

Introduction

The Exhibition Programme of the Auld Kirk Museum, Lillie Art Gallery and Kirkintilloch Town Hall play a central role in helping East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Trust (EDLC) achieve its core objectives:

To **increase participation in culture**, leisure and sport for all residents, workers and visitors of East Dunbartonshire in an inclusive and sustainable manner

To **improve health and wellbeing** through culture, leisure and sport opportunities that enables everyone in East Dunbartonshire to lead full and active lives

To support and develop the network of volunteers and staff involved in delivering culture, leisure and sport in East Dunbartonshire, and to **support all individuals in developing their talent, skills and confidence**

To **maintain the quality** of our current culture, leisure and sport offer, improve existing services and **maximise opportunities** for providing new activities and services by incorporating high environmental and design standards. Therefore ensuring that East Dunbartonshire has first class culture, leisure and sport venues and services.

Culture, Leisure & Sport Strategy for ED 2016 - 2021

Overview

The Exhibition programme is designed to achieve a balanced programme both creatively and economically and with consideration for the increasing diversity of East Dunbartonshire & Greater Glasgow audiences, and beyond. The programme is developed in accordance with East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Trust's (EDLCT) standards of governance to ensure the selection process is transparent and responsive to audience feedback. The aim of this policy document is to provide a clear summary of the Museum, Gallery and Heritage Centre programmes and activities, in particular outlining the criteria by which the programme is decided, and the way in which individual exhibitions are selected. This new process is reflective of structural change within the organisation and the requirement for partnership working, collaboration and democratic decision making. This takes into consideration – Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, increased access, audience feedback, local and national celebrations, educational impact, retail and income opportunities, risk and value for money.

Artistic Programme

The Auld Kirk Museum and Lillie Art Gallery have supported a broad range of high profile artists and exhibitions over many years. The selection of individual exhibitions include and explore the following themes/areas:

- Different media (e.g. photography, paintings, works on paper, sculpture, multi-media, new media, installation)
- Monographs (focussing on the work of an individual artist or photographer)
- Historical range (covering the collection periods and beyond)
- Art historical movement, with a particular focus on art movements in Scotland and their wider global influences
- Contemporary practice

The artistic programme should be –

Opportunistic, provide a platform for the best of local, national and international talent

Responsive, encourage innovative interpretation that enhances engagement with heritage & arts exploring current, contemporary or locally important themes

Exploratory, the programme encourages themes with local narratives, drawing inspiration from our permanent collections which may also connect with national and global outlook to increase educational value

Insightful, encourage ideas and curatorial collaboration from outside the organisation working with artists, cultural organisations and national museums & galleries

Relevant, cover popular subjects and artists, as well as academic or specialist topics which have local or national relevance.

Accessible, reflect and attract a broad range of audiences regardless of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, social and cultural background

Permanent Collection

We aim to increase access to our permanent collections through exhibition display and other activities. These exhibitions mainly involve works from East Dunbartonshire's own collection and occasionally use of external loan material. These exhibitions or special interventions are scheduled at various points within the calendar year and may reflect local or national celebrations within Arts and Heritage.

The permanent collection programme should be:

Opportunistic, focusing on the celebration of local and national anniversaries and topical events with potential collaboration with Archives & Local Studies Collections (ALS) and also artists. Provide an opportunity for educational activity.

Responsive, have the flexibility to utilise and respond to ideas received externally from artists or groups that relate to the collections core areas of interest

Resourceful, focusing on the display of recent acquisitions and also the presentation of work developed as part of existing research or socially engaged practice projects

Exploratory, with a focus on specific events, individuals or strengths within the Museum's collection, identifying the scope for collaboration with the ALS collection and where possible using sensitive material that can only be shown for a limited period.

Imaginative, to provide insights into Scottish Art (modern and contemporary periods) and to explore our collections in new and engaging contexts

Insightful, allowing opportunities for a range of different voices and approaches some of which may be curated externally and on occasion allow for the loan of high-quality art work from external sources

Community Programme

Historically the Auld Kirk Museum and the Lillie Art Gallery have supported community group exhibitions such as East Dunbartonshire's Annual Art Competition and the two local Bearsden and Milngavie Art Clubs. These exhibitions are an inherent part of the venues history and culture and we will continue to support these programmes. Kirkintilloch Town Hall and Heritage Centre is a young venue with a new exhibition space. A high quality co curated

EDLCT Museums Exhibition Policy

Enquires: Museums@eastdunbarton.gov.uk

programme has been delivered here enabling collaborations between artists, historians and community groups. We will maintain the core values which have been established for this space ensuring the exhibitions are co-produced and reflect and respond to the local Industrial heritage of Kirkintilloch which is represented by the permanent display – Made in Kirkintilloch.

The community programme should be –

Opportunistic, focusing on the celebration of local and national anniversaries and topical events working with key arts and heritage groups who are integral to these celebrations

Responsive, have the flexibility to utilise and respond to ideas received from groups and, where possible, appropriately reflect themes of local heritage and respond to collections

Resourceful, presentation of work developed locally, supporting groups with membership expansion and giving groups wider exposure in the local community

Accessible, enable amateur and professional artists to participate in exhibitions and exhibit together

Imaginative, support ideas which combine arts & heritage in new and interesting ways

Insightful, allowing opportunities for a range of different voices and approaches some of which may be co curated

Other Opportunities

There is an opportunity for the use of commercial touring exhibitions which would require investment and could generate income while elevating the profile of the Gallery and Museum and attract wider audiences.

Responsibilities within Exhibitions:

The Cultural Services Manager has overall responsibility for the strategic development and business performance of Cultural Services inclusive of all Heritage & Arts venues.

The Heritage & Arts Team Leader has responsibility for the implementation of relevant strategic priorities and policies and the development, planning and wider role of the Exhibitions programme within the Heritage & Arts Service.

The Museums Team Leader is responsible for the day to day operational management of the Auld Kirk Museum and Lillie Art Gallery ensuring customer service excellence. They implement relevant policies and procedures, including the exhibition programme ensuring it is delivered on time and within agreed resources.

The Museum Collections Officer is responsible for the care, access and management of our permanent collection. They enable access through exhibition and educational activities, including virtual engagement. They support exhibition planning and delivery.

The Cultural Assistants support exhibition planning and delivery, and have specific responsibility for customer service excellence, and are integral to the programme's success.

Procedures for proposal

1. The Artistic Exhibitions programme (visiting artists) should be agreed 3 years in advance.
2. The Permanent Exhibitions should be agreed a minimum of 12 months ahead, ideally planned 2 years ahead complementing the artistic programme but also allow flexibility to respond to unplanned events.
3. The Community Programme should be agreed 2 years ahead complementing the artistic programme

Proposals for exhibitions are accepted from both internal and external sources.
A standard template should be used in both instances.

- Any Heritage & Arts staff member, artist or group can submit a proposal for an exhibition
- All exhibition proposals are considered first by the Museums Team. These are measured on artistic quality, local opportunity & impact, educational value and resource requirement. Where we have too many successful proposals for a time period we will introduce a voting system. The Cultural Services Manager and Heritage & Arts Team Leader will sign off on the final exhibition programme.
- The H&A Team Leader will then allocate a lead EDLCT staff member and supporting team per exhibition.
- The Museum Collections Officer will support permanent exhibitions but will not always lead on this area, this will be shared across the team to increase capacity.
- The lead person will be responsible for delegating internal tasks within the generic task list across their team, for communication with artist or group and for ensuring the exhibition and associated events and activities are running on schedule and on budget. The H&A Team Leader & Team Leader Museums will schedule regular exhibition meetings with key EDLCT staff to monitor and manage progress as required.

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References:

museumsgalleriesscotland.org.uk

museumsassociation.org

www.npg.org.uk

nationalgalleries.org

creativescotland.com

Prepared by Esmee Thompson- Smith Heritage & Arts Team Leader. Approved by Craig Elliott – Cultural Services Manager. March 2021.

Review Information

Review date September 2023

Reviewed by Andrea O'Neill

Approved by Esmee Smith

Next review date September 2024