



Shetland *arts*

2019 - 2020: Quarter 3

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Youth Arts Companies, MA Creative Industries modules

Interim Key Performance Indicator Statistics (appendix)



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Priority Area: Youth Arts

Shetland has a vibrant Youth Arts scene provided by a range of individuals and groups. We will support and contribute to this provision, create and sustain engagement, and nurture creativity and talent through an annual programme of access-level cross-artform workshops, artform specific "intensives", high-quality music and drama productions and subsidised access to events and activities.

Q3 in numbers

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

0 Audience attendances

27 Development Sessions

189 Participations

This quarter saw the return of the **Youth Arts Companies**. **Youth Dance**, **Youth Drama** and **Film Crew** continued with steady numbers of participants, and we introduced a **Film Crew JNR** for ages 7-11 years due to popular demand. At the end of term we had a short in-formal sharing before Christmas for participant's families, including a complimentary mince pie! This was an opportunity for all the Youth Art Companies to meet one another and for us to share our plans with them for the next term. Each group shared a short extract of what they have been working on during the term, ranging from dramatic monologues to superhero scripts, and a film from JNR Film Crew.

Christmas Crafternoons for ages 7-11 years proved popular, and provided an opportunity for participants to make Christmas Gifts for their grown ups.

Shetland Young Promoters Group hosted a music night at Fjara Cafe on the 17th of November. The low key event was aimed at creating an informal performance opportunity for Mareel based music students. The Young Promoters dealt with all marketing and publicity for the event and it resulted in three young acts playing to a full house.

Priority Area: Education & Learning

Our Education & Learning programme is diverse and offers provision at all levels. From the highly successful schools outreach work run from Bonhoga, through to our formal education programme delivered under contract and in partnership with Shetland College UHI, and informal opportunities such as regular cross-artform workshops, business development, masterclasses and Creative Insight events.

Q3 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

102 Audience attendances

449 Development Sessions

1,651 Participations

Our **Film Making Creative Lab** with Keiba Clubb was very popular. Local artists and business owners have used the skills they learned to support them in marketing and developing their own work. They will be followed by a **Film Editing Creative Lab** by Keiba in February, offering progression for participants.



Christmas Creative Labs took the form of ‘**Make your own Christmas Gift**’, using our eco-friendly approach to Christmas. There were four sessions planned with excellent local artists. Unfortunately due to facilitator sickness two were cancelled. The two that did run were very successful and we are looking to further both courses in the next term. **Paul Bloomer’s Printmaking** was incredibly well received. As was **Sharon McGeady’s Ceramics** workshop.

The **Live Literature Residency** took place with author **James Robertson** (who was also part of the 365 project (see below)) delivering schools 5 workshops across Whiteness and Weisdale, Tingwall, Scalloway, Aith and The Anderson High Schools. These reached 109 participants.

The formal education program, delivered in partnership with the **University of the Highlands and Islands**, had a student register standing at twenty five part time **Vocational Pathway**, six full-time **NC Creative Industries** and three full-time **HNC Music** students. In addition, 12 **BA Contemporary Film Making** and **BA Applied Music** students are also currently based in Mareel.

In mid-October, as part of an SQA Live Performance unit, Mareel students hosted a public **Student Night** concert in the Mareel Auditorium. Of particular note at this event, was the involvement of the younger Vocational Pathway students. This was a direct result of Mareel teaching staff incorporating more performance opportunities into the Vocational Pathway Music course. Students live-streamed the event through social media giving a real-world opportunity to put into practice technical skills and techniques they have built up during their time in Mareel.

Delivery of the new HNC music framework is well underway with all first semester modules nearing completion. We are currently looking at a 100% success rate for the first semester. The HNC progression board will meet in February to discuss these results.

An **Online Music Residential** involving BA Music students based in Mareel and participants from across the UHI Network took place in October. The project culminated in Mareel Students collaborating with filmmakers from Senegal and local Shetland musicians to create a one minute piece of music to accompany a film highlighting Senegalese culture

We delivered 2 of our 3 **new Masters level modules** in semester 1 of the 19/20 academic year - **Creative Reuse of Archive Film** and **Sound & Music for Moving Image**. The other new module, **Film and Creative Practice**, will be delivered in semester 2. These modules were developed for the UHI and are available to all MA level students across the UHI network and complement our existing MA Music Recording and Production module (see Case Study below)

As part of the **LOCUS** project (see Programming: Visual Art/Exhibition) additional funding for schools engagement was secured through this quarter via the **SIC Schools Service** as part of the CLN (Creative Learning Network). Creative Learning Networks are local authority-led initiatives devised to help develop creative teaching, creative learning and creativity skills across all subjects in the classroom. This additional funding will enable Civic Soup (a design collective based in Edinburgh delivering one of the four LOCUS commissions) to work with



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pupils to create the resource material for their work, in line with their practice of social engagement. It will support two weeks of work in six schools in Shetland (Whiteness Primary, Brae Secondary, Sound Primary, Hamnavoe Primary, Anderson High & Whalsay School), gaining investment in the LOCUS project from over 200 pupils. These workshops and talks will take place in the first two weeks of February.

Priority Area: Arts & Well-being

The value of arts to personal and community development is becoming increasingly recognised in Shetland. We will continue to develop our Arts & Wellbeing work through the support of groups which use the arts as a vehicle to wellbeing, providing activities for individuals in care settings and providing free access to events or activities for individuals who have been referred by medical, care or support professionals.

Q3 in numbers

1 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
24 Audience attendances
40 Development Sessions
275 Participations

There have been 3 **Wellbeing Groups** this term: **Writing, Choir and Craft**, each with an average of 10-15 participants. The classes have been very successful, with a couple of avid **Wellbeing Writers** taking part in the **Wordplay Local Author's Night**.

One of the Wellbeing Craft participants applied for NC in Visual Art through University of the Highlands and Islands. They said that this is something that they would never have done if not attending the Wellbeing Craft sessions and we feel delighted with this outcome.

As part of the Christmas celebrations we felt it was important to open up Wellbeing Choir to all ages, making it a family affair. We welcomed 24 to a **Christmas Carols for Everyone** event in the main auditorium for songs and mince pies.

There are multiple ongoing **Arts in Care** sessions being delivered around Shetland, particularly in Overtonlea, North Haven, Newcraigielea, Montfield and E.T & Taing House care settings. These are predominantly being delivered through sessions in: film, needle felting, dialect storytelling, knitting and craft. They are delivered through group and 1-2-1 sessions, working towards the needs of the participants. There are normally sessions in blocks of between 3 and 6, however due to Christmas, we ran multiple one off sessions that allowed participants to make Christmas Cards for their families and friends. These proved very successful and will hopefully encourage more care settings to sign up to the programme.



Priority Area: Development & support

The development and support of individuals and groups, along with the promotion of excellence and experimentation, is integral to our work. This includes the provision of funding both directly and through signposting, access to equipment and facilities, paid work placements, volunteering opportunities, commissioning productions and providing support and training to allow creatives to access new markets. We will continue to provide numerous paid opportunities for freelance artists, education staff and performers.

Q3 in numbers

69 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days
2,268 Audience attendances
6 Development Sessions
33 Participations

Visual Arts and Crafts Makers Award round 1 was due in October with 4 applications, 2 of which were successful. The next round is due 4th February. We are hosting an open drop-in advice session in Mareel Cafe Bar and 1-2-1 meetings are available for artists to meet and discuss their idea or the application process. The panel will be formed of a **Creative Scotland** representative, Shetland Arts staff and freelance artists.

We are collaborating with **Shetland Islands Council** to commission an artist to celebrate the outcomes of their **Voices for Equity Project**. Voices for Equity brings partnerships together consisting of a civil and community partner. They share their experience, listen and learn from one another. The civil partners are all people in jobs that govern and the project aims to make changes, reducing stigma in our society.

We had an open call, receiving 9 applications. The panel selected **Nikkita Morgan** who specialises in embroidery. She will make a banner that will travel to different settings as well as being exhibited here at Mareel, alongside work shown anonymously from participants. In December she visited Shetland and met participants. The aim is that she will share their stories through her artwork to make an accessible piece of work that will speak to the masses, encouraging conversation and change around stigmatisation here in Shetland.

It has been another exciting quarter at **Bonhoga** with the **Shetland Open Exhibition** and a selling show of visual art and craft for Christmas.

The Shetland Open exhibition takes place every two years, with an exhibition of work by prize winners, in the intervening years. With the contemporary visual art programme moving off site, the focus for the Open 2019 was exclusively contemporary applied art and craft. Entries were welcomed from amateur, professional, and student artists and craft-makers aged 18 and over, who were linked to Shetland by birth, education or residency. The exhibition saw a diverse collection of work at a very high standard, bringing together students, as well as emerging and established artists and makers, demonstrating the breadth of talent that exists in Shetland.

A £150 prize was awarded to five winners and this award matched by a further £150 from Shetland Arts to fund a group exhibition at Bonhoga in 2020. The sponsors were **A9 Partnership Ltd, Ninian, John Goudie, Shetland Gallery and Shetland Arts and Crafts**



Association and the deserved winners were **Esme Wilcock, Lynn Ritch, Deborah Briggs, Marcia Galvin and Eve Eunson.**

The **Bairns' Open** takes place annually in the Lower Gallery and this year was also themed on craft. We had an amazing response to the brief and exhibited over 240 beautifully crafted pieces from school age bairns from all over Shetland, and prizes awarded for three lucky crafters.

This Winter was the title of the popular seasonal selling exhibition which ran from 9 Nov until 22 Dec, featuring paintings and prints by local artists and a diverse collection of contemporary applied art and craft from many of the UK's finest makers, providing customers a unique opportunity to view and purchase contemporary craft.

Showing in the Lower Gallery was an exhibition of nautical and sea inspired prints by design brand **Port and Lemon.** These were hugely popular, selling all but two. Bonhoga changed to winter hours at the beginning of November, however, with a strong marketing message, the shop continued to stay busy and experienced good sales for the period.



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Priority Area: Programming

We offer a varied and engaging programme of events, exhibitions, screenings and festivals across a range of artforms, including film, music, drama, literature, visual art, craft, dance and digital. We also provide spaces and support for other promoters and groups to stage their shows.

Q3 in numbers

1,013 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

47,384 Audience attendances

40 Development Sessions

997 Participations

Film

The overall box office figures were slightly disappointing this quarter, with admissions down just over 4% compared to the same period last year. There were some major successes, however – some predictable, such as **Star Wars: The Rise of Skywalker**, **Frozen II**, **Downton Abbey**, **Joker** and **Jumanji: The Next Level**, and some less so, with comedy whodunnit **Knives Out** a big hit with audiences, and romcom **Last Christmas** overcoming poor reviews to perform very well. The seasonal classics that make an appearance every year continue to attract audiences, with 77 people coming to see **Elf**, 102 **The Muppet Christmas Carol**, 141 **Home Alone** and 156 the timeless **It's a Wonderful Life**.

Performing less well were Brad Pitt-starring sci-fi epic **Ad Astra**, historical adventure **The Aeronauts**, literary adaptation **The Goldfinch**, action thriller **Gemini Man**, Ken Loach's gritty topical drama **Sorry We Missed You**, the latest **Charlie's Angels** reboot, comedy drama **Hustlers** starring Jennifer Lopez, and horror **Doctor Sleep**, the sequel to *The Shining*.

An increasingly popular strand of the programme is music documentaries and concert films – this quarter films on **Metallica**, **Motown**, **Roger Waters**, **Suzi Quatro**, **Michael Hutchence** and **Bruce Springsteen** all attracted good audiences. We also participated in a nationwide Musicals season, promoted by the **British Film Institute**, screening four classic musicals: **Singin' in the Rain** (1952), **A Star Is Born** (1954), **Cabaret** (1972) and **The Umbrellas of Cherbourg** (1964).

During Shetland Wool Week we screened **The Work They Say Is Mine**, Rosie Gibson's fascinating 1985 documentary on life in Shetland – it proved so popular with visitors and locals alike we've already decided to show it again next Wool Week!

Music

A busy quarter with a variety of performances:

Our monthly free concert **Jazz Sunday Lunch** featuring local band Girsie and the Loose Ends has been popular. We also had a performance from young locals Norman Willmore and Max Tyler who had returned home for the festive season.



In the Auditorium, **John Goldie and the High Plains** delighted the audience with virtuosic guitar playing backed by a string quartet. **Bain, Moller and Molsky** packed out the room performing a mixture of music from Scotland, Scandinavia and America. IWe took a trio of local acts on the road to play in Skeld, Burravoe and Bigton and local country covers band hosted **The Grand Aald Opry** in Mareel to much acclaim. **Carols by Candlelight** was a lovely concert featuring Shetland's **North Ness Boys** and friends and our cabaret party night **Make More Noise** was a huge success. Covers band **The U-Turns** hosted a pre Christmas 3-band bill and **AC/DC UK** sold out the auditorium on December 27th. To finish off the year we had our regular Hogmanay event with a variety concert, standing gig, DJ and a dance.

Literature

Our once a week **Storytime** continues to be popular and in December we had **Draganory** with drag artist Timberlina reading for the children. **365 Words and Music** was our big literary event with acclaimed author **James Robertson** and musicians **Aidan O'Rourke** and **Kit Downes** presenting their collaborative work, listening post installation and a variety of workshops. Alongside this we hosted an evening of Shetland writing with local authors sharing work in an open-mic style setting.

Drama

The Garrison theatre played host to a well received performance of **The Crucible** and a very popular run of the pantomime **Sleeping Beauty**. Meanwhile in Mareel we piloted a new series of events - **Soup and a Show**. This is a 40 minute performance at lunchtime, once a month with soup and bannocks as part of the ticket price. The first event in November was comedy with stars of **Shetland Standup** and in December we had a 40 minute pantomime of **Cinderella**. These went down well and we are continuing the event through January and February.

Visual Art/Exhibition

The focus of this quarter has been **LOCUS**, a contemporary public art project delivered in partnership with Living Lerwick. The result will be a trail of four public artworks throughout Lerwick, located at predefined sites that will act as town placemakers, animate the area and offer a new way to engage with contemporary art and the environment. An accompanying trail map will act as an interpretive guide, incorporating existing public artworks to create a wider trail. The self-led walking trail will encourage people to consider the town and its amenities with a fresh perspective. Our ambition is for a series of striking visual artworks that create a narrative on Lerwick and its connection to the past, present and future.

The selection process took place at the beginning of October and the four commissions were awarded to: **David Lemm, Kenny Hunter, Joe Ingleby and design collective Civic Soup**. Over the coming months the designs will evolve and work will begin, for completion in summer 2020.



Within Mareel the schools' exhibition continued in the Upper Cafe Bar and in the Feature Space we showcased the work of local artist **Aimee Labourne**, with **Plastiglomerate**, her exquisite drawings of plastic beach pollution.

Priority Area: Mareel Recording Studio

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.

Q3 in numbers

0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days

0 Audience attendances

29 Development Sessions

57 Participations

Q3 in the **Mareel Recording Studio** was predominantly spent finishing larger projects in time for Christmas release.

Haltadans' first full-length album was mastered at Mareel in October, with all recording, editing and mixing having been previously handled in-house. This project came about as the result of a Recording Studio open day in November 2018, and demonstrates the end-to-end service we can offer, which often extends to guidance on MCPS licensing and advice on the finer details of album artwork.

The long-term **Gemma Anderson** album was completed in November and released in early December. This has been an ongoing project in aid of Versus Arthritis, and the album achieved #15 in the Amazon Pop Album Chart on the first week of release. Local 4-piece **Herkja** also released their debut EP, recorded and mixed at Mareel, and **Freda Leask** released a digital single featuring Kris Drever, Isaac Webb, ex-Shoormal vocalists Joyce Wark and Donna Smith and our very own Tim Mathew.

Mareel hosted another **BBC Election Hustings** event in December, which was again recorded in the studio for online release the following day. Also in December, we began a project in conjunction with **Promote Shetland** recording soundtracks for a new series of online videos, featuring music from local artists and our own studio engineers.



Case Study: Youth Arts Companies

This year has shown the introduction of Youth Arts Companies in Film, Theatre and Dance. These are for ages 12-19 and focus on development as well as providing a sense of belonging to an arts network for young people. These companies offer young people the opportunity to meet one another and to continually learn and progress together through weekly sessions throughout the year.

Shetland Youth Drama is led by Stephenie Pagulayan, who encouraged participants through a creative process in devising theatre works. They explored a variety of drama techniques throughout the term. Their sharing involved each delivering solo scripts, which was done to a very high standard.

Film Crew expanded to provide Film Crew Junior, for the young film enthusiasts and each created a short 5 minute film which they shared at the Christmas sharing. They were playful and everyone enjoyed them! The participants learnt to storyboard, shoot and edit. They worked together in groups to record their films. Film Crew's are delivered by local filmmaker Keiba Clubb. Please see links to films below:

Shetland Youth Dance has had a strong cohort of enthusiastic young dancers, who are learning contemporary dance techniques throughout the terms. The sessions have begun to explore some creative and choreographic approaches, however have ensured to provide technique first so that participants have knowledge to take forward to create with.

The weekly sessions are delivered by local freelance artists, offering them regular income, as well as development through support from Creative Project Manager and by continually working responsively to participant's needs.



There will be an opportunity for companies to have intensives throughout the year, with local or visiting artists. These can be to learn new skills or ways of working, or to create new work, and will also act as audience development for visiting performances.

The Youth Companies plan to have progression for young people. We hope that as their capabilities begin to grow we can look into further opportunities for them, such as Youth Arts Exchanges or performances. They currently follow SQA course guidelines, some of which are being delivered at Higher level. We do not wish to formalise these just now however the companies do prepare those students studying Higher Drama at the Anderson High School.

Case Study: MA Creative Industries modules

Shetland Arts Development Agency, in partnership with the University of the Highlands and Islands, began delivering a suite of newly developed masters level modules Creative Industry modules in the 19/20 academic year. The modules are available as an option on a range of masters courses

- Film and Creative Practice
- Sound and Music for Moving Image
- Creative (Re)use of Archive Film

The development team are all Creative Industry practitioners employed by Shetland Arts, and the processes and practices on which the modules are based represent Creative Industry working practices - the aim is to provide new tools for creativity and equip students with real-world skills.

Shetland Arts employs a range of freelance professionals in their education team, and this ensures the courses represent industry standard working practices and are rooted in the creative community.

Partnership the Centre for Rural Creativity and SADA

Shetland Arts has been developing and delivering creative industries courses in partnership with Shetland College UHI since 2007.

Subsequent to the opening of the Mareel in 2007, the facilities the building offer have allowed the development of a portfolio that includes music and film courses and modules from Vocational Pathways through to NC, HNC, BA and MA level.

Since UHI established the CRC in 2016, the partnership has strengthened and these modules represent the culmination of the knowledge exchange between the two organisations and the creative community.



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The suite of modules has developed from Shetland Arts' experience in developing and delivering the MA Music Recording and Production module.

Overarching aims of suite of modules

Take a creative concept from initiation through development, implementation and reflection and to a complete new work.

- Create new work and artefacts
- Develop new skills in digital media production
- Develop and support a community of geographic and online practice
- Encourage research, exploration and critical analysis in creative practice

Indicative 2019/20 KPIs	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	69	2	0		71	4322	50	0		4372	16	40	27		83	111	239	189		539
2. Education & Learning	41	64	1		106	2606	3262	102		5970	395	229	449		1073	2620	1313	1651		5584
3. Arts & Well-being	3	0	1		4	61	0	24		85	58	43	40		141	524	233	275		1032
4. Development & Support	125	121	69		315	7984	8055	2268		18307	6	16	6		28	24	33	33		90
5. Programming	775	1061	1013		2849	36318	46400	47384		130102	8	32	40		80	1150	208	997		2355
6. Recording Studio	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	34	29	29		92	91	81	57		229
Programme Total	1013	1248	1084	0	3345	51291	57767	49778	0	158836	517	389	591	0	1497	4520	2107	3202	0	9829
SCT Annual Target					4229					161112					2218					20902
% of SCT Target					79.1%					98.6%					67.5%					47.0%