, Scotland's National Arts and Early Years Organisation.

The sessions, which are Covid-19 secure and currently delivered outdoors, provide a safe space for families to be creative together, building confidence and helping to strengthen both adult/child bonds and community connectedness. So far, themed sessions have explored autumnal-coloured paints, using natural materials for some big 'no-brush' outdoor art, creating fire-crackling sounds, and water drumming.



Parents had expressed sadness that there have been fewer activities to participate in as a family over the past few months. "I miss... always having the opportunity to do something with my daughter. It's really impacted me the last few months, not being around people as much. If there was a weekend group I think this would help with my mental health and my daughter would be able to have that fun bonding time with me again. She is at nursery full time. Weekends are our time so I try to make it as fun as possible, just us, but it's not the same."

The artists who facilitate the sessions have significant experience working in communities to improve outcomes and the overall health and wellbeing of vulnerable families. Participants are referred by local support services or through self-referral. The focus is always on empowering parents and their children to be confident, co-creators as they engage in activities that encourage social connection and self-expression.

For further information please email [expectingsomething@starcatchers.org.uk](mailto:expectingsomething@starcatchers.org.uk).

[www.starcatchers.org.uk](http://www.starcatchers.org.uk)





## Edinburgh's Newest Pump Track Opens at Hunter's Hall Park

New cycling facilities have opened at Hunter's Hall Park with the completion of a pump track. Financed from Section 75 funding, the track is a facility for all types of wheeled sports - from BMX and mountain bikes to skate board and roller skates. The track is made of rollers and banked turns and riders navigate the track by performing a "pumping" motion generating momentum from up and down body movements rather than pedalling or pushing their foot on the ground. Riders of all ages and abilities can use the track, which is free to use and open all year round.

The project was developed by officers from Communities and Families and Parks and Greenspaces and was designed and built by Velosolutions UK. The track forms part of the wider masterplan for new sports facilities within Hunter's Hall Park.



## Sports and Outdoor Learning Unit

With the return of schools in August, the Sports Development Officers have been supporting primary schools with curricular sport delivery, providing a mixture of tennis, football and rugby for P3 - P7 pupils. The main focus of the sessions has been fundamental movement, co-ordination and communication skills. See below for more details:

### SPORT AND OUTDOOR LEARNING UNIT

#### SPORTS DEVELOPMENT

##### SCHOOLS DELIVERY

With the return of schools in August, the Sports Development Officers have been supporting primary schools with curricular sport delivery - providing a mixture of tennis, football and rugby for P3 - P7 pupils. August - October programme:



**915**  
pupils took part in the sports development sessions.

**85%**  
of pupils enjoyed the sessions.

**50%**  
of pupils would like to continue playing out with school.

**78**  
tennis, football and rugby sessions delivered in the 6 week block.

THE SPORTS DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS WILL BE WORKING IN BROOKHOUSE, COLINTON, FOX COVERT RC AND MURRAYBURN PRIMARIES NEXT.

Click  to visit our Twitter page - @coe\_sport

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##### FEEDBACK

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"Great organisation and variety of games".

"I liked how active they all were - station rotations worked well to maintain participation for short bursts at different activities. It was well delivered and controlled".

Class Teacher - Balgreen Primary

"What parts of the sessions were your favourite...?"

"Practicing the skills".

"Playing together with my friends".

"I liked the game 'Hoop Flip' as it's testing your throwing skills".

"The pupils really enjoyed the sessions. It was pitched at their level, was delivered well and organised efficiently to run smoothly. The pupils had a quality PE session where they worked their bodies hard and were interested in the session".

"Delivery style - friendly and clear. Well paced".

Class Teacher - Stenhouse Primary

"We've hugely enjoyed being back out enjoying and engaging with the kids. Although sport-specific activity has been involved, the main focus of the sessions have been fundamental and transferable movement skills and helping the kids fall back in love with, and remembering the importance of, group sport and physical activity. Jack Beasley - Football Development Officer



### Active Schools Deliver Bikeability

As part of the council's 'Closing the Gap' strategy the Active Schools team have been placed in targeted primary schools across the city delivering activities to help pupils increase their health and wellbeing. In some schools the Active Schools Co-ordinators have delivered level 1 and 2 Bikeability, supported by other CEC staff. Canal View and St Francis RC have not been involved in cycle training for a number of years:

P6 Canal View pupil was very nervous at start of training but now cycles to school, *"I loved it so much. It was the most fun thing in my life."* *"A fun and productive first Bikeability session"* St Francis teacher.



At Castlevue there have been a number of pupils who have never been on a bike before, who are now riding. Castlevue teacher *"we were so focused during our final Bikeability session yesterday. Amazing! Huge thanks to Active Schools and hopefully we'll all be a little more confident and safer on the roads now!"*

### Impact of Outdoor activity

Since Active Schools were redeployment into schools in August, a range of **outdoor activities**, including playground games, multi sports, hand-eye coordination skills/games, athletics, tennis, boccia, circus skills and Bikeability, has been delivered and several teachers noted the significant impact of outdoor learning and the benefits of getting classes outside: fresh air, room to move, exploring nature, playing on grass (many of the children don't have gardens and the school has a concrete playground throughout), and discovering local parks, not to mention the added bonus of exercise walking to the parks. Teachers were also able to lead outdoor education sessions with the support of the ASC's. Classes from Dalry took part in an Autumn scavenger hunt at a nearby park. A P6 pupil squealed in delight *"we are going on an actual school excursion! we don't normally do that!"*. A teacher from St David's Primary School commented that children have improved their fitness, co-ordination and gross motor skills. The teacher also remarked *"Being new to early level, I have really enjoyed shadowing the ASC, as she has a lot of great ideas and has adapted really well to support specific individuals. I think she will continue to have impact if she was to be kept on at the school"*.



## **Arts and Creative Learning: STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) Artist in Residence**

The Arts and Creative Learning team is leading an exciting, fully funded creative project with partner city, Oulu in Finland, which is fully funded by the city of Oulu as part of its bid towards European Capital of Culture 2026.

Working with colleagues in Oulu, the team is shaping the project to develop creativity skills through a STEAM artist residency, one in each city. The Finnish Institute supported a call out for Artists in each city, while in Edinburgh, the Arts and Creative Learning Team invited applications from schools. Through a rigorous selection process, James Gillespie's High School was selected to participate. The school identified a group of pupils who are needing extra support to achieve and attain, and the staff wanted to re-engage them with learning in a creative way. Staff from the science department are leading the project in school and are keen to work with an artist to support learners and also to develop their own creative approaches. The schools and artists from both cities met online for the first time November 2020 and the project will run through the rest of academic year.

The STEAM residency was initially planned as a face to face residency with reciprocal visits to each city and school by the Edinburgh and Oulu artists and staff. This has been revised due to Covid-19 restrictions, and is currently online. When Edinburgh moves into protection level 2, the Artist will be able to physically work in James Gillespie's High school, meanwhile creative solutions are being developed. Should travel restrictions allow over the course of the residency, reciprocal learning trips may be possible. The content and process of this project will be captured as one resource to exemplify creativity within pedagogy, creative learning and teaching and open ended opportunity empowering young people.

The City of Oulu has adopted the Arts and Creative Learning Team's Creativity Skills Progression Framework to support planning in the Oulu school and to enable artists and teachers plan and track progress. The Edinburgh and Oulu teams are working together to develop the Evaluation Framework for the residency and the entire project will capture and share learning from both cities as widely as possible.

## **Arts and Creative Learning: Heads of Creative Learning Forum**

The Arts and Creative Learning Team regularly works with arts, culture, heritage, and Festivals partner organisations. The team advised on approaches and helps shape content for projects and associated teacher offered by organisations to schools.

To support the strategic development of Creative Learning as a sector which straddles both arts and education, the Arts and Creative Learning Team established the Heads of Creative Learning Forum in November 2019. Around 20 partner organisations attended the initial meeting, all agreeing that the proposal was beneficial and that CLPL the group would work together to explore creative learning partnerships between and across organisations, with schools and with the Arts and Creative Learning Team. The second meeting in January 2020, considered the possibility of



developing a Creative Learning Strategy for the City. The third meeting was cancelled as it was scheduled for April 2020 in lockdown. With the disruption to schools and the unique disruption and uncertainty for Arts Organisations, the third meeting has not yet been re-scheduled. Time was needed to see what recovery for the arts and creative sector might look like. The next meeting will take place on-line in early 2021.



*Heads of Creative Learning Forum discussion groups*

## Paolozzi Prize for Art 2020

The 8<sup>th</sup> year of the annual Paolozzi Prize for Art was scheduled to take place in June 2020 in the National Galleries of Scotland. Covid-19 restrictions and lockdown mean that the Arts and Creative Learning Team had to quickly re-plan the event to run entirely online, while retaining as much of the usual exciting buzz of the live Award Ceremony. Despite restrictions the 2020 Paolozzi prize attracted the highest number of nominations from art and design teachers across High Schools, many saying they were pleased to have something positive and celebratory for their pupils to look forward to. Forty pupils in S4-S6 were nominated across the four categories, which are:

- Talent and Creativity
- New Directions
- Overcoming Barriers
- Spirit of Paolozzi

The artworks and accompanying descriptors from teachers were considered by the experienced and discerning eyes of the judging panel:

- Juan Cruz: Principal of Edinburgh College of Art
- Siobhan McConnachie: Head of Education, National Galleries of Scotland
- Duncan Robertson: artist and freelance educator who studied under Paolozzi in Munich

The 8<sup>th</sup> Paolozzi Prize for Art Ceremony was a first for City of Edinburgh Council, hosted via the Stream facility of Office365 for teachers, pupils and their families to join on Thursday 25 June. This involved the Arts and Creative Learning team learning fast while working with IT specialist Gary Sullivan and resulted in a wonderful celebration of high school pupils' achievements and art work enjoyed by dozens in their homes with family. Donald Macdonald, Head Teacher of James Gillespie's High School commented afterwards: "*You not just pulled it off, you delivered with aplomb*".

The overall winner this year was Ishrat Rahim of Craigmount High School, who won a cash prize of £500. Enjoy a short video about the [Paolozzi Prize](#) for Art with pupils, head teachers and art teachers, and Ishrat Rahim's winning art work below.



## Instrumental Music Service (IMS) and Edinburgh International Festival (EIF)

In partnership with the Edinburgh International Festival (EIF), the IMS team is working with The Wind Section, an Edinburgh based musical instrument supplier. EIF is funding instrument purchases for IMS and Youth Music Initiative (YMI) pupils who do not own or have access to an instrument. This fantastic investment from EIF is made possible with support from donations and EIF's own Creative Learning Budget. The project called Play On Music is designed to support the city's young musicians acknowledging that the cancellation of the Edinburgh International Festival in August 2020, meant many professional musicians could not play in concert halls, theatres and venues. The project also supports pupils who previously needed to share instruments. Covid-19 restrictions mean sharing instruments cannot happen and Play On Music ensures pupils will all have an instrument to play and practice on, whether their lessons are face to face or virtual.

## Youth Music Initiative (YMI)

A new manager took up post on 8 December following the retiral of the previous manager after five years of helping Edinburgh's YMI programme grow in number and develop across all primary and most special schools.

The YMI team has been working hard to prepare all its projects to begin delivery after the Christmas break. The team is very much looking forward to bringing music and joy into all primary classrooms in the new year. To manage Covid restrictions, the YMI team is working closely with schools, tutors and partners to ensure programmes are delivered effectively and safely.

YMI funds piping tuition for SQA students, and the bagpipes are among the instruments which are impacted by Covid-19 restrictions. Recently, the YMI team spoke to Dylan Stewart, an S5 pupil at Craigroyston High School, to find out about how his piping has progressed. Dylan has been a member of the YMI's performance pipe band *Piping Hot!* for several years, performing all over the city, and receives YMI piping tuition in school. He has been working towards his Higher music exam this year and opened the annual Lord Provost Fanfare concert last year with a fantastic musical performance. Dylan said: *"Since I've been playing the bagpipes, I feel like my confidence has boosted as I have played in front of huge crowds on multiple occasions, whether it's for a concert, or being hired or playing for the NHS workers, which I have been doing recently. Learning to play the bagpipes has gave me many opportunities to do thing that I never thought I would ever do, like playing for the Lord Provost, or playing at events like Burns suppers. Playing the bagpipes also gives me a sense of pride whenever people see me with them as it makes me remember how long it took me to get to the performance stage that I'm at and how rewarding it is. My piping lessons have encouraged me to take higher music as it improves my performance and it is very enjoyable. The thing I love most about playing the bagpipes is seeing people happy whenever I play them. There have been many occasions where I have played my bagpipes for people and seen people cheer up as soon as they hear me play."*



St Joseph's RC Primary School enjoying the YMI's Sounds Like Music programme prior to lockdown



Logan McKinlay and Dylan Stewart, S5 pupils at Craigroyston High School



## Screen Education Edinburgh (SEE): Edinburgh City Film Education Programme

Funded by Screen Scotland and part of Arts and Creative Learning, SEE leads a partnership that includes Into Film Scotland and Centre for Moving Image. The programme develops skills for primary, secondary and special school teachers and pupils across the city, including filmmaking projects on the theme of GTCS standard of social justice, supported by bespoke filmmaking Career Long Professional Learning (CLPL). During the Covid-19 pandemic, the Film Education programme moved on-line offering virtual learning for pupils and CLPL for teachers, ensuring continuity. The programme culminated in December with celebratory virtual screening events, online filmmaking workshops, and the launch of curriculum linked filmmaking teaching resources. 33 teachers, 447 pupils and 40 schools engaged in the programme, with 48 animation, drama or documentary short films produced.

A teacher at Trinity Primary commented *“the main thing I saw was an increase in the pupils’ confidence. They had to be directors and have the confidence to lead the rest of the team. I wanted to give the kids the broadest experience possible and use the expertise of the tutors, and also learned a lot about how to use film effectively in my own practice.”*

A parent commented on their son’s experience of learning during lockdown *‘It was a very positive experience for X, he got on with the course quite independently and compared to how he fared with virtual learning for school, which he found quite challenging and withdrew from, the filmmaking course gave him something to look forward to each week. It gave him an aim.’*



## Coverage of Culture in the Media

A selection of stories that have appeared in the media:

Date	Item	Link
21 November 2020	Jock McFadyen and EA Hornel reviews	<a href="https://www.hwllondonartandartistsguide.com/magazine.asp">https://www.hwllondonartandartistsguide.com/magazine.asp</a>
1 December 2020	20 Best Things to do in Edinburgh (Scott Monument)	<a href="https://theworldpursuit.com/things-to-do-in-edinburgh/">https://theworldpursuit.com/things-to-do-in-edinburgh/</a>



4 December 2020	Jock McFadyen Goes to the Pictures by Susan Mansfield	<a href="https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/jock-mcfadyen-goes-to-the-pictures">https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/jock-mcfadyen-goes-to-the-pictures</a>
10 December 2020	2021 Exhibition Highlights revealed by City Art Centre	<a href="https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/12/2021-exhibition-highlights-revealed-by-city-art-centre/">https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/12/2021-exhibition-highlights-revealed-by-city-art-centre/</a>
16 December 2020	Street photographer Robert Blomfield's unique urban portraits showcase post-war Edinburgh (CAC)	<a href="https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/street-photographer-robert-blomfields-unique-urban-portraits-showcase-post-war-edinburgh-3070434">https://www.scotsman.com/heritage-and-retro/retro/street-photographer-robert-blomfields-unique-urban-portraits-showcase-post-war-edinburgh-3070434</a>
29 December 2020	City Art Centre reveals exhibition highlights for 2021	<a href="https://artdaily.com/news/131534/City-Art-Centre-reveals-exhibition-highlights-for-2021#.X_L0Adj7Q2w">https://artdaily.com/news/131534/City-Art-Centre-reveals-exhibition-highlights-for-2021#.X_L0Adj7Q2w</a>
1 January 2021	Looking Back (CAC 40 <sup>th</sup> )	<a href="https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/12/looking-back-to-2020/">https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/12/looking-back-to-2020/</a>
7 January 2021	Changing role of the home explored in a new exhibition at CAC	<a href="https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/01/changing-role-of-the-home-explored-in-a-new-exhibition-at-cac/">https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2021/01/changing-role-of-the-home-explored-in-a-new-exhibition-at-cac/</a>
11 January 2021	Fleming Collection Top Picks for 2021 (Mackie)	<a href="https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/our-top-picks-for-2021?fbclid=IwAR2OHTvYWsnWssM8Lle1sOITqYwSDBtfGCewCtiNulefv3TP4ms0iatJ82U">https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/our-top-picks-for-2021?fbclid=IwAR2OHTvYWsnWssM8Lle1sOITqYwSDBtfGCewCtiNulefv3TP4ms0iatJ82U</a>
13 January 2021	Review: E. A. Hornel: From Camera to Canvas	<a href="https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/e-a-hornel-from-camera-to-canvas">https://www.flemingcollection.com/scottish_art_news/news-press/e-a-hornel-from-camera-to-canvas</a>

## Culture and Communities Committee



### **Convener**

Councillor Donald Wilson



### **Vice-Convener**

Councillor Amy Mcneese-Mechan

## Members

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Councillor Key  
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Councillor Osler  
Councillor Rae  
Councillor Staniforth  
Councillor Ethan Young

## Contact

### **Lynne Halfpenny**

*Director of Culture*

Telephone 0131 529 3657

### **Andy Gray**

*Head of Schools and Lifelong Learning*

*Communities and Families*

Telephone 0131 529 2217

### **Gareth Barwell**

*Head of Place Management*

Telephone 0131 529 5844

### **Natalie Le Couteur**

*Committee Services*

Telephone 0131 529 6160