

# Annual Report 2019 - 2020

## WHALEARTS<sup>•</sup>



# Introduction – Chief Executive



2019/20 didn't end how any of us expected it to. Just as we were ready to move forward with a range of new projects, inspired by a visit to Liverpool and the Local Place Plan Community Conference in February 2020 – our world turned upside down. Putting this report together in autumn 2020 feels strange – it seems like a lot longer than 8 months has passed since April whilst feeling at the same time like the time has passed in the blink of any eye. Along with many of our colleagues across Scotland we have stepped up, turning our community meal into a takeaway and delivery, cooking and delivering thousands of meals, and art and wellbeing packs, making phonecalls, distributing small grants and building and sustaining new networks.

However reflecting back to the world before Covid-19 we had another amazing and inspiring year at WHALE Arts in 2019/20. Our regular sessions have continued to thrive with local residents at the heart with a focus on arts and wellbeing in our adult programme, accessible art sessions for young people with additional support needs and their families, groups for adults and young people looking to develop digital and business skills, creative afterschool club and outdoor artist-led sessions across Wester Hailes and much more.

During the year we made a start on an area-wide project with local partners, the beginnings of a Local Place Plan for Wester Hailes and we also started to lay the foundations for Asset Transfer of the land the WHALE Arts building sits on and some capital developments within our building including creating a new community-led café for the area.

I would like to say an enormous thank you to our extremely hard-working, kind and dedicated team of staff, freelance artists and volunteers who always do their best for the community, but who recently have transcended all expectations.

This year we said good-bye to our wonderful Chair Michelle Herron and our Treasurer Lorraine Johnston at our AGM in 2019 and hello to new Co-Chairs Kenneth Fowler and Grant Williams. And we were very lucky to have a range of new local and non-local trustees join the board.

**Leah Black, Chief Executive**  
**2020**



# Trustee Reflection

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## Charlotte Binstead - Local Trustee

When I moved to Wester Hailes in 2018, I was immediately struck by the strong sense of community; becoming a Board Member at WHALE has allowed me to become involved in and see loads of the amazing things the people of Wester Hailes do and create.

2020 started just like any other year, full of excitement at what might be in store. In my role as a Trustee that included looking forward to getting involved in the Local Place Plan and the Asset Transfer process which will help WHALE to purchase the land in which the building sits. It quickly became clear that 2020 was not going to be like any other year, and that WHALE would have to adapt to meet the needs of Wester Hailes and bring the community together in new ways.

As you read this annual report, I hope you too will feel a huge sense of pride at what WHALE, and Wester Hailes, has achieved this year. As well as quickly adapting regular groups like Let's Create and Stitch 'n' Time to run online and sending out 1000s of art packs help keep the lockdown boredom at bay, the Community Meal became a takeaway and delivery service, serving up 1000s of hot and nutritious meals.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees I would like to wholeheartedly thank Leah and the staff team for being the driving force behind all the wonderful things WHALE has achieved this year. And of course, WHALE could not have delivered this without the hard work of all of the freelance artist team and volunteers who bring such enthusiasm and dedication!



Photo credit: Oliver Benton

# About WHALE Arts

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WHALE Arts is a building based and place-based community-led charity and social enterprise which act as a conduit between our community and creative opportunities through the delivery of projects, programmes and events and by connecting our community with city and national partners.

We work hard with partners to share and celebrate the quality creative and cultural projects that happen in the area and to build upon these successes to inspire and empower residents, workers, artists and designers to continue to demonstrate the power of creativity as a driver of social change.



Photo credit: Oliver Benton

# Mission, Vision, Values

A horizontal dotted line consisting of 25 grey dots. To the right of the line, there is a large, light blue triangle pointing downwards. To the left of the line, there is a smaller, light blue triangle pointing upwards.

## Mission

We create the conditions for our community in Wester Hailes to work alongside artists and cultural practitioners to become agents for change who will proactively co-design, participate in, support or lead quality creative activity at all stages of their lives.

## Vision

Wester Hailes is a creative, thriving, resilient, fair community.

## We Value

Equality; Equity; Diversity; Inclusion – we welcome everyone and strive to support anyone who wants to take part, we consider equity to be important as well as equality and we tailor activities accordingly when we can.

Creativity – in its broadest sense and placed firmly at the heart of everything that we do we see creativity as a way of unlocking self-expression, problem-solving, learning and joy.

Openness – we encourage generosity, kindness and facilitate the sharing of ideas.

Tenacity – we are brave and ambitious for ourselves as an organisation and for the people we work with: we foster resilience and resourcefulness.

Working Together – we recognise we are one part of a bigger system and that we will be more successful if we work with others who share our vision.

Innovation AND Continuity – we celebrate and sustain successful initiatives but balance this with taking risks and trying new things.



# Strategy & Themes

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During 2019/20 we completed and launched WHALE Arts new 5-year Strategic Plan. This was developed over the course of a year with members, trustees, staff and local partners and sets out our high level aims taking us to 2024.

Our key themes 2019 – 2024 are:

- Health, Wellbeing, Happiness
- Economy, Enterprise, Learning, Skills
- Places and Spaces
- Development and Improvement
- Data, Design, Evaluation, Innovation
- Communication, Conversation, Coproduction



Photo credit: Craig Stewart

# Our Participants & Volunteers



Across all of WHALE Arts activities in 2019/20 there were a total of 8049 participations over the year and an estimated individual 3453 participants.

630 people participated in 23 regular weekly sessions offering a diverse range of creative activities for all ages and abilities.

2823 people participated in 114 holiday projects and events at WHALE Arts and in other venues reflecting the range of activities delivered.

We worked with 22 volunteers who contributed 1599 hours of activity across a range of areas including supporting the delivery of creative arts sessions, gardening, front of house, and making improvements to the WHALE Arts Centre.

Of the 630 registered participants attending regularly this year:

- 95% lived locally, in postcodes EH14, EH12 and EH11
- 62 % were under 16 years old
- 48% were over 55 years of age
- 20% of participants identify as disabled
- 22% were from the BAME community

# Health, Wellbeing & Happiness



Our Health, Wellbeing and Happiness strand of work encompasses a wide range of regular groups, events, workshops and partnership projects. Promoting positive wellbeing through engagement with the creative process is at the heart of what we do.

For us, this means reducing reported levels of anxiety, depression and social isolation. Increasing self-confidence and self-esteem. Increasing social connectedness, positive relationships and sense of purpose within the community.

Supporting people on this journey is our ultimate goal.

## Adults

**Smartcraft** – engages adults with additional & complex needs in a range of visual arts & craft-based projects. Tailored support allows each member to focus on individual projects according to their interests.

**Stitch n Time** – our longest-running & most popular group supports women to create an amazing array of textile-based projects, many are donated to the local community.

**Let's Create** – a therapeutic art group for women, combines creative activity & a shared meal as a means of reducing isolation, increasing social connectedness & improving health & wellbeing.

**Men's Makers** – set up in response to an identified need, promotes positive wellbeing through creative skills development.

**Let's Dance** – another long-running & lively group, engages members in Scottish Country Dancing.

**Growing Our Own Artists** – an artist residency project exploring co-production, community empowerment & progression routes at WHALE Arts.



# Health, Wellbeing & Happiness



## Young People & Families

**Play Sense Create** – creative and sensory sessions for children with Additional Support Needs and disabilities and their families. Highlights of 19/20 were a visit from the Sound Dome and visits to performances at the Festival Theatre by 27 families.

**40 x 40** – this project delivered creative opportunities for over 150 young people with Additional Support Needs and disabilities. Artists worked with pupils from Woodlands and WHEC schools to create a fantastic exhibition of sculpture, visual art, film and interactive technology. It took place at the Fruitmarket Gallery, our project partners, and was seen by over 3,400 people.

**Shared Learning Event** – creating positive, playful, inclusive, accessible creative experiences for young people with disabilities and additional support needs. Attended by teachers, health professionals, families and artist practitioners.

**Families** – free, fun, shared creative experiences with our partners Picnic and Play, National Galleries of Scotland, Puppet Animation Festival, Scottish Chamber Orchestra, Capital Theatres including a trip to see the CBeebies Christmas panto and den building with our Stripy Nest sessions.

*We just wanted to say thanks so much from us all here for our excellent visit with you last Thursday. We loved seeing the venue, hearing about your work, trying some activities and thinking about next steps. You were all quite inspirational!* – **Elaine Kerridge, Policy Manager, Children In Scotland**

*I'd be here doing this every day if I could.*

*I never thought I'd get to paint on the walls here, but you let us do our design!*

*Can we keep coming back? I love it!*

**- Participants, 40x40 with The Fruitmarket Gallery**



Photo credit: Oliver Benton



Photo credit: Oliver Benton



# Economy, Enterprise, Learning Skills



Under this theme we work with local people to develop projects focused on skills, creative learning and enterprise development. As with our other strands of work we co-produce these programmes with local people, building on existing skills and interests.

## Adults

**Digital Skills and Wester Hailes Connects** – a partnership project with SCOREscotland, Prospect Community Housing, CHAI and Open Heavens Church which runs regular drop in sessions to support local people to improve digital skills and improve their economic situation.

**Mums into Business** – supports local mums, who face many barriers, to set up their own businesses. A free creche and tailored business advice/support are the key elements of this group.

**Liverpool Research Trip** – a group of local residents, Mums into Business members, freelancers and staff went to Liverpool to learn from a range of community-led enterprise projects including Granby Workshop, Homebaked, Kitty's Laundrette, The Winter Garden & Squash.

**Invisible Distance** – in partnership with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra participants created an audio-visual installation exploring the sonic and visual identity of Wester Hailes using sound, imagery, film and original musical composition. The work was installed at the Royal Scottish Academy, The Fruitmarket Gallery and at WHALE Arts.

*You are always thinking of us! I've loved working with you and the wonderful experiences you have given our children and families!* – **Betty Watt,**  
**Hailesland Early Years Centre**

*Play Sense Create sessions are perfect for my family. I find it difficult to take my 2 boys out on my own, so these sessions are a lifeline on a Friday afternoon. The activities are very child-led, the staff so engaging with the kids. It is somewhere we can come that really engages my children so they are happy and I feel supported* – **Family, Play Sense Create**

# Economy, Enterprise, Learning Skills



## Young People & Families

**Street Arts** – working with over 200 young people out on the streets of Wester Hailes in art sessions that included circus, parkour, poetry, sculpture and photography. smARTies – our young artists were invited to take their ‘My Edinburgh’ photography exhibition to the Scottish Parliament and were given a tour by Gordon Macdonald MSP.

**After School Activities** – included Discover Drama sessions, script writing, stage craft and performances in partnership with the Lyceum Youth Theatre and WHEC; Time Travel Film Club with the Fruitmarket Gallery and Screen Education Edinburgh; Epic Girls Group with EPIC Assist Scotland; and Indian Dance Sessions with Theiya Arts.

**Inspire Dance** – our fantastic Indian dance students featured in 25 LIVE on the main stage of the Festival Theatre to an audience of over 1000 with a piece they choreographed themselves celebrating 50 years of Wester Hailes and 25 years of the Festival Theatre.

**Holiday Programmes** – were co-designed by young people included Harry Potter potion making; 3D printing star wars characters; creative make up and portraiture; slime making; building a giant interactive cardboard city; 3-day Circus School; and trips to Edinburgh Festival shows.

**Explorathon** – this year was combined with Scotland’s Doors Open Day and welcomed over 200 visitors who enjoyed robot-making, hands on experiments, quizzes and arts activities, a celebratory community lunch and an archive exhibition celebrating 50 years of Wester Hailes.

**Wester Hailes Digital Futures** – working with local schools we ran workshops introducing young people to the creative uses of digital technology with follow up sessions led by expert technologists.

*When we got a massive round of applause after our performance I felt like a professional* – **Young Person, Inspire Dance**

*I didn’t think I could do this! I didn’t know I could paint!* – **Young Person, Heathervale Care Home**










Photo credit: Paul Cowan

# Places & Spaces



Within this strand of work we work across Wester Hailes, collaboratively with local residents and local partners. This includes Creative Placemaking, work by volunteers in our Community Garden, our Community Meal and collaborative work we do with other food and growing projects locally, and our involvement in local networks such as Living Well Wester Hailes. During 19/20 we began a new collaborative piece of work with local residents and partners on a Local Place Plan for Wester Hailes.

## Creative Placemaking

We worked with local residents and partner organizations across the area to develop a range of community-led activities including a litter pick at Westburn Woods and the start of a locally-led project called **The Explorers of Westburn Woods**. Photography classes took place at the Youth Agency and a trip with young people to city centre galleries resulting in an online exhibition by **The Wester Hailes Youth Snappers**. We worked with Heathervale residential care home on a series of creative sessions. With Edinburgh Tool Library and the Men's Makers Group we created and installed **Little Free Libraries** in the area, and hosted the very first **Wester Hailes Annual Open Art Exhibition** with submissions of 46 artworks from local residents.

As part of the 50th Anniversary of Wester Hailes we coordinated a community **Woodland Parade** with Edinburgh Lothian Greenspace Trust and Rowanbank. We facilitated community involvement in the design process for artworks for the revamped Wester Hailes plaza. With all activities within Creative Placemaking we sought to celebrate Wester Hailes as a place where people live, showcasing their ideas and talents and increasing local pride.

## Community Garden & Meal

Our Community Meal is one of the cornerstone activities, regularly feeding in excess of 50 people per week. Working alongside our Community Garden volunteers who endeavour to grow produce to use in the meal, they bring the community together promoting those positive connections that are so important for us all.



# Places & Spaces

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## Local Planning & Regeneration

We worked collaboratively during 19/20 with a range of other local organisations including Prospect Community Housing and The Wester Hailes Community Trust to start a conversation locally about developing a Local Place Plan for Wester Hailes, aligning local ideas and aspirations with local authority regeneration plans. As part of this we worked closely with Ian Gilzean, Chief Architect at Scottish Government on a series of pop-up conversations locally and a Community Conference in February 2020. An Interim Report was published in May 2020. We worked with 7N Architects and Architecture and Design Scotland and The Wester Hailes Community Trust on a project for the Venice Architecture Biennale 2020 called 'What If...Scotland' bringing a group of local residents together with architects to explore ideas for the future of Wester Hailes.



Photo credit: Craig Stewart

## SURF Award

We were honoured and delighted to win the SURF Award for Creative Regeneration in November 2019! - something we could not have achieved without our passionate volunteers and participants who helped us talk about our work to the judges.



# Digital Engagement

The infographic features a background of overlapping, semi-transparent geometric shapes in shades of pink, blue, green, orange, and purple. A horizontal dotted line is positioned below the title. Five text blocks are placed within the colored shapes, each detailing digital engagement metrics for a specific platform.

Our website had 28,577  
page views from 9,363  
visitors

Our Twitter page had  
216,997 impressions,  
2,165 visits & 1,993  
followers

Our Instagram page  
reached over 25,168  
with 74,196 impressions,  
2,016 visits & 1,063  
followers

Our Facebook page  
reached 106,780 with  
4,081 visits & 1,665  
followers

Our Mailchimp news  
letters reached 6,605  
recipients

# What people say...



*It's like a wee family. Everyone has their things wrong with them and here everyone relates to things like that, that's what the group's, for – it's a place you feel comfy –* **Participant, Let's Create**

*Thank you Mums into Business you all make me really confident and strong. I am really happy in the group. Mums into Business always help each other and so much positive energy –* **Member, Mums into Business**

*I feel improved happiness and confidence –* **Participant, Men's Makers**

*What we get from it? Companionship, sharing skills, learning new skills, getting out the house, keeping our skills fresh –* **Participant, Stitch'n'Time**

*Great deal, thanks for the packed lunches! Great day out –* **Participant, Christmas trip to The Barrowlands, Glasgow**

*That was a real privilege, to be part of this –* **Participant, Winter Warmer Art Day in Westburn woods with Edinburgh Art Festival**

# Thanks To...



## Our Partners

7N Architects  
About Youth  
Architecture and Design Scotland  
Art in Healthcare  
Business Fives  
Calders Residents Association  
Canal View Primary School  
Capital Theatres  
CHAI  
Clovenstone Community Centre  
Clovenstone Primary School  
Cockburn Association  
Dove Centre  
Edible Estates  
Edinburgh and Lothian Greenspace Trust  
Edinburgh Art Festival  
Edinburgh Festival Fringe Society  
Edinburgh International Science Festival  
Edinburgh Napier University  
Edinburgh Tool Library  
Epic Assist Scotland  
Fruitmarket Gallery  
Gordon MacDonald MSP & Scottish Parliament  
Grass Roots Remedies  
Heathervale Care Home

Ian Gilzean, Scottish Government and  
Rebecca Foy, Architect (Local Place Plan)  
Living Well Wester Hailes  
Lyceum Youth Theatre  
National Galleries of Scotland  
NuStart  
Open Book  
Prospect Community Housing  
Puppet Animation Scotland  
Room for Art  
Royal Lyceum Theatre  
SCOREScotland  
Scottish Chamber Orchestra  
Scottish Poetry Library  
Screen Education Edinburgh  
Sighthill Primary School  
Space and Broomhouse Hub  
Starcatchers  
The Health Agency  
The Youth Agency  
Theiya Arts  
Wee Replicators  
Wester Hailes Community Trust  
Wester Hailes Library  
With Kids



# Thanks To...



## Our Funders

Algrade Trust  
Anderson, Anderson and Brown  
Charitable Initiative  
Awards for All  
Baily Thomas  
BBC Children In Need  
Brownless Charitable Trust  
BUPA UK Foundation  
Casa Stella  
City of Edinburgh Council  
Cordis Charitable Trust  
Creative Scotland  
Cruden Foundation  
Dr Guthrie's Association  
Edinburgh Airport  
Edinburgh Napier University  
EHSC Transition Fund  
Erskine Cunningham Hill  
Fitton Trust  
Good Things Foundation  
John Watson Trust  
Lothian Buses Foundation  
Maple Trust  
Mbili Trust  
Mickel Fund  
Miss Isabel Harvey Charitable Trust

Nancy Massey Charitable Trust  
National Lottery Community Fund  
New Park  
New Park Educational Trust  
One City Trust  
People's Health Trust  
Pleasance Trust  
Prospect Housing Association  
Robertson Trust  
RS MacDonald Charitable Trust  
Scottish Government  
SCVO Digital Charter Fund  
Sir Ian Stewart Foundation  
Souter Charitable Trust  
Stafford Trust  
The Batchworth Trust  
The Irving Memorial Trust  
The Westwood Charitable Trust  
Thistledown Trust  
Trefoil Trust  
Walker Family Charitable Trust  
WCH Trust for Children  
Wester Hailes Community Trust  
William Grant Foundation  
William Syson Charitable Foundation  
Youthlink Scotland

# Who We Are



## Board Trustees

Andrew McNiven  
Charlotte Binstead  
Denise Young  
Emily Stevenson  
Euan Maclean  
Eunice Main  
Grant Williams (Co-Chair)  
Jade Jackson  
Kenneth Fowler (Co-Chair)  
Ross Campbell  
Susan Gibson

## Staff

Craig Tyrie  
Dawn Borthwick  
Danielle McPhilemy  
Fabien Merville  
Kate Griffin  
Kirsty Frankland  
Kim Thomson  
Laura Delahunt  
Laura Tyrrell  
Leah Black  
Michael Bowdidge  
Paul Barnwell  
Rebecca Green  
Rob Davidson  
Tiki Muir  
Verity Combe

## Finance & Payroll

Heather Hartman  
Jill Scott  
Judith Pritchard

## Volunteers

Alison Johnston  
Allan Farmer  
Allan McNaughton  
Charlie Wright  
Claire Dancer  
Dean Wright  
Donna Heritage  
Ema-Sayuru Nyx  
Eunice Main  
Evelyn Hardy  
Fabien Merville  
Hugh McIntee  
Jackie Blake  
Joan Aitkin  
John McClarey  
Jonny Taylor  
Julia Nadal  
Kevin O'Rourke  
Lesley Chalmers  
Lian McLeod  
Louize Gibson  
Mark Howden  
Mark McKenzie  
Rosalie Williamson  
Seona O'Flaherty  
Shirley Ann May  
Susan Gibson  
Tiki Muir

# Who We Are



## Freelancers

Antonia Maerker – circus tutor, artist, Street Arts  
Camila Cavalcante – commissioned artist, Creative Placemaking & artist, Street Arts  
Cat Sheridan – artist, Street Arts  
Debbie Wright – lead artist, Stitch n Time  
Dr Tom Flint – creative collaborator, Digital Skills & Creative Placemaking  
Fraser Gray – commissioned artist, Creative Placemaking  
Gemma Smith – artist & youthworker, Street Arts  
Hannah Lavery – group lead, poetry group Lead  
Holly Macdonald – student placement dance artist, various programmes  
Jess Orr – group lead, Open Book group  
Jill McKirdy – artist, Street Arts  
Katy Wilson – artist, young people's programmes  
Kirstin Cunningham-Abrahams – Coordinator & artist, Play Sense Create  
Laura Tully – artist & support worker, smARTcraft  
Lillian Shipton – artist, Let's Create  
Liz Waterston – youthworker & artist, Street Arts  
Luisa Brown – artist, Street Arts  
Marie Willaimson – movement artist, Street Arts  
Marion Preez – Place Vision Lead, Seven Kingdoms  
Max Alexander – youthworker & artist, Street Arts & artist, Play Sense Create & young people's programmes  
Michael Bowdidge – Coordinator & artist, Street Arts  
Mirja Koponen – commissioned artist, Creative Placemaking & artist, smARTies & Street Arts  
Morgan Njobo – artist, Play Sense Create  
Morvern Odling – Co-production Artist in Residence  
Nicola Atkinson – commissioned artist, Creative Placemaking  
Oliver Benton – project photographer & artist, 40x40 & Street Arts  
Pam Van De Brug – commissioned artist, Creative Placemaking  
Paul Sng – film-maker, young people's programmes  
Poppy Richards – artist, young people's programmes  
Rachael Hunter – artist, smARTcraft  
Rene Sommer Lindsay – Place Vision Lead, Seven Kingdoms  
Sheila McCutcheon – dance tutor, Let's Dance  
Sindy Santos – Lead, Mums into Business  
Tanatsei Gambura – film maker, artist, young people's programmes  
Tanis Grandison – creative collaborator, Digital Skills & Creative Placemaking  
Will Thorburn – movement artist, Street Arts  
Yvonne Bostock – advisor, Mums into Business



# Financial Summary

Statement of Financial Activities for the Period Ending 31 March 2020

INCOME	2020	2019
Donations	£27,397	£9,264
Grants	£356,286	£273,623
Rental and Admin Charges	£62,460	£67,750
Fees and Other Income	£25,891	£9,455
Income from other activities	£484	£0
TOTAL	£472,518	£360,092
EXPENDITURE		
Project Activities & Core		
Premesis Costs	£337,030	£327,319
Raising Funds	£30,862	£24,445
TOTAL	£367,892	£351,764
DEFINED PENSION BENEFIT SCHEME GAINS/(LOSSES)	£711	£20,148
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	£105,337	£28,476
RESERVES		
Unrestricted Funds	£165,824	£148,059
Designated Funds	£6,720	£8,401
Restricted Funds Non-Capital	£185,466	£74,119
Restricted Funds Capital	£583,725	£605,819

**An Independent Examination was carried out by Whitelaw Wells for the  
Financial Year to 31st March 2020**