

MUSEUM & GALLERY COLLECTIONS DEVELOPMENT POLICY

East Dunbartonshire Leisure & Culture Trust

1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

East Dunbartonshire's Heritage & Arts - Museum Service, encompasses the Auld Kirk Museum Complex, Kirkintilloch Town Hall Heritage Centre and Co-curated Exhibition Space and the Lillie Art Gallery. The service exists to:

- Enhance the quality of life of the people who live in, work in and visit East Dunbartonshire through access to, and engagement with, local cultural heritage and the arts.
- Act as a focal point for the interpretation and understanding of the rich cultural heritage of East Dunbartonshire and provide the best care possible for the objects and fine art in our collections.
- Provide access to a wide range of creative and learning opportunities for all, from formal education to lifelong and family learning.
- Provide a broad programme of high-quality exhibitions and events which are accessible to all.
- Promote partnerships with East Dunbartonshire Council Services, local communities, and Scotland's creative, heritage and cultural workforce.

2. AN OVERVIEW OF CURRENT COLLECTIONS, WITH THEMES AND PRIORITIES FOR FUTURE COLLECTING

A) THE LILLIE ART COLLECTION.

The Lillie Art Gallery is a purpose-built gallery, which opened in 1962. It owes its existence to the Milngavie artist and banker Robert Lillie (1867 – 1949). He left just over 1,000 of his own artworks to Milngavie Burgh Council, as well as funds to build an art gallery.

The substantial number of paintings, drawings and prints bequeathed by Robert Lillie mainly cover landscape subjects, including scenes around Milngavie. Portraits and still life are represented in smaller numbers.

The Lillie Art Gallery will focus on the collecting of work by Robert Lillie on the subjects of local landscapes not represented in the collections, and also portraits of local individuals, as opportunities

arise. Ephemera related to Robert Lillie will also be considered for acquisition. Works may be acquired by purchase, gift, or bequest.

Since 1961, Robert Lillie's founding bequest has been developed to form a collection of Scottish art dating from the late 19th century to the present day. Around 800 works are contained in the Gallery collection, excluding those by Robert Lillie, but including works by other artists from Robert Lillie's collection. The range of media covered include paintings, drawings, prints, mixed media, sculpture, ceramic, glass, and textiles.

Artists represented include several of the Glasgow Boys, all four of the Scottish colourists, Mary Armour, David Young Cameron, Alan Davie, Joan Eardley, Ian Hamilton Finlay, June Redpath, Willie Rodger, Alison Watt, and Adrian Wisniewski. The collection is strong in Scottish landscapes and still life, but weak in figurative and abstract works. The small number of local topographical views requires to be strengthened.

It is desirable to build on the strengths of the collection, both historic and contemporary, whilst also seeking out work by artists not yet represented, as well as under-represented subjects.

There is a small group of modern sculpture, modern ceramics, and modern glass. There is also a small group of historic ceramics, which includes Allander pottery, produced in Milngavie by Hugh Allan (1862 – 1909) from 1904 – 8. The gallery also holds a small collection of domestic pottery decorated by Bearsden born artist Jessie Marion King (1875 – 1949).

The Lillie Art Gallery will continue to collect fine and applied art by artists who are Scottish by birth or residence, spanning the period 1880 to the present day. Works may be acquired by purchase, gift, or bequest and, in relation to contemporary works, by commission.

B) LOCAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS

At present, local collections are based on the collections of the Auld Kirk Museum, which reflects the boundaries of the former Strathkelvin District. It is recommended that these collections form the basis of the collecting initiatives for East Dunbartonshire, and that every effort is made to collect similar material which reflects life in part of the area formerly within the boundaries of Bearsden and Milngavie District. The collection is organised in the following subcategories:

- Local Arts

Paintings, prints and drawings of local scenes will continue to be collected as part of the local history collection. This collection is housed at the Auld Kirk Museum and contributes to the larger story of our local history.

- Social and Industrial History

Most of the Service's object-based collection falls into this category and can be sub-divided (**See appendix 1 – Social and Industrial History Categories**). Within the subcategory *Industrial History and*

Technology, EDLC recognises our Foundries collection, in particular, to be of national importance, and will endeavour to prioritise research, development and care of this collection.

- **Antiquities**

EDLC Museums have a small collection of excavated finds from sites along the Antonine Wall, together with some isolated Roman and Medieval specimens. The Museum will continue its policy of acquiring only local archaeological finds under the conditions laid out in section 8.

C) DECORATIVE ART

The Auld Kirk Museum has a collection of Scottish pottery, particularly from the Glasgow Potteries of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. There is also a local connection with the owner of one of the major potteries – J and M P Bell and Company. Gaps in this collection will be identified and efforts made to fill them. Campsie Ware pottery has a local connection, and the collection continues to expand.

D) BOOKS AND NEWSPAPERS

The service will only collect books for reference or illustrative purposes including trade, fashion, or design catalogues. Local reference books will otherwise be referred to the appropriate Reference Libraries or Local Studies collection.

E) ARCHIVES OF PHOTOGRAPHS

Manuscript material, unless it relates to Museum specimens, will be deposited with either the Archives or Local Studies collections based at William Patrick Library. Relevant printed material such as posters, tickets and programmes will be collected. All original photographs collected by the Museum service are made available to the Local Studies collection for copying purposes. Copies and negatives are filed in that department for public use.

F) NATURAL SCIENCES

The Museum Service has a small collection of local geological specimens and miscellaneous natural history specimens. The Museum should continue to accept donations in this area under the conditions of [Section 8](#).

G) NON-LOCAL COLLECTIONS

Our service focusses on collection objects which are local or relate to the local East Dunbartonshire area, to build the story of our past and present community. We take into consideration the collection policies of neighbouring museum services of the central belt of Scotland in our acquisitions. See section 5 below for further definition of this procedure.

The non-local collection includes objects from Britain which do not relate directly to East Dunbartonshire but complement the wider story of East Dunbartonshire history. All non-local items without a local connection in the following categories should not be accepted. Where appropriate, they should be referred to other museums.

The non-local collection is organised in the following categories:

- **British Social History**

General social history items such as household goods and costume of unspecific provenance will be collected where they complement the existing collections.

- **International**

No ethnographic material will be accepted by the Museum Service, with the exception of specimens with a specific local connection – e.g., as part of a larger collection of memorabilia belonging to a local person or which adds depth to the story of our own collections.

H) ENGAGEMENT COLLECTION

This collection includes objects and materials earmarked for handling by visitors and service users or display in non-museum standard venues. These items include duplicate objects, replica objects, deaccessioned objects or objects acquired specifically for the civic collection but do not form part of the accessioned collection. This category is for engagement purposes such as travelling exhibitions, loan exhibitions to non-museum standard venues such as hospitals, care homes and community centres.

- **Handling Collection**

These include duplicate and/or replica objects which have been approved for handling by service users. Service users include adults and children. The objects can be handled within the museum or in another venue such as schools, libraries etc. for educational purposes. The objects can include costume, toys, household items, photographs, roman replica objects etc. This category also includes objects which have been civic gifts to EDC which do not sit within our accessioned collection.

- **Civic Collection**

The East Dunbartonshire Civic Collection is owned by the people for the people. Managed by EDLC Trust on behalf of East Dunbartonshire Council. This category includes a curated collection of objects, paintings and materials that have been donated or acquired to the Heritage & Arts Service but do not form part of the accessioned museum collection. It is currently under the care of the Arts & Events Officer and has undergone a cataloguing process. Any new acquisitions to the civic collection will be catalogued and added to the new civic collection database.

This collection is mainly made up from the purchase prizes from the Annual Art Exhibition currently hosted at the Auld Kirk Museum. It also includes artwork & photographs from previous council

administrations, some of which may be transferred to the Archives & Local Studies Collections following review of suitability. There is aspiration to make this collection more widely accessible in physical exhibition, loan and digital format.

3. THEMES AND PRIORITIES FOR RATIONALISATION AND DISPOSAL

The Museum Service holds East Dunbartonshire's collections in trust. Any curatorially-motivated disposal takes place as part of the long-term collection policy, in order to increase public benefit from the collections.

4. LIMITATIONS ON COLLECTING

The Museum Service recognises its responsibility, in acquiring additions to its collections, to ensure that care of collections, documentation arrangements and use of collections will meet the requirements of the Accreditation Standard. It will take into account limitations on collecting imposed by such factors as staffing, storage and care of collection arrangements.

The service will not collect firearms or explosives. Any proposed acquisition of other weapons will be brought to the Trust for approval. This type of material could include Roman arrowheads, pre-historic knives and ceremonial weapons.

The service does not hold or intend to acquire any human remains.

5. COLLECTING POLICIES OF OTHER MUSEUMS

The Museums Service will take account of the collecting policies of other museums and other organisations collecting in the same or related areas or subject fields. It will consult with these organisations where conflicts of interest may arise or to define areas of specialism, in order to avoid unnecessary duplication and waste of resources.

The service will take into account the collecting areas of other museums in authorities in west central Scotland:

Glasgow (Glasgow Life Museums, Hunterian Museum)

Renfrewshire (Paisley Museum)

West Dunbartonshire (Clydebank Museum)

Inverclyde (McLean Museum)

North Lanarkshire (Summerlee Museum)

South Lanarkshire (Low Parks Museum)

6. POLICY REVIEW PROCEDURE

The collections development policy is published and will be reviewed annually. If there are any significant changes to this policy, Museum & Galleries Scotland will be notified. They will be made aware of the implications of any such changes for the future of existing collections.

7. ACQUISITIONS NOT COVERED BY THE POLICY

Acquisitions outside the current stated policy will only be made in very exceptional circumstances, and then only after proper consideration by the governing body of the museum itself, having regard to the interests of other museums.

8. ACQUISITION PROCEDURES

- A) The Museums Service will exercise due diligence and make every effort not to acquire, whether by purchase, gift, bequest or exchange, any object or specimen unless the governing body or responsible officer is satisfied that the museum can acquire a valid title to the item in question.
- B) In particular, the service will not acquire any object or specimen unless it is satisfied that the object or specimen has not been acquired in, or exported from, its country of origin (or any intermediate country in which it may have been legally owned) in violation of that country's laws. (For the purposes of this paragraph 'country of origin' includes the United Kingdom).
- C) In accordance with the provisions of the UNESCO 1970 Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, which the UK ratified with effect from November 1 2002, museums will reject any items that have been illicitly traded. The governing body will be guided by the national guidance on the responsible acquisition of cultural property issued by the Department for Culture, Media, and Sport in 2005.
- D) So far as biological and geological material is concerned, Museums will not acquire by any direct or indirect means any specimen that has been collected, sold or otherwise transferred in contravention of any national or international wildlife protection or natural history conservation law or treaty of the United Kingdom or any other country, except with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.
- E) In Scotland, under the laws of *bona vacantia* including Treasure Trove, the Crown has title to all ownerless objects including antiquities. Scottish archaeological material cannot therefore be legally acquired by means other than by allocation to the Auld Kirk Museum by the Crown. Where the Crown chooses to forego its title to a portable antiquity, a Curator or other responsible person acting on behalf of the Trust Board, can establish that valid title to the item in question has been acquired by ensuring that a certificate of 'No Claim' has been issued on behalf of the Crown.

F) Any exceptions to clauses 8 a, b, c, or e will only be because the museum is:

- acting as an externally approved repository of last resort for material of local (UK) origin
- acquiring an item of minor importance that lacks secure ownership history but in the best judgement of experts in the field concerned has not been illicitly traded.
- acting with the permission of authorities with the requisite jurisdiction in the country of origin.
- in possession of reliable documentary evidence that the item was exported from its country of origin before 1970.

In these cases, the museum will be open and transparent in the way it makes decisions and will act only with the express consent of an appropriate outside authority.

9. CULTURAL RESTITUTION, REPATRIATION & SPOILATION

The service will use the statement of principles 'Spoliation of Works of Art during the Nazi, Holocaust and World War II period', issued for non-national museums in 1999 by the Museums and Galleries Commission,

The Museum's Service governing body, acting on the advice of the museum's professional staff and with the agreement of EDC, may take a decision to return objects or specimens to a country or people of origin. The museum will take such decisions on a case by case basis; within its legal position and taking into account all ethical implications and available guidance.

10. DISPOSAL PROCEDURES

- Disposal Preliminaries

- A)** The governing body will ensure that the disposal process is carried out openly and with transparency.
- B)** By definition, the service has a long-term purpose and holds collections in trust for society in relation to its stated objectives. The governing body therefore accepts the principle that sound curatorial reasons for disposal must be established before consideration is given to the disposal of any items in the museum's collection.
- C)** The service will confirm that it is legally free to dispose of an item and agreements on disposal made with donors will be taken into account.
- D)** When disposal of a museum object is being considered, the service will establish if it was acquired with the aid of an external funding organisation. In such cases, any

conditions attached to the original grant will be followed. This may include repayment of the original grant and a proportion of the proceeds if the item is disposed of by sale.

- **Motivation for disposal and method of disposal**

A) When disposal is motivated by curatorial reasons the procedures outlined in paragraphs 10g-10o will be followed and the method of disposal may be by gift, sale or exchange.

B) The service will not undertake disposal motivated principally by financial reasons.

- **The disposal decision-making process**

Whether the disposal is motivated either by curatorial or financial reasons, the decision to dispose of material from the collections will be taken by the governing body only after full consideration of the reasons for disposal. Other factors including the public benefit, the implications for the museum's collections and collections held by museums and other organisations collecting the same material or in related fields will be considered. External expert advice will be obtained and the views of stakeholders such as donors, researchers, local and source communities and others served by the museum will also be sought.

- **Responsibility for disposal decision-making**

A decision to dispose of a specimen or object, whether by gift, exchange, sale or destruction (in the case of an item too badly damaged or deteriorated to be of any use for the purposes of the collections or for reasons of health and safety), will be the responsibility of the governing body of the museum acting on the advice of professional curatorial staff, if any, and not of the curator of the collection acting alone.

- **Use of proceeds of sale**

Any monies received by the museum governing body from the disposal of items will be applied for the benefit of the collections. This normally means the purchase of further acquisitions. In exceptional cases, improvements relating to the care of collections in order to meet or exceed Accreditation requirements relating to the risk of damage to and deterioration of the collections may be justifiable. Any monies received in compensation for the damage, loss or destruction of items will be applied in the same way. Advice on those cases where the monies are intended to be used for the care of collections will be sought from the Museums Galleries Scotland.

The proceeds of a sale will be ring-fenced so it can be demonstrated that they are spent in a manner compatible with the requirements of the Accreditation standard.

- **Disposal by gift of sale**

Once a decision to dispose of material in the collection has been taken, priority will be given to retaining it within the public domain, unless it is to be destroyed. It will therefore

be offered in the first instance, by gift or sale, directly to other Accredited Museums likely to be interested in its acquisition.

If the material is not acquired by any Accredited Museums to which it was offered directly as a gift or for sale, then the museum community at large will be advised of the intention to dispose of the material, normally through an announcement in the Museums Association's Museums Journal, and in other specialist journals where appropriate.

The announcement relating to gift or sale will indicate the number and nature of specimens or objects involved, and the basis on which the material will be transferred to another institution. Preference will be given to expressions of interest from other Accredited Museums. A period of at least two months will be allowed for an interest in acquiring the material to be expressed. At the end of this period, if no expressions of interest have been received, the museum may consider disposing of the material to other interested individuals and organisations giving priority to organisations in the public domain.

- **Disposal by exchange**

The museum will not dispose of items by exchange.

- **Documenting disposal**

Full records will be kept of all decisions on disposals and the items involved and proper arrangements made for the preservation and/or transfer, as appropriate, of the documentation relating to the items concerned, including photographic records where practicable in accordance with SPECTRUM procedure on deaccession and disposal.

Review Information

Review date: September 2023

Reviewed by Jennifer Binnie (Museums Collection Officer)

Approved by Esmee Smith (Heritage & Arts Team Leader)

Previous version: Museum Service Collections Development Policy 2012 – 2017

Next review date: September 2024

Appendix (Social and Industrial History Subcategories)

The Home and Domestic Life

There is a good collection of late nineteenth and twentieth century household goods. Priority should be given to identifying and filling gaps in this collection. Additionally, the collection of household goods from the mid-twentieth century onwards has grown over the last ten years.

Further complementary specimens are sought, and that priority is also given to ways of recording contemporary domestic life.

Education

The Museums service will collect specimens relating to all education services and youth organisations operating within the Council boundaries. This will complement existing collections.

Religion

The Museums service will make every effort to ensure all religious denominations are represented within the Museum Collection.

Recreation and Sport

This category also includes toys & hobbies. There is already a good collection of sporting items from the former Strathkelvin area, together with toys. Efforts will be made to cover all the Council area.

Industrial History and Technology

Traditional industries such as iron founding and coalmining are well represented and form one of the great strengths of the collection. Priority will be given to extending this collection to cover other local industries and that more recent industrial development is recorded.

Trade and Commercial Life

This is not so well represented as Industrial History. Special attention will be given to this area, particularly in view of the re-developments to local town centres.

Agricultural History

Reflecting the rural nature of parts of the area, the Heritage & Arts Service has a small collection of agricultural material. Size has to be a discriminating factor when collecting. Positive steps will be taken to identify and fill gaps in this collection.

Public Utilities and Municipal Services

Items relating to services such as gas, electricity, police, hospitals etc. continue to be collected.

War and Peace

Museums service collects specimens relating to the First and Second World Wars, particularly as they affected civilian life.

Costume and Textiles

Museums service has a small collection of locally produced or locally associated textiles and costume. Efforts will be made to acquire further examples of local textiles, whilst recognising that these could be difficult to identify. In particular, specimens from the weaving and printed calico industries should be sought. In addition, examples of costume typical of those worn by local residents will be collected.