

# YEAR IN REVIEW



'create'



'challenge'



'delight'



'empathy'



'energy'



'explore'



'learn'

## CULTURE SERVICE REPORT

2016/17

# ANNUAL REPORT

## 2016/17

Cultural Services are responsible for the operation, management, development and promotion of arts, heritage, cultural and science services throughout the City, through access to high quality educational resources, promoting inclusion in delivering outreach activities.

### The four service delivery areas are:

- Halls and Music Development
- Fine and Applied Art
- Museum Services
- Learning and Engagement

We have worked closely with three choirs over the year. As well as our Workplace Choir in collaboration with The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Engagement we have developed two new partnerships. Got Soul Choir and Loadsaweeminsingin have both taken up residence in The McManus and really make the building 'sing' in the evening as part of our Creative Campus evenings.

Through learning and engagement, we continue to work with partners, communities and participants from across the City to deliver health & wellbeing to our visitors and staff.

### QUOTES

*"This provided excellent opportunities for the class to work with real artists and see this as a feasible job option. It has opened their mind to other possible career paths, developing their skills for learning, life and work. The opportunities to visit 'The Shrubbery' and The McManus were really special, and to have the opportunity to stand where a famous artist stood was a very inspirational experience for the children" - School Feedback*

*"The choir is a real benefit to my wellbeing. It challenges me to sing/learn things I haven't tried before and meet members of staff from other departments. When I return to work after lunchtime I feel uplifted and relaxed" - Choir Participant*

*"The Caird Hall looked magnificent and we can't thank you enough for your never-ending support and help over the last two years. Everyone at the Caird Hall has been completely helpful, professional and supportive at every stage" - Hands Up for Trads*

*"Activities encouraged a good balance of independent learning as well as team work. They allowed the children the opportunity to use materials they have not used before and helped them to develop new skills in printing" - School Feedback*

### Facts and Figures

It's been another strong year for the Caird Hall with an increase of **4.4%** on tickets sold through Dundee City Box Office at a total of **138,743**.

Soundbase Music Workshops welcomed over **200** young people throughout the year.

Across cultural venues we saw an increase in attendance of **15%** at 210,108. Contributing to this was the hugely successful Oor Wullie project, as well as the beginning of The McManus 150th Anniversary Programme.

We had confirmation that The McManus, Broughty Castle and the Mills Observatory all maintained their full museum accreditation.

We continued our relationship with our friends and supporters groups, and have been particularly supported by the Friends of the Caird Hall Organ and The McManus 168 Group.

Learning & Engagement across the service continues to be a key part of our developments across our facilities, with **16,613** participants taking part in our programmes of Music Development, Creative Learning and Science Engagement across these venues.



# CAIRD HALL

The Caird Hall is Dundee's main concert and conference venue, staging a diverse programme of events throughout the year, providing golden memories for all our audiences/ participants, parents, family members and local communities.

The wide range of events is in line with our organisational outcomes.

The parents/family members/friends attending Summer/ Winter Graduations, the Schools concerts, Rock Challenge, NYCoS concerts, Cheerleaders, Maximum Dance are so filled with pride and emotion, it is always a joy to watch. The students, youths, children performing in the events all take their experiences with them throughout their life.

The Caird Hall is a unique and very grand venue but offers an intimate experience to artistes and this year the line-up included Sarah Millican, The Solid Silver 60s Show, Sean Lock, Shane Filan, Jimmy Carr, Deacon Blue, Classic Rock Show, Rumours of Fleetwood Mac, The Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Children's Classic Concerts with the very popular Roald Dahl's Three Little Pigs, Kevin Bloody Wilson and more, providing a real choice for audiences.

The conference business continues to maintain a high profile in the City with The STUC Congress, Jehovah Witness Conventions, The Order of the Eastern Star, The Educational Institute of Scotland, and The Church of Scotland Guild returning to the venue.

**Festival of Remembrance** *"Just a quick note to thank you for helping with the 2016 Scottish Poppy Appeal by illuminating the Caird Hall red and keeping the Poppy Appeal visible and to the forefront of the public's minds. It is important that we catch peoples' imagination which gives a publicity boost to our fundraising efforts. I really am most grateful for your support this year. I am optimistic that we will in due course achieve another splendid outcome and for your help in making this possible, accept my sincere thanks."*

**Chief Executive, Poppy Scotland**

The MG Alba Trad Awards were a highlight of the year with musicians from all over Scotland participating in the show. In addition Hands Up For Trad staged, for the first time in Dundee, the Scottish Traditional Music Hall of Fame Dinner, which honoured Dundee's own Michael Marra, singer Barbara Dickson, BBC Presenter Iain Anderson, Billy Kay the writer and broadcaster, and actress and Gaelic singer Dolina MacLennan.

**Trad Awards** *"The Caird Hall looked magnificent and we can't thank you enough for your never ending support and help over the last two years. Everyone at the Caird Hall has been completely helpful, professional and supportive at every stage."*

**Development Manager, Hands Up for Trads**



Exhibitions included the Dare Protoplay Games Festival which attracted over 10,000 people, the Big Dundee Wedding Shows and the Dundee Jobsfair.

The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ continued their loyal service to the Caird Hall Organ and saved the day by purchasing, at very short notice, a replacement humidifier which is a critical piece of equipment for the longevity of the instrument. Their Education programme included the senior schools day hosted by Stuart Muir and Andrew Macintosh. The organisation staged the first ever Come and Sing with participants from across the country and the UK composer Paul Mealor as director.



The Silent Movie Night with Donald Mackenzie showed the Harold Lloyd classic "Safety First" and the 1911 film "Dundee Courier" to celebrate the 200th anniversary of the launch of The Courier.

The third Organathon saw over 14 organists play from 10am-4pm with the finale by Dr Gordon Stewart,

president of FOCHO, raising in excess of £4,000. Their official fundraiser Dr Jim McKellican was honoured by being a finalist in the Arts and Business Fundraiser of the Year, although not winning the category, this was fantastic recognition. The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ has established themselves as a formidable hardworking organisation in only seven years, a major achievement in itself.

*"A huge thank you is due to all who contributed to the success of Saturday's Come and Sing. Immediate feedback on the night was enthusiastic and is echoed by the flavour of the evaluation forms that I've scanned."*

#### **Chair, The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ**

Dundee City Council continued their investment in the venue with the purchase of new equipment, a further supply of moveable lights, a digital lighting desk and replacement motors for the trusses. All so very necessary in this ever changing technical world.

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**It has been another amazing year with 344 events and 134,875 visitors.**

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*"A big thank you to you and the Caird Hall team for another great week of summer graduations. Your support and hard work is very much appreciated by my colleagues here at the University. The City Square and Caird Hall looked especially great this year and we are very happy being part of the City and showcasing it to students, parents and honorary graduates alike."*

**Principal & Vice-Chancellor University of Dundee**



# DUNDEE CITY BOX OFFICE

Dundee City Box Office provides a high quality accessible ticketing service to promoters, event organisers and a wide range of venues throughout the City, and is well established and respected as a ticketing agency.

Constantly striving to improve the service is key to the continued success, and in order to ensure the offering is meeting all requirements, Leisure & Culture Dundee invested in an upgrade to the ticketing system which provided a new website responsive to all devices.

The opening hours have been extended to 5 pm Monday to Saturday to further assist those customers who prefer to book in person and by telephone. The staff have been provided with upgraded equipment to ensure they have the correct tools to provide the quality of service.

The business offering was expanded with the addition of the new venues, The Frigate Unicorn and Slessor Gardens and the selling of Gift Vouchers for the Caird Hall, Whitehall Theatre and Gardyne Theatre.

The diverse range of 420 Shows/Events, over the year covers every market and provides a steady flow of entertainment for the community.

The resounding success this year, supported by the public from all parts of Scotland, was the Oor Wullie Homecoming with tickets flying out the door in person, by phone and online. Although hugely demanding on staff, it was amazing to witness the phenomenal level of commitment to this event.

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**The total number of ticket sold was 138,743 an increase of 4.4% on last year, which is excellent in the current economic climate.**

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*"Just wanted to say thank you to you and your team for the help in selling tickets for the **The Lady Boys of Bangkok** production at Baxter Park."*

*"Please pass my thanks to the whole team for the help on this year's **Jazz Festival**. Looking forward to working with you again in 2017."*



# MUSIC & EVENTS DEVELOPMENT

Music Development organises and promotes projects which are aligned with the organisation's key objectives and priorities.

Music Development administers the **Music Grants** on behalf of Dundee City Council, which provides support to a number of national, regional and local organisations' such as:

Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Jazz Scotland, Dundee Choral Union, Dundee Symphony Orchestra, Dundee Chamber Music, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Music in Hospitals, Children's Classic Concerts, Beat Generator, University of Dundee Music Society, St Paul's Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts and Scottish Chamber Music to further enhance the musical offering within the City, to augment partnership working with national organisations and create high quality music activities for the wider community.

Furthermore, the introduction of the RSNO Workplace Choir has shown a commitment from LACD and RSNO to support and promote the health and wellbeing of staff, by taking part in a shared musical experience. Showing a commitment to improving the quality of life of its workforce.

*"The choir is a real benefit to my wellbeing. It challenges me to sing/learn things I haven't tried before and meet members of staff from other departments. When I return to work after lunchtime I feel uplifted and relaxed".*

**Choir Participant**

**The Dundee Musicians' Award** started in 2008 to support the work of outstanding Dundee-based musicians by awarding grants towards the costs involved in creating new work in any genre, research and professional development. The aim of the Award is to encourage musicians to remain in the City and raise the profile of Dundee-based musicians at a local, national and even international level. In 2016 the panel made four Awards: Kevin Findlay, Robbie Ward, Barry Nisbet and Gleadhraich.

*"The Dundee Musicians' Award provides bands/acts with a really significant local source of funding, and for us it is going a long way towards the production of our fourth album".*

**Mark - Fat Goth**



The continued development of **World/Traditional Music** at the Caird Hall saw Balkan Gypsy group The Max Pashm Band, The Shee and Blazin' Fiddles perform to great acclaim, and maintains the support to music from less well established genres.

**Caird Hall Tours** are available to school and community groups and are part of wider initiatives such as, Doors Open Day, Dundee Women's Festival and as part of citizenship studies in schools. The tours offer an opportunity to see behind the scenes of the Caird Hall, Dundee's major Concert/Conference Venue, and enables the groups to take a closer look at areas that would otherwise be closed to the public. There's also an opportunity to view the magnificent Harrison and Harrison Organ, The Stage, Marryat Hall, Gallery and backstage, and the tour includes a short selection of music performed on the Caird Hall Organ by City Organist, Stuart Muir, as well as learning more about the work being carried out by the Friends of the Caird Hall Organ (FOCHO) in supporting and maintaining the Organ alongside Dundee City Council. The Caird Hall Tours have a number of key outcomes:

Providing and promoting access to the cultural heritage of Dundee and Scotland, and are a way of highlighting the importance of Dundee's Cultural Heritage; providing information on the architecture as well as the history of the building and surroundings, and on the concerts/ events past, present and future.

*"Tour was great! I'm a Dundonian and never knew about the Organ."*

*"Wonderful time, learnt so much of interest."*

**St Andrew's Day Fusion Festival** supported by EventScotland's Winter Festival Fund included workshops in Fiddle, Flute and Tabla, and a celebration of the different cultures that make up modern Dundee, with performances on the stage in City Square from

a Scottish Piper, Bollywood Dancers, African Drumming, Middle Eastern Music and finishing with a Cajun ceilidh from Boogalusa.

**Soundbase Music Workshops** welcomed over 200 young people throughout the year to work with professional musicians to learn new skills in guitar, keyboards, drumming and performance at the Caird Hall, and with the support of Creative Scotland 20 x Soundbase Sessions for young people, who due to a number of financial, social or personal reasons had not had the opportunity to be involved in a high quality music experience. The sessions took place from September 2016 to March 2017 with over 20 young people attending, many whom had not played an instrument or performed before.



*"Soundbase Sessions has helped my boy enormously and most certainly has contributed to improvements in his literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing".*

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**A total of 76 Music Development events with 2,482 people attending.**

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## THE MCMANUS EXHIBITION PROGRAMME

Each year the fine and applied art section rehang the Twentieth Century Gallery to focus on different aspects of the fine art collection. The collection is recognised by Museums Galleries Scotland as being of national significance.

*Draw the Line: Old Masters to the Beano* focused on our huge and little known collection of drawings. This display ended on 24 October. After a number of years focused on different media, we returned to the key strength at the heart of the fine art collection. *Sense of Place: Twentieth Century Scottish Painting* focused primarily on landscape painting and ran throughout 2017. It highlighted the dynamic developments in Scottish painting through the inclusion of work by the Glasgow Boys, the Scottish Colourists and Joan Eardley. As ever, the contribution of Dundee artists was underlined with the inclusion of perennial favourites by James McIntosh Patrick, Alexander Allan and Jimmy Howie.

Alongside *Sense of Place*, *Out of the Frame: Scottish Abstraction* featured artists exploring colour, form and emotional expression in works no longer constrained by the picture frame. Entirely drawn from the permanent collection, the display included artworks by Wilhelmina Barns-Graham, Calum Innes, and a major new acquisition by Victoria Morton presented by the Contemporary Art Society.

New acquisitions were also featured in the preceding show *Charting New Waters New acquisitions from the permanent collection*, which ran from 7 May-24 October. This brought together two significant acquisitions to the collection. The Antarctic Suite of 6 paintings was a living bequest gifted to Dundee by Frances Walker.

Regarded as the finest work of her career, the gift was made by Walker after introductions by the Tatha Gallery, and in recognition of Dundee's role in Antarctic exploration. The second major acquisition on display showed three of the eight ship models formerly owned by Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company Ltd.

The display was complemented by a trail that highlighted new acquisitions throughout The McManus. This included artwork by Corin Sworn presented by Outset Scotland, Treasure Trove finds, a British Empire Medal, silver and a ship model bought at auction, a portrait on loan and donated natural history specimens.

Our annual Winter Works on Paper focused on *The Artist Screen*. The display featured twelve small-scale paintings, works given by "artist friends" to Mrs J.G. Orchar, wife of the arts patron James Guthrie Orchar. Originally part of a folding screen, the display reunited the works for the first time since the 1890s. It highlighted the friendships between the Dundee collectors and the leading contemporary artists of the day.

Celebrating Dundee's new status as a **UNESCO City of Design**, the What is A Museum cases on the ground floor were completely redisplayed with objects that highlighted the myriad ways in which design contributes to our lives. The display has proved popular, bringing together a wide variety of material from our wide-ranging collections. Perhaps the most commented item is a sponge formation - the Venus Flower Basket. Its intricate skeleton structure inspired the distinctive structure of the Gherkin building in London.

We welcomed Oor Wullie into the Gothic Hall.

This year the Museums Services have worked in partnership with National Museums Scotland and The British Museum, showing a satellite exhibition from a major exhibition at The British Museum and Reflections on Celts. The exhibition featured two iron age mirrors one from each institution. The exhibition was developed as an intervention in our permanent display in The Landscapes and Lives Gallery - the addition of temporary walls and the use of the Museums Galleries Scotland funded temporary display cases gave the gallery a new feel and gave visitors a new fresh approach in the gallery.

Alongside the two mirrors, were borrowed objects from The University of Aberdeen, additional material from The National Museums for Scotland and our own collections centered around John Duncan's masterpiece Riders of The Sidhe.

The exhibition has proved to be very successful with an increase in visitor numbers year on year by 3000. The exhibition also attracted a number of school visits alongside a number of requested talks and tours from various external groups and agencies.

Due to a number of changes with our gallery interactive terminals we were able to install two additional display cases to the permanent display in the Landscapes and Lives gallery, a display featuring Dundee trade tokens and a display partially curated by one of our volunteers exploring the development of the Overgate, using a collection of pottery sherds which she has been documenting.

A cross sectional show called Charting New Waters curated by The Fine and Applied Art Section along with The Museum Service Section collated highlights of collecting since The McManus redevelopment.

The show predominantly focused on a suite of works donated by Frances Walker and the collection of ship models purchased on behalf of the city from the Dundee, Perth and London (DP&L) shipping Company, it also featured the "We Dundee" shoes and works from Ron O'Donnell. The exhibition not only gave greater access to the collections, it also assisted with documentation and collection care. Exhibitions also create lasting partnerships with regional, national and international organisations. They bring collections from London, Edinburgh and Aberdeen, enable visitors to learn and interpret new collections which they may not have the opportunity to otherwise visit.

### **Visual Artists and Craft Makers Awards Scheme: Dundee**

Cultural Services continues to work in partnership with Creative Scotland to deliver grants to local artists through the national Visual Arts and Crafts Makers Awards Scheme. In 2016-17 grants were made to 12 Dundee-based practitioners to support their creative practice.

### **Loans**

This has been another significant year for loans, as the collection becomes more widely known - in part as a result of the Art UK website, but also through access to the collections for specialist researchers.

Our loans to other institutions involves much team working and the preparation of items for transport and display. Condition checking of each loan item is a time-consuming but necessary task, as is the physical couriering of items to venues within the UK and overseas.



# COLLECTIONS PROJECTS

- Dundee's fine and applied art and whaling industry collections are recognised by Museums Galleries Scotland as being of national significance. This enables us to apply for grants to support the collections. Over this period we continued a Recognition-funded 24-month Succession Planning Project focusing on the documentation of the fine art collection. Our Succession Planning Assistant continues to work hard to ensure that the information about the works in our fine art collection is digitally preserved and made more easily accessible to all. She has posted regularly on The McManus Facebook and Twitter accounts.
- Taking digital photography of collections continues alongside the recording of temporary exhibitions and displays. This year we have also embarked on a series of short interviews with former members of staff to capture their specialist knowledge of the collections, record their observations of the organisation and their recollections of key areas of work.
- All of the team have participated in a series of guided tours, talks and lectures to local interest groups and specialist audiences.



# CONSERVATION & COLLECTIONS CARE



# CONSERVATION & COLLECTIONS CARE

The collections cared for by Cultural Services are wide and varying. We care for over 150,000 objects of which three dedicated collections have been recognised by The Scottish Government as Nationally Significant - Fine Art Collection, Applied Art Collection and The Whaling Collection.

2017 saw the retention of our Full Museum Accreditation status for The McManus, Broughty Castle and Mills Observatory. The scheme which is a national benchmarking tool, requires a number of standards across collections care, organisation health and access and engagement be met and moved beyond. This essential standard shows that we are meeting and going beyond recommended national standards, while being benchmarked with other institutions.

To assist in the achievement of this ambitions but essential project, a new collections management system (KE EMu) has been commissioned. After a major data transfer exercise, we went live in August 2016. A full training programme for the relevant teams in Cultural Services is currently being rolled out.

The new documentation system also contains a digital asset management system (DAM) which will assist in the preservation of our digital assets including photographs,

documents, oral histories and digital media. The one-day-per-week post will assist in the data snagging issues and begin to make the many thousand images of the collections currently stored on deteriorating disks accessible on a new digital platform, before transferring to the new system.

The Angus Moth Project, a fully funded 18-month project through The Strategic Change Fund from Museums Galleries Scotland, continues to fully document the collection of Robertson's moth collection donated in the mid-1990's. The Project has worked in partnership with Angus Alive and The University of Dundee's Museum Collections. The Project Officer has given unique identifying numbers to each specimen, created records on the collections management system and fully digitised the collection, not only for inclusion on our own system, but also in The National Moth Atlas to be published in 2018.

The Boulton and Watt Project, a Heritage Lottery, Museums Galleries Scotland and Association of Industrial Archaeology funded project, was signed off with a final hand over from the main contractors. The engine will remain on long-term loan from Dundee City Council to Dundee Heritage Trust in the High Mill complex.



This has allowed an object which has not been on display for a number of years to take pride of place in another prominent Dundee heritage site.

Preventive and remedial conservation ensure that the collections and buildings cared for by Cultural Services meet appropriate standards and contribute to long-term preservation needs.

As part of a regular programme of "Integrated Pest Management" there is constant monitoring for pests in gallery spaces and in stores. It is vital that regular checking continues to ensure that potential pests are managed and collections are protected. New this year is an IPM (Integrated Pest Management) element to the new collections management system KE EMu. Data can be added to the system and mapped with pest hotspots easier to highlight.

The monitoring of the environment within the Museum and out stores continues. Maintaining a constant level of temperature and relative humidity is key to the preservation of the City's collection. "Prevention is better than the cure".

The annual Spring Clean is co-ordinated by the Museum conservator and ensures that display areas and collections on display are regularly assessed and kept in pristine condition.

We are indebted to the WS Phillips Trust for their annual grant which supports the specialist conservation required to return oil paintings to display condition. This year we proposed two portraits. These were Solomon J Solomon's *Lord Provost Longair* and Stewart Carmichael's beautiful portrait *My Wife*, which was subsequently selected for loan by the University of Dundee.

As part of the ongoing remedial conservation programme individual items have been conserved and cleaned prior to display. The acquisition of the DP&L ship models was a key purchase for the City. It included 36 Ship Models which were prepared for display in the new case in the Dundee and the World gallery, along with a number of items reflecting ship navigation.

Objects for the new UNESCO design-themed *What Is A Museum* case were also cleaned and conserved.

## Storage Improvements

Safe storage of objects is vital to their continued care and preservation. Whilst curators carry out research and documentation of objects, conservation ensures those objects are carefully packed and stored. It also considers how these objects can be viewed, behind the scenes on tours. This is a careful balancing act as the safe storage of some items means that they will become less visible. For example the hanging costume collection has been placed on padded hangers and into individual bags. This ensures each item is supported appropriately and the bag ensures it doesn't rub or catch on other items. We have made other parts of the collection more visible - particularly costume stored in drawers, which can be highlighted on tours instead.

## Acquisitions

As part of the Succession Planning Project we have undertaken a programme of retrospective acquisitions to ensure that items in store are reconciled with formal accession registers. Those not found, that have been



given Temporary Numbers in the last 10 years, have now been formally accessioned. Two major bodies of work completed are the collection of Scottish Pewter and prints acquired through the former Tayside Print Loan Scheme.

A major purchase with grant aid through NFA was Jonny Lyons 3 part piece *Enjoy the Mellow*, bought from his first major solo show at the Ingleby Gallery, Edinburgh.

This year has seen a smaller but significant number of acquisitions both purchased and donated. The curatorial team use the Collections Development Policy as a guide to what is acquired for the permanent collections. Much of the effort this year has been assessing retrospective donations to assess what gaps we have in the collections for future acquisitions. Highlights from this year include:

- Three giclee prints, a sculpture and a documentary film of a performance piece by Johnny Lyons.
- 3D Digital Film of Dundee Law in the Iron Age purchased for the Reflection on the Celts exhibitions.
- Bronze sculpture of Standing Figure by William McCance
- 12 Nails from Inchtuthil Roman Fort
- Tools related to Clark Watchmaker and Jeweller
- European Beaver Skull
- Hawkhill Harriers Trophy, 1895
- Two paper dresses used in Dundee's UK City of Culture bid for 2017.

# VOLUNTEERS & PLACEMENTS

Cultural Services are committed to providing opportunities for volunteers, work placements and further education placements, along with maximizing where possible job opportunities.

We work with Dundee City Council to provide work experience opportunities for Dundee school children through the work experience coordinator, along with providing two opportunities for longer work experience placements for further education students from museum studies courses at St Andrews University and The University of Leicester.

We currently have 7 regular volunteers who assist with the retrospective documentation strategy and ongoing collection care projects. Projects are diverse, from

offsite research in to the City's ship model collection, enhancing the collections data from a specialist lichenologist, to creating bespoke textile bags for the costume collection. Not only does the latter provide a volunteer the opportunity and aids in further employment opportunities, it also assists in ongoing collections care.

We also continue to use a small pool of volunteers to assist in the access to The Old Steeple. Volunteers were given the opportunity to assist with public opening of The Steeple, showing the medieval gravestones on the ground floor and assisting with tours of the floors above.



# LEARNING & ENGAGEMENT

Improving and extending learning & visitor experiences and measuring the impact of this provision on levels of inclusion, wellbeing, civic pride and public trust has been a key priority for the Learning & Engagement Section for 2016/17.

The Section incorporates Creative Learning, Visitor Services and Retail areas; providing public access to the City's collections of historical buildings, artworks and objects.

In 2016/17, we have aimed to strengthen our skills base, improve communication and actively encourage integrated working practices to ensure better consistency of service is achieved across Creative Learning, Public Events and Visitor Experience areas.

Collaboration has been our watchword this year - and as a result partnership programmes have expanded audiences and our own horizons as we worked with new and existing partners to offer wide-reaching cultural experiences, particularly for young people, families and community.

This process of collaboration has been further supported by a new Learning & Engagement strand, designed as part of a programme of cultural activity celebrating the 150th Anniversary of The McManus. **The Peoples' Story** is an 18-month creative learning project with partners, cultural agencies, individuals, community groups and networks across the City. Told through a blend of art, dance, music, theatre, film, written and spoken word, **The Peoples' Story** aims to examine the Museum's social purpose, explore and document the relationship between the City's Museum, collections and communities.

Across 2016/17, Learning & Engagement Programmes attracted 14,131 participants, with activities taking place at The McManus, Broughty Castle, Mills Observatory and at Schools & Community venues across the City. Programmes have been delivered through a range of activity - from tailored engagement with first-time or hard-to-reach audiences, supported work-based student placements to increased provision and services for children and families.



# CHILDREN & FAMILIES

Provision for children and their families is a central part of Learning & Engagement's core work; and is identified in the organisation's key policies and strategic plans. In 2016/17, we continued to develop and deliver opportunities through our learning programmes and partnerships, visitor services and through provision of family-friendly spaces and resources.

## Activities & Events

- Saturday Studio: monthly collections & exhibition-themed creative workshops at The McManus (Reflections on Celts, A Sense of Place, Out of the Frame and Fire & Stone)
- Saturday Stars: monthly astronomy & science-themed creative workshops at Mills Observatory
- Small Stories: under 5's gallery sessions delivering stories, songs and active play exploring museum objects and artworks
- Festival of Museums May 2016
- Children's Art Day July 2016
- Oor Wullie (Bronze sculpture, Bucket Trail and Oor Artifacts). The arrival of Oor Wullie at The McManus in 2016 generated a high volume of family visitors. Creative Learning activities (craft and comic making workshops, guided tours and gallery activities) were created to complement this theme and delivered across the year.



- The Big Draw, Oct 2016: programme of creative activities; including 'Drop-in & Draw' event.
- Light Nights Lanterns: lantern-making workshops to enable families to participate in the City's annual Light Nights event.



**Partnership Work** throughout the year, with family support groups and partner organisations offering a range of targeted family learning opportunities, including:

- Ongoing tailored creative learning activity increases access to learning and addresses issues of isolation, for under 5's, young parent and family groups identified as in need of support.
- Scottish Dance Theatre Project: Children aged 5-12yrs worked with dancers and artists to create their own interpretation of 'Out of the Frame', an exhibition of abstract art from the Museum's art collection. Inspired by the movement and colour of these artworks, children designed costumes and choreographed a site-specific dance piece, which they performed at McManus to visitors, friends and families.
- Shaper/Caper Studio Sessions: physical theatre workshops to encourage families to visit the Museum to learn and play together. Activities are designed to help children and young people develop self-confidence, problem-solving and collaboration with others. Delivered by international dance company, Shaper/Caper.

**Family-Friendly Visitor Services** We work closely with visitors, colleagues and partners to ensure that we offer accessible spaces, experiences and services that continue to meet the needs of a diverse range of families. The dedicated Family Space at McManus is open daily and is designed to encourage children and their families to play and learn together. Following feedback from visitors, we have introduced a wider range of children's games, toys and books to our museum shops, reflecting family audiences' interests. The McManus Café also caters for children and families, offering a range of affordable children's menu options and fun lunch boxes.



## Impact

- Children and families have access to high quality cultural experiences, participate in creative learning activities and work with professional artists, performers and creative practitioners.
- As a result of partnership work, supported children and families gain confidence in learning and cultural activity and are enabled to become independent visitors and participants.





# SCHOOLS

*'Active learning at its best!'*

## Primary School Teacher

This year has been a really busy year for the Learning Team with primary/secondary school workshops/tours. Options are selected from our current schools' menu offer and most popular themes this year link to our 'Dundee and the World' options and temporary exhibition *Reflections on Celts*.

We have had groups of German exchange students who have loved coming to learn about our Museum collection and the City's heritage. We also welcomed Dundee Secondary Heads of Art & Design, who visited with their pupils to further develop their art theoretical skills in preparation for their National 5's awards.

## Schools feedback

*"My class were engaged and motivated to take part in the session straight away."*

*"The team were very quick to recognise children in my class with additional support needs, and were more than accommodating, encouraging and enthusiastic."*

*"Activities encouraged a good balance of independent learning as well as team work, they allowed the children the opportunity to use materials they have not used before and helped them to develop a new skills in printing."*

*"The impact I see is that my class are not so afraid of being creative and thinking outside the box."*

*"Will definitely come back with my family now!"*

## Primary School Project: A View Re-imagined: September 2016-January 2017

Through site visits, drawing, painting and digital art workshops, P5 children from Blackness P School examined the role artists have played in documenting the changing landscape of the City. They visited The McManus to take part in a 'behind the scenes' tour of the Art Stores and researched the work of renowned Dundee Artist, McIntosh Patrick. They visited McIntosh Patrick's former home, 'The Shrubbery', to find more out about his life and the environment that inspired him to create the painting 'Tay Bridge From My Studio Window'.

Working with artists and film-makers from the Museum's Learning Team they created artwork and animation to reflect their own 'Views' and future visions of what the City may look like in years to come. The work created by the children during the project was displayed in the Museum's Learning Studio in Jan 2017 and they held their own preview event, which was attended by McIntosh Patrick's daughter Ann Patrick, and current owner of 'The Shrubbery', Elaine Kuwahara.



## Feedback from pupils

*"I was expecting to visit The McManus to do some painting and encounter artists, but I wasn't expecting to be going to 'The Shrubbery', using i-pads and taking photos"*

*"I have learnt that my City used to be very different"*

*"The visit to The McManus was a bit exciting"*

*"It was really cool being able to see a lot of McIntosh Patrick paintings"*

*"I loved when my group went to the place where they kept all the paintings, also known as the store room!"*

*"We went to the Art Store to see really, really delicate paintings and we saw things that weren't even on display - and that was really good!"*

*"When we went to McIntosh Patrick's studio, it was a stunning view. I didn't think in my whole life I would be standing in the exact view as he did".*

## Feedback from class teacher

*"This provided excellent opportunities for the class to work with real artists and see this as a feasible job option. It has opened their mind to other possible career paths, developing their skills for learning, life and work. The opportunities to visit 'The Shrubbery' and The McManus were really special, and to have the opportunity to stand where a famous artist stood was a very inspirational experience for the children."*

*"The idea that they can adapt a view to suit their preferences was something they had never considered before. It has given them the confidence to experiment more with their art work and has increased their ability to persevere when something doesn't initially look the way they want it to. The message that art doesn't have to be perfect has really hit home and the impact I can see in the classroom is a new found freedom from some pupils who didn't normally approach creative tasks with much enthusiasm."*

*"The children loved seeing their completed work on show at the Museum in February, and meeting McIntosh Patrick's daughter Ann Patrick."*

# FURTHER EDUCATION

Ongoing partnership work, maximizing potential for Colleges, Universities and Cultural Services (Museums & Galleries) to work together towards mutually beneficial aims. Delivery in 2016/17 included:

## **University of Dundee: Comic Studies MLitt Programme & Dundee Comics Creative Space**

Partnership established May 2015, ongoing. Programme supports public engagement between DCCS, Comic Studies MLitt students and Museum audiences. Activities are delivered through The McManus Events Programme and explore the history of comics in Dundee, from DC Thomson and Valentines; to comics currently being produced in the City. Includes:

- Ongoing DCCS/MLitt access to collections for research.
- Delivery of pop-up talks, comic workshops for children and families and live drawing activities as part of Festival of Museums events (May 2016).
- Delivery of Arts Café talks, creative activities and events as part of Being Human Festival of Humanities Programme (Nov 2015, Nov 2016).
- Youth Action Group partnership project (Feb/Mar 2017).

*Dundee Comics Creative Space is a social enterprise and studio project developed by the University of Dundee, in collaboration with the Rank Foundation and Dundee Place Partnership Scheme. The project aims to provide educational workshops and encourage creative learning through comics.*

## **University of Dundee & University of Abertay: Dundee Arts Café at McManus**

Partnership established Sep 2010, ongoing. Programme supports public engagement with the Arts in the City through informal presentations given by Dundee-based artists, designers, writers, social scientists, lawyers to Museum audiences. The Programme encourages a two-way conversation between presenters and audience, and with a focus on the benefits to both. Includes:

- Delivery of 9 Arts Café talks throughout the year at The McManus.
- Opportunities to increase public access to and awareness of temporary exhibitions and permanent collection displays.
- Shared programming and evaluation process between University and Cultural Services.

*Dundee Arts Café is a partnership programme between the Universities of Dundee & Abertay and Leisure & Culture Dundee. The programme aims to reflect the ground-breaking Arts currently taking place within the City.*



## **University of Dundee, DJCAD PHD Programme: Art Science & Visual Thinking Module**

Partnership established Nov 2015, ongoing. Module supports student engagement with Cultural Services' museums, collections, exhibitions and events through a programme of talks, seminars and presentations held at The McManus, McManus Collections Unit, Mills Observatory and Broughty Castle Museum. Includes:

- Student access to Creative Learning Studio at McManus for self-directed research/peer presentations.
- Student participation in Curator-led tours of current exhibitions, 'behind the scenes' tours of collection stores.
- Student access to Outer Space | Inner Space Programme at Mills (Sci-art collaborations).
- Student evaluation undertaken, in relation to experience of Cultural Services' exhibition, collection access and public engagement.

*Arts, Science & Visual Thinking is an academic learning partnership between DJCAD Visual Research Centre and School of Life Sciences at University of Dundee, delivering an interdisciplinary elective module to undergraduate Fine Art Students.*

## **University of Dundee, DJCAD MFA Programme: Art, Society & Publics (Making the Most of Masters Student Placement National Programme)**

Partnership established Sept 2016, completion of project in Aug 2017. Placement supports a work-based student project, embedded with McManus Creative Learning Team and Community Programme. There are currently two placements in progress. Includes:

- Student access to Creative Learning Studio - creative workspace and office base.
- Student access to collections for research.
- Engagement with community audiences through The People's Story Project.
- Student blog and social media post throughout the placement.
- Experience of co-production process with community partner(s)
- Delivery of student presentations as part of Dundee Arts Café/McManus Public Programmes.
- Presentation of work created during placement at DJCAD Masters Show 2017.
- Co-presentation (students, DJCAD Course Director, CS Section Leader) at Making the Most of Master Dissemination Events and at DJCAD TPG Conference, June 2017.

*Making the Most of Masters Project is an initiative supported by the Scottish Funding Council and in partnership with the Universities of Aberdeen, Edinburgh, Stirling, Abertay, Dundee, West of Scotland and Highlands & Islands Enterprise.*

## **Dundee & Angus College: Performing Arts Graduate Project**

Partnership established Oct 2016, completion of project May 2017. Project supports development of a site-specific theatre project at McManus, delivered by recent graduates from D&A College Performing Arts Course. The work is inspired by the Museums' audiences, staff and collections and is embedded with The People's Story, a Learning & Engagement Programme, celebrating the 150th Anniversary of The McManus. Includes:

- Graduates/Performers out-of-hours' access to galleries and Creative Learning Studio for research and rehearsal sessions.
- Engagement with museum staff, visitor and community audiences, facilitated through participation in The People's Story programme.
- Delivery of pop-up performances, prior to final presentation.
- Presentation of work at Festival of Museums event at The McManus in May 2017.

The Performing Graduates Project is a unique partnership between LACD Cultural Services and D&A College for McManus 150.

## **School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee: Outer Space | Inner Space Project at Mills Observatory**

Partnership established Apr 2015, ongoing. Science Communication partnership project supporting development of an adaptable, immersive learning space at Mills Observatory; and delivery of an associated programme of public engagement with cutting edge research in Life Sciences, Computing, Physics, Mathematics, Medicine and Astronomy. Includes:

- Design and installation of new digital Planetarium/visual presentation screen at the Observatory (funded by Life Sciences Research).
- Delivery of researcher-led CPD sessions, to enable use of new digital technology within the Observatory's public programme. (Visitor Assistant, Learning Teams and Dundee Astronomical Society members).
- Delivery of researcher-led workshops and talks to a wide range of audiences, including Schools, Community and Specialist Groups.
- PHD Student input to public programme activities.
- Targeted consultation work carried out with under-represented audiences in science learning (in particular those with physical and/or sensory impairment).

*Outer Space | Inner Space is a long-term partnership between the School of Life Sciences and LACD Cultural Services. The project receives funding from the Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression at the University of Dundee, through a Strategic Grant from the Wellcome Trust.*



## YOUTH ACTION

Our Youth Action Programmes support regular engagement between the Museum, its collections and young people aged between 12-24yrs living in Dundee. Activities include informal drop-in sessions, creative projects, portfolio preparation, events and opportunities to work with professional artists and creative specialists. The programme also offers young people an opportunity to feed back their experience and ideas to shape and improve services across our Museums for other young people. Impact of this long-term work:

- Young people and youth agencies view our Museum venues as inspiring, welcoming and valuable places to visit.
- Young people are encouraged to become active participants in shaping and improving services across learning, exhibitions and visitor experience.
- Young people gain greater understanding of the importance of the City's art & heritage.
- Young people are provided opportunities to work with professional artists to develop new creative skills and gain workplace experience through volunteering, student placements and peer-led activity.
- Young people's creativity, opinions and ambition is recognised and celebrated.
- Partnerships are built with local and national organisations, connecting young people to inclusive, high quality cultural experiences that inspire and empower learning.

### Create, Connect (12-15yrs)

Informal drop-in sessions offer creative activities, taster sessions for current exhibitions, visits 'behind the scenes' and information on other Cultural Services activities and events. Supports transition to McManus Youth Action

Group (16-17yrs). This year, in addition to participating in drop-in sessions, young people took an active role in our annual Festival of Museums event, designing and delivering peer-led activity. Echoing the event's Design & Innovation theme, they worked with artists to co-create a 1920's themed wall mural within the Creative Learning Studio and coordinated 'The Blah, Blah Box' visitor feedback area.

### McManus Youth Action Group (16-24yrs)

Weekly sessions and creative residencies offer participation in skills based workshops, digital media engagement, co-production with professional artists, special access to collections, exhibitions and artist studios, opportunities for volunteering and work-based placements and peer-led cultural activities.

Later in 2016, young people began a collaboration with artist Stuart McAdam (MFA Student Placement), to explore the key themes of The People's Story Project through drawing, photography and sculpture. The group also worked with artists from Dundee Comic Creative Space, participated in a two-day Studio Residency at The McManus to extend this work and map out future development of their project. The group created a 'zine' reflecting their personal experience of the Museum, which showcased at Festivals of Museums in May 2017, where the group hosted their own stand, delivering digital drawing, badge making and 'make your own zine' activities for children and young people alongside DCCS/ MFA and other festival contributors.

As a result of participation in YAG activities this year, two young people have used work created to help build a portfolio and have been supported by Creative Learning Staff through the application process for Art College. Another young person has been offered a volunteer

placement within the Learning Team to build experience and skills and support her ambition to pursue a career within the Museum & Gallery education sector.

### Feedback from Youth Action members

What McManus means:

*"I come to YAG (Youth Action Group) because it gives me the freedom to be myself."*

*"It encourages work ethic and has helped with my Uni application."*

*"The McManus is a place that's calming, not stressful."*

*"It's a social experience, helps me face demons, feel accepted and included."*

*"Great source of inspiration in the galleries - big spaces to work!"*

*"I'm interested in the way museums function (behind the scenes) and want to get experiences of volunteering, so I can use these as a route into a future career."*

**Partnership Work** Opportunities for young people were extended through the following partnerships and projects:

### 5Rights Youth Commission Event at McManus

The Creative Learning Studio hosted a weekend residency for around 30 young people and youth workers. The event was organized by Young Scot and in partnership with The Corner in order to introduce young people to current rights-based approaches to tackling digital safety.

### Dundee Rep Youth Theatre at Mills Observatory

As a result of a partnership between Cultural Services and Dundee Creative Learning Teams, 40 young people aged between 14-18yrs took part in 'Experiment 01: Abandoned', a site-specific theatre project at Mills Observatory. Throughout the summer period, young people developed a promenade performance piece, featuring original music, costume and set design. The project resulted in the delivery of 6 performances, in and around the Observatory's ground, with over 200 people attending these unique shows.

### Feedback from partners

*"Just dropping an email to say a massive thank you for hosting the 5Rights Youth Commission's residential over the weekend! The Learning Studio was amongst the most beautiful spaces that we've worked in, and it was perfect in every sense; from the technical equipment to the handy kitchen. We all immensely enjoyed being there!"*

**5Rights Co-ordinator**



# COMMUNITIES

Our main strand of community engagement during 2016/17, has been delivered through a programme of lead-in activities and development work in advance of The People's Story Project. To ensure that we meet the needs of Dundee's' diverse communities, we have worked with community agencies and cultural partners to develop a framework to support engagement with a wide range of community audiences, particularly with first-time visitors and those identified at risk of exclusion from learning and/or cultural participation. This early consultation work has enabled a framework that delivers a person-centered approach; and is specifically designed to encourage positive impact on health and well-being by providing comfortable environments for participants to meet new people, learn, engage with cultural heritage and tell 'their own story' of what the Museum means to them.

Anticipated outcomes of The People's Story are:

- Valuable, shared and meaningful learning experiences for museum staff and communities.
- Creation of a framework that provides opportunity to deliver new ways of working and shape future models of good practice in partnership work, audience and learning development.
- Visibility and understanding of the journeys, stories, learning and ideas of those involved in the project.

Lead-in activities have included creative workshops, guided tours of permanent collection displays, temporary exhibitions, 'behind the scenes' experiences, focus

groups, Oral History and reminiscence sessions. Current activity has been delivered in partnership with agencies including Residential Care Homes, NHS Scotland and Alzheimer's Scotland at The McManus and at Community Centre venues across the City.

Providing out-of-hours access to the Museum and its collections; twice-weekly Creative Campus evenings at McManus have supported opportunities for partners, community and Museum Staff to meet, talk, share ideas and experiences through a programme of creative activity. Currently evenings host the following groups and activities:

**Monday evenings:** Loasdaweeminsingin Choir, Community Tours, Dundee & Angus College Performing Arts Graduates, MFA Student Placements.

**Thursday evenings:** Dundee's Got Soul Choir, McManus Youth Action Group, Shaper/Caper Social Club, MFA Student Placements.

Information on the progress of The Peoples' Story Project has been presented across a number of professional sector networks and events, including Making the Most of Masters Conference at Stirling University and Timespan Museum & Gallery Symposium, Helmsdale.

In March, we were also able to promote The People's Story through participating in this year's Dundee Women's Festival. A workshop and gallery talk themed around our Museums' artefacts and how they relate to the women of our City and their working lives was delivered at a local



community. As a direct result, a number of participants were encouraged to visit McManus to attend further activities.

A collaboration between the Museum's Learning Team and local poet and performer, Derek Meikleham, delivering Oral History and Reminiscing sessions to visiting community groups and performances at Peoples' Story events. As our eldest Peoples' Story collaborator, Derek's energy and enthusiasm for the project is truly inspirational and his poems and performances of life in the City, written in what he refers to as 'Dundanese,' have been delighting both staff and audiences alike. Although many refer to times gone by, their themes of the journey through the highs and lows of life ensure that they are as relevant to young people as they are to an older generation.

As part of this collaboration Derek has created a new poem especially for The Peoples' Story, which tells the story of The McManus, as experienced by an elder gentleman through his unexpected re-engagement with the Museum. The poem was performed for the first time at our Festival of Museums event in May 2017 when Derek also performed 'The Time Travelling Teddy Boy' - taking audiences on a nostalgic look back at walking the Monkey Parade, shopping at the Sosh and dancing at the Palais!

Throughout The Peoples' Story, community audiences, Museum staff and supporters have been invited to contribute to the creation of a large-scale art work. Referencing the importance of the textile industry to the City, traditional weaving methods are combined with contemporary craft & visual art to capture personal reflections of the Museum and its collections. The completed banner was displayed in Learning Spaces at McManus and at a variety of community venues.

The People's Story will continue across 2017, with a period of reflection, evaluation and reporting of outcomes planned between Jan-Mar 2018.

## Impact:

### Museum

- Increase in confidence and skills gained amongst staff, through development and delivery of activities aimed at reaching hard-to-reach audiences.

- Clearer focus and understanding of how the work of the Museum contributes to social purpose, and is integral to health and wellbeing of the City's communities.
- Development of new relationships with audiences, partnerships, agencies, cultural service partners and community groups.

## Communities

- Increased access to culturally rich and shared creative experiences.
- Confidence in exploring new perspectives, skills and experience of co-production with professional artists, creative practitioners.
- Greater insight into the work of the Museum through increased dialogue with staff, to explore care of collections and the 'making' of exhibitions.

## Feedback from participants on what McManus means to them:

*"Continuity across the generations - a special place to bring my grandchildren"*

*"A collection of antiquities to view, admire and be in awe of the age and origin of many of them"*

*"I visit because, though I'm getting older, I am still curious and it is never too late to learn!"*

*"A way of learning natural history first hand"*

*"A place to re-live early childhood memories"*

*"McManus is Dundee's icon - A landmark in the City"*

*"A meeting place, creative opportunities"*

*"A wonderful place to look, learn and look again!"*

*"I love history and it's so nice to look at the real thing - it's a place of history and memories"*

*"It's a place to meet, sing (Loadsaweeminsingin Choir) eat, contemplate and appreciate Dundee"*

*"It's a fabulous building - a grand island surrounded by the sea of Dundee!"*



# SCIENCE LEARNING: MILLS OBSERVATORY





## SCIENCE LEARNING: MILLS OBSERVATORY

The Observatory provides viewing of the night skies to members of the public throughout the winter period, and is open on selected dates during the summer for a programme of Science Learning activities. The venue is both visitor attraction and learning facility – promoting astronomy and science engagement to the widest audience possible.

Home to Dundee Astronomical Society, the Observatory is also a popular destination for families, educational and community groups, many of whom participate in pre-booked activities. Programme for 2016/17 included Planetarium Shows, bookable tours and workshops for Schools and Community Groups, Dundee Astronomical Society talks and events, drop-in children and family activities, Schools & Community STEM Ambassador activities, CPD events and delivery of the Outer Space | Inner Space Project in partnership with scientists from the University of Dundee.

### Outer Space | Inner Space

Continuation of science communication and research collaboration with the School of Life Sciences at the University of Dundee and Mills Observatory. The concept behind the project is based on the stunning similarities of images of vastly different scale, captured by astronomy and life sciences and aims to utilise visual research output to encourage engagement with visitors of all ages and abilities.

Following funding from the Centre for Gene Regulation and Expression at SLS last year to enable the design and installation of a new spherical interactive screen system at the Observatory, the new facilities have provided visitors with accessible, interactive exploration of University research across all disciplines and improved experience of presentations and Planetarium Shows. The technology used also ensures that all audiences, including those with physical and sensory impairment, can experience and interact with the installations.

In 2016/17, targeted activities were delivered by University researchers to gain feedback from a range of visitors with different interests and particularly, to explore and evaluate accessibility for visitors with a range of disabilities.

Activities included interactive presentations of space technology research, colour vision deficiency simulation and electron microscope images. By inviting specific groups to participate, researchers could gather feedback about accessibility.

**Straight Talking Group** - adults with complex physical disabilities and no speech. Testing wheelchair accessible iPad mountings for hands-free image exploration, joystick and switch control access.

**Aphasia Group** - adults with language impairment affecting speech production and reception. Testing accessibility through subtitling of the presentation.

**Deaf Hub Dundee** - adults with hearing impairments. Testing accessibility through portable hearing loop.

**St John's and Kings Park Schools** - children with different disabilities. Testing for suitability of venue for children with sensory impairment.  
<http://aac.dundee.ac.uk/a-sensory-trip-to-the-stars/>

### Impact:

- Improved access and science learning opportunities for visitors with disability.
- Improved overall visitor experience and delivered public engagement with cutting edge research from the University of Dundee.
- Supported Visitor Assistants and Mills Officer to gain greater confidence and understanding of new software and technology.
- Encouraged staff to develop new ways of presenting and delivering Planetarium Shows, talks and other activities to visitors.
- Generated a new audience of University researchers, undergraduates and postgraduate students and their families.

# VISITOR EXPERIENCE

We recognise that an excellent visitor experience across venues and programme, plays an essential part in delivering our strategic, business and public engagement priorities. Our Visitor Assistant Team are central to this delivery - providing 7-days-a week public access to venues, maintaining front and back of house operations and assistance to curatorial, learning and public programmes. Our visitor experience also includes The McManus Café, who supply catering for Cultural Services events and venue hire. Following recommendations by VisitScotland in 2016/17, improvements to welcome, information, signage, venue brand and staff uniforms was progressed, creating a more consistent and customer-focused visitor experience.

*"I would just like to say that we were delighted with the welcome, the service and the lunch which we enjoyed on Saturday past! Staff were delightful and a credit to the city, as our friends from Orleans said. It is always nice to show off our City especially now that it is going through a Renaissance --- but it needs people to show off the human side of Dundee. Please convey our thanks and praise to Lucie and Sarah who showed us around the Museum, which was most impressive."*

**Twinning Group Leader**

## Retail

There have been some exciting developments in retail this year. The steady growth of our brand and reputation has allowed us to extend our range of products and introduce new suppliers and partners, and include products which compliment our exhibitions and displays.

Shops at McManus, Broughty Castle and Mills Observatory offer a wide range of gifts for adults, children and young people.

Plans are progressing for an upgrade of the retail area at Broughty Castle commencing June 2017. Improvements will include new branding, display area and extended gift range.

## Impact:

- Visitors enjoy a more welcoming and inspiring experience, from their point of arrival, through their participation in activities or visits to exhibitions, displays, Shops or Café.
- Venues and visitor facilities are presented to a high standard and fully accessible.



# SUMMARY

This has been another positive year for Cultural Services. Previously voted Dundee's best loved building, The McManus celebrated 150 years since opening as the Albert Institute in 1867.

Once again, our staff and volunteers have contributed significantly to our commitment to service quality and excellence. We also worked closely with students and graduate trainees which supported our programme delivery, while at the same time provided valuable professional work experience which will enhance future employment prospects.

Our Friends groups and stakeholders continue to help us improve people's quality of life in the services we deliver. In a little over a year, The McManus 168 group has developed, thanks to the commitment and enthusiasm of its members. They have delivered a wide-ranging programme of events and fundraising and are working on a research programme about The McManus founding members with communities and schools across the City. The established Friends of Caird Hall Organ continue to support the work of Music Development through their programmed events and fundraising.



All in all, another good year for Cultural Services as we continue to meet the needs of the public in delivering a quality provision, as we advance the arts, heritage and culture.



## Reflections on Celts

A spotlight tour from National Museums Scotland and the British Museum

2500 years ago the ancient Greeks called their "barbarian" neighbours in northern and western Europe *Keltaoi*. We do not know whether these varied peoples thought of themselves as Celts, but they shared similar languages and abstract art styles. These similarities suggest that intermarriage, trade and other links brought communities from the Atlantic to the Black Sea into regular contact. Britain and Ireland were part of this world of shared art, languages and beliefs.

After flourishing for hundreds of years, the swirling designs of Celtic art fell out of use around 100 BC on the Continent, but in Britain they continued. Communities across the islands developed distinctive local styles of Celtic art. The motifs on people 2000 years ago would only have seen their reflections in water, but a select few owned bronze mirrors. The backs were often engraved to create light and dark areas, perhaps playing on the idea of reflection. The careful execution of the intricate designs suggests that mirrors were highly valued. People may even have believed that they held the power to look into another world.

These two mirrors found hundreds of miles apart illustrate connections between far-flung parts of Britain – a land which was rocked by the Roman invasion of southern England in AD 43. As communities across the islands adapted to this fast-changing world, new influences appeared in the objects that they made, used and shared.

[www.nms.ac.uk/reflectionsoncelts](http://www.nms.ac.uk/reflectionsoncelts)



Spotlight tour generously supported by the David Foundation  
Celtic mirrors sponsored by Ruthie Gifford Investment Managers