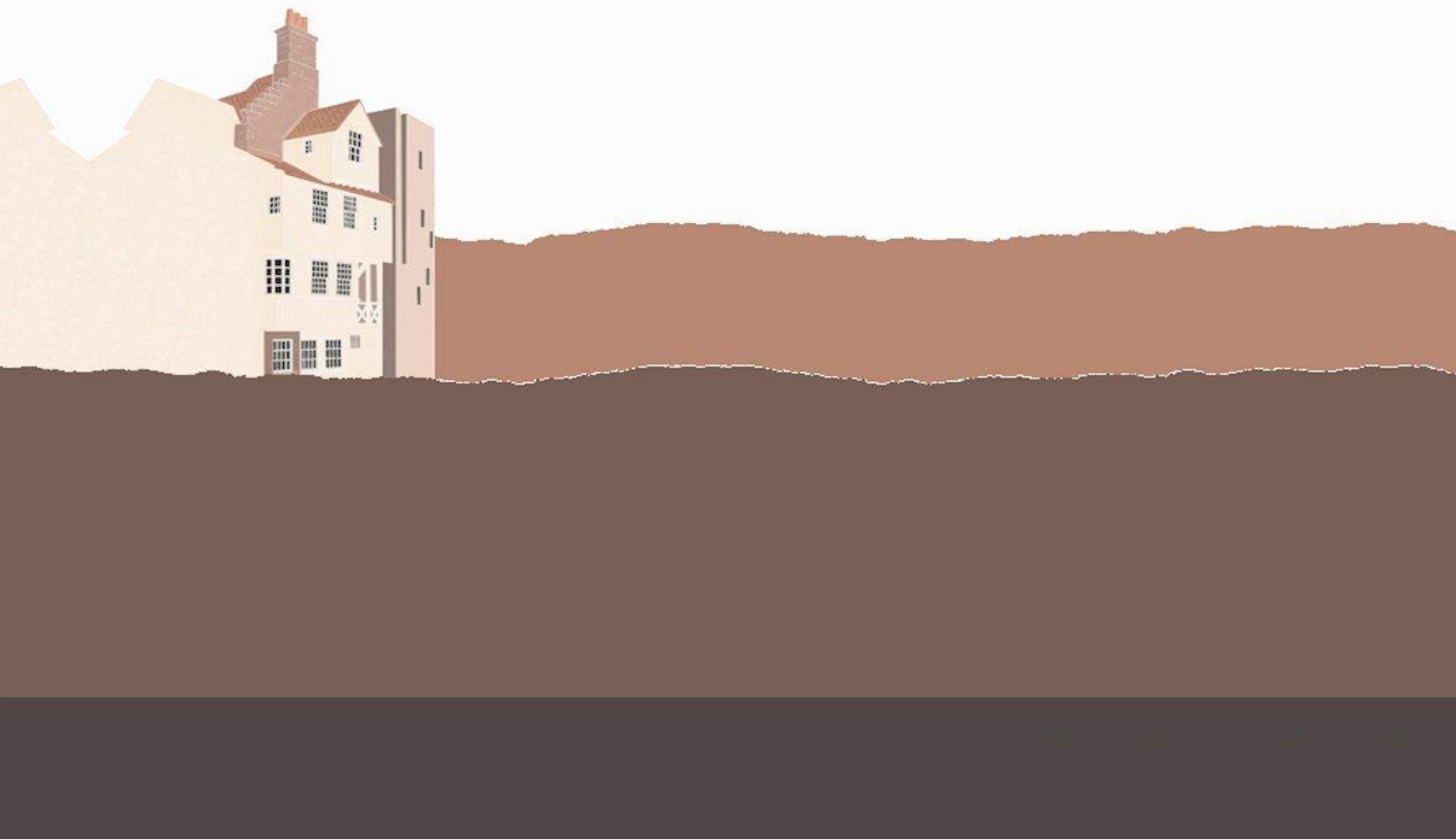
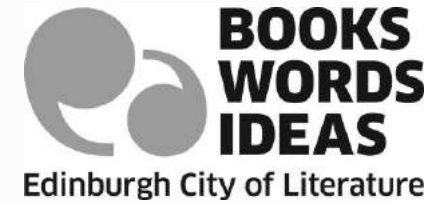


# EDINBURGH

MEMBERSHIP MONITORING REPORT 2017-2020

UNESCO City of Literature – Creative Cities Network



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## Lord Provost's Message

Edinburgh continues to wear its designation as the world's first UNESCO City of Literature with pride.

In our constantly changing global landscape, cities across the world are faced with tackling a number of challenges – social cohesion, sustainability, climate change, quality of education, and much more. Their role in responding to these issues is vital.

Edinburgh relies on the creative potential of its writers, readers, storytellers, illustrators, and so many other creatives, to foster cultural and social health, as well as to ensure sustainable development across the city. The last four years have seen great change occur in Edinburgh and our creative sector continues to work hard to ensure success and growth and to support Edinburgh's residents.

As a city, we are committed to honouring our literary heritage and promoting our thriving contemporary literary scene. We are also excited to continue forging links and partnerships with our fellow Creative Cities and Cities of Literature across the globe.

**Frank Ross, Rt. Hon. Lord Provost and Lord Lieutenant of the City of Edinburgh**

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Edinburgh was designated the world's first UNESCO City of Literature in October 2004 – the founding city in an international network of Creative Cities, working across seven artforms and spanning the globe.**

Edinburgh is at its heart a literary city – the home of world-famous writers, lyricists, screenwriters, playwrights, poets, novelists, storytellers, academics, illustrators, book artists and graphic fiction writers. It is the base of Scotland's national literature organisations and home to the world's largest public celebration of the written word, the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

**The 'City of Literature' title was first conceived in Edinburgh** in early 2000 and we were honoured when UNESCO incorporated the title into its then emerging Creative Cities Network programme.

Following our designation, the City of Literature office was established in 2005 and is run by the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust.

**We are an independent charity and work closely with the City of Edinburgh Council;** our small team is supported by volunteers, artists, stakeholders and partners.

Our programme across the years has been creative, award-winning and far reaching. From high profile citywide reading campaigns to one-day spectacles honouring our famous authors; international exchanges to local residencies; one-off conferences to monthly Literary Salons; press tours to promotions to support emerging writers; behind the scenes strategic coordination to inscription of quotations on prominent public city locations; digital hubs to support and leadership within an international network of Cities of Literature.

We believe that literature in its broadest sense enriches the soul and brings joy, and that it is a true way to understand and celebrate ourselves, our city and our nation. Through our work, we embrace literature in its widest and most glorious definition and seek to widen access so everyone can enjoy its creative expression.

It is sixteen years since our designation and we remain firm in our commitment to sharing best practice, developing partnerships, promoting creativity and the creative economy, strengthening engagement and participation in cultural life, and integrating culture and creativity in city development plans.

The last four years have seen a period of change and growth in Edinburgh and across Scotland. There have been successes in our creative field and plans for significant developments in the form of a Literature House for Scotland. We acknowledge challenges that face us all, and **equality, diversity and inclusion is a priority area for our sector.**

We look forward to the next four years as a UNESCO City of Literature. Our new Strategic Plan in 2021 will see us focus on building strong city partnerships, creating a physical base for Edinburgh's literary story, driving cultural tourism, diversity and freedom of expression, on both the national and international level. This work will help us and our partners achieve the objectives in the UNESCO Creative Cities' mission and the wider Sustainable Development Goals.

**Edinburgh is an outstanding literary city; we want everyone in Edinburgh to be part of it and to share our story with the world.**

*Ali Bowden, Director, Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust*

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

**CITY** Edinburgh

**COUNTRY** Scotland

**CREATIVE FIELD** Literature

**DATE OF DESIGNATION** October 2004

**DATE OF SUBMISSION OF THIS REPORT**

18 December 2020

**AUTHORITY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS REPORT**

Ali Bowden, Director

Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust

**PREVIOUS REPORTS AND SUBMISSION DATES**

UNESCO Monitoring Report (2012-2016)

Self-evaluation reports 2005 to 2011

**CONTACTS**

**Ali Bowden**, Director, City of Literature Trust

**Lynne Halfpenny**, Director of Culture, City of Edinburgh Council

*'It's impossible to live in Edinburgh without sensing its literary heritage everywhere.'*

*J.K. Rowling*





*Open Book Workshop*



*Opening of Scottish International Storytelling Festival 2017*



*Val McDermid and Poem for Message from the Skies 2018*



*StoryCon 2019 (Photo - Alasdair Watson)*

### 3. CONTRIBUTION TO THE NETWORK'S GLOBAL MANAGEMENT

Edinburgh has played an active role in the activities organised by the UNESCO Creative Cities Network and has made a significant contribution to developing the network.

#### 3.1 PARTICIPATION IN ANNUAL UCCN CONFERENCES

Over the past four years, Edinburgh has attended **ALL** the meetings of the UNESCO Creative Cities Network, in person or through virtual engagement (during Covid-19 move to digital conferences in 2020).

#### 3.2 HOSTING OF UCCN ANNUAL MEETING

Edinburgh did not host an annual meeting between 2017-2020. Every year we welcome visitors from designated or aspirant Cities of Literature as well as responding to enquiries from other art forms interested in joining the Creative Cities Network.

#### 3.3 HOSTING A WORKING/CO-ORDINATION MEETING

Edinburgh worked with Enghien-les-bains to arrange a meeting of the Literature sub-network (2017) as part of the annual UNESCO Creative Cities Conference. Edinburgh has participated in all Cities of Literature conferences between 2017 and 2020. In August 2006 and August 2008 we hosted a Cities of Literature conference as part of the Edinburgh International Book Festival. We participate in the UK CCN group.

#### 3.4 HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

Edinburgh hosted the Eurocities Conference in 2018 with strong representation from CCN member cities. The conference brings together 190 cities from 39 countries and considers how to build inclusive societies with culture playing a key role.

The Edinburgh International Culture Summit took place in 2018 and in 2020 (digital format), a biennial ministerial forum working to inspire positive change in cultural policy around the world.

#### 3.5 FINANCIAL AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPORT

We provide significant in-kind support to UNESCO including: the review of applications for designation, promotion of the network, engagement with UNESCO staff and the cost of attending annual and sub-group meetings.

#### 3.6 MEMBERSHIP OF THE STEERING GROUP

Edinburgh is currently not a member of the Steering Group. Edinburgh was the Chair of the Steering Group's predecessor: CCN Working Group.

#### 3.7 PARTICIPATION IN THE EVALUATION OF APPLICATIONS

The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust's staff and Trustees provided assistance with evaluation rounds for aspirant UNESCO Cities of Literature in 2017 and in 2019.

## 4. MAIN INITIATIVES AT THE LOCAL LEVEL

### 4.1. Message from the Skies

**OVERVIEW:** a high profile free annual cross-artform project bringing literature to Edinburgh's streets for all to enjoy.

In January 2018 Edinburgh's Hogmanay was extended to meet Burns Night with the launch of *Message from the Skies*. Running each night from 1-25 January, it was a free to attend multi-media installation of a new short story by Scottish author Val McDermid which championed women writers. Projected onto 12 of Edinburgh's landmarks, it formed a trail, and was designed to celebrate Edinburgh's status as a UNESCO City of Literature.

A mobile app guided users through the chapters and locations of Val McDermid's story and made it available in seven languages. There were over 35,000 sessions on the app. On average 185,000 people each year attend the Hogmanay and Winter Festivals programme, which includes *Message from the Skies*.

The project has since grown to incorporate other themes. In January 2019, in a unique cross art-form collaboration with ten of Scotland's leading artists, designers and musicians, six Scottish/Scotland-based writers penned a *Love Letter to Europe*. Each installation was projected onto a building in the capital to mark the beginning of the year we were predicted to leave the European Union.

In January 2020, *Message from the Skies* returned presenting five installations by Scottish artists responding to the idea of *Shorelines*. The work included writers Charlotte Runcie, Irvine Welsh, Kathleen Jamie, Kayus Bankole, Robin Robertson and 18 Scottish musicians, composers, film makers, designers, visual artists and performers.

<https://www.edinburghshogmanay.com/explore/view/message-from-the-skies-2020-returns-with-shorelines-as-part-of-edinburghs-hogmanay>



*Message from the Skies: Love Letters to Europe 2019*

The project is a partnership between Edinburgh's Hogmanay and Edinburgh International Book Festival and in collaboration with Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust.

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***





## 4.2. Desire Lines

**OVERVIEW:** Desire Lines was a Culture Plan public consultation, a dynamic citywide conversation and programme. Launched by the City of Edinburgh Council, it aligned the city's cultural policy with the needs of the creative community and shaped cultural funding in 2017-2020.

As part of the Desire Lines process, in 2014 Edinburgh's creative community mobilised to host a series of open public meetings across the city to ask the question 'what makes Edinburgh a culturally successful city?' An online survey completed by 292 people led to a call to action being created in 2015 highlighting the key issues raised by the 610 members of Edinburgh's creative community who contributed to the process.

Desire Lines stated clear shared beliefs and priorities:

- Inclusion and participation are at the heart of Edinburgh's cultural provision
- The importance of working in partnership with members of the cultural community
- Investment in creative education and opportunities for all, with accessibility as a key value
- Keeping Edinburgh's best interests at heart

As a result of the research and consultations, between 2017 and 2020, the City of Edinburgh Council created new funding streams including a £45,000 fund to support the creation of new performing artworks. New three-year Strategic Partnerships funding streams were created to support key cultural organisations.

The Desire Lines Steering Group remains active, with events and activities to champion culture and creativity in local development strategies, policies and plans.



*Desire Lines logo*

Desire Lines Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/DesireLinesEdin/>  
Desire Lines Background Info Booklet: [https://cultureedinburgh.com/sites/default/files/2019-01/DesireLines\\_booklet\\_SCREEN.pdf](https://cultureedinburgh.com/sites/default/files/2019-01/DesireLines_booklet_SCREEN.pdf)

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality
- Integrating culture and creativity into local development strategies, policies and plans

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***





### 4.3. WHAT'S YOUR STORY?

**OVERVIEW:** Launched by Scottish Book Trust in 2015, *What's Your Story?* supports Scotland's young writers and illustrators in creating peer-designed resources for creative teenagers.

The programme consists of three strands:

**StoryMag** - an online magazine showcasing young writers and illustrators aged 13-19

**StoryCon** - an annual creative writing and illustration conference for young people aged 13-19

**StoryBoard** - a writer development programme for seven 14-17 year-olds

In January 2017, Scottish Book Trust selected seven teenage writers and illustrators from across Scotland to take part in the programme, and the year kicked-off with a residency at the National Library of Scotland. More than 170 teenagers from 29 of Scotland's 32 local authorities signed up to the *What's Your Story?* online magazine conceived by the first batch of writers and illustrators.

StoryBoard, the first all-digital iteration of StoryCon launched with 17 virtual events held from 18-19 June 2020, welcoming 189 young people. 422 young people registered for the conference overall, with the pre-recorded and recorded live workshops on Scottish Book Trust's YouTube channel amassing over 1400 views.

Designed for teens by teens, *What's Your Story?* is a groundbreaking national programme engaging deeply with a hard to reach audience.

Website: <https://www.thestoryis.co.uk/>



StoryBoard with Scottish Book Trust 2019

*"There are really no words to describe how much StoryCon works wonders for people who want to meet new friends while working on valuable career skills."*

- Teen attendee at StoryCon, 2019

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



## 4.4. OPEN BOOK

**OVERVIEW:** Open Book runs weekly shared reading and writing sessions for a range of community and public participants across Scotland. Supported by a network of passionate volunteers, they have successfully broken down barriers and are connecting and nurturing a diverse range of new readers.

Since 2017, Open Book has also presented three shared reading sessions at the Edinburgh International Book Festival as part of their workshop programme. They currently run 12 public groups and nine community groups, working with a total of 13 libraries, five sheltered housing associations/care homes and nine prisons.

Website: <https://openbookreading.com/>

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aim:

- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalised or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



Open Book Workshop

## 4.5. CREATIVE INFORMATICS

**OVERVIEW:** Creative Informatics is a £10 million research and development programme running between 2018 and 2023 bringing the city's world-class creative industries and technology sector together to engage with new audiences and markets.

Creative Informatics nurtures local talent through five key funding programmes. The core partners are the University of Edinburgh, Napier University, Creative Edinburgh (a network of over 800 members) and CodeBase (the largest technology incubator in the UK and one of the fastest growing in Europe).

In May 2019, the City of Literature Trust won a place in the Creative Informatics Challenge Project. They were awarded £20,000 research and development funding and paired with award-winning design and interpretation companies. Together they are pioneering new digital experiences for Edinburgh's Literary Quarter using data-driven approaches and technologies for testing in 2021.

Website: <https://creativeinformatics.org/>

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aim:

- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



## 4.6. SUPER POWER AGENCY

**OVERVIEW:** The Super Power Agency is a charity working with Scotland's most disadvantaged and under-resourced young people in Edinburgh, running creative writing workshops, interdisciplinary programmes, and mentoring, which make learning fun.

Founded in early 2017 from private donation and with seed funding from the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust, the Super Power Agency follows a tried and tested model first pioneered in America, 826 National, and which has since been adopted by more than 50 organisations worldwide.

*Literacy is a bridge from misery to hope* – Kofi Annan

We face literacy challenges in Scotland; one quarter of all pupils leave primary school functionally illiterate. The Super Power Agency works to address this issue.

Since its formation the Agency has increased participation levels from around 30 students per term in 2018 to engaging with 700 young people in Edinburgh schools between January and April 2019. They are currently partnered with 12 schools in Edinburgh, working with over 200 volunteers and their student writing programme has produced fifteen books.

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aim:

- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality
- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector



*Super Power Agency School Workshop*

The City of Literature Trust provides office space and is working with the Super Power Agency to support them in reaching their long-term goals:

1. to create Edinburgh's first youth writing centre dedicated exclusively to young people aged 8 – 18 years; a safe space where they can write, create and thrive, and
2. to bring our writing workshops to schools and communities throughout Scotland

Super Power Agency: <https://superpoweragency.com>

826 National: <https://826national.org/>

Research: Curriculum for Excellence Achievements 2017/18: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/achievement-curriculum-excellence-cfe-levels-2017-18/pages/3/>

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***





## 5. MAIN INTERNATIONAL INITIATIVES

### 5.1. Outriders

**OVERVIEW:** Outriders is an ambitious commissioning programme with a £250,000 budget which explores the idea ‘that in shifting, disorienting times, a writer can make a unique contribution to our understanding of the world, giving voice to untold stories and providing new insights on contemporary geopolitical contexts.’

In 2017, the Edinburgh International Book Festival supported ten writers to travel on journeys across the Americas as part of their Outriders programme. Five Scottish writers (Harry Giles, Jenni Fagan, Malachy Tallack, Stef Smith and Kevin MacNeil) were sent on five journeys along predetermined routes in Canada, the USA, Mexico and Argentina. They were accompanied by local writers from their respective areas, exploring the idea that two people can share the same experience, yet produce entirely different creative responses. Their new work was showcased at the Book Festival in 2018.

Supported by Scottish Government funding, Outriders America won a coveted Herald Angel award for groundbreaking work.

In 2019, the programme expanded to incorporate the Americas, with ten further Outriders commissioned to take part in an international journey through Africa, engaging in discussions around migration, colonial legacies, inequalities and the impact of globalisation and environmental change. (*Covid-19 impacted on final journeys*)

**Outriders America:** <https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/press-release/edinburgh-international-book-festival-s-outriders-take-five-journeys-across-the-americas>

**Outriders Africa:** <https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/the-festival/whats-on/introducing-outriders-africa>



Edinburgh International Book Festival - Outriders Africa 2019

*"The Outriders Africa Project was a journey that sat with my vulnerabilities and, for me, cured them: to be naked before another, expecting chaos, and finding, with each turn that you are safe. It was a lovely experience. I would do it all over again!"*

- Donna Obaseki-Ogunnaike

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aim:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***





## 5.2. Global Storytelling Lab

**OVERVIEW:** The Edinburgh-based Scottish International Storytelling Festival took place from 21-25 October in 2019, and with the support of the Platforms for Creative Excellence Fund, ran the world's first Global Storytelling Lab.

Over five days the Lab explored the politics of folktales, ecological action through storytelling, wild nature, the art of conversation and mythic imagination. Storytellers from Spain, Italy, Canada, Norway, Scotland and the Caribbean lead participative sessions on how storytellers can respond to our contemporary crises.

In addition to First Nation Scottish storytellers, the Lab heard from other indigenous groups such as Ontario Regional Chief RoseAnne Archibald of Taykwa Tagamou Nation; the *Seanachaidh* Seoras Macpherson, as well as the Brazilian storyteller Anamaria Lines, who focused on the Amazon Rainforest, and the Spanish activist Grian Cutanda.

During the festival, Mr Cutanda launched the **world's first anthology of Earth Stories, aligned with the principles of the Earth Charter**, exploring the stories that foster a more sustainable relationship to the planet and motivate real change.

**Links:** <https://en.unesco.org/creative-cities/events/new-global-storytelling-lab-edinburgh-works-towards-sdgs>

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aim:

- Bolstering awareness-raising on the UCCN, as well as enhancing the impact of culture and creativity in sustainable urban development and supporting research, analysis and dissemination in this particular field



*Global Storytelling Lab performance*

The Global Lab is supported by funding from the PLACE Programme established by the City of Edinburgh Council and the Scottish Government. Since its inception, ticket sales average 180 each year, with 170 sold for the 2020 digital edition and attendance from 11 countries.

*'In 2019 the Storytelling Festival reached across boundaries of culture, nationality and race. Never have we had so much need of authentic communication. Storytelling is much more than spoken words. It expresses human connection, shares culture and makes us at home in the world.'*

- Donald Smith, Festival Director

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



### 5.3. Literary Programmers Exchange

**OVERVIEW:** The Literary Programmers Exchange took place in August 2018 between Melbourne and Edinburgh Cities of Literature. It was developed as a means for literary programmers to share skills, ideas and opportunities.

Hosted in 2018 by Edinburgh, seven delegates from Australia took part in a tailored programme of events across Edinburgh (City of Literature), Glasgow (City of Music) and Dundee (City of Design). It provided them with opportunities to network with other programmers, attend events which demonstrated the potential of live literature and meet with peers to discuss, in detail, aspects of their industry.

The tailored programme took place over 10 days, establishing over 20 potential partnerships, with 22 organisations participating, 26 events in the programme, and 2 facilitated discussion forums.

Scottish creatives benefited by forging links with like-minded Australian partners. A project evaluation report is available on request.

*'I learned so much on the trip. Not just about programming, but about people, and the importance of loving what you do and remembering why you're doing it... Meeting these people, discussing how and why we make planning and programming decisions, and sharing ideas and hopes for the future was by far the most beneficial part of the trip... I'd like to say an enormous thank you to...my fellow delegates who gave me so much joy and inspiration, and have already made me better at my job(s).'*

- **Marian Blythe, Director  
Homecooked Comic Festival**

**Links:** <http://cityofliterature.com.au/edinburgh-exchange>



Melbourne City of Literature Streetscape

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

*'The exchange program offered by the Melbourne City of Literature Office was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity... some of the deepest and most productive learning took place in discussions with representatives from other literary organisations both Edinburgh based and from further afield... One of the most important 'take away' learnings from the experience was that literary and cultural programmers face similar challenges in the UK as we face here.'*

- **Maryanne Vagg, Events and Programming  
Geelong Regional Library Corporation**

**This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:**







Reading Havens literary quarter community project 2019



Canongate Stars and Stories literary quarter community project 2017



John Knox House artwork, part of the Literature House project 2020

## 6. ACTION PLAN FOR THE FORTHCOMING MID-TERM PERIOD OF FOUR YEARS

### 6.1 Local Level Initiatives

#### 6.1.1 The Literature House

**OVERVIEW:** The Literature House project is the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust's flagship project for 2021-2024 – a bold and transformative infrastructure project which will substantially enhance Edinburgh's offer and profile as a literary city, year-round.

It will see the creation of a Literature House at John Knox House and will build on and expand the success of the Scottish Storytelling Centre for all. It will provide Edinburgh with a unique opportunity to transform its understanding of itself and its literary story for the 480,000 residents of the city, and for the visitors that walk its streets.

The ambition is that this new space will provide a year-round welcome with information, ideas and inspiration to help people connect with Edinburgh as a literary city, and Scotland as a literary nation. Substantial investment in the Scottish Storytelling Centre will create a harmonious companion to the Literature House, and together they will form **a dedicated year-round arts venue specialising in literature.**

This will be the place to discover Scotland's literary heritage and contemporary creativity, and learn more about incredible books, storytellers, and writers. The Literature House is a dynamic space where contemporary design and historic architecture meet to create an evolving, immersive reading experience. It will provide a home for Edinburgh's literary story and bring Scotland's story of great Scottish writing, past and present, to life.

**Budget and Timeline:** this is a partnership project bringing together the public and private sector. Scheduled to begin its first phase of building work in 2022, the project has a **fundraising target of £2.5 million.** It is currently at feasibility study stage with further community consultation in 2021.

**Urban Development and Community Engagement:** the project will enhance Edinburgh's Literary Quarter: the Netherbow area of the Royal Mile. There are plans to develop the honeycomb of buildings, gardens, closes and streetscape in and around the Scottish Storytelling Centre and John Knox House, to create a calm and welcoming space, introducing literature and art into the streetscape.

Working closely with the City of Edinburgh Council and local partners, a programme of consultations has provided guidance on the nature of activity to be developed in the location. The ambition is to connect deeply with Edinburgh's residents of all ages, and create a year-round focal point, which will make connections across the literary community.

**Equality, Diversity and Inclusion:** the Literature House development has a particular focus on re-dressing the gender imbalance in how literary heritage is presented, supporting programming by and for marginalised groups and establishing an schools engagement programme around our story as a literary city and a nation built on books and reading.

**Links:** <https://cityofliterature.com/literature-house/>

This project helps to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Improving access to and participation in cultural life, notably for marginalized or vulnerable groups and individuals, and fostering youth engagement and gender equality
- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

**Contributes to SDGs – 3,4,5,10,11**



## 6.1.2 Scottish Books International

**OVERVIEW:** Scottish Books International is a new Edinburgh-based service that works on behalf of the literature sector in Scotland, dedicated to the international promotion of books, writers, festivals and organisations.

Following a period of scoping and research in 2018, it is now taking a strategic and co-ordinated approach acting as a connecting force for Scottish literature overseas, fostering partnerships with organisations, facilitating cultural exchange for writers, and supporting publishers to develop a stronger presence in foreign markets. It is acting as a key point of contact for the Scottish sector, building relationships with Scotland and other territories.

The pilot initiative of Scottish Book International is its Author International Travel Fund. A £15,000 was launched in 2019 and provides grants of up to £1000 to support Scottish authors invited to festivals and events overseas. The fund has so far supported 13 Scottish writers with travel to New Zealand, France, Ireland, Italy, Australia, The United States, Indonesia, Portugal, China, Poland and Japan.

Scottish Books International is a partnership service set up by Publishing Scotland and the Edinburgh International Book Festival in conjunction with Creative Scotland. A £30,000 fund to support a dedicated Scottish Books International Manager role was established in 2018 and the role is under review for future development.

Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust was involved in the initial scoping work and connects Scottish Books International with opportunities across the UNESCO Cities of Literature network.

**Links:** <https://scottishbooksinternational.org/>



*Author Michael Pederson – Travel Fund beneficiary*

**FUTURE:** 2021-24: The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust will look for opportunities to more closely link Scottish Books International's programme with cities across the UNESCO Creative Cities Network for mutual benefit.

This project will help to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



## 6.2 International Level Initiatives

### 6.2.1 City of Literature International Residencies Programme

**OVERVIEW: The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust is leading work to create a permanent residency space in an historic building in the centre of Edinburgh. The ambition is that artists from around the world who specialise in literature will be invited to stay in Edinburgh and create work for its reading and writing communities.**

Each year the City of Literature Trust hope to invite organisations and community groups from across Edinburgh to work with them to programme residencies. The successful organisations/groups would act as host and invite the artist to participate in their programme and community work. Although very strong on international working, the programme could also include artists from across Scotland who need time in Edinburgh to develop their work.

The project will be a public-private partnership and will be led by the Trust who will manage the space and programme, and secure funding from private and public sources. It will be in partnership with the Lord Provost's office and the City of Edinburgh Council who own the building. Fundraising is underway for the estimated £300,000 building cost and for additional annual programme cost.

*"I had the opportunity to work on my novel for a whole month...as I'm not yet a full-time writer, it was one of the greatest experiences."*

- Ahsan Ridha Hassan

This project will help to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
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**MEETING NEED:** No such literature-dedicated residency space exists in the city and the work is anticipated as a key part of the Trust's 2021-24 international programme to support Edinburgh's designation as a UNESCO City of Literature and connect with cities across the UCCN.

**INTERNATIONAL LINKS:** In particular the residency space will connect Edinburgh with residency programmes in 38 Cities of Literature and build on the Trust's current exchange programme: 2018: Ahsan Ridha Hassan from Krakow City of Literature; 2019: Laetitia Rascle Beaumel from Quebec City of Literature; 2021: Megan O'Brien from Melbourne City of Literature.

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



*Ahsan Ridha Hassan and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh 2019*

## 6.2.2 Literature House Research

**OVERVIEW:** Working with academic partners, the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust has created a funded 3.5 year postgraduate studentship post (2021-24) to research ‘The Literature House in the Digital Age: New Directions for Literary Heritage’ and share findings internationally.

This inter-disciplinary research project will situate the Edinburgh Literature House within the history of such global institutions, to establish a context for an investigation of how the Literature House can now meet the needs of communities and stakeholders in an era of rapid technological change.

The project will involve historical and theoretical research, and the gathering and analysis of quantitative and qualitative data regarding user and stakeholder attitudes, expectations and modes of engagement. It will also involve analysis of how digital capabilities might be used within the Literature House project to fulfil strategic objectives, engaging users at local, national and global levels.

**PARTNERS and BUDGET:** Funded by the Scottish Funding Council and the Scottish Graduate School for the Arts and Humanities Research Council Scotland with support from Edinburgh Napier University and the University of Edinburgh: approximately £70,000.

**OUTCOMES:** This project represents the first of its kind, providing a fully original and innovative theorisation and historicisation of the international Literature House model, and new insights on the role of Literature Houses in local and national culture. The research outcomes, both theoretical and applied, will make a substantial contribution to multiple areas of scholarship, including Digital and Public Humanities, cultural heritage and tourism studies, and transnational literary studies.

The research will play a pivotal role in Edinburgh, shaping the evolving Literature House design and curation and further Literary Quarter developments, impacting demonstrably on uses of the city centre and audience engagement with local heritage.

Existing Literature Houses in the UNESCO Cities of Literature network will feature as case-studies and the final research will be shared with the wider UNESCO Creative Cities Network to provide an evidence base for best practice in urban development and community engagement policies and practices in a digital era.

This project will help to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Developing hubs of creativity and innovation and broadening opportunities for creators and professionals in the cultural sector
- Integrating culture and creativity into local development strategies, policies and plans
- Bolstering awareness-raising on the UCCN, as well as enhancing the impact of culture in sustainable urban development

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***



## 6.2.3 UNESCO National Trail

**OVERVIEW:** The UNESCO National Trail in Scotland is a digital trail to be launched in 2021 by the UK National Commission for UNESCO in partnership with Visit Scotland and UNESCO Scotland designations.

The first of its kind, the digital trail will connect the 13 place-based UNESCO designations in Scotland to enhance the economic and social well-being of their respective local areas through sustainable tourism.

It is the first trail that brings together UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, Global Geoparks and Creative Cities, encouraging visitors to stay longer and spend more locally, improving, in turn, the quality of life of those communities.

The trail is aligned with public agencies in its approach, as well as with the Scottish Government's National Performance Framework, and it aims to reduce inequalities and to give equal importance to economic, environmental and social progress.

The project aims to position Scotland as a place that celebrates, champions and offers world-leading educational, scientific, cultural and sustainable tourism via UNESCO.

**PARTNERS and BUDGET:** The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust is a member of the Steering Group. Funded by the Scottish Government, the project is being delivered by VisitScotland with a six figure budget; the exact budget and timeline will be announced in 2021.

**Links:** <https://unesco.org.uk/case-studies/the-unesco-national-trail-in-scotland/>

**National Values Report:** <https://unesco.org.uk/national-value>



*The Heart of Neolithic Orkney - UNESCO*

**CULTURAL LEADERSHIP:** The UNESCO National Trail was a concept devised by Fiona Hyslop, Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, Scottish Government.

This project will help to achieve the following UNESCO Creative Cities Network aims:

- Strengthening the creative economy, notably through the creation, production, distribution and enjoyment of cultural goods and services
- Integrating culture and creativity into local development strategies, policies and plans
- Bolstering awareness-raising on the UCCN, as well as enhancing the impact of culture in sustainable urban development

***This project contributes to the advancement of the following UNESCO Sustainable Development Goals:***





### 6.3. Estimated annual budget for implementing the proposed action plan

**NOTE: Strategic planning and budget cycles have been heavily disrupted by the Covid-19 global pandemic in 2020 and by financial uncertainty relating to Britain's exit from the EU on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.**

#### Strategic Planning Schedule

For the reasons noted above the preparation of the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust's 2021-24 Business Plan has been delayed until Summer 2021. The City of Edinburgh Council and our cultural partners in the city are facing similar issues. The situation in the UK is too uncertain at this point in time (December 2020) and so we have decided not to include detailed budget figures or projections for 2021-24. Our annual Directors' Reports are available on request.

To avoid presenting inaccurate information we have only presented detail on two main local initiatives which are literary infrastructure developments.

However, we would like to note that in 2018 we organised the first Scottish UNESCO-designated Creative Cities Collaboration, bringing together Dundee (Design), Glasgow (Music) and Edinburgh (Literature) and we would hope to initiate similar projects in the future. We also have an ambition to create a new Literature Strategy for Edinburgh as part of our literary ecology work with partners.

#### A Period of Transition

We are in the process of transitioning our organisation by integrating with two other cultural partners as we work towards delivering our Literature House project and, after sixteen years of work, evolving our model for how we support the City of Literature designation. We will happily share our strategic planning documents in 2021 when they have been completed.

### Context and Background

The Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust is an independent company with charitable status. We fundraise to deliver our programme and on average we have an annual turnover of between £150-200,000; we are in a period of transition as we evolve our organisation and we have a fundraising target of £2.5 million for our flagship Literature House project. Between 2017 and 2019 we successfully diversified our income streams to reduce our reliance on public funding and will continue to do so in 2021-24.

In 2019 we formed a Strategic Partnership with Scottish Book Trust, Scottish Poetry Library and Traditional Arts and Culture Scotland, and we have a pledge of three-year (2020-23) funded support from the City of Edinburgh Council, our long-term partner. We also gratefully acknowledge support from trusts, foundations, donors and programme partners.

The City of Literature Trust spend should be placed within a wider context of creativity being supported in our city. Edinburgh is the home to the majority of Scotland's national literature organisations and key publishing houses, festivals and research institutions. Through their programmes they contribute many millions each year to sustaining literature and creative engagement in the city.

As a broader guide, cultural spend in our city in 2019/20 (baseline City of Edinburgh Council cultural grants budget, excluding libraries and Museums and Galleries) was £4,589,430.

*Source: City of Edinburgh Council, Cultural Services, 2020.*

### 6.4. Communication Plan – please see Appendix 1.

## 7. INITIATIVES UNDERTAKEN IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

In March 2020, as the global pandemic took hold, the UK entered a period of lockdown which lasted until July 2020. Between August and December 2020, regions across the UK have been in differing levels of restriction. Across all regions and throughout 2020 library services and author/book events, festivals, community programmes and book retail have been substantially affected or entirely closed down. Companies and organisations have worked and continue to work in a very challenging environment.

Below we list of some of the activity which took place, led by literature organisations, in order to support communities and the creative sector across Scotland in 2020. It is by no means exhaustive and we feel a list provides a more useful overview of the type and range of activity undertaken, than just one or two examples. We have also included some information on wider culture sector support and lobbying during 2020; full details of each piece of work are listed in Appendix 4.

**Scottish International Storytelling Festival community programme success**

<https://www.sisf.org.uk/community-programme/>

**Edinburgh Libraries deliver books to children shielding at home**

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/05/children-get-hundreds-of-books-delivered/>

**Edinburgh International Book Festival works with Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital**

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/bringing-story-nation-to-edinburgh-s-sick-children-s-hospital>

**Storytelling Festival online success**

<https://www.sisf.org.uk/>

**Scottish Book Trust brings books to families using food banks**  
<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/donate/christmas-appeal>

**The world's largest book festival of its kind moved online**

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/you-can-t-keep-a-good-festival-down-our-first-online-book-festival-draws-to-a-close>

**Cities of Literature share best practice**

<https://cityofliterature.com/>

**The National Library of Scotland reaches out online**

<https://www.nls.uk/news/latest>

**Scottish Literature organisations lobby Scottish Government for sector support**

<https://www.publishingscotland.org/>  
<https://literaturealliancescotland.co.uk/>

**Edinburgh Festivals support families with free online resources**

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/news/1093-online-fun-for-all-the-family>

**Culture Counts lobbies Scottish Government to provide three-year culture budget**

<https://culturecounts.scot/news/2020/12/11/media-release-call-for-3-year-culture-buget>

**Scottish Government culture and creative sector support for those working in the cultural and creative industries**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-culture-and-creative-sector-support/>

**Scottish Government creative industries support**

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/creative-industries/>

## Appendix 1: Communications Plan

We are working on the development of a new communications plan in line with our organisation's transition – as we look to integrate our work with two other cultural partners in the delivery of our Literature House project. New members of staff will be appointed in this area, building on our past work of raising awareness of the UCCN Creative Cities goals and ambitions within Edinburgh and wider network contexts locally, nationally, and internationally. This work will revolve around and expand upon the following:

**AIM:** CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT which physically and digitally connects people from all over the world to our City of Literature, increasing engagement with and investment in literature. The focus will be on encouraging and widening participation in literary Edinburgh, particularly by collaborating effectively with partners and stakeholders, and utilising easy to access, widely available digital tools.

### AUDIENCES:

1. **The Literary City** Edinburgh's readers, writers, event organisers, organisations, professionals, students, and visitors
2. **The Literary Network** UNESCO City of Literature Network, Creative Cities Network, and international partners
3. **Stakeholders** organisations and individuals supporting our activities as it helps them achieve their objectives

**TOOLS:** We have at our disposal a range of platforms that will be used in the most appropriate manner to convey certain messages to our different audience groups:

**Facebook** [facebook.com/edinburghcityofliterature](https://www.facebook.com/edinburghcityofliterature)

**Twitter** [twitter.com/EdinCityOfLit](https://twitter.com/EdinCityOfLit)

**Website** [www.cityofliterature.com](http://www.cityofliterature.com)

**Instagram** [@EdinCityofLit](https://www.instagram.com/EdinCityofLit)

*“Edinburgh City of Literature has a strong social media profile and an exceptionally rich cache of historical and contemporary content.”*

Gavin Inglis, writer and digital consultant

Through our communication work we will connect people to place by:

1. **Promoting Edinburgh locally, nationally and internationally as a leading City of Literature**
  - Through marketing and PR activity specific to promoting projects within our programme
  - Through our digital strategy and communications work plan (website/database, social media)
  - Through work with key promotional bodies (VisitScotland)
2. **Connecting partners to create opportunities and develop/ sustain our City of Literature**
  - Through active participation in the Cities of Literature network and communication forums
  - Through the development of the Literature House and Literary Quarter, as a gateway into the City of Literature
  - Through reporting achievements, benefits and impact to stakeholders, partners and audiences
3. **Communicating the work and impact of the Trust**
  - Through our role as Board member for Literature Alliance Scotland
  - Through the creation of effective communication tools and channels (ie. website, newsletter, meetings, database)

### OUTCOME:

Our ultimate goal is to connect people to place and increase engagement with, and investment in, literature which benefits all.



## Appendix 2 – Our Literary City

Below is a list of the key literary organisations based in Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature and some of the flagship programmes they have been running in the 2017-2020 period of this report.

### Book Week Scotland

A week-long celebration of books and reading that takes place every November, Book Week Scotland is organised by Scottish Book Trust. In the first five years, Book Week Scotland delivered over 3000 events, distributed over 700,000 books and reached an estimated audience of over 2.25 million people. In 2019 alone, over 40,000 people attended over 1,300 public events, 35,000 school pupils took part in additional activities across the country, and 100,000 copies of a new book of true stories written by the people of Scotland were published and gifted.

[www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/book-week-scotland)

### Bookbug

Bookbug is a national programme delivered by Scottish Book Trust which gifts book bags to every child in Scotland. Every year Bookbug gives approximately 240,000 free books to Scotland's very youngest citizens. From birth, every child in Scotland receives four Bookbug bags to support their development and lay the building blocks for reading and writing. Free Bookbug Sessions run in libraries and community venues across the country and are a safe and fun place for families to read, cuddle, sing and rhyme with their babies and toddlers from birth. In 2016-2017, the programme gifted approximately 180,000 bags across Scotland, and delivered 23,670 Bookbug sessions to 687,251 adults and children. More than 14,000 vulnerable families have also experienced Bookbug's Outreach Programme.

[www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com/bookbug)

### Booked! Programme

This programme sees the Edinburgh International Book Festival go on the road around Scotland throughout the year, funded by players of People's Postcode Lottery. A celebration of words and ideas, Booked! blends the very best from groups and organisations across the country with the energy and excitement of the August Book Festival. Produced in collaboration with a variety of partners, this wide-ranging programme of events and activities brings authors, artists and audiences together to inspire each other and to be inspired, to share stories and experiences, and bring books to life for people of all ages in their own communities. In 2016, it travelled to ten different towns and cities in Scotland, as well as popping up in venues across Edinburgh, engaging with almost 10,000 people of all ages, and working with over 100 authors and artists. It held events in two prisons – HMP Edinburgh and HMP Greenock –reaching 70 inmates and hosted sessions for 32 pupils with Additional Support Needs and provided two events entirely in Gaelic. In 2017, 5,700 people attended or took part in the programme.

[www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/a-year-in-booked](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/a-year-in-booked)

### City of Edinburgh Libraries

Edinburgh has 28 libraries, 23 school libraries, three mobile libraries, a book bus and a car home service. In 2018-19 they issued over 1.6 million books, 911,942 online downloads, welcomed over 3 million visitors, saw over 132,000 under 16s attend activities and events, received over 6,000 members under the age of 16, and over 26,000 over the age of 16. In October 2016 the library service won a COSLA Excellence Award for its ground-breaking work to support visually impaired people. Its digital engagement work has won multiple awards over the years.

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/libraries)

## **Creative Scotland**

Creative Scotland is the public body that supports the arts, screen and creative industries across all parts of Scotland on behalf of everyone who lives, works or visits here. They enable people and organisations to work in and experience the arts, by helping others to develop great ideas and bring them to life. They distribute funding from the Scottish Government and The National Lottery to literature organisations in Scotland. They act as an advocacy organisation for arts in Scotland and the literature department staff also provides advice and expertise to support Edinburgh literature organisations. In 2018/2019, Creative Scotland awarded £80.5m in funding to 1257 recipients. They reported that their £34.4 million funding via the Regularly Funded Organisations programme resulted in a £105 million partnership funding 5074 jobs, 56818 shows, performances and exhibitions, 15977 development events, and with a total of 5.7 million audience members reached. In Scotland 5926 young people living in deprived communities benefited from CashBack for Creativity projects.

[www.creativescotland.com](http://www.creativescotland.com)

## **Edinburgh International Book Festival**

The Festival began in 1983 and is now a key event in the August Festival season, celebrated annually in Scotland's capital city. Biennial at first, the Book Festival became a yearly celebration in 1997. Throughout its history, the Book Festival has grown rapidly in size and scope to become the largest and most dynamic festival of its kind in the world. In its first year the Book Festival played host to just 30 'Meet the Author' events. In 2018, the Festival documented over 260,00 visits, with 957 events and 1,190 participants. The programme brought authors, artists and participants from 62 countries, selling 152,223 tickets in total.

[www.edbookfest.co.uk](http://www.edbookfest.co.uk)

## **Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust**

This is the development agency for Edinburgh as a UNESCO City of Literature. It works to bring literature to the streets of Edinburgh, involving people in the city's literary life, bringing organisations to work together collaboratively for greater impact, and sharing Edinburgh's literary story with the world. Through the work of its Founding Trustees, Edinburgh was designated the world's first UNESCO City of Literature in 2004. A permanent title celebrating Edinburgh's status as a literary capital and pioneer in the UNESCO Creative Cities network, which now has 246 member cities in seven creative artforms across the globe. The concept of a City of Literature was devised in Edinburgh by the Trust's founding members and there are now 39 UNESCO Cities of Literature in the world.

[www.cityofliterature.com](http://www.cityofliterature.com)

## **Literature Alliance Scotland**

Literature Alliance Scotland is a membership organisation committed to advancing the interests of literature and languages at home and abroad. It was founded in 2015 to succeed the Literature Forum for Scotland. As Scotland's largest network for literature and languages, it brings together writers, publishers, educators, librarians, literature organisations and national and cultural bodies. In 2019 it launched its Next Level career development programme for mid-career arts professionals, and regularly conducts a series of plans through Advocacy and Communications, Partnerships and International Developments, Literature Day and Events, and Professional Development.

[www.literaturealliancescotland.co.uk](http://www.literaturealliancescotland.co.uk)

## **National Library of Scotland**

The National Library of Scotland is a reference library with world-class collections. It is also Scotland's largest library and one of the major research libraries in Europe, making it the leading centre for the study of Scotland and the Scots. In 2018/19, there were over 2,409,705m additions to their collections, 40,382 hidden collections catalogued, and 201,679 items from their collections digitised. They received 6,080 new library members, 5,384,00 website visitors, over 63,000 reading room visits and over 66,000 people attending exhibitions, events, workshops and tours. The Library collects around 5,000 items each week, and has material in 490 languages.

[www.nls.uk](http://www.nls.uk)

## **Neu! Reekie!**

Edinburgh's leading avant-garde spoken word, film and music fusion night. In 2016 Neu! Reekie! performed in Japan as a guest of the Creative Cities, and in 2017 performed at the Kosmopolis Festival as a guest of Barcelona UNESCO City of Literature.

[neureekie.tumblr.com](http://neureekie.tumblr.com)

## **Open Book**

Open Book runs weekly shared reading and writing sessions for a range of community and public participants across Scotland. Supported by a network of passionate volunteers, they have successfully broken down barriers and are connecting and nurturing a diverse range of new readers. They run 12 public groups and nine community groups, working with a total of 13 libraries, five sheltered housing associations/care homes and nine prisons.

[www.openbookreading.com](http://www.openbookreading.com)

## **Publishing Scotland**

Publishing Scotland is a membership body and charity that celebrated its 45th anniversary in 2019. It is a central resource for Scottish publishing, providing resources, events, conferences and comprehensive listings. It runs a range of training opportunities, from proof-reading to self-publishing and business writing, and offers space at book fairs around the UK. It is also the parent company of Booksource, which is a distribution company for books. In 2018/19, 242 delegates attended their Scottish Book Trade conference, 45 librarians and publishers attended the Libraries Day they ran with the Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC), 180 people attended their training courses, 27 international publishers were recipients of their translation funding, and 10 international publishers visited Scotland as Fellows in August 2019.

[www.publishingscotland.org](http://www.publishingscotland.org)

## **Saltire Society Literary Awards**

The Saltire Society Literary Awards are regarded as Scotland's most prestigious book awards, representing a long-standing commitment from the Edinburgh-based Saltire Society to celebrate and support literary achievement. They are run entirely on the basis of the voluntary commitment of a panel of expert judges. The Awards are split into five categories: Book of the Year, First Book of the Year, Poetry Book of the Year, History Book of the Year, and Research Book of the Year, with a £2,000 prize. There is also a highly valued Scottish Publisher of the Year Award. Previous winners include Michel Faber, Alasdair Gray and A.L. Kennedy.

[www.saltiresociety.co.uk](http://www.saltiresociety.co.uk)



### **Scottish BAME Writers Network (SBWN)**

Founded in 2018, the Scottish BAME Writers Network aims to connect Scottish BAME Writers with the wider literary sector in Scotland. The Network partners with literary organisations to facilitate necessary conversations around inclusive programming in an effort to address and overcome systemic barriers. SBWN prioritises BAME-led opportunities and is keen to bring focus to diverse literary voices while remaining as accessible as possible to marginalised groups. In 2019, the Network received funding from The Royal Society of Literature to host a series of Visiting Writer Workshops with Raman Mundair, Nadine Aisha Jassat and Leila Aboulela. They also run a Writers of Colour group.

[www.scottishbamewritersnetwork.org/](http://www.scottishbamewritersnetwork.org/)

### **Scottish Book Trust**

Scottish Book Trust is a national charity and the leading agency for the promotion of literature in Scotland, developing innovative projects to encourage adults and children to read, write and be inspired by books. They are based in Edinburgh. In 2018 they gave away over 980,000 free books and delivered 1601 events reaching audiences of 63,494 across Scotland. In their Book Week Scotland programme, they gifted free books, writing materials and games to all 130,000 Primary 2 and 3 pupils in Scotland and delivered 692,205 free books from Bookbug to 230,735 children, and grew their fundraising income by 20%.

[www.scottishbooktrust.com](http://www.scottishbooktrust.com)

### **Scottish International Storytelling Festival**

Based primarily in Edinburgh, the Scottish International Storytelling Festival takes place in October each year and brings together a large number of Scottish and international storytellers and musicians from across the globe. The programme provides diverse events, for those completely new to storytelling through to guests wanting to develop their storytelling skill. In 2019 the SISF celebrated its 31st anniversary. Exploring old traditions and new connections, the festival showcased how music, dance and story communicate shared experiences that are 'Beyond Words'.

[www.sisf.org.uk](http://www.sisf.org.uk)

### **Scottish Storytelling Centre**

The Scottish Storytelling Centre is the home of Scottish storytelling, telling tales in English, Scots and Gaelic. It is a modern and vibrant arts venue located on Edinburgh's Royal Mile, dedicated to maintaining the power of Scottish stories, past and present, as well as paving the way for new forms of storytelling to evolve. It hosts a compelling year round programme, including an annual ten-day Scottish International Storytelling Festival, which was founded in 1989. In 2018 it won the Sunday Herald's Culture Award for Best Performing Arts Venue.

[www.tracsscotland.org](http://www.tracsscotland.org)

### **Scottish PEN**

Scottish PEN is part of International PEN, a dynamic worldwide association of writers pledged to protect freedom of expression and promote literature across frontiers throughout the world. Over the years PEN has evolved into a dynamic global organisation committed to campaigning for writers under threat and supporting cross-cultural exchange. Scottish PEN has been growing steadily and welcomes new members. Scottish PEN organises events throughout the year in different parts of Scotland.

[www.scottishpen.org](http://www.scottishpen.org)

### **Scottish Poetry Library**

The Scottish Poetry Library is a unique national resource and advocate for the art of poetry, particularly Scottish poetry, and is the only purpose-built poetry library in Europe, perhaps even the world. It offers one-to-one coaching sessions for poets, a programme of poetry surgeries, hosts a facilitated book reading group, and holds regular exhibitions to showcase Scottish poets. In 2017, the SPL hosted 92 events involving 162 poets, encouraged nearly one million people to visit their website, gave away 142,000 downloads of free poetry resources, added 2,020 items to their catalogue, and welcomed 447 new borrowers.

[www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk](http://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk)

### **Society of Authors in Scotland**

The SoA in Scotland is a regional group of the Society of Authors. The SoAiS organises a varied and busy calendar of activities through a committee of volunteers. Activities of the Group are reported in the SoA's quarterly magazine, *The Author*. In 2018, SoAiS hosted a lively programme of events including a crime event at Glamis Castle, a writing retreat at Moniak Mhor, get-togethers in the Borders, and a Future Proof event focused on traditional publishing and self-publishing alongside Creative Scotland.

[www.societyofauthors.org](http://www.societyofauthors.org)

### **The Writers' Museum and Makars' Court**

Celebrating the lives of three great Scottish writers – Robert Burns, Sir Walter Scott and Robert Louis Stevenson, visitors can see portraits, rare books and personal objects. In 2015 the Museum was renovated to improve visitor experience and hosted 47,280 visitors in the same year. The area beside the museum in Makers' Court is an evolving national literary monument – a peaceful public space with inscribed flagstones which celebrate Scottish writers from the 14<sup>th</sup> century to the present day.

[www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Venues/The-Writers--Museum/Makars--Court](http://www.edinburghmuseums.org.uk/Venues/The-Writers--Museum/Makars--Court)

## Appendix 3 – Our Creative Industries

The following provides a snapshot of key research, policy development and activity providing the strategic framework for Edinburgh as a literary and cultural capital.

### CITY OF EDINBURGH COUNCIL – CULTURAL SERVICES

The Cultural Services section of the Economic Development sector of the City of Edinburgh Council makes sure Edinburgh has **a strong sustainable economy and is seen as a prosperous place in which to live, work and study or visit**. They provide grants to cultural organisations including literature organisations such as the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust. The staff provides expert insight and guidance to organisations in the city and lead on the development of cultural policy.

[www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/152/performance\\_directory/category/318/categoryInfo/10](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/directory/152/performance_directory/category/318/categoryInfo/10)

### CREATIVE EDINBURGH – SUPPORTING EDINBURGH’S CREATIVE INDUSTRIES

Launched in 2010 and supported by the City of Edinburgh Council, this is the **largest network of creatives in Edinburgh with over 4000 members** working across the creative industries. It is committed to advancing the value and impact of creativity, both locally and internationally. The organisation works to help creative individuals and businesses create, collaborate and stay connected at every stage of their careers. Creative Edinburgh is a community that increases the capacity of creative individuals and businesses to experiment, innovate and succeed. It enables inter-generational and intercultural dialogue and community building with peer support and advice aimed at igniting working relationships across sectors.

[www.creative-edinburgh.com/](http://www.creative-edinburgh.com/)

The 2016-2017 Creative Industries Strategy outlined a number of goals for the 12 months to help inform and support the work of some 14,000 creative businesses in Scotland across 16 sub-sectors.

*Creative Industries Strategy 2016-2017*

[https://www.creativescotland.com/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/34918/CS-Creative-Industries-Strategy-2016-17.pdf](https://www.creativescotland.com/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/34918/CS-Creative-Industries-Strategy-2016-17.pdf)

### CREATIVE SCOTLAND – NATIONAL LITERATURE REVIEW

Published in July 2015, this independent study provides an overview of contemporary literature provision, reflecting the successes and the distinct qualities of Literature and Publishing in Scotland whilst at the same time identifying development needs, future challenges and opportunities which will help inform the future work to best support literature and publishing in Scotland. The review, commissioned by Creative Scotland, was overseen by a Steering Group made up from representatives from the literature and publishing sector, including the Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature Trust.

*Report:*

[www.creativescotland.com/resources/our-publications/sector-reviews/literature-and-publishing-sector-review](http://www.creativescotland.com/resources/our-publications/sector-reviews/literature-and-publishing-sector-review)



## DESIRE LINES – NEW CULTURAL POLICY

Desire Lines was a call to action from Edinburgh’s cultural community, born out of a dynamic city-wide conversation that produced a series of clear aims and actions in developing a cultural policy for Edinburgh. As a result of Desire Lines, in 2017 the City of Edinburgh Council **launched new three year Strategic Partnerships funding and a new Culture Fund to support performing artists in Edinburgh**. The aim of this fund is to address gaps in support available across the city and the fund will support artist-led projects in Edinburgh, that propose new ways of working to overcome barriers to accessing cultural activity.

*Desire Lines Policy Document:*

[desirelines.scot/DesireLines\\_booklet\\_SCREEN.pdf](https://desirelines.scot/DesireLines_booklet_SCREEN.pdf)

*Cultural Policy:*

[file:///C:/Users/ali/Downloads/Culture\\_and\\_Sport\\_Committee\\_Full\\_Meeting\\_Papers\\_30.11.15.pdf](file:///C:/Users/ali/Downloads/Culture_and_Sport_Committee_Full_Meeting_Papers_30.11.15.pdf)

*Culture Fund:*

[cultureedinburgh.com/updates/culture-project-fund-201920](https://cultureedinburgh.com/updates/culture-project-fund-201920)

## EDINBURGH 2050 VISION

Led by the City of Edinburgh Council, the 2050 Edinburgh City Vision conversations began in 2016, with almost 65,000 voices playing their part in THE VISION. Citizens of Edinburgh agreed that in 2050 they want Edinburgh to be: thriving, welcoming, fair, and pioneering.

<https://www.edinburgh2050.com/>

## THE EDINBURGH CITY CENTRE TRANSFORMATION STRATEGY (ECCT)

Led by the City of Edinburgh Council, the ECCT identifies a series of actions to develop and improve the public realm and management of space and traffic at the heart of the Old Town. A ten-year Delivery Plan has been developed, highlighting projects to be implemented during the first five years, which include the creation of a pedestrian priority zone in the Old and New Towns.

<https://www.connectingedinburgh.com/citycentre>

## EDINBURGH POVERTY COMMISSION

The Edinburgh Poverty Commission was launched in November 2018, as an independent group working together to define the steps needed to end poverty in Edinburgh, supported by the Edinburgh Partnership and The City of Edinburgh Council. It is made up of 12 members who aim to: understand what drives 1 in 5 families in Edinburgh into poverty; listen and learn from citizens who are struggling to get by; build on what works well, but challenge ourselves to do better; and design the changes we can deliver as a city. Their findings were shared in 2020.

*Briefing Note - Baseline Evidence:*

<https://www.edinburgh.gov.uk/downloads/file/23678/baseline-evidence>

*Phase 1 Emerging Findings:*

[https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/edinburgh-poverty-commission-phase-two-call-for-ev/supporting\\_documents/Edinburgh%20Poverty%20Commission%20%20Phase%201%20emerging%20findings.pdf](https://consultationhub.edinburgh.gov.uk/bi/edinburgh-poverty-commission-phase-two-call-for-ev/supporting_documents/Edinburgh%20Poverty%20Commission%20%20Phase%201%20emerging%20findings.pdf)

## FESTIVALS EDINBURGH – NEW TEN YEAR FESTIVALS STRATEGY

Building on a culture of collaborative working the Directors of **Edinburgh's twelve leading Festivals** came together in 2007 to formally establish Festivals Edinburgh, an organisation with a mission to support Edinburgh's Festivals in sustaining and developing their position as the world's leading festival city through the development and delivery of collaborative projects and initiatives which support growth, product development, leadership and audiences and acting on behalf of and representing the collective strengths of the Edinburgh Festivals.

The 2015 Impact Study surveyed 29,000 people and showed that Festivals continue to be Scotland's world-leading cultural brands, delivering significant attendance numbers through their unrivalled cultural programmes. They attract **audiences of more than 4.5 million** putting them on a par with the FIFA World Cup. They act as **economic powerhouses** generating **impact of £280m in Edinburgh** and £313m in Scotland, representing an increase of 19% and 24% respectively on the previous 2010 study, and primarily benefiting businesses in the tourism sector. In May 2015 Festivals Edinburgh produced a ten-year strategy called Thundering Hooves 2.0 with the aim of sustaining the success of Edinburgh's Festivals, including the Edinburgh International Book Festival.

*2015 Edinburgh Festivals Impact Study:*

[www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/about/edinburgh-festivals-2015-impact-study](http://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/about/edinburgh-festivals-2015-impact-study)

*Thundering Hooves 2.0:*

[http://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/assets/000/000/821/TH\\_2\\_0\\_-\\_24\\_page\\_summary\\_original.pdf?1432032670](http://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/assets/000/000/821/TH_2_0_-_24_page_summary_original.pdf?1432032670)

*Festivals Schools Engagement Report 2018-2019:*

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/about/press-releases/1054-festivals-engagement-programmes-reach-almost-every-school-in-edinburgh>

## FESTIVALS EDINBURGH – THE NETWORK EFFECT

Festivals Edinburgh's 2018 study into 'The Network Effect' pioneers a new field of enquiry looking into the relatively hidden impacts of the Festivals within Scotland's cultural and events ecosystem. This research highlighted that being the home of large-scale, internationally renowned events benefits all Scottish cultural and event organisations. The study identified five key common impacts that the Festivals have collectively in the Scottish ecosystems of culture and event production: Scottish creative talent gets high profile promotion; stability for the event production sector; support for sectoral lead bodies; formal and informal training initiatives; and the provision of pride for cultural organisations and audiences.

*The Network Effect – Cultural Impact Survey:*

[https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/assets/000/003/791/The\\_Network\\_Effect\\_July\\_2018\\_original.pdf?1531301203](https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/assets/000/003/791/The_Network_Effect_July_2018_original.pdf?1531301203)

## LIBRARY PROFESSIONALS – NEW NATIONAL LIBRARY STRATEGY

CILIPS is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation affiliated to CILIP, Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals and the leading professional body for librarians, information specialists and knowledge managers. There are **541 public libraries in Scotland and a further 82 mobile libraries**. Following extensive research, and with significant contributions from staff within the City of Edinburgh Libraries, **a new national strategy for libraries in Scotland** was launched in 2015.

[www.cilip.org.uk/about/projects-reviews/strategic-plan-2016-2020](http://www.cilip.org.uk/about/projects-reviews/strategic-plan-2016-2020)

## LITERARY TOURISM – NEW EDINBURGH TOURISM STRATEGY 2020

Launched in 2012 following extensive research and involving contribution from the City of Literature Trust on behalf of literature organisations in the city, the Edinburgh 2020 Tourism Strategy sets out three clear and ambitious growth targets: to increase the number of visits and visitors by one third by 2020, from 3.27 million to **4.39 million visitors per annum**, generating an additional **4.15 million visitor nights**; generate **an extra £485 million** per annum by 2020, taking the total visitor spending from £1.015bn to £1.5bn in 2010 prices; achieve **50% of additional visits** during the months of October to March. Literary tourism is a strand flagged for investment and expansion.

[www.etaq.org.uk/edinburgh-2020](http://www.etaq.org.uk/edinburgh-2020)

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – CULTURE STRATEGY

Following a public consultation process which ran between 2017 and 2018, a Culture Strategy for Scotland was created and shared in February 2020. It centres on a vision which recognises the intrinsic value of culture and the power of culture to inspire, enrich and transform people's lives, our communities and the places where we live, work and have fun. This vision for culture in Scotland is underpinned by three main ambitions: 1- strengthening culture; 2 - transforming through culture; - empowering through culture.

In response to consultation feedback on the draft culture strategy, the Scottish Government has established a National Partnership for Culture to provide a cross-sector, interdisciplinary voice which can both advise and influence Scottish Ministers on the delivery of the Culture Strategy for Scotland.

*Culture Strategy Engagement Report:*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/culture-strategy-engagement-report/>

*A Culture Strategy for Scotland:*

<https://www.hie.co.uk/media/9468/culture-strategy-scotland.pdf>

## SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT – THE ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

The Environment Strategy for Scotland was published early 2020, building on the work of The State of Nature Scotland Report in 2019 and further research into nature and the environment within Scotland. It sets out a vision for Scotland's environment and the country's role in tackling the global crises. The vision is to restore nature and end Scotland's contribution to climate change by 2045, helping to secure the wellbeing of people and planet for generations to come.

## SCOTTISH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION COUNCIL (SLIC) – THE SCOTTISH READING STRATEGY

The Scottish Reading Strategy for Public Libraries was created in 2014 to draw communities together and bring reading alive. Its vision is to inspire reading across all interests and age groups – improving levels of literacy and contributing to the health and wellbeing of readers. In 2018, SLIC commissioned a report into the progress of the Strategy, looking into how it could be updated to reflect the current reading climate. The report evaluates the first five years of the Scottish Reading Strategy.

*SRS Report and Recommendations:*

<https://scottishlibraries.org/media/2325/slic-srs-artwork-web.pdf>



## **SCOTTISH LIBRARY AND INFORMATION COUNCIL (SLIC) – AMBITION AND OPPORTUNITY: A STRATEGY FOR PUBLIC LIBRARIES IN SCOTLAND 2015-2020**

In 2015 the Strategy for Public Libraries in Scotland was published, encompassing the vision that Scotland’s public libraries are trusted guides in connecting all of our people to the world’s possibilities and opportunities. The Scottish Library and Information Council (SLIC) was asked by CoSLA Arts and Culture Working Group to take forward the development of a national strategy for public libraries in Scotland. The strategy covers the strategic aims of:

1. Reading, Literacy and Learning
2. Digital Inclusion
3. Economic Wellbeing
4. Social Wellbeing
5. Culture and Creativity

*Strategy document:*

<https://scottishlibraries.org/media/1133/ambition-opportunity-scotlands-national-public-library-strategy.pdf>

*Environment Strategy for Scotland:*

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/environment-strategy-scotland-vision-outcomes/pages/2/>

## **THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT – PUTTING ARTISTS IN THE PICTURE: A SUSTAINABLE ARTS FUNDING SYSTEM FOR SCOTLAND**

In 2019 the Scottish Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee published their inquiry into arts funding in Scotland. The Committee previously published a call for evidence in March 2019 inviting respondents to respond on two over-arching themes: 1. What would a sustainable model of arts funding look like? 2. How should that funding be made available to artists? The report draws on evidence taken from Scotland’s artists and arts organisations, and seeks to identify a sustainable model of funding for arts funding.

*Report:* <https://sp-bpr-en-prod-cdnep.azureedge.net/published/CTEEA/2019/12/10/Putting-Artists-In-The-Picture--A-Sustainable-Arts-Funding-System-For-Scotland/CTEAS052019R5.pdf>

## Appendix 4 – Initiatives Undertaken in Response to COVID-19

### Further information on material listed in section seven of this report.

In March 2020, as the global pandemic took hold, the UK entered a period of lockdown which lasted until July 2020. Between August and December 2020, regions across the UK have been in differing levels of restriction. Across all regions and throughout 2020 library services and author/book events, festivals, community programmes and book retail have been substantially affected or entirely closed down. Companies and organisations have worked and continue to work in a very challenging environment.

Here we list some of the activity which took place, led by literature organisations, in order to support communities and the creative sector across Scotland in 2020.

### Scottish International Storytelling Festival community programme success

The community and family programme, called The Big Scottish Ripple, ran alongside the main Scottish International Storytelling Festival and took place between Monday 12 October and Monday 30 November. Local storytellers across Scotland were paired with schools and community groups in digital and small-scale live settings – keeping things safe and slow with a varied and enjoyable programme for all. The programme was heavily over-subscribed and had to be extended to January.

<https://www.sisf.org.uk/community-programme/>

### Storytelling Festival online success

The Scottish International Storytelling Festival is one of the most admired storytelling events in the world and the largest of its kind – both from a programming and participation perspective - encompassing a wealth of cultures, traditions and styles. In response to Covid-19, they presented a new hybrid events format between 17-31 October 2020. They mixed online events with socially distanced led-tours and walks and had their most diverse and geographically far-reaching engagement since the festivals launch in 1989. Evaluation material is due in January 2021.

<https://www.sisf.org.uk/>

### Edinburgh Libraries deliver books to children shielding at home

In May 2020 Edinburgh Children’s Hospital Charity and Edinburgh City Libraries formed a new partnership with sponsorship from Baillie Gifford. A Book Bus has been filled with around 1800 books for children and young people, and these are being delivered by volunteer drivers to children who are shielding at home whilst undergoing medical treatment.

City of Edinburgh Council Leader Adam McVey said:

*“Reading as a family is a joy and can help to improve wellbeing – a recent study found that six minutes of reading can reduce stress levels by 60%. This is a great example showing how working together with partners in the city can respond to the needs of our communities.”*

<https://theedinburghreporter.co.uk/2020/05/children-get-hundreds-of-books-delivered/>

## Edinburgh International Book Festival works with Edinburgh Sick Children's Hospital

In October 2020 the Book Festival announced a new two-year partnership with the Edinburgh Children's Hospital Charity (EHC) to provide creative workshops and author visits to children resident in the Sick Children's Hospital in Edinburgh. The project began in November with socially distanced workshops offering young patients the opportunity to engage with words, stories, books and authors. In light of restrictions surrounding the Covid19 pandemic, the workshops will take place on a one-to-one basis on the hospital wards.

In the first block of weekly two-hour workshops, illustrator Katie Chappell worked with the young people to design and decorate their very own journal using washi tape, stickers and brush pens. These workshops will give the young people ideas to continue working on their journal after the sessions end, giving them a beautiful, personalised place to record thoughts and experiences during their hospital stay.

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/bringing-story-nation-to-edinburgh-s-sick-children-s-hospital>

## Scottish Book Trust brings books to families using food banks

Scottish Book Trust worked with community partners across Scotland to raise funds and create a delivery network to supply books to vulnerable families using food banks. The project is live and a Christmas Appeal has been launched.

<https://www.scottishbooktrust.com/donate/christmas-appeal>

## The world's largest book festival of its kind moved online

Organisers of the Edinburgh International Book Festival declared their first online programme in August 2020 a success, with the **146 events being viewed over 210,000 times by a worldwide audience** – a figure still growing as audiences continue to watch **events free On Demand**.

Events were broadcast through a specially created studio in Edinburgh to a newly developed online viewing platform. Other innovations included: an audience chatroom for every event; live Q&A sessions, BSL interpretation and subtitles were also available for a large selection of talks across the programme and some authors

Nick Barley, Director of the Edinburgh International Book Festival, said: **'We have reached corners of the globe, and corners of Scotland, that we have never reached before, and brought an accessibility to the Festival that I never want to lose.'**

The Online programme included 44 events in the Baillie Gifford Children's and the entire festival was FREE to view. Audiences tuned into Book Festival events from every continent (except Antarctica) and every corner of the globe from China and South Korea, across Africa from Algeria to South Africa, to Australia and New Zealand, across the USA, Canada, Greenland and Iceland and into Europe, Eastern Europe and Russia.

Most events from the 2020 Edinburgh International Book Festival Online are still available to watch, free of charge, on demand through the Book Festival's website.

<https://www.edbookfest.co.uk/news/you-can-t-keep-a-good-festival-down-our-first-online-book-festival-draws-to-a-close>

### **Cities of Literature share best practice**

Edinburgh UNESCO City of Literature led the UNESCO Cities of Literature network to share best practice during the pandemic. All Cities of Literature were contacted by email and asked to respond to a single question and share knowledge.

The answers were then collated into a document which was shared with the Cities of Literature and national literature organisations across Scotland. The questions covered: libraries and how they were responding to Covid-19; literary festivals and their move online; national festival networking organisations and how they operate.

*'This is so useful. Thanks so much!' – Sophie Moxon, Executive Director, Edinburgh International Book Festival*

*'Thanks for sending. This is super useful.' – Graeme Hawley, Head of General Collections, National Library of Scotland*

<https://cityofliterature.com/>

### **Scottish Literature organisations lobby Scottish Government for sector support**

Through the summer of 2020, Publishing Scotland, engaged with the Scottish Government putting forward the case for increased support for the publishing community. Publishing Scotland is the trade and network body for the book publishing industry in Scotland, working to promote and protect the interests of its members, both nationally and internationally.

<https://www.publishingscotland.org>

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In November 2020, Literature Alliance Scotland (LAS) lobbied the Scottish Government to designate public libraries as essential services and to support local Councils and enable a greater number of libraries to be re-opened. LAS is a membership organisation committed to advancing the interests of Scotland's literature and languages at home and abroad. It is Scotland's largest literary network, bringing together 32 members and network associates made up of writers, publishers, educators, librarians, literature organisations and national cultural bodies. Together they are a strong, trusted collective voice for literature and languages.

<https://literaturealliancescotland.co.uk/>

### **The National Library of Scotland reaches out**

The National Library of Scotland provided a series of online events and engagement during the UK lockdown and re-opened in August 2020, with a new Library Strategy launching in September 2020 to include greater online services.

<https://www.nls.uk/news/latest>



### **Edinburgh Festivals support families with free online resources**

Every year the Edinburgh festivals run programmes for children and families both during festival time and throughout the year. Although this year's lockdowns led to the cancellation of much of that work, a number of the festivals created online activities for families at home. Using a mix of downloadable guides and video presentations they made available everything from learning stop motion animation to making a tactile book. Participating festivals: Edinburgh International Children's Festival, Edinburgh Art Festival, Edinburgh International Science Festival and Edinburgh International Book Festival.

<https://www.edinburghfestivalcity.com/news/1093-online-fun-for-all-the-family>

### **Culture Counts lobbies Scottish Government to provide three-year culture budget**

Culture Counts, is the collective voice of Scotland's cultural sector, has written to Fiona Hyslop MSP, the Cabinet Secretary for Economy, Fair Work and Culture, to ask for the announcement of a three-year culture budget in January 2021, to provide some stability to the sector. Literature Alliance Scotland is a member of Culture Counts.

<https://culturecounts.scot/news/2020/12/11/media-release-call-for-3-year-culture-buget>

### **Scottish Government culture and creative sector support for those working in the cultural and creative industries**

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-culture-and-creative-sector-support/>

### **Scottish Government creative industries support**

<https://www.gov.scot/policies/creative-industries/>