

Cultural Services

Annual Report 2013/14

The four main service delivery areas are now:

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

Cultural Services provide 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.



Facts and Figures

- The Creative Learning programme delivered 420 events and activities to 8,756 children, young people and adults. This is a good deal higher than the target figure for core delivery and benefited from National Museum of Scotland funding for Scotland Creates.
- The Caird Hall continues to deliver a varied programme of performances, conferences, events and graduations with 373 taking place with this year's attendance of 114,285.
- The McManus attendance figures were 152,661. Despite this being a reduction on a particularly good year for attendances previously, it is still significantly above targets following redevelopment.
- Cultural Services hosted the third in a series of four partnership exhibitions with V&A London Modern Masters in Print and included prints by Henri Matisse, Pablo Picasso, Salvador Dali and Andy Warhol, considered four of the 20th Century's greatest artists.



Caird Hall

The Caird Hall is Dundee's major arts, concert and conference venue located in the heart of the city with easy access via the newly refurbished pedestrianised City Square. It is Grade A listed and has four star theatre status awarded by Visit Scotland. The Caird Hall celebrated 90 years in 2013, quite an achievement for a venue built only as a Concert Hall. As part of the Celebrations Dundee born organist Gordon Stewart gave a performance which was warmly received as was the scrumptious birthday cake.



Despite hosting virtually the same amount of events as last year, with 373, there was a reduction in attendance figures at the Caird Hall with 114,285. This trend is inline with the business in other similar venues for the same period and follows three solid years of growth.

The Caird Hall hosted a number of high profile concerts including Simple Minds with their Greatest Hits Tour, Britain's Got Talent phenomenon Susan Boyle on her first ever tour, and the Modfather Paul Weller, who has commented previously on the great audiences at the Caird Hall and this gig was part of an exclusive 10 date tour which Paul had a hand in putting together. Other concerts included The City of Discovery Charity Concert with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Leslie Garrett, Christmas with the Ratpack, TV Star Jane McDonald, The Ladyboys of Bangkok, Triple 80s Header with Go West, Hue & Cry and The Christians, the Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Ensemble seasons and many more!

Comedy also played a major part in the programme with appearances by the current biggest stars including Micky Flanagan, Reginald D Hunter, Jack Dee, The Lumberjacks and Father Ted star Ardal O'Hanlon.

The Caird Hall is established as a conference venue and the programme included the Embroiderers Guild Regional Members Day, The Jehovah Witness Conventions, The Order of the Eastern Star, The Church of Scotland AGM and The Scottish Trade Union Congress Women's Conference.

The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ staged the first ever Battle of the Organs Concert in Scotland with support from Viscount Organs and two world class organists, Carol Williams and Kevin Bowyer. Although only set up in 2010 the Friends play an important role in the promotion and development of the world class Harrison and Harrison Organ.

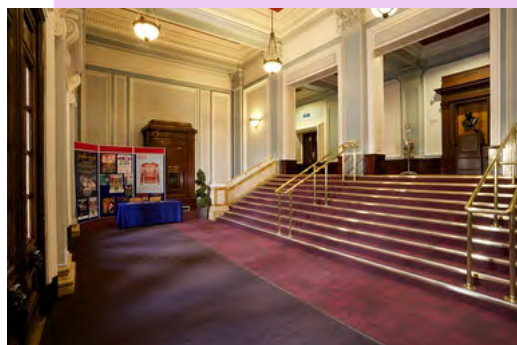
Tayside Contracts and Dundee Sports Awards hosted their glittering presentations and a number of local musical societies and professional companies, united to present the first Springfest, a Festival of Classical Music for Dundee in March.

The BBC recorded their Question Time programme with David Dimbleby and Classic FM broadcast live from the Caird Hall to celebrate the tenth anniversary of its partnership with the Royal Scottish National Orchestra. John Suchet who attended the University of Dundee presented the flagship morning programme.



Brendan Cole and Anton Du Beke starred in their own individual Dance Shows which proved just as exciting for the audiences as their appearances on Strictly Come Dancing.

In between all of the events a programme of capital works was co-ordinated including the refurbishment to the Ashton Hall and the new carpeting/matting at all of the main doors. This was appropriate to compliment the new steps and external ramps which were part of the City Square refurbishment. The full events listing also included Graduations, Presentations, Dare to be Digital, Opera, Ballet, Cat Show and Schools Concerts. The Caird Hall continues to play a major role in the quality of life for the citizens of Dundee.



Dundee City Box Office

Dundee City Box Office is the main ticketing agency in Dundee and provides a professional ticketing service to the majority of venues in Dundee, event organisers, amateur societies and charitable groups within the area.

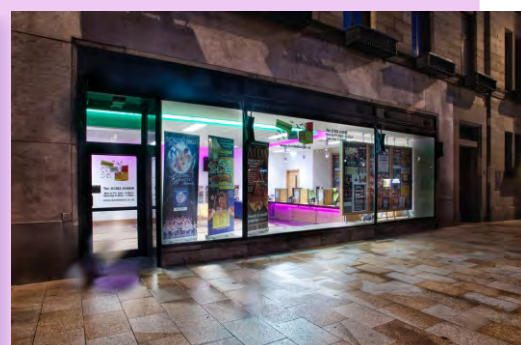
In July the Box Office made the long awaited move to a purpose built facility at 16 City Square. This new facility allows staff to provide a vastly improved service to the public and enhances the visitor experience.

The new box office was officially opened by the Vice-Chair of Leisure and Culture Dundee Sinclair Aitken with the assistance of The Ladyboys of Bangkok.

Since the move staff have received many positive comments from customers on the new facility, and the excellent service provided.

The ticketing system Audienceview was upgraded in spring 2014 and this allowed for a refresh of the online website which is now more user friendly and attractive to customers. The Community Information team assisted greatly in this upgrade and continue to provide support to the Box Office.

With the new online service the Box Office provides e-flyers to customers direct to their inbox announcing on sale dates, ticket offer and events listings and this helps us to engage positively with our customers.





A highlight for the staff this year was a visit to the new office by the dancer Brendan Cole prior to his Show at the Caird Hall.

The total number of tickets sold was 119,762 up 3% on the previous year.

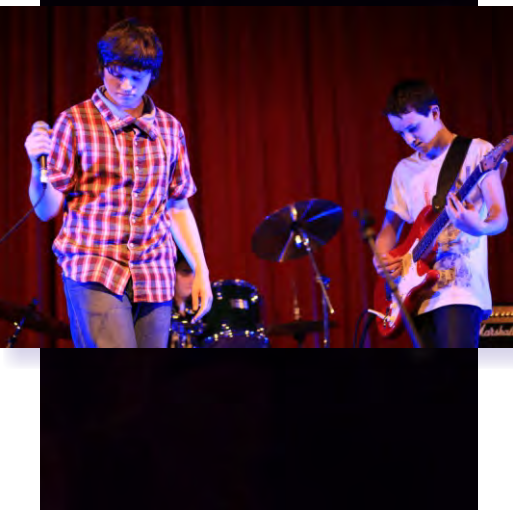
Music Development

The quality and diversity of applications received for the Dundee Musicians Awards resulted in the external panel, granting the following four Awards:

- Richard Gordon - Support for Music Business Training Course.
- Dundee Russian School - Record and translate Russian Songs and their equivalent Scottish Songs for the choir to perform.
- Sonny Carntyne - Production of Music Video as part of a 6 month 'music in residency' with Fleet Collective.
- Layla Brown - To learn and perform a "Birthday Hansel" by Benjamin Britten and set Mary Brooksbank's poem a "Dundee Lassie" to music.

The music grants administered on behalf of Dundee City Council provided support to the Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Scottish Ensemble, Jazz Scotland, Dundee Choral Union, Dundee Symphony Orchestra, Dundee Chamber Music, Scottish National Jazz Orchestra, Music in Hospitals, Dundee Blues Bonanza, Children's Classic Concerts, Scottish Opera and Scottish Chamber Music to further enhance the musical offering within the City.

The Soundbase Summer Slam for 12 - 18 year olds once again proved successful and thoroughly enjoyed by all participants. The new Soundbase Byte recordings in April and November caught the imagination of the participants and a unique tour of the Solid Silver 60's stage set by the Road Manager added to the excitement.



A successful collaboration between Music Development and Tayside Health Arts Trust provided a Musicality Workshop as part of the Luminare Festival in the Marryat Hall. Over 100 people attended with song tutor Debra Salem and music tutor Paul Wright leading the group in an enjoyable afternoon session of singing and music.

World Music is an established part of the Caird Hall programme with concerts from Claudia Aurora a Portuguese Fado singer and a singing and dancing workshop and concert by Black Umfolosi 5 the World famous acappella group from Zimbabwe.



The Big Big Sing Day took place in the Caird Hall, which was part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme and an official Festival 2014 Commonwealth Games Event. Over 300 people attended with a fun packed afternoon of song and workshops with inspirational choirmasters Stephen Deazley and Eugene Skeef, singing songs from Africa, the Caribbean, Samoa, Canada and listening to the brilliant sounds and rhythms of the Commonwealth.

The inaugural Springfest took place in March 2014. Springfest is a festival of classical music for Dundee which included a fantastic programme of concerts for both adults and children, with over 20 events taking place. Springfest is about celebrating local and national musical talent, from the RSNO to Dundee Symphony Orchestra, with audience development as a key aim.

As part of the Games for Scotland Programme, Dundee Dance Day was a unique celebration of dance, which was organised by Music Development and involved a day long celebration beginning with a Mass Zumba Party in City Square and continued with exhilarating dance performances and workshops in the Caird Hall and Marryat Hall. The day showcased an impressive range of dance styles, from a Tea Dance to Bollywood, Sword Dancing, Hip-Hop, Street and Contemporary Dance and was open to people of all ages and abilities.

A total of 96 events were staged with 2,707 participants. This figure is up significantly due to first full year with part time music development officer in post.



Burgh Halls

The total attendance for the year for the Burgh Halls was 9,134 from 492 bookings.



The McManus Exhibition Programme

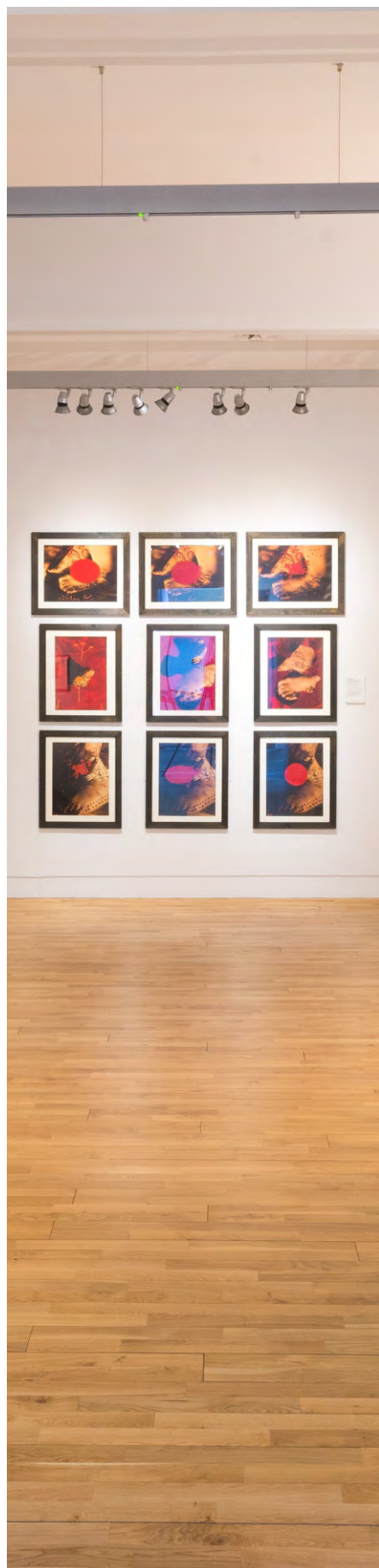
The McManus continues to deliver a high quality temporary exhibition programme often working with national partners. As ever, the year had many highlights.

Re: New - Contemporary Art from the permanent collection highlighted the legacy of DCA's commissioning programme which began with Catherine Yass's outstanding photographs Bridge North and South and most recently enabled Ruth Ewan to create Nae Sums recycled from the desks of Dundee schools. The display also showed contemporary prints to coincide with the third in our series of partnership projects as part of the V&A at Dundee's pre-opening programme.

"What Presence!" focussed on photographs taken by Glasgow photographer Harry Papadopoulos, and was co-curated by Ken McCluskey of the Bluebells. Harry's photographs covered the post-punk waterfront, from Blondie to David Bowie, and the Associates to Devo by way of Joy Division. Learning and Engagement and Museum Services staff created a programme of public events inspired by the exhibition and Dundee's post punk music scene. To complement the main exhibition, the family space was transformed into a Radio Tay studio and a live Radio Tay broadcast was also made as part of this year's Festival of Museums programme. Other events included workshops for children and young people, oral history recordings and live music performances. A McManus Café Late event with live music from Dundee's 'The Mud Skippers followed by a special performance from Ken McCluskey. A screening of the film documentary about the life of Dundee musician Billy Mackenzie was shown to a capacity audience at The Steps Theatre followed by a lively session with Tom Doyle, author of The Glamour Chase, in conversation with Lorraine Wilson. We also invited members of the public to share their favourite vinyl moments at an unforgettable open mic event at Clark's music venue. Compared by the regular hosts of one of London's top open mic sessions, the Dundee audience braved the stage (and some banter!) to play their best vinyl and tell their stories.

Modern Masters in Print showcased the V&A's collection of prints by the four giants of twentieth century printmaking Matisse, Picasso, Dali and Warhol. The show was supported by a major outreach programme co-ordinated by the Learning and Engagement team and delivered as part of the University of Dundee's hosting of the prestigious international print conference Impact8. By designing the Big Print Project as a lead-in project for Modern Masters, we were able to generate new audiences for the exhibition in advance of its arrival at McManus. The opportunity to working in partnership with Impact8 Print International Conference and Print Festival Scotland at this time meant that we able to promote the exhibition to a much wider audience.





Did you know that the City has its own collection of fine art prints? A viewing of the City's works by Degas, Chagall, Renoir and Bonnard was available to those booking an exhibition tour.

This year's Twentieth Century Gallery display focussed on the nationally significant collection of fine art photography with *A Silvered Light* - Scottish Art Photography from the City's Permanent Collection. The City was the first local authority to collect fine art photography and as a result has an outstanding collection ranging from the documentary photography of Joseph McKenzie to contemporary work by Turner prize-winner Wolfgang Tillmans. This year long display was augmented by a small changing programme. The first change brought Catherine Yass's monumental photographic lightboxes together with a stunning historic image of the rail bridge by James Valentine. This is the first time that both works have ever been shown together.

The ever-popular annual winter works on paper display in the Victoria Gallery showcased harbour scenes from the Orchar collection. This was the first display curated by new member of staff Kirsty MacNab who joined the Fine and Applied Art Section as Curatorial Assistant in August 2013.



Retail

There have been some exciting developments in Retail this year. The steady growth of our brand and reputation has allowed us to become the exclusive supplier to some exciting jewellery ranges - new to Dundee. Our partnership with up and coming jewellery designer Mhairi Mackenzie and her Bonnie Bling brand, associated with celebrities such as Lana Del Ray, Olly Murs and Sir Elton John, led to a successful campaign to engage with our social media audience and create a jewellery range celebrating Dundee's unique dialect.

The publications associated with the City's collections continue to grow. This year saw the launch of the book *Ancestors in the Arctic* featuring photographs from the City's whaling collection, recognised as being of national significance.





Museum Collections Projects

Museum Services has a wide range of responsibilities relating to collecting, recording, and caring for archaeology, natural sciences, social history, and world cultures collections. Undertaking this core work enables engagement with collections and staff, and ensures that collections and their associated information are strategically documented and cared for in the long term.

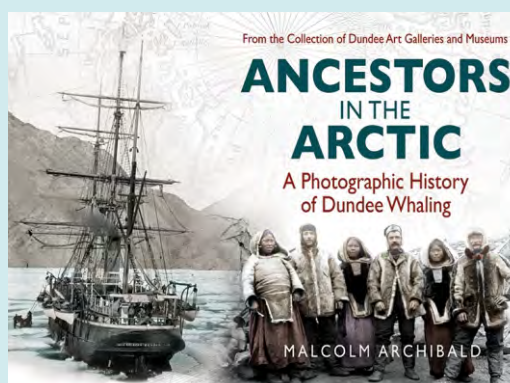
Some key projects were initiated or concluded this year, many of which had both a local and a national resonance. "Ancestors in the Arctic" was published, aided generously by a grant from Museums Galleries Scotland. The book contains fascinating photographs drawn from the museum's Nationally Significant whaling collection.

Another Museums Galleries Scotland funded project enabled the conservation of a Dundee Burns Club banner which was recently donated by the Dundee Burns Club. This project transformed the banner from a poor state of repair into a beautifully conserved textile. It was then put on display in The McManus to coincide with Burns Night, and this was the first time it had been publicly seen since 1880.

"Adding Another Dimension to Dundee's Medieval Carved Stones" was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project has ensured that the carved stones have been fully researched by both community groups, interested individuals, and a team of professional archaeologists. Laser scanning was used to reveal more information about the intricate carvings. The stones are coffin lids which were discovered in and around the St Mary's Church complex during the 19th century. They have been in the museum collection since their discovery, but had never been fully researched. Their significance is only now being uncovered.

We continue to work alongside key heritage providers in the city on a number of projects. Support to the Dundee Museum of Transport has continued, and members of the team were heavily involved in the development work for the Great War Dundee funding application and associated project.

Along with Dundee Heritage Trust the feasibility of conserving, documenting and redisplaying the 1801-2 Boulton and Watt steam engine is being investigated to fund the restoration of the High Mill at Verdant Works. The engine is in the city's collection, but mainly due to its size it has not been displayed for decades. Both organisations are working closely to realise restoration funding and make this come to fruition.





Acquisitions and Donations

The National Fund for Acquisitions, administered by National Museums Scotland assisted with the purchase of a screen-print on mirrored aluminium False Positive, False Negative by Jane and Louise Wilson, purchased following their exhibition at DCA.

NFA also contributed to the purchase of the oil painting A Modern Adoration by Stewart Carmichael, purchased St Margaret's Church Barnhill.

The final NFA supported purchase in 2013/14 was 2 Buffalo Bill Photographs from Cowan's Auction USA from his visit to Dundee in 1904.

Other objects purchased directly through acquisition funding were a book of newspaper clipping from Draffen's store, an original book of poetry by Maggie Todd and a medieval horse pendant.

As ever, we are indebted to the generosity of donors, keen to ensure that Dundee's material culture remains in public hands. The following is an example of the donations accepted;

- Screenprints and photo polymer prints Fragments (Ossian Series) by Calum Colvin & Tom Leonard.
- Wash drawing by James McIntosh Patrick, Dron, Carse of Gowrie, 1974.
- Toy tea pot from The Tay Rail Bridge disaster.
- Taxidermy of mounted Eagle Owl and mounted Osprey specimens.
- Boxing gloves and vest signed by Richard (Dick) McTaggart.
- British Empire Medal and other volunteer medals awarded to Dorris Norris for her services to charity and volunteer work.
- Material from the old Olympia Pool - No Diving sign and Deep End.
- Sizable donation of British Red Cross (Dundee) including Lamp from outside of old building, medals and ribbons.





Loans

In another busy year for loans, our collections were requested for loan to exhibitions across the country. At the beginning of the year, some 19 prints from The Orchar Collection were shown at the University of St Andrews and coincided with the launch of a website dedicated to the Orchar Collection prints. The Scottish Colourist JD Fergusson was shown in the third of the National Galleries of Scotland's Scottish Colourist series, to which we lent his Joan and Lowland Church. We loaned the Dick Institute in East Ayrshire Robert Colquhoun's Women from a Leaded Window and Young Man in a Landscape. Her First Born, Horsham Churchyard by Frank Holl visited the Watts Gallery in Guilford, the Mercer Art Gallery and Harrogate and the Walker Art Gallery in Liverpool.

Closer to home, we were happy to support the loan of prints by the McKenzie sisters to St Andrews Preservation Trust which continued on until May 2013. Later in the year we also loaned Cynicus: The Story of Martin Anderson 12 works, including 2 oils, unframed watercolours and framed watercolours to St Andrews Preservation Trust Museum. Finally, the Scrymgeour gold snuff mull went out on loan to the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery for exhibiting in Scotland's Gold.

Conservation and Collections Care

We continue to enjoy the ongoing support of the WS Phillips Trust. This year they funded the conservation of two paintings Alec Grieve's Lac D'Amour and an important whaling painting, formerly identified as Whaler Moored to Ice by an Unknown artist. Excitingly, this work has now been formally attributed to the artist WG Burn-Murdoch. He was the official artist of the Dundee fleet's 1892-3 trip to the Antarctic. The painting shows the Balaena which travelled with the Active and Diana in search of new hunting grounds. We hope to include the painting in permanent displays soon.

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. The regular spring clean at The McManus is essential as part of an ongoing maintenance programme, and involves staff from across the difference section areas. However, it also attracts visitors and media who are fascinated to see the type of work involved in cleaning museum display.





New humidifiers have helped control the humidity and environment in gallery spaces and stores in particular, thereby protecting collections. Alongside this, selected windows at The McManus and Collections Unit were covered with UV film. The UV film controls the lux or light levels entering spaces, and thereby protects objects and works of art as in a controlled manner.

Individual items to have been conserved include ship models, the Dundee Burns Club Banner, and preparing objects for display in the upcoming 2015 Roman Empire exhibition. As time allows, we continue to undertake basic remedial and remounting work on the framed oil paintings and works on paper collections.

Volunteers, Research and Enquiries

As in years past, a great variety of volunteer projects were undertaken, and we are very grateful to our volunteers for the input and support. Projects have ranged from sewing bags to better store the costume collection, to repacking molluscs. As well as students from Universities including the University of Dundee, and the University of St Andrews, Cultural Services have also hosted secondary school children on their work experience weeks.

Hundreds of enquiries were dealt with in the past year, linking to all parts of the collection. Many in depth research requests were also facilitated. These included enquiries relating to Mary Slessor in preparation for the commemoration of the 100th anniversary of her death in January 2015, and a request from Kew Gardens relating to Economic Botany held in the Natural Sciences collection.

The Fine and Applied Art section has also been involved in providing access to collections under consideration for display within the permanent galleries at the V&A at Dundee.

The partnership with the University of St Andrews, Department of Art History continues to bear fruit. Dr William Rough has been successful in securing external funds to enable him to continue to research artists of the Orchar Collection. We have also benefitted from the expertise of Dr Tom Normand and Professor Calum Colvin in furthering our research on the City's nationally significant collection of fine art photography.

The Dundee Visual Artists Awards and Craftmakers Awards scheme is one of a network supported by Creative Scotland. The Scheme is supported by two panels of expert advisors. We entered into a partnership with generatorprojects to support the wider promotion of the scheme to artists. This resulted in a total of 38 applications leading to 17 grants to artists and craft practitioners.





Storage

The large undertaking reported last year which involved clearing hundreds of museum objects from our out store and finding new homes for them within existing storage was completed, thanks to a team drawn from across all sections. This resulted in better access to objects at McManus Collections Unit and a more efficient use of space.

Meanwhile, the applied art collection is emerging from the crates in which it has been stored for the last ten years. The permanent relocation of the silver and ceramics collections are nearing completion into bespoke accessible storage.

A vital location audit has also been completed of both the easel painting and works on paper stores to ensure that the location index is accurate. This audit has taken place alongside an ongoing photographic project which aims to digitise the entire fine art collection of works on paper.





Learning & Engagement

We continued to build on our established work with Schools, Children & Families, Young People and Communities. Investment in this approach has not only enabled delivery of key service objectives but has gained positive acknowledgement from within the learning sector. As a result of this we were invited to participate in new initiatives such as NMS Scotland Creates Project and the Impact8 International Print Conference & Festival.

This year the Learning & Engagement section has actively looked at ways of improving the work we do, by making best use of the expertise and resources available across our service areas and facilities. A key feature of this approach has been to highlight the fundamental role front of house staff have in engaging with visitors, and we have sought to support this by embedding a culture of learning within the Visitor Assistant Team.

McManus Schools

To manage demand for guided tours, our schools menu was reframed to include additional options and resources to support self-directed visits to the museum. Teachers were offered tailored support and input from the Creative Learning team on how to plan their visits and new gallery trails for the museum's Medieval Stones and Jacobite Projects were produced to encourage independent research before, during and after visits. A number of targeted projects were delivered throughout the year in partnership with Pupils Support teams linked to temporary exhibitions programme and current Youth Action themes. A programme of CPD sessions was offered, introducing temporary exhibition themes and museum projects, engaging with teachers and other education staff from Dundee and Angus Authorities. A part of our ongoing learning partnerships with DCC Education department, Dundee Rep, Scottish Dance Theatre and Verdant Works, we participated in a special World War II Day transitional event for 163 Primary 7 children supported by the Creative Learning Networks Fund.





Young People

A significant amount of our engagement with young people was delivered through participation in 'Scotland Creates: A Sense of Place', an innovative national learning and audience development project. Led by National Museum Scotland and working in partnership with The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, The McLean Art Gallery & Museum, Greenock, the Dick Institute, Kilmarnock and Museum nan Eilean in Benbecula, the project was funded by The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Creative Scotland.

At McManus, we aimed to deliver the project's themes within the context of Dundee, its heritage, physical and cultural landscapes and the city's past and present relationship with the wider world. We were keen that throughout the project, the young people we work with were encouraged to explore their own relationship with the city and research its current transformation – from its industrial heritage previously defined by Jute, Jam and Journalism to a city now associated with innovation and creativity, with a national and international reputation for art& design, science and technology. The process for delivery as always was creative, with young people, researching and responding to collection objects through writing, visual art, film and performance. Young people were asked to become 'digital journalists', documenting and sharing their experiences through social media.

Later in the year, young people curated an exhibition combining films, photography and creative writing alongside loan objects from NMS and the McManus collections. Scotland Creates: A sense of Place will continue in 2014, concluding with a final exhibition of work from all partners in the Grand Gallery at the National Museum of Scotland.



Communities

2014 has seen three new recordings so far added to the oral history archive. The first was a recording of Jack Jones, an artillery officer based at Broughty Castle during the war. He was also on duty at the Stannergate Gun Battery, and supervised the installation of the two six-inch guns into their concrete bunkers by men from the Caledon shipyard.

The second recording made this year was of Alistair Brodie, better known as 'Breeks' from Groucho's Record Shop. 'Breeks' spoke about opening his original Perth Road record shop just before the Punk revolution took place – out went the joss sticks and hippy cheesecloth, in came the Sex Pistol's 'Anarchy in the UK', chains and tartan strides!

Finally a recording was made of John Fraser, a Dundee bus driver and vintage bus enthusiast talking about driving the 1950s Daimler



bus from Dundee Corporation that is now on show at the Dundee Museum of Transport.

Work continued to increase public access to the museum's Oral History Archive, with audio clips being used throughout Learning & Engagement activities. Plans are also being progressed to deliver a month long programme of Oral History activities to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of McManus Life Stories.



Our relationship with adult groups from Sinderins & Pennycook Court Sheltered Housing continued to grow as a result of our ongoing partnership with Home Scotland. Groups of residents now take part in regular programmes of Oral History, Reminiscence sessions and visits to The McManus and McManus Collections Unit. Other partnerships were developed with Dundee Hard of Hearing and Dundee Association for Mental Health.

Guided Tours and Workshops

A targeted menu for Schools, FE and Community Groups was offered, including 'Early Bird' guided tour slots to temporary exhibitions, workshops and drawing projects. Two Further Education projects were delivered, First Year Computer Arts students from University of Abertay spent a week at the museum, exploring galleries and participating in a block of Life Drawing days in the Creative Learning Studio. Students from Art, Science & Visual Thinking students from Duncan of Jordanstone's Art, Science & Visual Thinking course also used the museum's collection as a focus for their project work, visiting the museum over a number of weeks and holding creative sessions and seminars in the Creative Learning Studio.

"Behind the scenes" access to the Collections Unit continued, and successfully targeted different audiences by offering weekend and evening events, including an evening Halloween tour. An event showcasing some well-loved ship models currently cared for at the Collections Unit attracted 448 visitors. Events held as part of the "Adding a New Dimension to Dundee's Medieval Carved Stones" project brought hundreds of people into the Old Steeple in order to view the stones, or take part in workshops where training was provided in archaeological drawing and recording, and laser scanning.

Family Space & Gallery Art Carts

Throughout the year, our family Space and Art Carts were themed to the museums temporary exhibitions and for Modern Masters a 'print journey' gallery trail was produced to encourage children to explore the origins of natural and man-made prints. Documentation from Big Print project, was also shown in the Family Space and art drop-in sessions were held where children, young people and a few of our grown up visitors created their own rock star masks and cardboard cut-out instruments.





Mills Observatory & Science Engagement

The Mills Observatory's ever popular Planetarium Shows and Group Visits continued through out the year. Astronomy events were also held for Dundee Science Festival, Stargazing Live! and International Astronomy Week, attracting audiences of all ages. A new graphic display and programme of talks on the theme of Women in Science were delivered for Dundee Women's Festival. Our partnership with Dundee Astronomical Society produced a public programme of informative talks, evening and solar viewing of the skies sessions at Mills; STEM and CPD events for schools were also delivered in partnership with Dundee Science Centre.

The Observatory and one of its Visitor Assistant's Robert Law, were the inspiration for new artwork by international artist, Hiraki Sawa, who created a film which was shown as part of his solo exhibition 'Lenticular' at Dundee Contemporary Arts in October.

And in finally the Mills Observatory joined the online facebook and twitter community, extending its engagement with wider audience.

Broughty Castle Museum

Leisure and Culture Dundee continue our positive relationship with Historic Scotland to care for and provide access to Broughty Castle Museum. Some minor adjustments were made in the Life on Land gallery, which opened up the space and added a historic map showing the Tay Estuary as part of the flooring which visitors are enjoying studying as they walk over it!

A number of public events included guided tours, children's drop-in activities, school visits 'Living History' costumed interpretation performances

Venue Hire & Evening Events

We delivered a venue hire package for a number of private and corporate clients. Demand remained consistent throughout the year and to meet this demand for out of hours access, a casual pool of Visitor Assistant was established. A comprehensive review of the events programme was carried out outlining potential areas of future development at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Broughty Castle Museum and Mills Observatory.





Cultural Partnerships

Throughout the year, we have worked closely with other cultural providers to develop a programme of partnership events for delivery at a range of Cultural Services facilities. This includes Dundee Arts Café in collaboration between the Universities of Dundee and Abertay, with Leisure & Culture Dundee. A wide range of topics were presented ranging from Science, Social History, Film & Visual Art, Education, Identity and Mental Health.



We were delighted to offer support to the Blue Skies festival again this August, by hosting two magical outdoor evening events over one weekend! 'The Perseids' at Mills Observatory and 'Little Eagles' at Broughty Castle, were organised by DCA and included performances from Dundee Rep Ensemble and smallpetitklein Dance Company.

We were pleased to welcome back our friends from the Scottish Ensemble and Scottish Opera this year, which delighted our visitors with free afternoon performances in the Victoria Gallery. We also made new friends with Dundee's Symphony Orchestra, who popped in to McManus to play two free concerts as part of Dundee Springfest.

Christmas Light Night is now established as one of Dundee's best loved events, preparation for Christmas Light Night commenced at McManus with our usual programme of Lantern making workshops for children and families. On the evening of the event McManus hosted a number of performances from local choirs and welcomed around 1500 visitors to the museum.

CUT: smallpetitklein at Camperdown was perhaps the most thrilling and ambitious of all our partner events to date, CUT was an extraordinary immersive theatre piece from smallpetitklein Dance Company; set against the magnificent interiors of Camperdown House. Based on Bizet's opera Carmen, CUT fused stunning dance theatre, aerial work, live music and terrifying suspense! CUT was performed in a variety of spaces within the House with the audience taken on a unique journey that began the moment they had entered the space. Throughout the evening they were immersed in the very dark world of CUT - offered opportunities to participate in the performance, led around the space in a promenade style - with some being 'captured' to experience private performances and secret spaces.

The Big Print Project was an ambitious 6 month learning and engagement initiative, designed to build new audiences for the Modern Masters in Print exhibition and for Impact8 International Print Conference & Festival. Led by the Creative Learning Team, the project brought together local schools, community groups, students, members of the public and professional printmakers to create a giant artwork, inspired by Dundee life and landscapes. The Big Print Project captured the





imagination of participants and artists alike, helping to raise the profile of printmaking within the city and beyond and forging new collaborative, working partnerships between local, academic and cultural communities.

Using The McManus collections as a starting point, children, young people and adult learners' explored a range of themes, including social and natural history, science, culture and architecture through printmaking, drawing and collage workshops that were delivered across the city. The resulting artworks created through these workshops were then transferred onto lino by Big Print volunteers. An army of artists, students and Big Print friends stepped up to take part in an extensive timetable of cutting sessions, creating a total of ten large tiles to form the basis of a giant 20 sq. metre print. The artwork created was displayed to the public in the Creative Learning space and participating groups were invited to visit and were given a guided tour of Modern Masters.

The project culminated in a day of outdoor printmaking during Impact8 and Print Festival Scotland. Over the course of the day the Big Print Team were joined by project participants, delegates and the general public for a final reveal of the finished artwork. In the University car park, tiles were inked and printed – not by press but by road roller, kindly supplied by a local building firm and driven by a member of the city's transport museum.

Participating Big Print groups include Grey Lodge Youth Group, McManus Youth Action Group, Women's International Centre, Dundee College, Blackness Primary School, St Joseph Primary School Park Place Primary School, Morgan Academy, Dundee High and Monifieth High School.





Summary

Once again, our highlights have been many and have come from across all service areas.

The Caird Hall celebrated its 90th year and looks forward to the challenges of a changing concert and conference market as the city around it undergoes significant regeneration. Dundee City box office relocated to new premises in the city square and saw another growth in online ticket sales and music development has established itself with a marked increase in events and attendances as well as seeing Springfest established on the calendar.

The Modern Masters in print exhibition in partnership with V&A provided a great opportunity for The McManus to host work by four giants of twentieth century printmaking Matisse, Picasso, Dali and Warhol. The associated outreach programme was a wonderful example of how we can work with all sections of the community in developing skills and confidence as well as reaching new audiences.

We were also able to focus on our own nationally significant collection of fine art photography with A Silvered Light – Scottish Art Photography, and showing the wealth of fine work that we have in the city. Meanwhile funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund enabled us to research Dundee's Medieval Carved Stones with input from community groups, interested individuals, and a team of professional archaeologists.

Ensuring that our historic buildings meet the requirements for the delivery of quality services and visitor experiences has been challenging. However, there is light at the end of the tunnel and ongoing improvements to facilities are helping us match up to these high standards.

Across Cultural Services, it has been another exciting year for staff and partners. Resource and financial challenges have been ever present, however the commitment of a small and dedicated team have ensured that we have delivered a service that has greatly contributed to the quality of life to the citizens of Dundee and to our visitors from further away.

