

Leisure & Culture Dundee is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation No. SC042421

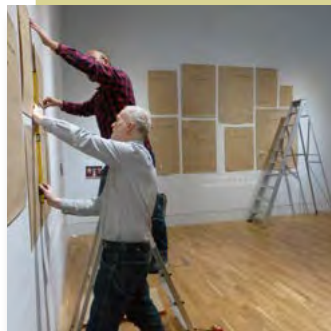
Cultural Services

Annual Report 2014/15

Our high quality engagement supports and inspires our visitors and learners towards realising their full potential. The service recognises the talent of our staff and volunteers and their contribution to making the service the success that it is.

Our partnership working, once again has been central to our delivery. The year saw a number of highlights across the service areas with the British Museum Exhibition Roman Empire: Power and People being a particular highlight. Neil MacGregor, Director of the British Museum said *“Following the huge success of the British Museum’s major exhibition ‘Life and death in Pompeii and Herculaneum’, it is clear that the Roman world continues to fascinate and surprise us.”*

“I am delighted this exhibition, exploring the wider Roman Empire in relation to the British Isles, is now at The McManus: Dundee’s Art Gallery and Museum.”



Facts and Figures

- The Caird Hall has seen an excellent year with **397** performances, attendance figures have increased from **114,285** in 2013/14 to **139,985** this year, an increase of over **22%**.
- The McManus has also seen very good attendance figures with **154,869** people attending, showing an increase of **1.5%**. Across all cultural venues the attendance was **201,957** which was an increase of just short of **2%**.
- The McManus exhibition highlights included *V&A A World to Win: Posters of Protest and Revolution*, *British Museum Roman Empire: Power and People* and *A Silvered Light: Scottish Art Photography from the City’s Permanent Collection*.
- Creative Learning figures saw **15,188** children, young people and adults participate in **618** Learning & Engagement activities, delivered at McManus, McManus Collections Unit, Mills Observatory, Broughty Castle Museum and The Old Steeple.



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Caird Hall

The Caird Hall is Dundee's Grade A, most prestigious Concert and Conference venue and is the embodiment of Sir James Key Caird's vision to provide a Concert Hall to promote music and the arts to the people of Dundee.

The Caird Hall is currently defying challenging economic times to maintain a steady flow of entertainment for the citizens of Dundee, whilst providing a flexible venue for conferences, events and community use.

The venue offers an intimate experience for artistes and audiences and the diverse programme displays the quality of the booking schedule. In order to accommodate as wide a range of bookings as possible, the booking policy was refreshed in 2014 identifying possible community use for weddings and private functions outwith the professional booking period.

A programme of capacity audiences for comedians over the year included one of the most popular females Sarah Millican, Scotland's own the legendary Billy Connolly, as well as Jimmy Carr, Lee Evans and Ross Noble.

The major bands which played sell-out gigs were Kasabian, The View, Jake Bugg and Kaiser Chiefs, whose lead singer Ricky Wilson announced at the end of the concert to the audience - *"Dundee you were amazing"*. Kaiser Chiefs was one of the most electrifying gigs in the Caird Hall in 2014/15.



Other Performances included Solid Silver 60's, Hot Flush, Royal Scottish National Orchestra and Scottish Ensemble Seasons, Dundee Choral Union, Dundee Symphony Orchestra, Scott Matthews, Nicola Benedetti, Human Scale by Scottish Dance Theatre, Paul Hollywood and more.

Conferences hosted included The Scottish Trades Union Congress, The Eastern Star AGM, International Congress on Photodynamic Applications and The Church of Scotland Guild AGM.

2014 was of course the year of the Referendum and this provided a number of new bookings in connection with this event, including a live debate hosted by BBC5 Live. Following on from this and the announcement of Nicola Sturgeon as the Leader of the Scottish National Party and the then soon-to-be Scotland's First Minister, the largest ever political meeting took place in the Caird Hall on 7 November 2014, with over **1,900** in attendance to hear Nicola Sturgeon present her way forward for Scotland.



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2014 also commemorated The Great War with the BBC staging their WW1 At Home Live Event in the City Square and Caird Hall, whilst the Marryat Hall hosted the Leisure & Culture-associated event with memorabilia, postcards, letters, exhibitions and poetry readings.

The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ had a major fundraising year of events, with the launch of the Pop a Pound in the Pipe in May, the Senior Schools Education programme in October, followed by The Silent Movie Night in November. The group also produced a booklet on the history of the Organ in January, and the ever popular Organathon (sponsored organ playing for 6 hours) with guest choirs in February. The Friends work tirelessly to promote the Organ and raise awareness of the importance of Dundee's cultural heritage.



The refurbishment of the ladies toilet located on the ground floor west was successfully completed ahead of the grading inspection by VisitScotland, which confirmed the retention of the 4 Star Award. A super achievement by all involved with the service provided at the Caird Hall and Dundee City Box Office.

It has been another landmark year for the Caird Hall with the events mentioned plus Graduations, Presentations, Dare to be Digital, Opera/Ballet, Cat Show, Schools Concerts and more, proving the Caird Hall continues to play a role in the cultural life of Dundee, with the total attendance for the year of **139,985** from **397** bookings.



SILENT FILM COMEDY DOUBLE BILL

with live organ accompaniment
by BBC Radio 2's Nigel Ogden

Buster Keaton in *The General*
Laurel & Hardy in *You're Darn Tootin'*

Caird Hall
Friday 14 November at 7.30pm

part of Dundee's Christmas Light Night

Tickets 01382 434940 · www.dundeebox.co.uk



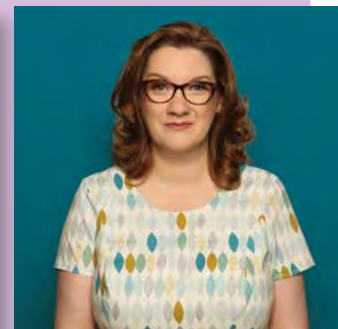
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Dundee City Box Office

Dundee City Box Office provides a professional quality ticketing service to the majority of venues, promoters, event organisers and amateur organisations within Dundee and the surrounding area.

It was another busy year for staff, with a number of high profile onsales, the total number of tickets sold was **134,310**, up over **15,000** from the previous year and securing the ticket sales operation for the renewed Glamis Prom for 2015, a key to the business potential of the service.

The box office has worked to improve the digital offering to customers, including the replacement/upgrade to the telephone system. The online system is crucial to the business development and staff of the Marketing & Communication Team have worked with us to assist and improve this area. The online system provides the opportunity to engage quickly and effectively with our customers.



The service provided has to meet the requirements of promoters/ event organisers and feedback over the year included:-

*“Your staff were great last night, everything went very smoothly” - **Scottish Ensemble.***

*“Thank you so much to all the Box Office Team for all your hard work in selling our tickets, it is very much appreciated” - **Dundee Strathspey and Reel Society.***

*“Many thanks for the support received from you and your staff. I think for a first year at a new venue the sales were very promising and reports back from the team on-site are that the audiences enjoyed the show, so hopefully we will be back again next year” - **Gandey World Class Productions.***

The quality of the customer experience is very positive. Staff regularly receive thanks from customers booking in person and on the telephone.

The addition of Visit Scotland to share the main office space and provide their service to visitors to the City has been a welcome move. The services do compliment each other. This allowed for the external signage to be completed and this clearly identifies the services provided in this City Centre Office.



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Music Development

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, National Youth Orchestra of Scotland, Children's Classic Concerts, Scottish Opera and Scottish Chamber Music to further enhance the musical offering within the City.

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, and in 2014 the panel made five Awards: Seven Sons, Scary People, Alison Ross, Charlotte Brimner and Dundee Massive Jazz Orchestra.



Music Development partnered with Tayside Health Arts Trust to stage Musicality Workshops for those with COPD. The vibrant singing tutor Debra Salem hosted the eight sessions at the Wighton Centre in March and April with a finale performance presented on 28 April 2015.



Over **2,000** people attended The Commonwealth Ceilidh in City Square on Friday 27 June, to celebrate Dundee's role in the Commonwealth Games in Glasgow and the arrival of the Queen's Baton Relay in Dundee. Music Development was instrumental in organising performances from Smallpetitklein, Showcase the Street, Urban Moves, Bharatiya Ashram and a whole lot more. The Dundee branch of the Royal Scottish Country Dance Society and Whisky Kiss led the open air Ceilidh as Dundee got its dancing shoes on!



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The continued development of World Music at the Caird Hall saw French/Celtic group Plantec and singer-songwriter Scott Matthews performing to great acclaim.



Dundee Fusion Fest supported by the Big Lottery Celebrate Fund included workshops in Fiddle, Whistle, Tabla, Sitar, Bansuri, Bollywood dancing and African Drumming and finished with a fusion ceilidh that included the Mad Parrot Ceilidh Band, Polsitar and Chinese Harpist Luna Li.



Music Development along with Dundee Festival Trust supported the 2nd Springfest. This festival of classical music for Dundee programmed **18** events in a range of venues throughout March 2015.



Soundbase Byte and Soundbase Summer Slam Workshops welcomed **200** young people to work with professional musicians, to learn new skills in recording and performing songs in the Caird Hall. A total of **43** Music Development events took place with **3,136** people attending.

Burgh Halls

The total attendance for the year for the Burgh Halls was **8,638** from **463** bookings.



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The McManus Exhibition Programme

A Silvered Light: Scottish Art Photography from the City's Permanent Collection display of Scottish art photography was refreshed with a number of changes focusing on film and new acquisitions. In May, visitors were able to experience stereo prints by Calum Colvin from his Natural Magic series. Designed to be viewed through 3D glasses, the works explore the invention and development of stereoscopic photography. Colvin very kindly donated one of the prints to the City's permanent collection.



In July, new media work created a dynamic change with art films by Dundee-trained artists Pernille Spence, I look up...I look down, and Duncan Marquiss and Andy Wake, Skoggangr.

The final change was the inclusion of recent acquisitions to the art photography collection. Herbert Ponting's fascinating images of Captain Scott's British Antarctic Expedition of 1910-13 captured the extreme conditions and beauty of the icy landscape, while local photographer S W Pritchard's portraits of Buffalo Bill thrilled our contemporary audience a century after his Wild West show visited the area in 1904.

The 2014-15 programme saw two significant exhibitions with national partners. The first of these was the fourth in our series of partnerships with the V&A. *A World to Win: Posters of Protest and Revolution* focussed on a century of posters agitating for political change. The exhibition and its dynamic display had a broad appeal with visitors. Highlights included home-made votes for women posters and 1960s posters focussed on grassroots activism.

This year's focus on the permanent collection *Classical Art: The Legacy of the Ancients* was conceived to complement the British Museum's *Roman Empire: Power and People* partnership exhibition. Drawn from Dundee's permanent collection the selection of stunning paintings, sculpture and ceramics illustrates the enduring influence of ancient Greek and Roman culture on Western art. The quality of these lesser known items from Dundee's collection has surprised and delighted visitors.





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The Here and Now Gallery hosted a spectacular solo show by Glasgow-based artist Nick Evans. His sculptural installation, entitled *The White Whale*, responded to the Gothic architecture of The McManus with individual pieces inspired by visits to see the City's historic museum collections in store.



Evans' show was part of *Generation*, a landmark series of exhibitions tracing the remarkable development of contemporary art in Scotland over the last 25 years. It brought together an ambitious and extensive programme of works of art by over 100 artists to over 60 galleries, exhibition spaces and venues the length and breadth of the nation, as part of the Glasgow 2014 Cultural Programme.

The *Generation* project offered the opportunity to work in partnership with other arts providers in Dundee. Those partners included; DCA, University of Dundee (Cooper Gallery), Hannah Maclure Centre, Hospitalfield Arts and Generator Projects. Collectively, *Generation DD* offered a weekend of dynamic, free art events that showcased contemporary art in galleries, studios and artist-led spaces around the City.



The Queen's Baton Relay reached Dundee on Friday 27 June 2014, the photo opportunity within The McManus providing a concrete link between *The White Whale*, the 2014 Cultural Programme and the Commonwealth Games itself.

Eduardo Paolozzi is one of the giants of twentieth century Scottish art. The centrepiece of *Jeepers Creepers: The Works of Eduardo Paolozzi from Dundee Collections* were two major works by the artist - *Etso*, a sculpture in chromed steel, beloved by generations of Dundee children and the outsize painting *Jeepers Creepers*, shown here being worked on by conservator Gail Egan. The display highlights the importance of partnership working, as it was strengthened immeasurably by the loan of prints held in the University of Dundee's permanent collection.





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Our annual Winter Works on Paper display was conceived in commemoration of World War I. *Through Smoke and Flame: WWI Propaganda Posters by Frank Brangwyn* comprised a selection of sketches, posters and prints from the extensive Brangwyn collection held by the City.



The display benefitted from recent research by Brangwyn scholar Libby Horner and feature in her recently published book *Brangwyn At War*.

Roman Empire: Power and People, an exhibition in partnership with The British Museum, opened to the public on Saturday 24 January 2015. The exhibition explored the wealth, power and organisation of the Roman Empire. It delved into how Romans viewed their provinces and other peoples. Religious, military and personal objects gave an insight into the lives of people across the Empire, from northern Britain to Egypt and the Middle East. Visitors to the exhibition enjoyed seeing the wonderful collection of objects from the British Museum. However, they were also fascinated by the objects on display which were drawn from local museum collections and National Museums Scotland, and provided a local angle to the overall story of a vast Empire.

Events to accompany the exhibition were also extremely popular. They ranged from school visits, to “Love and the Romans” on Valentine’s Day, where Makar Bill Herbert shared a selection of Roman love poetry. The McManus: Dundee’s Art Gallery & Museum was the only Scottish venue for the exhibition.

Retail

Roman Empire: Power and People exhibition saw great success in the shop with Roman products flying off the shelves into the hands of enthusiastic visitors. Despite the high turnover we were able to keep up with demand and maximise the opportunities presented. The Mills Observatory Shop was rebranded and a modest refresh of facilities undertaken. We also took the opportunity to refocus stock, concentrating on pocket money items, scientific sets and telescopes. A similar refresh of Broughty Castle Shop is planned, with an increase in spend per visitor expected. Cultural Services retail has started to focus on the unique assets that we have and how we can best make use of them.

Museum Collections Projects

The curatorial staff have a wide range of responsibilities relating to collecting, recording and caring for archaeology, natural sciences, social history and world cultures collections and the buildings they are housed in. Undertaking this core work is essential in enabling the potential of the collections to be released. It enables engagement with collections and staff, and ensures that collections and their associated information are sustainably and strategically documented and cared for in the long term.

The University of Aberdeen requested samples of skeletal material from the archaeology collection, specifically from the Lundin Links collection, to be utilised in a study to research the diet and mobility of the Picts. Responses to such requests are guided by Cultural Service's Human Remains Policy, and on this occasion the request was granted. The information revealed will enhance the existing information previously discovered about "Pictoria", the female from Lundin Links whose facial reconstruction can be seen in the Landscapes and Lives Gallery at The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum. It will also help to place the museum collections in a national and international context.



In December Cultural Services took delivery of eleven display cases. The cases were funded in part by Leisure & Culture Dundee, with the assistance of Museums Galleries Scotland. The cases will, amongst other things, enable objects to be displayed in high quality and secure cases for small displays or larger temporary exhibitions. Their first major outing was for the *Roman Empire: Power and People* exhibition at The McManus.



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Loans

This year has seen an increase in the already busy loans programme. Leisure & Culture Dundee received **17** individual loan requests. These requests are predominantly for Fine and Applied Art, although there is a representation from Social History, Archaeology and World Cultures and Natural Science.

Leisure & Culture Dundee manage the City's Collections, which have been well represented across the UK, and requests are now coming from further afield. The collections have a world class reputation and as digital access to the collections increases we can only expect an increase in requests.

Loans maintain our already high profile, build relationships and partnerships with national and international institutions and also help us conserve and build knowledge about our collections.

J.M.W Turner's, 'Le Havre' was loaned internationally to Museè Marmottan Monet, Paris. The work stood centre stage in the exhibition and featured well in a full page plate in the accompanying catalogue.

The Hayward Gallery, South Bank Centre, London borrowed our painting '*The Distraught Shepherd*'. Leisure & Culture Dundee received funding from The Hayward Gallery toward the conservation of the work to make it display-ready. The work illustrates the first poem Burns wrote in Scots - '*The Death and Dying Words of Poor Mailie*'. We have received confirmation that over **20,000** people visited the exhibition in London.

Other works have been sent to The Talbot Rice Gallery, Edinburgh, The Black Watch Museum, Perth and Hartlepool Art Gallery and Museum.



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Acquisitions and Donations

A number of new items have been acquired for the museum collections, both by donation and purchase. These ranged from a DC Thomson Twinkle Annual from 1982, to a Goshawk and the base of a lead crucifix dating to the 1600s found in northwest Dundee. The dice on the crucifix represent the soldiers who cast lots for Christ's seamless robe. Representing the Instruments of the Passion became common in the 17th century. Some items were collected to represent the "WeDundee" campaign in relation to Dundee's City of Culture 2017 bid.



We were honoured to have been chosen to receive the first major gift to a public collection by the contemporary art patron's organisation Outset Scotland. Corin Sworn's three part work 'The Foxes' consists of a tiled piece, film and photographs and was created for Scotland + Venice at the 2013 Biennale. After discussions with the artist, the work will be displayed as an intervention in the Dundee and The World Gallery at The McManus. Outset are able to support the realisation of an artist's idea and watch it come to fruition. This has helped enhance the City's nationally significant fine and applied art collections.

An oil painting entitled 'Above Millhill' by James McIntosh Patrick, dated during his mature period, enhances our current holdings of work by Dundee's famous son and it was donated by C Gordon Dilworth.

International artist Calum Colvin donated his 3D photographic portrait of Sir David Brewster, inventor of the lenticular stereoscope.

Two framed etchings by David Foggie depicting Strathmartine Lodge and The Royal Arch were added to the collection of Dundee topographical scenes.

Support from the National Fund for Acquisitions supported the purchase of;

- A mezzotint of the Duchess of Argyll by 18th century Dundee artist Katherine Read
- A scarce set of ten George III silver Hunt buttons, six by James McKenzie of Dundee and four by George McHattie of Edinburgh
- 'No Articles Beyond This Point' and 'Referendum' two C-type photographic prints by the Scottish artist Ron O'Donnell



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Conservation and Collections Care

Work continued to ensure that Cultural Services retained its Accreditation status for The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Mills Observatory and Broughty Castle Museum. The Accreditation Scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. Confirmation of the Accreditation Award was received in March, and efforts to ensure that the museums both meet and surpass the standards are ongoing.

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 trustees of the William S. Phillip's Fund continue to support conservation of the fine art collection. This year an important portrait of Harry Lauder (1870-1950) has been restored to display condition. The Scottish music hall entertainer, perhaps best known for the hit song '*I Love a Lassie*', achieved world-wide success and was described by Churchill as "*Scotland's greatest ever ambassador!*" Dundee's portrait shows Lauder in contemplative mood. Knighted for his contribution to the war effort, this bitter sweet portrait was painted in the year that his only son was killed in action in France.

An additional work was conserved for exhibition at The Hayward Gallery. Selected for The Hayward's show Artists at Work, '*The Distraught Shepherd*' by an unknown artist was included in Roger Hiorns thought-provoking display devoted to the history of BSE and vCJD. Further research by The McManus staff re-identified the work as a painting of Burns first poem in Scots '*The Death of Poor Mailie*' by William Kidd. This is an exciting discovery, highlighting the importance of good collections documentation allied to collections-based research.

Individual items that have been conserved and cleaned include Mr Bibendum (also known as The Michelin Man), who is a popular display at The McManus. Bespoke mounts were also made for our rare surviving pieces of Roman scale armour, known as Lorica. It was discovered during excavations at Carpow Roman Fort, and discussions had been ongoing for many years about how to best stabilise these unique and fragile items. Having mounts specially cut by lasers was identified as the most appropriate long-term solution. The pieces are now securely set within the mounts.





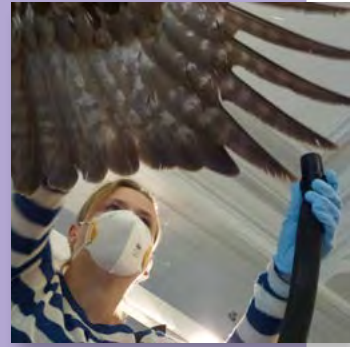
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Volunteers, Research and Enquiries

Our volunteers provide great support and encouragement, and undertake many important tasks throughout the year.

During the summer of 2014 a number of volunteers supported staff to open The Old Steeple. Visitors were offered pre-booked tours of The Steeple, as well as an opportunity to view nationally important medieval carved stones on the ground floor.

Students from the Museum Studies course at the University of St Andrews regularly take up the offer of placements. This year's student has undertaken research into historical publications about the museum service, and has uncovered extremely useful information that will filter into the data held about objects in collections, as well as assisting with the annual "Spring Clean" of displays at The McManus.



Boulton & Watt Engine

In literal terms, one of the "largest" projects is in partnership with Dundee Heritage Trust, to conserve and redisplay the Boulton & Watt Steam Engine in the High Mill. Leisure & Culture Dundee care for the Engine on behalf of Dundee City Council, and Dundee Heritage Trust is redeveloping the High Mill at Verdant Works. The ambitious project to restore Verdant Works will achieve a number of aims, but for the first time in decades it also offered a realistic opportunity to re-assemble and interpret this internationally important engine. The project has been generously funded by a number of organisations, including The Heritage Lottery Fund, Museums Galleries Scotland, and the Association of Industrial Archaeology.

Storage

The permanent relocation of the decorative art collection continues. The silver and glass are now stored to best practice in the Museum's bespoke storage racking. In addition, all these objects are inventoried and updated on the Collections Management System (Adlib). Our next focus is to complete the ceramics relocation and inventory.

Another element of the storage project is the digitisation of the fine art collection, which continues with the works on paper. The unframed works stored in Solander Boxes have been photographed and inventoried on Adlib. Progress on the framed works on paper is now well underway.



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Public Engagement

With colleagues from Visitor Assistant, Curatorial and Conservation Teams, the Learning and Engagement Team have achieved a stronger programme of public engagement across our museum and gallery venues, bringing consistency and better value to the visitor experience.

This development is also underpinned by a focused programme of skills exchange and staff development-supporting new perspectives, raising confidence and extending involvement in the following areas:



- Programme Planning
- Audience Development
- Marketing of Activities and Events (Digital & Printed)
- Visitor and Learning Experience

Staff took part in a range of Learning and Visitor Experience focussed training including WorldHost training, Be a QA for A Day training, Marketing & Audience Development workshop, Access & Equality workshop, Deaf Awareness training, Seeing & Signing Stars: Interpreting Astronomy, Now Hear Me: Engaging with people with a Communications Difficulty.

This year the archive was rebranded, changing its name from The McManus Life Stories Oral History Project to *'Talking Dundee'* to create a stronger context for current aspects of the City's story, such as its City of Design status, the Waterfront Development and the growth of scientific research and digital technology. The introduction of a new, more accessible framework has generated a new programme of recordings; enabling young people to connect with the museum's oral history archive to explore digital methods of curating and sharing audio across generations.

McManus Collections Unit, The Old Steeple, and Broughty Castle Museum all participated in Doors Open Day in September.

Schools & Further Education

This year we extended our engagement with formal education in a number of ways, focusing on existing partnerships within Local Authority Education Departments, Universities and Colleges, and co-delivering activities with Learning Teams at Dundee Contemporary Arts and V&A Dundee.

It was an equally busy year for our regular responsive programme of workshops and guided tours. As ever, activities are devised to support Curriculum for Excellence, through engagement with museum collections and temporary exhibition themes.



Roman Empire: Power and People attracted a high level of interest from Primary Schools and Secondary Classics Departments across the region. A range of tours, creative workshops and behind the scenes sessions were delivered to a record number of groups - with new links made with Schools from Aberdeenshire to Clackmannanshire.

The McIntosh Patrick Awards - our annual exhibition initiative for S6 Art & Design pupils took place at McManus in August 2014 with **35** entries from 7 Secondary Schools. The initiative is in its 15th year and continues to nurture and profile the talents of young artists in the City.

Young People

Following the completion of young people's creative research and digital elements, a final exhibition showcasing the work of all five partner groups from the Scotland Creates Project opened at National Museum



of Scotland in Edinburgh in May 2014. Young people attended the exhibition opening, meeting with project peers from across Scotland. Following an intensive evaluation process, they returned to Edinburgh in August to present at (Un) Conference, a national event exploring how museums work with young people.

We participated in the GENERATION programme from April through to December 2014. A nationwide programme of exhibitions and events celebrating 25 years of contemporary art in Scotland, the Programme's Public Engagement element created an innovative frame work for young people, enabling them to engage in a dialogue with contemporary art, artists and spaces in Dundee.



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The project was delivered through a partnership between The McManus, DCA, Generator, DJCAD Exhibitions, WASPS and young people aged 12-18yrs from Schools and Youth Projects across the City.

During this time, young people devised and led a social media art trail (#YAGgen), created work and installed an exhibition at Generator Projects (Live Punk Art), created and hosted a zine launch at Dundee Contemporary Arts and participated in live publishing as part of Studio Jamming at the University's Cooper Gallery. They also interviewed and filmed artists Nick Evans and Rob Churm at their studios in Glasgow and then edited the footage for use as interpretation during the White Whale exhibition at McManus. The film was shown in the museum's Family Space alongside other resources that were produced to help other young people and families engage with the exhibition.

As an outcome of their successful partner work with members of the Generator Projects Committee, young people were offered a 6-week studio residency at WASPS. This provided an opportunity for young people and artists to develop further work together, promoting the ethos of co-production and giving first-hand experience to young people of where artists make work. Following this, young people undertook a series of reflective evaluation sessions to contextualise the work they had created during the live co-production period. This culminated in a showcase for the group at McManus Creative Learning Studio in December.

Our participation in both national projects has enabled us to work in a more ambitious way and support a greater learning experience for young people, allowing them to take a lead role in devising creative activity.



Communities

Our regular Communities Programme aims to encourage and increase access, learning and inclusion for first-time visitors or non traditional visitors. To best meet the needs of the individual, the Programme uses a tailored approach to accommodate different styles of learning, experience and cultural background. Activities include Oral History, talks, guided tours, workshops and projects.

This year's Programme has prioritised a Health & Wellbeing agenda, with activities delivered through partnership working with a range of community organisations, including Dundee Association for Mental Health, The Social Inclusion Group, Dundee Healthy Living Initiative, DCC Older People's Services Team and Bield Sheltered Housing Tenant Group.



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Family Activities

As in previous years, the McManus Family Space was themed to reflect the museum's exhibition programme. Transformations included a sculpture play studio for Jeepers Creepers, a mini art gallery for The White Whale and a spectacular Roman Villa (Nero's Golden House) for Roman Empire: Power and People. The ever popular Small Stories gallery sessions for under 5s were delivered at McManus and Broughty Castle.



Programmes of family events were delivered during holiday periods. These included self-directed gallery trails and activity sheets, museum sessions and artist-led workshops at McManus, Broughty Castle and Mills Observatory.

Collections Unit

Numerous activities have been offered which have enabled access to collections. The "Behind the Scenes" tours at The McManus Collections Unit continue to be very popular. Other events at the Collections Unit included a "Teeth and Talons" Natural History workshop and Scottish Archaeology Month.

The Collections Unit also hosted visits from the University of St Andrews Museum Studies students, and the North British Railway Study Group. A "Camouflage" event, using specimens from the Natural History Collection, coincided with the Dundee Science Festival.

Events at Broughty Castle have included a costumed interpreter who represented a First World War soldier from Dundee's Own - the 4th Black Watch - to an activity about Winter Wildlife Migration, and a talk about Mary Slessor.

The team also dealt with hundreds of enquiries ranging from the identification of objects found during metal detecting (which are classified as Treasure Trove) to enabling access to view the collection of Herbaria (preserved plant specimens).

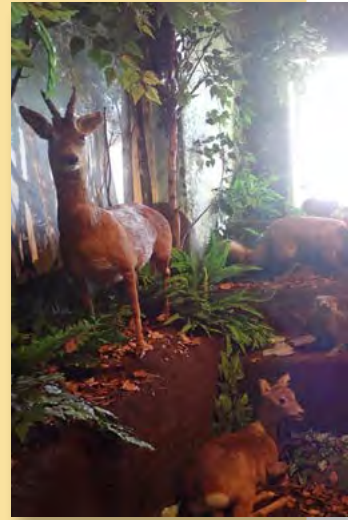


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Broughty Castle Museum

Cultural Services continue to work closely with Dundee City Council and Historic Scotland to care for and provide access to Broughty Castle. Major work took place over the winter months, when Historic Scotland funded a significant project to refurbish the windows at the Castle as part of a scheduled programme of works.

To enable access to the window in the “Life on Land” gallery at the Castle, the open wildlife display was removed. The display has been reinstated with the addition of new specimens, reflecting the wonderful animals found in the vicinity of the Castle.



Mills Observatory

Following a review of the facility in early 2014, a significant change was made to our approach to public access and engagement. Previously the Observatory had been open to members of the public throughout the year, with differing operating times according to season. With the highest visitor footfall taking place during the autumn/winter months, new summer opening hours were implemented - providing access to the facility on selected dates only, for a range of targeted science learning events and activities.



As the building is both visitor attraction and learning facility, the change in operating hours enabled us to focus resources more effectively, particularly in relation to our engagement with educational, special interest and community audiences. Importantly, it presented opportunities to progress essential building maintenance work and make improvements to the presentation of its public areas. Improvements made to the building helped enhance learning and engagement and the general visitor experience.

Over the summer period we were able to increase the number of activities delivered and number of participants taking part. Through offering more targeted opportunities for children and families during the summer period and improving the general visitor experience, we have also been able to reach new audiences - encouraging summer visitors to return during the winter months. The Observatory returned to winter opening hours from October, delivering its regular programme planetarium shows, astronomy talks, group visits and science learning events.



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In March 2015, we brought the winter programme to an exciting close as Solar Eclipse fever hit the UK, and stargazers got ready to witness this phenomenal act of nature which only occurs when the earth, moon and sun align and the moon's shadow touches the Earth's surface. To mark this, the Observatory held a special early morning event - opening its doors from 8am to allow members of the public to come together and share the occasion.



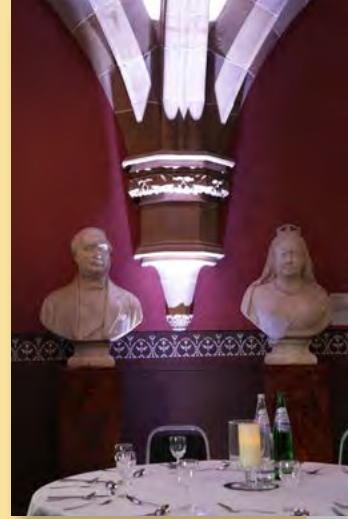
Despite earlier weather forecasts predicting cloudy skies, Dundee awoke on 19 March to glorious early morning sunshine. Visitors arrived as early as 8am, and by 9am the Observatory was packed and buzzing with anticipation. Families, young and not so young people rubbed shoulders with TV crews and media folk attracted to Dundee by the clear skies. Inside the Observatory, the impressive Victorian Cooke telescope was brought out of retirement especially for the event and used to project images of the eclipse into the Dome. The event was also supported by members of Dundee's Astronomical Society, who did a fantastic job of manning the balcony with a range of smaller solar telescopes and advising visitors on the best viewing methods.

300 hundred pairs of special eclipse glasses were provided by the Observatory for safe viewing. Visitors brought a range of inventive options with them - home-made pinhole projectors, kitchen colanders, and even a welder's safety mask were used to catch a glimpse. As the moon continued its journey across the sun, anticipation grew as the eclipse gradually moved to its maximum point, leaving only a thin arc of sun visible. In the eerie twilight that ensued, a quiet stillness fell as visitors looked skywards for the optimum view.

The event was perhaps best summed up by one of younger visitors, who simply said 'it was AWESOME!' Well we definitely agree and we can't think of a better way to have shared this momentous astronomical event than with so many of our brilliant visitors!

Venue Hire & Evening Events

Since the redevelopment of The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, the requests for venue hire and evening events have increased. These popular events led to an audit of all Leisure & Culture Dundee venues in 2014 and their potential for venue hire. In order to capitalise on the potential venue hire opportunities within Leisure & Culture Dundee, an Events Coordinator position has been created. This post will focus on all income generating public and private events across the service areas but will primarily focus on The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Mills Observatory, Broughty Castle Museum, Camperdown Wildlife Centre and Dundee Ice Arena.



A development plan outlines in detail the main aims for the post over the next two years, but will focus on the following key priorities;

To increase income generating venue hire bookings across Leisure & Culture Dundee, whilst also looking to implement revenue driven visitor events within Dundee.

To create a memorable customer experience with high levels of customer service and quality delivery to encourage repeat bookings in order to build a client base.

To create an 'easy to access' and information rich booking experience though online and physical marketing materials.

To create an adaptable framework for events for use across all Leisure & Culture Dundee sites, which will ensure effective event delivery, fantastic customer experience and to gather appropriate and constructive feedback.

The initial focus of the post is to create the information-rich booking experience which includes the development of all event admin including booking forms and terms and conditions, along with a brochure and information on the website.



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Cultural Partnerships

Throughout the year we have worked closely with other local and national cultural providers to deliver a lively and informative range of activities and events across our venues. These have included Dundee Literary Café event at McManus with University of Dundee, Dundee Arts Café events at McManus with Universities of Dundee and Abertay and Astro Café event at McManus with University of St Andrews.

Along with City partners we contributed to the ever popular Ignite Festival which launched at McManus and covered Degree Show openings, other cultural events and the Festival of Museums 'Victoriana Dundee' event in McManus itself.

The Mills Observatory offered the 'Foreign Skies' exhibition as well as four 'Meet the Scientist' events in partnership with the College of Life Sciences. Meanwhile Dundee Science Festival events took place at McManus, McManus Collections Unit, Mills Observatory and Broughty Castle Museum.



2014 saw the Commonwealth Games come to Scotland and events took place at Mills Observatory and McManus and a big screen was stationed outside the Caird Hall, for people to watch all the action as it happened.

'A little Bit of Cinderella' Pop-Up Performance at McManus with Scottish Opera and the Caird Hall programme had performances from our friends at Scottish Ensemble, Dundee Symphony Orchestra, Royal Scottish National Orchestra, Dundee Choral Union and Scottish Dance Theatre amongst many others.



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Summary

Cultural Services have had many highlights during the year from across all four service areas.

The Caird Hall has seen a very healthy rise in audience numbers and we have had significant ticket sales through Dundee City Box Office. Meanwhile Springfest, in its second year, goes from strength to strength.

Our partnership exhibition with The British Museum Roman Empire: Power and People proved extremely popular with over **50,000** attending this exhibition, which saw McManus as the only Scottish venue. Our ongoing relationship with our friends at V&A brought the challenging and thought-provoking A World to Win: Posters of Protest and Revolution to McManus. During the year we took the opportunity to present work from our own collection A Silvered Light: Scottish Art Photography from the City's Permanent Collection to some critical acclaim.



The focus on our nationally significant collections as well as the national partnerships we have developed will help us deliver a dynamic programme as we head towards McManus 150th anniversary year in 2017.

The Learning and Engagement and Music Development programmes across the City continue to engage and inspire all sections of the community in developing skills and confidence, as well as helping to reach new audiences.

Cultural Services have delivered in what has been another exciting year for staff and partners. The commitment to service quality and excellence is evident, and we continue to strive to improve where we can, despite resource and financial challenges. We can once again say that our service has greatly contributed to the quality of life to the citizens of Dundee and to our visitors from further afield in promoting access to the cultural heritage of Dundee and Scotland, to inspire the individuals and groups we work with to realising their full potential.



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