

2017

2018

**WHALE Arts Agency
Annual Report**



WHALEARTS •

Welcome



Introduction

Chair of the Board, Michelle

Herron — Our capable and committed staff team have continued this year to work tirelessly to deliver a varied, creative and engaging programme of activities. A highlight for WHALE was our 25th Birthday celebration in 2017.

The Board continue to provide important support in the strategic and financial governance of the organisation and in ensuring the staff team have the resources they need to deliver a consistently high level of activities. We were delighted to work alongside the staff team in the recruitment and selection of our new Chief Executive, Leah Black, earlier in the year. We are enjoying working with Leah and are looking forward to her continuing to develop existing activities as well as bringing new ideas and approaches to what we do. We are proud to support the work of WHALE's staff and volunteers.

Our areas of focus for 2019 are to secure

longer term funding to allow our projects to be sustainable and to increase our engagement with our community in developing activities to ensure what we are doing is valued by them.

I hope you enjoy reading about what we have been up to here at WHALE Arts over the last year.

Chief Executive, Leah Black —

Having taken over from Allan Farmer in April 2018 it has been a wonderful opportunity to work with the team to pull together this annual report and have the chance to reflect on the extensive range of creative activities the team worked on with the local community and a great number of local and cultural partners. I hope you enjoy learning about our impacts, community-led creative programmes and collaborations as much as I have. Stay tuned for more exciting developments in 2019 and beyond.

Thanks To Our:

Artists, whose creativity and commitment is integral to our

success: Jess Abrams, Oliver Benton, Leanne Blair, Amy Boulton, Michael Bowdidge, Rolz Bradbeer, Mairi Brown, Iain Bruce, Camila Cavalcante, Paul Cowan, Liz Crombie, Chris Dooks, Rachel Esdale, Fraser Gray, Rebecca Green, Francesca Hawker, Rachael Hunter, Melanie Jordan, Raymond Keith, Hannah Laverty, Sheila McCutcheon, Shona McNally, Catriona McIntyre, John Mitchell, Isabel Molloy, Darren Momenpour, Kirsty Rennie, Cat Sheridan, Lisa Thompson, Will Thornton, Elizabeth Waterson, Marie Williamson, Debbie Wright, Alex Wood, Debbie Wright, Zoe Walker and Neil Bromwich.

Volunteers: Adam Hussain, Taylor Munro, Edyta Gadzinowska.

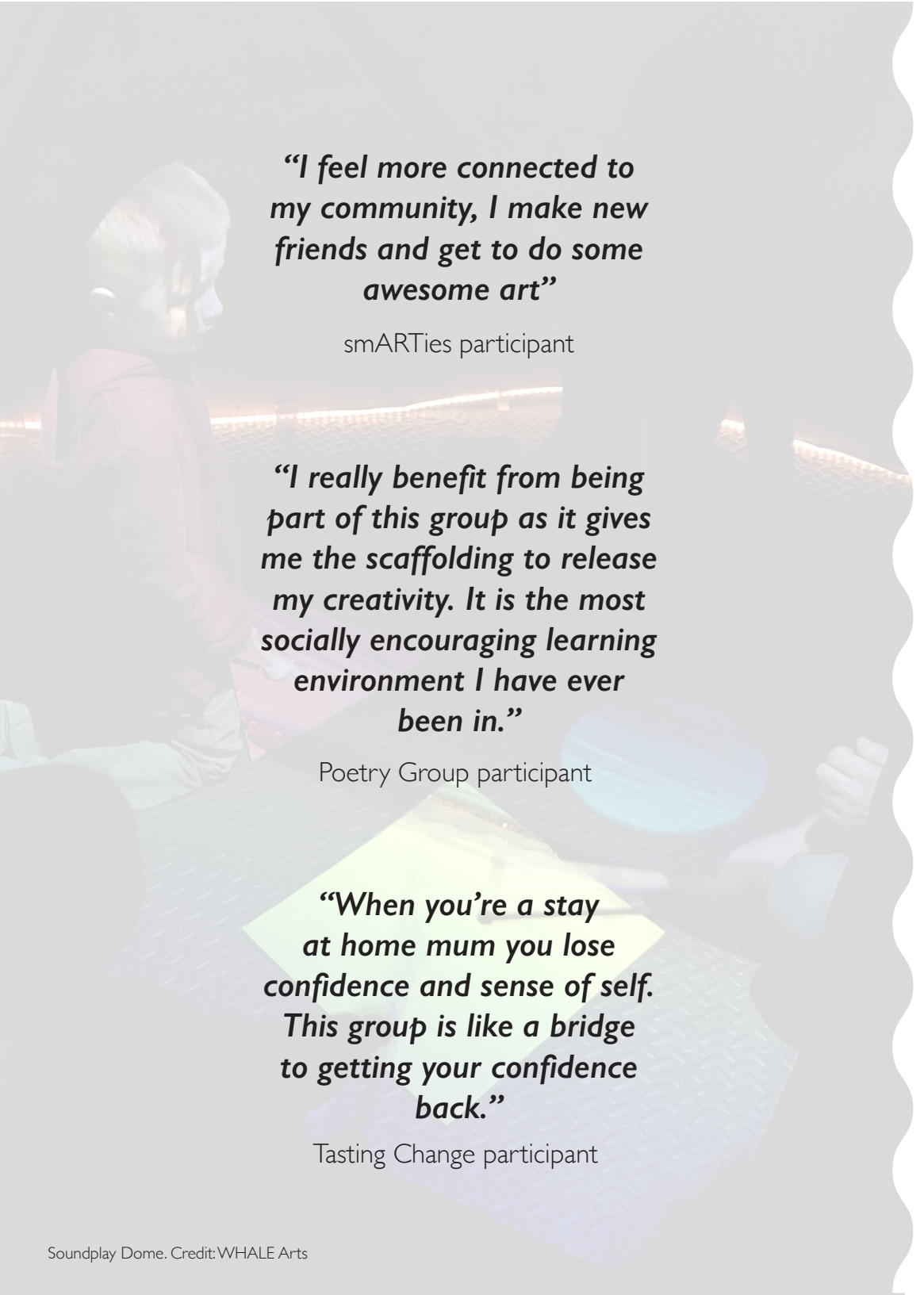
Board: David Corcoran, Susan Gibson, Elaine Gorman, Michelle Herron, Lorraine Johnston, Jean Munro, Kenny Newey, Margaret Stewart, Martin Pringle, Grant Williams.

Staff: Allan Farmer, Alan Ross, Anne Monk, Craig Tyrie, Dawn Borthwick, Helena Barrett-Duncan, Jenny Salmean, Julie Aitken, Julie McCurdy, Leah Black, Kate MacKay, Kate Griffin, Meghan Bidwell, Shasta Ali, Tatyana Simpson, Kinga Sliwka, Alan Mitchell, Kim Thomson.

Photography: Oliver Benton, Paul Cowan, WHALE Arts, Denise McNulty, David Jacobs, Starcatchers.

Annual report design: Jenny Salmean





“I feel more connected to my community, I make new friends and get to do some awesome art”

smARTies participant

“I really benefit from being part of this group as it gives me the scaffolding to release my creativity. It is the most socially encouraging learning environment I have ever been in.”

Poetry Group participant

“When you’re a stay at home mum you lose confidence and sense of self. This group is like a bridge to getting your confidence back.”

Tasting Change participant



WHALE 25th Birthday Celebrations. Credit: Paul Cowan



WHALE Community Garden. Credit: Paul Cowan

Our Impact

Across all of WHALE's activities:

- There were 2425 participants and 5433 participations over the year.
- This represents a 31% increase in participants and a 12% increase in participations.

Regular activities:

- 670 people participated in 31 regular groups, courses and activities.
- This represents a 116% increase in participants and a 40% increase in regular sessions on 16-17 levels.

Holiday projects and one-off events:

- 1755 people participated in 89 holiday projects and one-off events, both in the WHALE Centre and in other community spaces and places.
- This is a 46% increase in both participants and the number of one-off events and sessions on 16-17 levels.

Activities in other community spaces:

- 48% more people engaged with WHALE's creative activities in other community spaces and places in 17-18, an increase from 345 to 509 participants.

Of the 495 registered participants attending regularly this year:

- 83% lived locally, in postcodes EH14, EH12 and EH11.
- 51% were under 16, and 22% were over 55 years of age.
- 15% of participants were registered disabled.
- 21% were from the BME community.

A photograph of a child's hands holding a green clay ring. The child is wearing a pink and grey striped long-sleeved shirt. The background is a dark, textured surface covered in various pieces of litter, including a white plastic cap, a blue circular object, and a white string. The overall scene suggests an environmental or community art project.

Working With Children and Young People

Highlights from our regular programme of activities at WHALE included:

Discover Drama with the Lyceum Youth Theatre supported 23 young people to devise and perform new work, including a work shared with other Discover groups at the Lyceum Theatre.

Creative Adventures – 33 regular sessions took place for this group for children on the autistic spectrum and their families. They worked with an artist in residence from the Festival Theatre's outreach programme to create an animation featured in the Awfey Huge Variety Show at the Festival Theatre. In addition, their work was shared in outreach events – at the Royal Botanic Gardens and with Redhall Special School pupils, who performed an Indian Dance show for invited audience.

SmARTies had 95 participants who took part in exhibitions, workshops, and regular Friday afternoon creative sessions,



Expecting Something. Credit: Starcatchers.



Clovenstone Primary School at WHALE. Credit: WHALE Arts

creating artwork and sculpture for the WHALE garden in partnership with Westburn CAN.

Street Arts – We were successful in securing funding for 3 years of Street Arts outreach arts activity from Children in Need and delivered sessions for over 100 regular participants.

Holiday Programmes – Over 300 young people took part in 54 holiday sessions in Easter, Summer and October school holidays. Our holiday activity programme included performances and workshops with the Puppet Animation Festival, a dance residency with Dance Ihayami and theatre skills workshops, performances and a trip to the Fringe Festival. Young People visited Jupiter Artland and the Museum of Edinburgh, along with art, photography, jewellery, den-making, circus skills and music sessions.

Schools – 384 pupils from Canal View Nursery, Redhall Special school and Canal View, Sighthill and Clovenstone Primary schools took part in workshops or performances in 2017/8, including those with MSC Dance student in residence, Sinead Fallon. We worked with South West Social Work partners to deliver tailored sessions for young people requiring additional support to take part in our programme.

Family Days – Working closely with our partners the Scottish Chamber Orchestra we hosted Early Years events and a Family day that celebrated the work of the SCO's residency in Wester Hailes and featured workshops, storytelling, music making and instrument playing for over 100 participants.



Stitch 'n'Time participants with First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon. Credit: David Jacobs



smART Craft. Credit: Paul Cowan.

Working With Adults

Our core creative programme for adults supports local people to enhance their creative skills, health, wellbeing and reduce isolation.

Highlights in 2017/18 included:

Arty Party - 25 participants attended 24 cultural events in the year supporting cultural bridging and reducing isolation amongst older people.

Digital Sentinel – Community reporters created 768 stories helping to create positive news coverage of Wester Hailes. The team also delivered regular IT training and welfare advice sessions supporting 34 people.

WHALEs Without a Cause – 18 participants worked with a new director to create and perform 'All Hailes Macbeth!' as part of WHALE Arts' 25th anniversary

celebration. The group also attended performances at the Scottish Storytelling Centre as part of the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Let's Dance! – 21 people aged 50+ took part in regular Scottish Country Dance sessions and two community ceilidhs with live music.

Poetry with the Scottish Poetry Library – This new Scottish Poetry Library and Open Book residency engaged 6 participants in monthly poetry sessions taking place at WHALE following several outreach sessions at Wester Hailes Library.

smART CRAFT – 17 adults with additional support needs took part in 39 regular visual arts sessions. The group participated in an intergenerational 'smARTies' project, creating a joint exhibition.



WHALE's 25th Birthday. Credit: Paul Cowan



WHALES without a Cause. Credit: Paul Cowan

Stitch 'n' Time – Our award winning textile group saw 23 participants work on a range of community projects including costumes for the local drama group and Christmas stockings for Heathervale Young People's Centre. A motion was raised in The Scottish Parliament in recognition of the group's map of Wester Hailes, now on display at Clovenstone Community Centre.

Wester Hailes: Your Story, Our Story – Our intergenerational heritage project explored themes of identity, place and belonging through 36 genealogy groups, holiday workshops for 18 young people, an artist commission inspired by local children with archival images from Prospect Community Housing, and the digitization of our VHS archive. All strands of the projects taught and utilized digital skills, with the intention of creating a legacy for the project.

WHALE Community Cinema – The cinema is run by volunteers and is a proud member of Film Hub Scotland. We worked with Scalarama, a nationwide celebration of cinema, Luminare, Scotland's creative ageing festival, and the Scottish Documentary Institute.

WHALE Snappers & Introduction to Digital Photography - 10 participants developed their darkroom and digital photography skills over 16 sessions throughout the year, culminating in an exhibition at the WHALE Arts Centre.



Tasting Change with Fork in the Road. Credit: Oliver Benton.



WHALE Community Garden. Credit: Paul Cowan.

Collaborative Community Projects

Westburn Climate Action Network (CAN) was WHALE Arts' green arts and gardening project, supported by the Climate Challenge Fund. The project finished in March 2018 and engaged with 1000 people and 31 volunteers at the weekly Horticulture Hubs, Cooking Classes, Community Meals, and Family Days. Alongside this we ran a series of creative activities to provide skills development in upcycling textiles, furniture, and metal. Three artists were commissioned to create permanent artworks for the garden and WHALE building and we built an outside Garden Room. 103.5m² of new growing space was created and 2211 kg of waste was diverted from landfill.

Tasting Change grew from the collaborative network Living Well Wester Hailes and is a multi-agency partnership project designed to promote healthy eating in Wester Hailes. Our partners are

Prospect Community Housing Association, The Health Agency, SCOREscotland and CHAI. WHALE takes the lead on designing and programming creative activities focused around food and eating and cooking together.

Wester Hailes Community Trust is a collaborative organisation that supports genuine community-led development in Wester Hailes. WHALE Arts is one of the founding members of the Wester Hailes Community Trust. Along with Prospect Community Housing Association and WHCT, we have led on the **Making Places: Westside Plaza** programme, working with designers Harrison Stevens on a community-led design consultation to make recommendations to City of Edinburgh Council to improve the Westside Plaza civic square, which sits in the heart of Wester Hailes.

WHALE About The Place

We launched the exciting new WHALE About the Place project, recruiting our Creative Placemaker, to work with local residents across the 7 neighbourhoods of Wester Hailes to develop and deliver a programme of regular creative activities, one-off events, and participatory public art installations that respond to local assets and aspirations.

Working with local partner organisations 106 people participated in regular creative activities on the following projects:

Digimapping with Edinburgh Napier - 23 children from Clovenstone Primary School created their own interactive map of their local area, presenting it at Edinburgh International Science Festival's Mini Maker Faire.

The Playground Project with With Kids – 28 young people from Canal View Primary participated in creative play after school sessions to design new playspaces for Murrayburn and Hailesland.

Room for Art with Art in Healthcare – 7 adults attended taster art and wellbeing sessions at the Health Agency.

Family Art Club – 20 children and families participated in making sessions with artists Walker and Bromwich at Canal View Primary for a whole school collaboration with Edinburgh Art Festival.

Access to Film with Screen Education Edinburgh – Over February half term 10 young people from Wester Hailes Education Centre created their own short film about their experience of bullying.

Time Capsules – 18 children and families from the With Kids Calder's Childrens Zone at Sighthill Primary created their own time capsule to be displayed at Westside Plaza shopping centre.

291 people attended collaborative events and creative taster sessions outwith WHALE Arts coordinated by the WHALE About the Place project, such as a 'Library Lunch' for Book Week Scotland at Wester Hailes Library; International Women's Day event at Clovenstone Community Centre; a Christmas family day at Clovenstone Community Garden and many more.

Look out for more developments of this new placemaking programme over the next few years, which will include a series of public art installations across Wester Hailes and cross community-wide events.

With Thanks To:

Income and Expenditure for year ended 31st March 2018

Income

Donations and Grants	£211,795
Charitable Activities	£169,812

Expenditure

Charitable Activities	
Staff costs	£154,602
Direct project costs	£82,442
Premises costs	£47,831
Governance costs	£11,242
Other costs	£39,619
Cost of Raising Funds	£9,254

Increase in Funds £45,871

Reserves

Unrestricted funds	£94,590
Designated funds	£15,656
Restricted funds (non-capital)	£69,101

Our funders and donors: Big Lottery, Heritage Lottery Fund, CEC Health & Inequalities Fund, CEC Holiday Activity Fund, CEC Children & Families, BBC Children in Need, Climate Challenge Fund, Creative Scotland, Cruden Foundation, Edinburgh & District Fine Arts Society, Festival City Theatres Trust, Lothian Buses, Nancie Massey Trust, Awards for All, Prospect Community Housing, RS Macdonald Charitable Trust, Scottish Government, South West Neighbourhood Partnership, Corra Foundation, Peoples Health Trust, European Social Fund through Scottish Government, Scottish Book Trust' Live Literature, City of Edinburgh Council Local Events Fund.

Our partners & tenants:

SCOREScotland, Dads Rock, About Youth, Arty Party, Clovenstone Community Centre, Dance Ihayami, Edinburgh Napier University, Capital Theatres, Living Well Wester Hailes, New Caledonian Woodlands, NHS Lothian, NUStart, National Museums Scotland, Prospect Community Housing, Royal Lyceum Theatre, The Health Agency, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Starcatchers, Wester Hailes Community Council, Wester Hailes Community Trust, Wester Hailes Library, Scottish Poetry Library, Open Book, Screen Education Edinburgh, Art in Healthcare, With Kids, Edible Estates, Puppet Animation Festival, Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society, EPIC Assist, Fun Palaces, Edinburgh Art Festival, Calders Children's Zone.