



Shetland *arts*

2016 - 2017: Quarter 4

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Arts in Care with Older People, Fisk

Notable variances between target and actual Key Performance Indicators

Key Performance Indicator statistics



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Priority Area 1: Youth Arts

This includes the groundbreaking work we do with Shetland Youth Theatre and the support of groups such as Maddrim Media and the Shetland Young Promoters Group. It will include innovative projects designed to increase the engagement of young people in the arts, such as Youth Arts Panels, and exchange programmes with organisations outwith Shetland, encouraging Shetland youth to engage with and help shape cultural events in Shetland.

Q4 in numbers

2 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
147 Audience attendances
30 Development Sessions
439 Participations

Starting in January we held a six-week block of **Stage 1 Drama** sessions for 7-11 year olds. The sessions were inspired by a series of props, and concluded with four very interesting and unusual stories about trows and trees, devised by the young people themselves. The group was led by John Haswell and assisted once again by our excellent youth volunteer Molly Williams, and the final performance in Mareel delighted a large audience of family and friends.

The **Shetland Young Promoters Group** (SYPG) held the annual Battle Of The Bands competition at the Lerwick Legion on the 24th of March. The alcohol free youth event is coordinated by SYPG with support from Shetland Youth Services and Shetland Arts. This year a crowd of over 100 people came to support six young bands competing to be crowned winners of the competition. The winning band, Sidewinder, also received a day in the Mareel Recording Studio donated by Shetland Arts.

Shetland Youth Theatre began devising a new piece, *In the Still of the Night Have We Wept*. This production is part funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, devised by the young people and centres around the poetry of the first World War. Led by John Haswell, the cast created an emotional, nuanced and innovative response to imagery, artifacts, documents and poems from the most cataclysmic war the world has ever experienced. The show will tour around Shetland in May, with performances in Baltasound and Walls Halls, and the Garrison Theatre in Lerwick.

Visual theatre show **Fisk** was a huge success in February, and Shetland Arts partnered with several groups to organise a workshop with the performers (see Case Study below).



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Priority Area 2: Education & Learning

Programme of activities aimed at skills development for creative industries practitioners as well as evening classes aimed at increasing accessibility and participation in creative activities. The Gallery Education Programme will work with schools to encourage access to and engagement with our exhibition programme. We will also facilitate peer review and support by and for practitioners at all levels of participation and a range of formal learning opportunities in partnership with UHI.

Q4 in numbers

2 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

209 Audience attendances

134 Development Sessions

352 Participations

In March the Shetland College Vocational Pathways courses in Film and Music, delivered in Mareel by Shetland Arts, participated in a **Scottish Qualifications Authority (SQA) External Verification**. The final report highlighted numerous examples of best practice and excellence in the “uniquely developed, contextualised and integrated curriculum”. The SQA inspector summarised:

“As the Centre is key to the development of creative industry skillsets which will benefit the local economy, it was recommended that it continues to encourage progression routes with local schools. All of the above indicates the future potential for Mareel/UHI as a Centre of Excellence for Creative Industries education.”

NC Creative Industries students completed their Creative Project unit. One of 12 units which comprise the course, the brief was to create a short film to premiere at Screenplay in September 2017. Two short films have been completed by the students along with all the marketing materials required for the screenings.

HNC Music students continued to work on their year end portfolios, which are designed to highlight significant milestones achieved by the students during the academic year. The portfolios include examples of recordings produced in Mareel’s studio, music videos filmed by students, and essays and presentations the students have produced throughout the year.

Students from the **BA Applied Music** course participated in a Networked Community Residential delivered via Video Conference by teaching staff based in Lews Castle College, Stornoway. The students collaborated with the Mareel based NC students to produce a video and soundtrack inspired by the Shetland’s seascape.

The **BA Contemporary Film Making** students entered their second semester and began their practical projects including the production of films based on local folklore.

Shetland Arts continued the delivery of a **Masters module in Digital Music Production**. The module is delivered entirely online with students this year as far afield as England and Brazil.



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During Q4 all the participating pupils from each of the five schools in the **Bonhoga Education Programme** visited the gallery. The participating schools are Sandwick JH, Aith JH, Fetlar Primary, Baltasound JH and Whalsay JH, comprising a total of approximately 300 pupils from 7-14 years of age.

Each group came to see either the Vivian Ross Smith or Toby Paterson exhibitions and engaged in a gallery workshop, and also took part in a practical workshop downstairs with Amy Gear and JJ Jamieson, creating work for the upcoming exhibition, *THE FUTURE*. Amy led these practical sessions, exploring the idea of life in Shetland 300 years from now.

Jane Matthews (Exhibition Manager) and artist Vivian Ross Smith led workshops in the gallery, introducing each group to the exhibiting artist's work and encouraging discussion and thinking. A blog has been created to publicise the project and provide a platform for schools to interact with the programme as it heads into the next phase - <http://2317thefuture.tumblr.com>

Alongside the exhibition programme both artists exhibiting in the main gallery in Q4 (Vivian Ross-Smith and Toby Paterson) gave talks to coincide with their shows; Vivian gave an informal talk in the gallery and Toby presented an evening event at Mareel. Both were also featured in online interpretive material.

Priority Area 3: Arts & Well-being

We will continue to lead in our partnership work in space2face, the restorative justice and arts programme. We will continue to advocate and support the provision of arts and cultural activities for older people in care settings, in partnership with Alzheimer Scotland, local and national arts professionals and Shetland Island Council's Social Care staff.

Q4 in numbers

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
0 Audience attendances
52 Development Sessions
384 Participations

Our popular **Wellbeing Choir** sessions continued across this quarter, with songs from all eras and styles being explored. Participants have reported both physical and mental health improvements through these sessions, and enjoy the chance to have a cup of tea and socialise at the end of the evening.

Our **Arts in Care** programme for this year concluded with a variety of successful arts workshops in care settings across Shetland (see Case Study).

We continued our support for the **space2face** project which delivered a number of Restorative Justice arts workshops.



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Priority Area 4: Development & support

The support of individuals and groups is integral to our work and includes arts practitioners and creative industries micro businesses, audience development and our formal and informal education work. It also includes staff and volunteer development.

Q4 in numbers

288 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
0 Audience attendances
8 Development Sessions
494 Participations

Our popular **Life Drawing** classes concluded for the winter, producing some interesting work and allowing the artists involved to develop their skills further.

The end of March saw the deadline for Round 2 of the biannual **Shetland Visual Art and Craft Awards**, supported by Shetland Islands Council and Creative Scotland and administered by Shetland Arts. Applications for a wide variety of projects were submitted from 25 local artists and makers.

Mareel continued to host the monthly informal **Shetland Creative Industries Forum** networking events.

Shetland Arts continued to provide meeting spaces for a number of local artistic groups and individual advice and support to creative practitioners.

Priority Area 5: Programme, Commissioning & Curation

This will include the programming of our cinema, gallery, theatre and auditorium (in partnership with a range of local, national and international promoters including Shetland Folk Festival); Wordplay and Screenplay, our highly successful book and film festivals; the Shetland International Guitar Festival; and Fiddle Frenzy.

Q4 in numbers

924 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
43,100 Audience attendances
43 Development Sessions
1,787 Participations

Full event listings can be found at <http://issuu.com/shetlandarts>

Film

Film screenings for children have included: *Ballerina*, *Sing*, *Lego Batman*, the remake of the Disney classic *Beauty & The Beast* and *The Smurfs: The Lost Village*.



Other film screenings included Box Office hits such as *La La Land*, *Trainspotting 2*, *Sully* and *Manchester By The Sea*. Martin Scorsese was the focus for this quarter's **Screen Focus** screenings of his hit films including *Taxi Driver*, *Raging Bull*, *King Of Comedy* and *Goodfellas*.

Alternative content included *National Theatre Live: No Man's Land*, *Bolshoi Ballet: Swan Lake*, *Exhibition on Screen: I Claude Monet* and *Revolution: New Art for a New Century*.

We continued our cinema provision for groups including Seniors, Babes in Arms, Subtitled Screening, Autism Friendly, ASN Friendly.

Music

We continued to hold our monthly events Mixology and Singer-Songwriters Night. A continuation of our classical season saw Neil Georgeson perform a solo piano recital as well as The Hebrides Ensemble, one of the foremost chamber music collectives in the UK. The East Winds Project took place at Mareel run by Shapeshifters Productions in conjunction with Shetland Arts. This involved a week-long exchange between young fiddle players from London and Shetland taking part in a week of workshops followed by a performance at Mareel and one in Yell.

As part of the yearly Up Helly Aa celebrations two concerts were held at the Garrison Theatre which featured a lineup filled with local Shetland talent.

Other music concerts in Mareel included Ragged Wood Promotion's Sarah Jarosz and The Shetland Community Orchestra BBC Ten Pieces event.

Drama & Dance

Events in The Garrison Theatre included The Shetland County Drama Festival and The Islesburgh Drama Group spring production of *On Golden Pond*.

Tortoise In A Nutshell production Fisk performed at Mareel; a rich tapestry of puppetry, movement and intricate design alongside an evocative original soundtrack, the piece draws audiences into an immersive marine world. Examining themes of depression, support and interconnection, Fisk is an exploration of the lengths we can go to in order to escape from ourselves, yet also finds joy in even the deepest and darkest of depths

Exhibition

There were two contrasting yet equally successful exhibitions at Bonhoga in Q4: local artist Vivian Ross-Smith's *Island Connections* exploring the relationship between people and land, and *The Pinwheel: Abstraction, architecture and reality* by Toby Paterson. Vivian's first solo show in Shetland was very popular and featured a series of works made as a result of a residency in Korpo, Finland, where she considered the similarities and differences between the two island communities, an 'island mentality' and way of thinking influenced by her experiences being brought up in Fair Isle. Similarly, Toby Paterson's work is heavily influenced by his surroundings, however his is the urban environment of Glasgow, in particular the



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Brutalist architecture of the post-war period. Toby is one of Scotland's leading contemporary artists and it was a huge boost to Bonhoga's reputation that he was able to exhibit with us, transforming the gallery with his installation of partitions, collage, prints and paintings. This exhibition will be complemented later in the year by the commissioned piece that Toby will create for the cafe bar in Mareel.

These main exhibitions at Bonhoga were enhanced by exhibitions of prints and craft in the lower gallery. At Mareel, the SIC's Shetland Contemporary Art Collection continued in the Upper Cafe Bar and in the Feature Space the display of work by children made as part of a CLAN Children & Families Service outreach project was replaced in March by Shetland's Rainbow, an exhibition celebrating the LGBT+ community in Shetland.

Priority Area 6: Recording, Broadcast and Intellectual Property

Maximising Mareel's digital production facilities (principally for music and video recording and broadcast), we will provide opportunities for musicians and producers to generate revenue and Intellectual Property. Shetland Arts will continue to create, protect and monetise its own Intellectual Property assets in partnership with Shetland Arts Intellectual Property Community Interest Company.

Q4 in numbers

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
0 Audience attendances
48 Development Sessions
160 Participations

We had a busy start to 2017 at **Mareel Recording Studio** with an eclectic mix of projects underway. Up-and-coming pianist Lewis Hall began work on his debut album, which promises to be an interesting release combining cinematic piano compositions with found sounds, whilst Irish harpist Una Monaghan travelled to Shetland in January to record an album of harp and electronics, further demonstrating that word is spreading beyond our shores of the level of quality available in Mareel's studio.

Work was completed on recording projects for Vair, Hjaltibonhoga and acoustic trio Visitors, with all three releases being mastered in-house to be sent for duplication. Some mastering for TV and Radio took place, and we provided audio feeds for live broadcasts of the Schools' Music Festival and the Saltire Awards, as well as live recorded audio and tech support for Neil Georgeson's February recital, the BBC Ten Pieces classical/multimedia event and the Committee Of The Regions conference, chaired by Deputy First Minister John Swinney and featuring delegates from throughout Scotland.



Case Study: Arts in Care with Older People

Our Arts in Care sessions concluded for the year with some wonderful sessions delivered to participants in care settings, featuring work in many different artforms.

Here are some extracts from the blogs written by our delivery artists.

Vivian Ross-Smith reflects on the series of weaving workshops she delivered with residents from Annsbrae.

“The purpose of this series of workshops was to provide the participants with an understanding of weaving, with the aim of continuing the craft in their own time if desired. We enjoyed 6 hour-long sessions at Mareel for the project.”

“For two of the participants, weaving was a new experience. They both took to it very positively, quickly appreciating the therapeutic benefits of the craft. One of the participants, however, had done a lot of weaving in the past, but hadn't had a chance to do any recently. It was lovely to see her getting back into it and she was delighted to have rekindled her passion. She brought in her own personal loom to use in the classes and even loaned a spare one to another participant to try out.”

“Everyone was very keen to learn from each other and share their own craft and artwork, with at least one participant taking along something each week to show the group. During the final session, everyone was asking for more! Each participant has taken their loom home to carry on weaving in their own time, and I am sure they will each continue to produce beautiful work.”



Raman Mundair writes about a series of workshops she delivered at Wastview.

“Thursdays for the past few months have been a delight. I've had the pleasure of working with elders at Wastview on the Westside. We've been getting together and having a cuppa, taking a moment, cradling a warm brew in our hands while we chat. We've been considering our humble hands. Sharing memories of our hands. Both creative and the mundane. The small touches and the epic.”



“During these days together we thought of the things our hands had touched and made. We spent the time being lightsome, making new marks in unfamiliar materials, trying new textures, patterns and colour. Each creation a celebration of the varied journeys our hands have undertaken alone and with others. The finished work, a sort of hand-made round of applause.”

<http://www.shetlandarts.org/blog/making-music>

<http://www.shetlandarts.org/blog/take-these-hands>

Case Study: Fisk



February saw the award-winning theatre group Tortoise in a Nutshell travel to Shetland to perform Fisk, an immersive visual theatre piece combining puppetry, movement and intricate design with an evocative soundtrack.

The performance explored themes of depression, isolation but also the joy that can bring you back from your lowest point. We partnered with SIC Creative Links to bring the show

to Shetland, and worked with Youth Services, Bridges and the Out of School Drama Groups, along with our own Youth Theatre, to offer young people the opportunity to see the performance and take part in a workshop with the actors.

We gathered reactions to the show from the young people involved:

Juliet said, "Fisk was a very interesting piece of theatre visually. I liked how it only gave hints to the plot and you were left to fill in some of the gaps yourself, it made it feel more like the audience was taking an active role in the production. Overall an excellent piece of theatre that I am glad to have seen."

Lydia said, "It made us ask questions, trying to find the meaning behind everything that we saw. Even after a whole hour we were still trying to interpret what we think it meant. It was an amazing piece of theatre that communicated raw emotion through their facial expressions and movements, something that I would really like to learn how to do. I am really glad that I got to watch the show, it was mind blowing."

Sula agreed with Juliet and Lydia, "I loved that it made me really think about what was happening, and why things were happening. I also loved the visuals: the set-up of the boat and the use of cloths was incredibly effective, as well as inspiring."

The workshop brought together young people from different groups and agencies, making the session a really interesting mix of participants with drama backgrounds and our more vulnerable young people. Each participant got a lot out of the experience, both in terms of theatre skills and thinking about mental health.

Reece said, "It was nothing like I expected and it was cool to see a different view on acting. Arran and Alex were really laid back about everything which made the workshop more easy and enjoyable. They got us to do activities which really made us think how to get a message across without speaking and that was interesting to try and do. I am going to take away that not only do I need to focus on my lines, but what my body language is saying in my performance."

Cara said, "It was really interesting to see a different side of acting. It really opened up my eyes to how many different ways you can communicate with the audience without actually speaking to them through a script. Although unsure at first, I would encourage all members to give these workshops a go. You learn so much!"



Notable variances between Target and Actual KPIs

	Target*	Actual	% Achieved
Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days	3,000	4,537	151.2
Audience Attendances	160,000	207,533	129.7
Development Sessions	1,300	1,957	150.5
Participations	9,000	19,570	217.4

* Targets as set in 2014

The delivery of KPIs beyond the targets predicted for Concerts, Screenings and Exhibition Days and the resultant Audience Attendances can largely be attributed to a new exhibition space coming into use in the upstairs foyer of Mareel in Q4 of 15/16 and a new 'Curated Retail' initiative beginning to produce KPIs in Q4 of 16/17.

Note: because many of our exhibition spaces are 'ambient' and unticketed, and therefore do not directly produce attendance and engagement data, we have been using divisors based on the attendance at other events in the same building which do produce attendance data (i.e. dividing the number of covers at the Bonhoga Cafe and number of tickets sold at events in Mareel by a percentage). Throughout 17/18 we will be undertaking visitor research to test whether these divisors are accurate.

A significant contribution to the overdelivery of Development Sessions and Participations was the introduction of two new formal education courses in film (NC Creative Industries: Film, and BA Contemporary Film Making in the Highlands and Islands).

Other significant contributing projects include the Wellbeing Choir (launched in 16/17) and Shetland Arts participation in the *We're Here Because We're Here* project (see Case Study in SADA Q1 16-17 Report).

The level of over delivery highlighted above is under review and will likely decrease to be more in line with targets as a result of the impact of Shetland Charitable Trust funding cuts over the coming three years.



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Key Performance Indicators 2016 / 17	Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days					Audience attendances				Development Sessions				Participations						
	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total
1. Youth Arts	2	4	0	2	8	238	169	0	147	554	14	25	8	30	77	117	230	83	439	869
2. Education & Learning	0	4	2	2	8	0	0	75	134	209	226	185	352	352	1115	2463	1321	1576	2191	7551
3. Arts & Well-being	1	2	0	0	3	15	0	0	0	15	57	44	70	52	223	150	160	441	384	1135
4. Development & Support	0	0	0	288	288	0	0	0	0	0	1	20	21	8	50	651	663	804	494	2612
5. Programme & Curation	1114	1144	1048	924	4230	43577	66471	53607	43100	206755	42	187	42	43	314	693	2397	1546	1787	6423
6. Broadcast, Recording & IP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	53	38	39	48	178	399	234	187	160	980
Programme Total	1117	1154	1050	1216	4,537	43830	66640	53682	43381	207,533	393	499	532	533	1,957	4473	5005	4637	5455	19,570
SCT Annual Target					3,000					160,000					1,300					9,000
% of target delivered					151.2%					129.7%					150.5%					217.4%