

Cultural Services

Annual Report 2015/16

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.

The four service delivery areas are:

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

Our learning and engagement is open to everyone. Our key audiences, however, include visitors to the city and specific target groups. We aim to deliver health & wellbeing to our visitors and staff.

Our Workplace Choir is a collaboration between The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Engagement Team and Leisure and Culture Dundee's Cultural Services Team.



We have also worked with Alzheimer's Scotland, Art Angel, Dundee Association for Mental Health, The Social Inclusion Group, Dundee Healthy Living Initiative, Dundee City Council's Older People's Services team, Bield Sheltered Housing Association, Children & Family Support Services.

In addition to delivery learning & engagement we want to ensure continuing improvements to the visitor experience. Our customers and visitors feedback is important to us and has included;

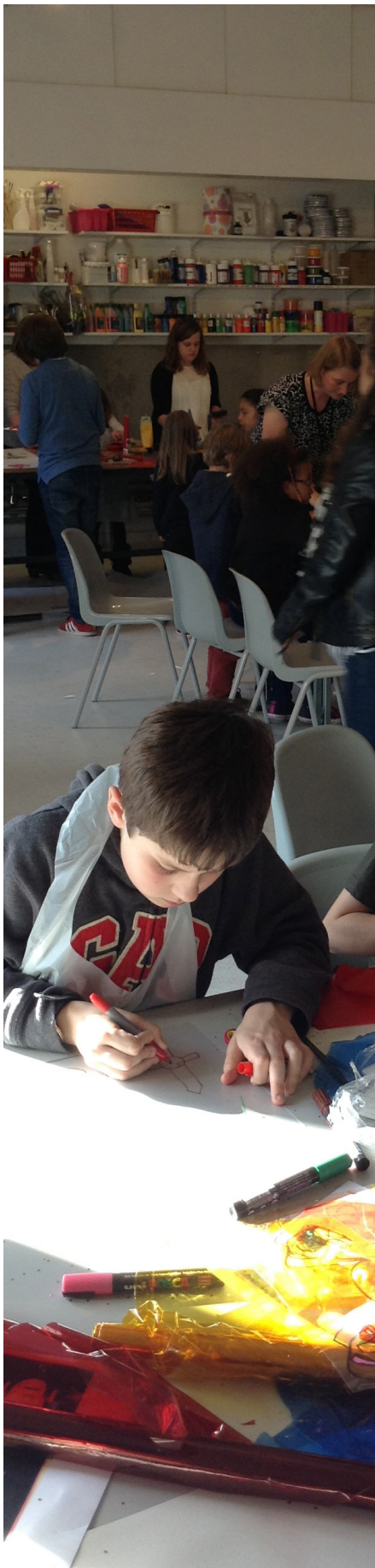
"Keep up the good work, fab website, helpful staff, up to date emails of upcoming shows".

"It is always a joy to book the Caird Hall because the staff are attuned to the needs of older people like me".

"Once again thanks for being a pleasure to work with and I hope we get to work together again the future".



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"This museum deeply impressed me with its professionalism. This "Musee de Region" is a credit to Scotland"

*"The whole event was very enjoyable"
& "no need to improve"*

"It was really fantastic to work with you and you made organising this event so much easier for me so thanks for all your help. Perhaps we will work with you and McManus Galleries again in the future."

Facts and Figures

- The Caird Hall has seen another excellent year with 378 events and performances, with a total attendance for the year of 149,978, an increase of 11% on top of an increase of 22% the previous year.
- The hugely popular acquisition of 8 ship models and associated archive from the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company (DP&L) was made possible by the generosity of a number of individuals, organisations and charities throughout the city.
- The International Society of Addiction Medicine Congress brought 619 international delegates from 56 countries to the Caird Hall and generated in excess of £1 million to the area.
- The Mills Observatory celebrated 80 years of public stargazing in October.
- Roman Empire: Power and People and exhibition in Dundee's first partnership with The British Museum saw over 55,000 visitors attend The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum.
- Across all cultural venues the attendance was 181,985 which was a decrease of just short of 10% on the year. The McManus accounted for this reduction due to extended gallery closure for major work on the roof. The excellent news is that the roof lantern of the Here and Now Gallery has been made good by Dundee City Council.
- Creative Learning figures saw a 23% increase with 19,793 children, young people and adults participated in 770 Learning & Engagement activities, delivered at McManus, McManus Collection Unit, Mills Observatory, Broughty Castle Museum and The Old Steeple.



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Caird Hall

The Caird Hall is Dundee's foremost conference and concert venue staging a diverse programme throughout the year, helping to sustain the cultural vibrancy of the city and boosting the local economy.

All records were broken when for the first time in history a performer staged five consecutive sell-out shows. This was Scotland's own, comedian Kevin Bridges. Lord Provost Bob Duncan presented a gift from the city in acknowledgement of this achievement. Over 10,000 of an audience attended over the period.



The ISAM Congress was staged for four days in October, bringing 619 international delegates from 56 countries to the city generated in excess of £1 million to the area. This highly successful Conference made possible by collaborative working with a number of agencies and the Convention Bureau's Ambassador Programme helped to establish international networks that will last for years to come.

The Rotary 1020 and the STUC Women's Congress returned to the city late autumn for their annual events confirming Dundee as a popular meeting destination.

The Royal Society of Edinburgh held their Christmas Lecture, Stampy's Christmas Cake Caper in November. We experienced a phenomenal demand for tickets from all over Scotland for this lecture with Joseph Garrett as the character from Minecraft. The Show was staged twice in one day, with a matinee to a capacity schools audience then the sold out public evening performance. This was the first event from the Caird Hall screened on the BBC iPlayer.

The 13th Annual MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards showcasing and celebrating Scottish traditional music to folk fans across Scotland was hosted early December. Known as the 'Folk Oscars', the event was screened live on BBC Alba, featuring leading Scottish musicians and singers. It was a glittering event and Simon Thoumire, Creative Director of Hands Up for Trad - the management team behind the Awards commented *"Thanks especially to the Caird Hall who have been absolutely amazing putting this venue together for us. Great Work!"* Unbelievably, this was the second event



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which was screened on the BBC iPlayer from the Caird Hall and resulted in two events being available online over the same period of time.

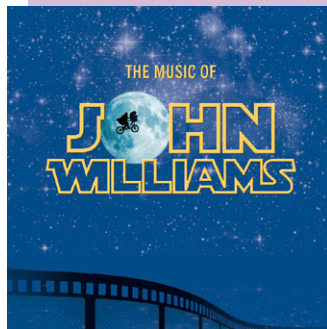
Sold out performances over the year included: - The Proclaimers, Dara O'Briain, Alan Carr, RSNO with the Music of John Williams and Runrig. Many more concerts were enjoyed by our audiences and comments from artistes included;

Tim Burgess, Lead Singer of The Charlatans, *"I just love this place"*.

Andy Scott, Original Lead Guitarist with Sweet regards the Caird Hall as *"One of the country's most distinctive venues"*.

The World Famous Elvis Show - *"What a beautiful venue. Thanks so much."*

Being a well equipped, highly maintained venue is key to attracting organisers and promoters of events and the investment continued this year with LED moving lights, replacement trussing motors, digital lighting and sound desks which all contributes to a greater energy efficiency in the venue.



The Friends of the Caird Hall Organ continue their valuable work and their educational events for both senior and primary pupils proved once again to be very popular. The Friends marked the 150th Anniversary of the birth of Alfred Hollins, the designer of the Caird Hall Organ with a concert in September by the Organist David Liddle which was well supported. The Friends funded the new air system for the Organ which helps to ensure the temperature is maintained in the main chamber and presented a cheque to the Council for the cost of the works. The Friends are acknowledged in the Organ world throughout the UK as a model of good practise which has resulted in more and more interest in the instrument. Their reputation as a valued organisation is impressive and this was recognised with a Civic Reception by the Lord Provost in September 2015. They are now in the fortunate position of receiving donations for their archive which continues to grows, from all parts of the country.



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It has been a challenging, exciting, historic year with too many events staged to mention including Graduations, Cheerleaders Championships, Remembering the Battle of Loos Event, BBC Question Time, Opera, Ballet, Dare to be Digital, Weddings, Dance Shows, etc proving the Caird Hall continues to play a major role in the dynamics of the City of Dundee.

The total attendance for the year was 149,978, an increase of 11% from 378 bookings.

Dundee City Box Office

Dundee City Box Office provides an accessible professional high quality ticketing service in the City Centre to the main venues, promoters, event organisers, local groups and amateur societies.

With an increasing variety of events and performances taking place throughout the City a central point of sale engages with customers allowing them to make purchases with ease in person, by phone and online.

The total number of tickets sold was 132,903. This is on par with the previous year's sales, following a sharp increase in ticket sales in preceding years.

In order to ensure that we continue to provide a quality service and to seek feedback an online customer satisfaction survey was conducted by Culture Republic with our customers. The results proved very valuable, with positive feedback indicating that customers felt that our staff are our greatest assets.

The ticket sale in person for The Royal Society of Edinburgh's Christmas Lecture - Stampy's Christmas Cake Caper was indeed a marathon for staff, the queue stretched from the Box Office, City Square half way along Reform Street. In order to satisfy the demand staff worked tirelessly until approximately 4pm on the Saturday to ensure all who had made the effort to queue, in some cases for four hours, were successful in purchasing tickets.

"Thank you for keeping in touch with me about the Stampy Cat tickets, I have a very excited son and niece, who think I'm great for getting tickets". J.





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Music Development

Music is vital to the cultural landscape of the City and Music Development helps to facilitate innovative projects and support local musicians and organisations.

The Dundee Music Grants are administered by Music Development on behalf of Dundee City Council, and provide assistance to national, regional and local organisations including 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, Dundee University Music and St Paul's Cathedral Lunchtime Concerts, to further enhance the musical offering within the City.

The Dundee Musicians Award which supports 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 made four Awards in 2015 to: Cantiones Sacrae, Inkomega, Fat Goth and Jonny Jewel.

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 between May and June, culminating in a performance to invited guests.

May 2015 saw the start of the Workplace Choir, collaboration between The Royal Scottish National Orchestra's Engagement Team and Leisure and Culture Dundee's Cultural Services Team. The choir has since expanded to include Dundee City Council employees and has over 20 members. There have been 3 separate choir blocks, with the November - December sessions culminating in a performance in the Overgate Centre with the support of a number of RSNO musicians.



"It has been great to meet new people through the choir and have some 'me time' in the working day - I always leave choir practice with a bounce in my step, it's very uplifting!"

Music Development organised choirs and music groups from all over Dundee to perform in the Overgate Centre during the Christmas festive period.

Soundbase Byte in April and October and Soundbase Summer Slam music workshops in July for 12 - 18 year olds once again proved hugely successful and was thoroughly enjoyed by all participants, with over 100 parents and friends attending the Summer Slam Gig in the Marryat Hall.



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Backstage Caird Hall Tours have grown in popularity and a number are fully booked in advance including Doors Open Day in September, Forfar Friendship Group, Dundee Women's Festival and a host more. One attender was so enthused by the visit he wrote a poem. The unique experience including organ music engages positively with all groups.

Off the Record Seminar a Music Industry Conference for 14-25yr olds, was staged in October at the Marryat Hall. Guest speakers included XFM DJ Jim Gellatly and Music Industry Promoter Toni Malyn who shared their knowledge and expertise.

Music Development celebrated St Andrew's Day with a Fusion Festival supported by Events Scotland Winter Festival's Funding. The Stage in the City Square hosted performances by Cutting Edge Ceilidh Band, Bharatiya Ashram Dancers and workshops by Vinesh Tandra and Polsitar.

World Music is an established part of the Caird Hall programme with concerts from The Max Pashm Trio, pioneers of world fusion and vintage Balkan beats and Blazin' Fiddles the hottest contemporary fiddle players from the Highlands and Islands of Scotland.



A total of 69 events were staged with an attendance of 2,993.

Burgh Halls

The total number of regular bookings was 391 with an attendance of 8,051.



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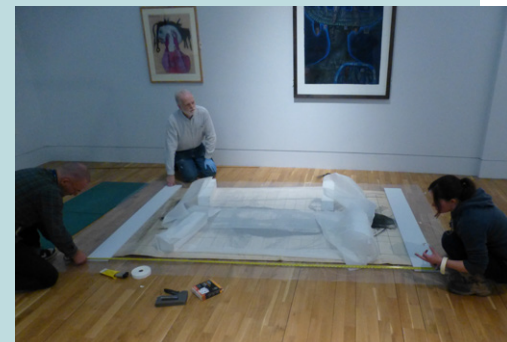
The McManus exhibition Programme

Jeepers Creepers: Works by Eduardo Paolozzi from Dundee collections provided the opportunity to display two of the City's major works by the renowned Scottish artist Eduardo Paolozzi. Etso, a large scale chrome sculpture, has long been popular with visitors who enjoy stretching their reflections in its mirrored surface. Little known, but arguably more significant, is Jeepers Creepers which the artist presented to the permanent collection in 1972. A sculptural work based around an outside painting, enhanced with gnomes on plinths, plastic insects, a bomb and finished with a parrot on a stick the work is unique in Paolozzi's oeuvre. These works were augmented by prints from the City of Dundee and the University of Dundee's collections, a rare opportunity to see all Paolozzi's works from Dundee collections in one display.



Roman Empire: Power and People and exhibition in partnership with The British Museum ended in May 2015 and saw over 55,000 visitors. The exhibition was well received, a small legacy exhibition was collated along with the Classics show. Work on this exhibition has allowed for the development of our permanent displays. Bespoke mounts were created for the Roman Armour, this will be re displayed in a new case in the Landscapes and Lives Gallery.

Draw the Line: Old Masters to The Beano After highlighting the enduring influence of classicism in Classical Art: The Legacy of the Ancients, our annual display in the Twentieth century gallery focussed on our huge and formerly little seen collection of drawings. Three displays



were created showcasing the strength, breadth and variety of the City's collections. Draw the Line: Old Masters to The Beano includes academic life drawing, preparatory studies, portraits, landscapes and key loans from the DC Thomson archive. Taking a line for a walk complemented this display, showing oversized work with a more contemporary focus. It included Fransizka Furter's delicate 'Summerwine' alongside James Gunn's preparatory sketch for his portrait of Lord Dundee.

Finally Works in Progress from Paper to Paint showed preparatory and related studies by artists represented in the Victoria Gallery.



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Loans

A significant year for loans included the inclusion of many of Dundee's Glasgow Boys paintings being included in the first major European exhibition on their work held at the Drents Museum in Assen, Netherlands. This necessitated a significant rehang of areas of the Victoria Gallery.

John Duncan masterpiece, *Riders of the Sidhe*, was lent to the Celts exhibition at the British Museum. When the show moved to the National Museum of Scotland, we lent the silver quaich he designed.

Closer to home, Stills Gallery in Edinburgh have established a regular exhibition slot focussed on Scotland's unparalleled fine art photography collections. We were delighted to lend the essay *Women of Dundee*, from Joe McKenzie's magnificent study *Dundee: A City in Transition 1964-66*.

Arthur Melville *Honfleur Harbour* was loaned to the National Galleries of Scotland. Their show was the first significant retrospective of Melville's work for over 20 years.

In this year we also negotiated a key loan for our permanent display in the Victoria Gallery. Born in Logie, Katherine Read was a pioneering woman artist, a contemporary of Gainsborough with a significant reputation for portraiture during her lifetime. Alas, largely forgotten she was rediscovered by the Dundee Woman's Trail. She was represented in Dundee's collection by two prints after painted portraits. Her work rarely comes up at auction and we are therefore delighted to have a portrait of her niece Helena Beatson on a five year loan.



As many of our Glasgow Boys paintings went out on loan we were happy to accept a loan from the associated circle of Glasgow Girls - a landscape by Norah Neilson Gray.

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

Seven pieces from the costume collection were loaned to St Andrews Preservation Trust, each was prepared and bespoke mounts made.

Items were also loaned to the St Andrews Museum - part of an embroidery exhibition that had drawn upon the successful Romans exhibition at The McManus. Again the loan involved the creation of bespoke mounts and the creation of condition reports.



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We also have much material associated with Mary Slessor that was borrowed for displays at Verdant Works as part marking the centenary of her death.

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. After successfully securing a Recognition grant to fund a 24 month succession planning project, in November we welcomed our new Curatorial Assistant to the team. Their role is to ensure that the information about the works in our fine art collection is digitally preserved and made more easily accessible to all, including posts on The McManus facebook and twitter accounts.

Allied to the digitisation of collections information is the continuing digital photography of collections and recording of temporary exhibitions and displays. The City's collections continue to be featured on external websites, perhaps most significantly the City's entire collection of oil paintings is featured on the Public Catalogue Foundations new website Art UK.

Our Natural Science section was successful in gaining a major Strategic Investment Fund Grant through Museums Galleries Scotland. This funding has allowed for an 18 month Curatorial Assistant post to fully document the Robertson Moth Collections working in partnership with Dundee University Museum Collections and Angus Museum Services. This information will be added to the new collections management system and be included in the moth atlas publication in 2018.

Conservation and Collections Care

Along with The Fine and Applied Art Section, Museums Services Section has a wide ranging remit. Museum Services Section is responsible for the care, conservation, development, recording, storage, display and retrospective documentation of the Archaeology, world cultures, natural sciences and social history collections.

Curatorial staff are working towards achieving the highest standards in museum documentation; working behind scenes the team are retrospectively documenting over 150,000 objects held within the city's permanent collections. With the aid of a new collations management system a strategic project of retrospective documentation is underway.





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This retrospective documentation project will bring together all associated information which relates to the collections, provide digital images and allow us to digitally bring together 150 years of collecting in one repository. We are not just doing this for us, we will provide public access to the collections through an online portal. This will be the ultimate in collections access.

Work continues to ensure that Dundee's Museums and Art Galleries retain its full museum accreditation status. The Accreditation scheme sets nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK.

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.

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 cure".

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

Individual items to have been conserved and cleaned include a marble bust of Kinnaird, now on show in the gothic stairwell. The acquisition of the DP&L ship models has been a key purchase for the city and the 8 models are undergoing conservation with displays within the museum in planning.

We are indebted to the WS Phillips Trust for their support of fine art conservation which returns items to display condition. This year we were able to commission the external conservation of John Pettie's Alice in Wonderland and an early painting of Broughty Castle by an unknown artist. Dated from around 1847, the latter is a charming painting shows just how long the residents of the Ferry have been walking their dogs.

The Bolton and Watt project has been brought to a close. A partnership between Leisure and Culture Dundee on Behalf of Dundee City Council and Dundee Heritage Trust's development at The High Mill (Verdant Works). The project saw the full documentation and conservation of the





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previously stored Boulton and watt engine. It has now been erected and is fully operational in the High Mill. This project was funded by grants from The Heritage lottery Fund, Museums Galleries Scotland and Association of Industrial Archaeology.

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. Increasingly we consider how these objects can be shown to the public going behind the scenes on tours. However, to ensure that items are cared for to best practice it is necessary for some objects become less visible on tours. For example the hanging costume collection is been placed on padded hangers and into individual bags. This ensures each items is supported appropriately and the bag ensures it doesn't rub of catch on other items.



Fortunately, we have been able to make other parts of the collection more visible. Work has been undertaken to a series of drawers to ensure the items stored within can be highlighted on tours. One reveals a collection of baby's bonnets all padded and supported. Others demonstrate the improvements made to the Egyptology collection. Ushabti's, little figurines from Egyptian tombs, were previously stored inaccessibly in boxes and bags. They are now resting on bespoke pads, repacked but on open display within the drawer, ensuring they can be seen on Collection Unit tours.

Storage improvements are also ongoing within the fine art stores at The McManus and have meant that staff have been able to provide greater access to work in store by appointment.

Acquisitions

It has been a strong year for acquisitions with a number of significant works being presented to the collection. We are grateful to Outset Scotland who presented The Foxes by Corin Sworn to the City's nationally significant fine art collection. The piece was commissioned and shown as part of Scotland + Venice in 2013. It is Outset Scotland's first gift to a public collection and was gifted in recognition of Dundee's significant holdings of contemporary visual art. The Foxes has been installed as an intervention into the displays within the Dundee and the World gallery where it has been welcomed enthusiastically by visitors.



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After an initial introduction from the Tatha Gallery, Newport, art curators at The McManus have spent time over the last year working with Frances Walker on what she describes as a living bequest. Walker is acknowledged as one of Scotland's finest living painters. Drawn to wild and desolate places, she captures the edges of civilization - scenes of rugged coastlines and craggy beaches. In recognition of Dundee's role in the history of Antarctic exploration, the City is privileged to have been presented with a suite of paintings which Walker considers to be the finest of her career. The Antarctic Suite is the most significant gift by an artist to Dundee's permanent collection for over 25 years and will be shown in Charting New Waters: Recent Acquisitions to the City's permanent collection in 2016.

One of the most intriguing gifts to the fine art collection was from illustrator Ron Stenberg. Now in his 90s and back in his homeland of New Zealand, he had a long career at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and wondered if we might consider the gift of a work that he considered his masterpiece. Despite many lucrative offers, he had turned them all down believing that its rightful home was in Dundee. "Two Auld Wifies, Dundee" caused something of a stir on arrival, keen to identify the sitters, Scotland on Sunday launched an appeal for information. Before long the sitters were identified as Mrs Janet Isles-Denny and her son Alexander, shown in the Royal Liff Hospital's distinctive pyjamas.

To reflect political events and to enhance the City's collection of fine art photography, two outside photographs were purchased from Ron O'Donnell - Referendum Work and No Articles Beyond this Point.

As long-term members of the Contemporary Art Society, we have long benefitted from their gifts of work by contemporary artists to public collections across the UK. Over the last year we have worked with them to acquire three significant pieces by Victoria Morton. These works will add significantly to the City's fine collection of Scottish painting.

We are also grateful to the many individuals who discuss leaving much loved works to us through bequest.



The acquisition of 8 ship models and associated archive from the Dundee, Perth and London Shipping Company (DP&L) was made possible by the generosity of a number of individuals, organisations and charities throughout the city. We work towards conserving the models and displaying them in 2017.



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We have also received a generous donation of over 90 historic whaling books which will be added to our library to support The Recognised Whaling Collection by Museums Galleries Scotland through The Scottish Government.

A successful bid at auction secured Lorraine Kelly's We Dundee Campaign shoes. This is a great addition not only to the We Dundee related collection but also to the wider costume collection.

A number of natural history specimens have been sent to a specialist osteologist who has prepared the specimens to be added to the osteological collections to aid in the identification of other birds and mammals.

Material has also been acquired through the Treasure trove Scheme which will be displayed in The McManus Landscapes and Lives Gallery.

Volunteers and placements

Our volunteers continue to provide great support to our ongoing collections projects. We currently have 5 volunteers who each assist on collections projects. Opportunities are not just restricted to working with the collections. In the summer of 2015 a small group of volunteers assisted in the access to The Old Steeple, open access was given to the collection of medieval carved stoned on the ground floor allowed visitors to walk to the cap house taking in the bell ringer's chamber, antiquities room and view the magnificent city bells.



Averil Anderson Volunteer



Our St Andrews student completed her allotted time university placement and stayed on as a volunteer to move towards completing her project which saw the digitisation of the annual reports dating back to 1870. We have added the relevant collection related information to the collections management system and had a great time looking at how we used to look.

Learning & Engagement

Throughout the year, Learning & Engagement activities & events were delivered at McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery and Museum, McManus Collection Unit, Mills Observatory, Broughty Castle Museum and The Old Steeple. Core learning programmes for Schools, Families, Youth Action and Communities continued to offer creative workshops, guided tours and tailored projects, supporting access to buildings, collections and temporary exhibition programmes.



Much of our engagement with communities again prioritised a Health & Wellbeing agenda; including work with Alzheimer's Scotland, Art Angel, Dundee Association for Mental Health, The Social Inclusion Group, Dundee Healthy Living Initiative, Dundee City Council's Older People's Services team, Bield Sheltered Housing Association, Children & Family Support Services.

Provision for children and families increased, delivered through McManus Family Space, self directed activities, Small Stories under 5's gallery sessions, Saturday Stars science learning drop-in sessions and Saturday Studio art & craft workshops.

Learning & Engagement activities this year saw a focus on drawing, beginning with delivery of lead in programme of activities to introduce schools; family and community groups to the museum's Draw the Line exhibition prior to its opening in November. From September McManus Family Space became a 'drop-in and draw' space and in October, we celebrated national Big Draw Campaign with a month long programme of CPD events offering a wide range of themed activities, designed to encourage creativity and confidence in drawing.

Access to the museum's Oral History Archive, delivered through a regular programme of 'Talking Dundee' activities and events provides a living history of the city by capturing the memories and life experiences of the people who live, work and play in Dundee. This year, new interviews with staff, past astronomers and science learning partners were added to the archive to mark the 80th anniversary of Mills Observatory.

External funding received from Museums Galleries Scotland and Dundee Festival Trust, enabled the delivery of additional public engagement through Festival of Museums and 'First Foot at McManus, our first New Year Event.



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A new learning partnership with Dundee Comic Creative Space was established to deliver a small series of drawing collaborations as part of the exhibition programme for Draw the Line. The first collaboration delivered a week of public engagement activities at McManus in November as part of the University of Dundee's Being Human Festival. Activities explored the theme of 'Mary's Shelley's Dundee: Re-animating a city' and included drawing workshops, talks, drama performance and a launch event for a newly commissioned comic, inspired by the story of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein.

Our regular public engagement partnership with the Universities of Dundee and Abertay provided a lively programme of events throughout the year, giving audiences an opportunity to hear about and discuss the latest research in the Arts. Topics included History, English, Education, Social Studies, Fine Art and Design.





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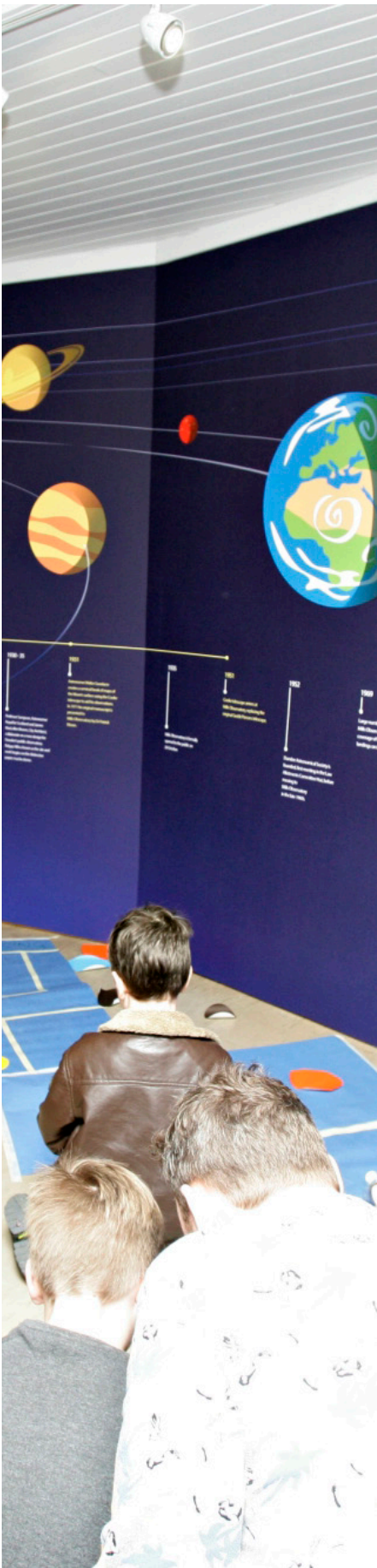
Festivals and Events

External funding received from Museums Galleries Scotland and Dundee Festival Trust, enabled the delivery of additional public engagement through Festival of Museums and 'First Foot at McManus, our first New Year Event.

Targeted specifically at family audiences, the 'First Foot at McManus' event welcomed visitors to The McManus at the start of 2016, representing a symbolic relighting of the creative fire for the new cultural year! The afternoon started traditionally, with visitors being piped into the building by pipers and wished a 'Guid New Year' by an honour guard of museum staff welcoming them in. Activities included creative 'hands on' activities inspired by the New Year custom of 'dressing' herrings in colourful paper clothes, which was common in Dundee in the 1950s. The event also highlighted the importance of the Museum's collections, from 'old favourites' such as Alexander Fair's model of old Dundee, Jacobite flag to current drawing exhibitions. Many family groups explored the museum's permanent displays using a specially created 'Innovation, Architecture & Design' gallery trail.

This year's Festival of Museums theme 'Shackleton to the Suffragettes, Dundee 1901 - 1919' explored what life was really like in Dundee in the early 1900s. Throughout the evening, visitors enjoyed living history performances and met characters from the past to find out what life was really like at home abroad during this period. Characters included Dundee entrepreneur and generous benefactors Sir James Caird, Antarctic explorer Edward Shackleton and Lilia Clunas, a Dundee Suffragette who championed women's right to vote. One of the most poignant performances of the evening was from the character of Dundee soldier, Reginald Thomas Parr, who brought to life the impact of the Great War on the city.

The Big Draw Month in October took place at McManus, Collections Unit, Mills Observatory and Broughty Castle, with special events and existing family programme badged to this year's Big Draw theme 'Every Drawing Tells a Story'. Throughout the month, visitors of all ages created their own illustrated stories of each museum, inspired by its architecture and collections of objects and artworks.



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Mills Observatory

Improvements were carried out during the summer period and included repairs to parquet flooring, repaint of ground floor reception areas and further development of retail area. Visitor information was upgraded across all floors; including new interpretation of telescope displays. A giant timeline display was installed on the first floor, charting the history of the Observatory and the dome was given a 'new look' by installing a vinyl floor display to promote the 80th Anniversary year.



As well as providing free public access to viewing of the night skies, the Observatory's learning and engagement programme also offers a range of tailored activities for Families, Schools and Community Groups. We continue to work closely with Observatory's Advisory Group and Dundee Astronomical Society to develop the visitor experience at Mills and whose members give regular support to Planetarium evenings and other public events.

A Civic reception was held in October to celebrate 80 Years of Stargazing at Mills Observatory. Designed by City Architect Mr McLellan Brown in collaboration with Professor Ralph Sampson, Astronomer Royal for Scotland, Mills is the first British observatory to have been built with the sole aim of encouraging public understanding of science. Now in its 80th year, John Mills' original vision stills remains at the heart of Mills Observatory as members of the public, astronomers and scientists continue to enjoy the amazing views of the stars and space that are provided through its telescopes. The event launched the start of a new planetarium experience at Mills, made possible through our partnership with the University of Dundee.





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The second stage of an ongoing partnership with University of Dundee focussed on 'ways of seeing' the full scale of the universe, this year's collaboration resulted the development and installation of a new planetarium facility for visitors. Designed by a multidisciplinary team from the university's Schools of Life Sciences, Computing, Physics, Mathematics and Astronomy, the project was funded by the University's Centre for Gene Regulation & Expressions and with a strategic grant from the Wellcome Trust.

The new facilities have enabled greater accessibility and interaction with science learning and have given visitors of all ages and abilities an opportunity to enjoy an immersive experience of the wonders of the universe! The partnership has also generated additional programme activities which introduce visitors to some of the amazing cutting edge scientific research work currently being undertaken by the University.

Broughty Castle Museum

Cultural services continue to work closely with Dundee City Council and Historic Environment Scotland to care for and provide access to Broughty Castle.

The window refurbishment project has now been completed, a number of improvements to locks and fastenings have been made. This allows the windows to be cleaned and essential maintenance to the sills to be undertaken. The revamp of the windows has allowed for the natural history display to have a makeover.

Venue Hire Events

Venue Hire events have continued to grow across the five venues identified as a focus for the event co-ordinator. The McManus: Dundee's Art Gallery & Museum, Dundee Ice Arena, Camperdown Wildlife Centre, Broughty Castle and Mills Observatory have been marketed following the launch of new venue hire brochures.



The improvement in the customer journey is welcomed and a single point of contact with standardised enquiries procedures has helped both LACD and potential hirers.

"Thank you so much for looking after us last night. The venue was superb, the catering great and your team a pleasure to deal with. The way that you dealt with the higher than expected numbers was a lesson in professionalism and expertise - all delivered in a friendly and helpful manner. Perfect!" - Catherine Ward - Federation of Small Businesses.

SUMMARY

This has been another positive year for Cultural Services. Improvements to the McManus and the addition of the conference facilities at the Caird Hall have been welcome.

Our staff and volunteers have contributed significantly to our stated value of commitment to service quality and excellence.

Our Friends groups and stakeholders continue to help us improve people's quality of life in the services we deliver. Notably, the formation of the McManus 168 group has brought with it committed and enthusiastic stakeholders who will work with us to provide high quality access to cultural services and resources.

In our work to bring the Boulton and Watt engine back into the public domain after many decades in storage, we have demonstrated our commitment to actively share knowledge and skills with Dundee Heritage Trust and other partners. This is also true in our mentoring role with Dundee Museum of Transport.

Our approach to learning and engagement is underpinned by our commitment to equality and promotion of diversity as we seek to advance the well being of the citizens of Dundee and beyond.

As we continue to deliver and develop Cultural Services to meet the needs of the public, we are aware of the challenges that lie ahead and will continue to work with partners to delivery a quality provision as we advance the arts, heritage and culture.



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