

# Shetland *arts*

## 2021 - 2022: Quarter 2

Report of activity relating to Priority Areas of Activity Statements

Case Studies: Northmavine Film Project, Shetland Youth Theatre,  
Schools Out for Summer!, Locus Public Art Trail

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.*

## Q2 in numbers

**0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**0 Audience attendances**

**30 Development Sessions**

**358 Participations**

Practitioners involved in **Creative Scotland Youth Arts Grant** funded projects continued to deliver activities. **Tom Cockayne** delivered information and a demonstration session about the Sounds Fun project to staff at the Eric Gray @ Seafield centre, which resulted in identification of further potential participants. Tom also has a meeting scheduled with a senior social care worker to explore planning dedicated sessions into the centre timetable. **Keiba Clubb, Alex Purbrick, Babs Clubb** and **Jane Cockayne** spent some sunny summer days creating films with participants in Northmavine, where dressing up and make up were a big hit (see Case Study).

**Schools Out For Summer** with **Keiba Clubb** was funded by Creative Scotland and Youthlink Scotland as part of Summer of Play. It was targeted at the 292 pupils in Shetland who missed out on the social, creative and educational activities that would usually accompany transition from Primary to Secondary school this summer. As well as the formal school transition days, these young people have missed the 'rites of passage' seen in the growing independence towards secondary school, such as travelling into town and attending the cinema with their friends. The project took the form of a series of free screenings of Jack Black's iconic *School of Rock* with free refreshments and bus passes provided (see Case Study).

**Film Crew** with **Keiba Clubb** restarted in September and worked on imagining and creating a COP26-themed film this term. **Film Crew Snr** (14-19yrs) has been struggling to run this year due to participants getting Saturday jobs and generally moving on, whereas **Film Crew Jnr** (7-13yrs) has gone from strength-to-strength and the decision was made to cancel Film Crew Snr due to lack of participants and expand Film Crew Jnr to run across the two sessions to allow participants more one-to-one time and greater access to equipment.

**Shetland Youth Theatre** with **Stephenie Pagulayan** saw the National Theatre visit for two days at the end of June to film their production to represent Alison Carr's *Tuesday* at the National Theatre Festival online in September. Sessions then restarted in late August and SYT has been gaining momentum and increasing in participants following on from their success with National Theatre Connections. This quarter they have been working on their performance and expressive skills, using various techniques to broaden their experience.



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## 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.*

### Q2 in numbers

**0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**0 Audience attendances**  
**185 Development Sessions**  
**897 Participations**

Marketing and recruitment for the 2021/22 academic year continued during July and August culminating in students completing their enrolment and induction at the Shetland College campus and Mareel. All inductions were complete by mid-September.

COVID restrictions have meant that the previous two academic years have been hampered by lockdowns and continual shifts from face-to-face to online teaching. This academic year has been designed to retain elements of blended learning but have an emphasis on getting students back into the building for all practical parts of the courses.

To aid social distancing the education and CrOpps team have been moved to the Level 2 office in Mareel. The added space creates a comfortable and safe environment for staff and students.

At the start of the 2021/22 academic year, there was a student role of 25 part-time Skills for Work; 8 full-time NC Creative Industry; and 7 full-time HNC Music students. In addition, 10 students from the networked UHI BA film and music courses enrolled to study from Mareel.

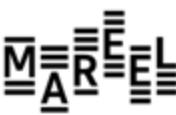
## Priority Area: Arts & Wellbeing

*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.*

### Q2 in numbers

**0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**0 Audience attendances**  
**6 Development Sessions**  
**74 Participations**

Eight projects were selected for the **Culture Collective** programme in Shetland, from 19 full applications. These projects will run until April 2022, located across Shetland. In Yell, **Berenice Carrington** will be working with local folk to map the landscapes they walked, close to home,



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during lockdown. Maps of these landscapes will decorate Yell's bus shelters, inviting you to explore these worlds.

**Helen Robertson** will be travelling to every inhabited island in Shetland to explore lace knitting techniques together with participants.

Visiting elder care homes across the islands, **Christina Inkster** will work with participants to create individual handkerchiefs, embellished with their own positive messages and decorations.

In Bigton, **Alice Ritch** will be running collective music and song-making sessions for people of all ages, culminating in a sharing event and the creation of a song book containing old and new material for continued use.

**Aimee Labourne** will be working with heritage societies and schools to creatively explore the theme of connectivity in Shetland past and present.

Care-givers are provided with time and space to reflect on their experiences of the pandemic in **Heather Christie's** still lives workshops.

In Yell and Whalsay, **Alex Purbrick** and **Jane Cockayne** will work intergenerationally between elder care centres and primary school-age children, and with the primary school in Sandness, to share local folklore and stories and create new ones through written and visual arts.

Residents and staff at the Walter and Joan Gray Care Centre will jet off to new destinations, and visit family and friends through creativity and imagination with **Kristi Tait** in her Aeropuerto project.

## 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.*

### Q2 in numbers

**186 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

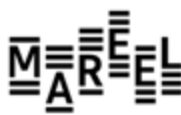
**19,462 Audience attendances**

**13 Development Sessions**

**217 Participations**

The **Summer Craft Fair**, in partnership with Shetland Arts & Crafts Association was well attended and provided a welcome platform for four different sets of local artists and makers. The craft fair was popular with tourists as well as the local audience.

The 2019 **Shetland Open Winners** exhibition, **Treasured** started on 10<sup>th</sup> September and continues until the end of October. After being delayed by 12 months the exhibition is a joyful



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celebration of creativity, with the makers choosing to focus on the joy that making brought them during lockdown.

**ShetlandMade at Sumburgh Airport** has continued to cater to the tourist and travel market, providing a range of snacks and drinks as well as the local craft and products from partnerships with the Shetland Times Bookshop and Shetland Soap Company.

Artist **Morwenna Kearsley** visited Shetland in September and ran a free photography workshop in Mareel, exploring a range of photographs from the MacKinnon Collection in the National Library of Scotland.

From July **Lerwick Brass Band** moved their Tuesday evening rehearsals to the Mareel auditorium whilst their regular rehearsal venue at Gilbertson Park is unavailable.

## 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.*

### Q2 in numbers

**579 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**

**32,152 Audience attendances**

**17 Development Sessions**

**239 Participations**

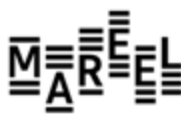
July saw a continuation of our **Live @ Lunch** programme, encouraging audiences to reengage with performance through daytime events lasting no longer than an hour. **Claire White & Robbie Leask** performed their music to a delighted Saturday afternoon audience. **Marjolein Robertson** performed the following weekend, alongside three newcomers to stand-up comedy, her show providing an essential “practice ground” for their material.

We were able to step in and aid **Ragged Wood** when their two performances by **Kris Drever** looked to be in trouble due to high ticket sales and a lack of space in their original venue, given Covid restrictions hadn’t been eased by early July. Kris played to sell-out, socially distanced audiences in Mareel’s auditorium for two consecutive nights, with support from **Scott Moncrieff** and **Adam Guest** respectively.

At the beginning of August we had the last of the current Live @ Lunch events with **Donald Lindsay’s “How’ve You Been?”**, a show developed during his family’s time on Ascension Island.

August also saw a return to non-socially distanced evening performances, kicking off with a hugely well-received performance by **Aly Bain & Phil Cunningham**. This gig was followed a week later by a rescheduled performance by **Eddi Reader** and her band, celebrating her 40 years of making music.

Throughout the summer holidays, **Playtime** and **Storytime** continued, alternating fortnightly, offering families with young children a free daytime event.



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September had an exciting and varied programme, with the return of **Wordplay** being a particular highlight. **Malachy Tallack** curated a weekend of 17 events, supported by a week of schools visits by author **Alan Windram**. The weekend kicked off with a celebration of local writers and the **Shetland Young Writer** prize-giving on the Thursday night. Visiting authors **Damian Barr**, **Cal Flynn**, **Gavin Francis** and **Mary Paulson-Ellis** held engaging author events and hosted well attended workshops. Graphic illustration duo, **Metaphrog** joined us from Glasgow to host workshops for young people, alongside a **Big Bookbug** and children's workshop from Alan Windram. Wordplay also saw the inauguration of online programming, with Shetland based author **Donald S. Murray** paired in an event with **Jennifer Lucy Allan**, and Shetland poets **Jen Hadfield** and **Christine De Luca** also sharing a double-bill. Online workshops were trialled this year with illustrator **Kathryn Briggs** and a sell-out audience for the poet **Alycia Pirmohamed**. Wordplay 2021 was made possible in part by funding from **Scottish Book Trust's Live Literature** fund and the education programme was supported massively in its organisation by Shetland Library.

In a gig rescheduled from 2020, **Twelfth Day** played an intimate show at the end of September. A harp/violin duo who blend angular jazz and modern classical compositions with Scottish traditional idioms and pure pop sensibilities, they were joined on this occasion by double bass and drums.

As successful applicants to Creative Scotland's second round of **Performing Art Venues Relief Fund**, SADA was able to offer more commissioning opportunities to Shetland-based and affiliated artists. **We Are Live** sought commissions from artists who wish to make a new piece of work to be performed by the end of 2021 and the opportunity was advertised in September. Fourteen applications were made and six were awarded the funds to realise their projects. The successful applicants are: **Ann Marie Anderson – Myrtle & Meenie Book Launch**; **Herkja – A Caald Winter's Night Rural Tour**; **Kathryn Spence & JJ Jamieson's dance installation**; **The Imposters Musical Pantomime**; **Chris Stout, Christie Williamson & Catriona Mackay – Flit Sangs** and **Marjolein Robertson – Da Great Nort Gaff**. These projects will all be developed, rehearsed and performed in October, November and December.

## 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.*

### Q2 in numbers

**0 Concerts / Screenings / Exhibition days**  
**0 Audience attendances**  
**22 Development Sessions**  
**43 Participations**

It's been a steady quarter at **Mareel Recording Studio**, with a mix of activity on new and ongoing projects. Both **Freda Leask** and **Peter Alec Kay** continued with recording work on their respective projects, whilst editing and mixing work progressed on the **FARA** album. In



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August, pioneering Highland piper **Donald Lindsay** recorded a session at Mareel whilst in Shetland touring his film *How've You Been?*

The audioguide for the **LOCUS** public art trail was recorded and assembled for dissemination as a podcast in September to tie in with the completion of the final artworks, and voiceover work was commissioned for Unst-based charity **Wild Skies Shetland**. The **Mareel Recording Studio** has also facilitated blocks of ADR (Automated Dialogue Replacement) for the ***Shetland* TV series**, where actors re-record their location dialogue in a studio environment.



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# Case Study: Youth Arts Grant Projects

## Northmavine Film Project

The Northmavine Film Project is one of seven projects funded by the Creative Scotland Youth Arts Grants programme, running between March 2021-March 2022. Grants were awarded by Shetland Arts to projects devised by artists and creative practitioners that contributed to their local community through the delivery of high-quality arts and culture experiences for children and young people. It was important that the children and young people participating in these projects had opportunities to have their voices and ideas heard in the design and/or delivery of the activities.



Filmmaker Keiba Clubb and artists Jane Cockayne, Babs Clubb and Alex Purbrick have been working with Ability Shetland's young people's group in Northmavine, creating films inspired by the area's history, geography and folklore. Over a number of workshops in the summer of 2021, participants created their own costumes, props and make-up, and used their skills in acting, storytelling and crafting to shape the narrative of their films. Participants also had the chance to take on production roles, making the project truly their own.

Participants really enjoyed exploring and sharing stories about their local area, and families appreciated not having to travel to Lerwick to enable young people to participate in activities such as these. Thanks to the enthusiasm, ideas and commitment of the young people not one, but two, films have been produced – *The Giant's Garden* and *The Blue Rock*. A grand premiere of the finished films is planned for spring 2022.

The commissioning structure adopted for the Youth Arts Grant projects represents a shift in the way the Shetland Arts Creative Opportunities team develop and deliver activities. In this new structure, expressions of interest were invited from creative practitioners, who could develop projects in the way they wanted, provided they met the target areas/audiences.



Creative practitioners (and participants) were given significant autonomy in the commissioning model, with Shetland Arts acting in a supporting capacity. Practitioners could decide when and how to run their activities, while having access to Shetland Arts ticketing and booking systems if required. The model has resulted in the proposal of activities that Shetland Arts as an organisation may never have considered running themselves, providing a wide variety of creative workshops (both in subject and in geographical locations). Creative practitioners are involved in all aspects of workshops planning and delivery, from devising the project and recruiting participants, to creating consent forms and collecting feedback on their projects.



Many of these tasks would normally be managed by Shetland Arts, but this model allowed creative practitioners to develop and improve on this wider skill set, essential for managing their work independently. Shetland Arts remained available for support and guidance in all matters, and provided training in child and vulnerable adult protection, GDPR, communications, marketing, and evaluation at an introduction session prior to projects commencing.

The project is ongoing so has not been fully evaluated, but we believe the project is on track to meet the intended Social Outcomes:

#### For participants

- Improved quality of life through greater access to creative and social experiences
- Improved opportunities through personal and professional transferrable skills
- Improved confidence to contribute positively through greater agency and opportunities for self-expression
- Improved mental and physical health through active engagement in creative and social experiences

#### For practitioners

- Improved opportunities through personal and professional transferrable skills
- Improved community resilience through a more diverse and sustainable creative economy

# Case Study: Shetland Youth Theatre, Connections Filming

Shetland Youth Theatre were selected to represent Alison Carr's *Tuesday* at the National Theatre Festival. This would usually have resulted in them travelling down to London to perform at the National Theatre, however, due to the pandemic all the winning productions were professionally filmed for sharing online in September as a virtual National Theatre Festival. Chocolate Films travelled up to Shetland from Glasgow and were joined by the National Theatre team from London for an action-packed two days of rehearsing and filming with Shetland Youth Theatre and our director Stephenie Pagulayan.



The film-within-a-film was reshot by local filmmaker Simon Thompson ahead of their arrival and following a day of rehearsals with Stephenie and the National Theatre Director Mike Bryher the young people were ready to revisit *Tuesday* for a final filmed performance. The young people were delighted to get this opportunity and were so well rehearsed by this time that the production company managed to film the whole production in a single take. The film was shared online in September 2021 with a short series of interviews on the experience of making theatre during a pandemic. This was an incredibly exciting, inspiring and confidence-building opportunity for the young people and they are very much looking forward to participating in Connections again in 2022.

Our evaluation of the project indicates the intended Social Outcomes were met:

- Improved opportunities through personal and professional transferrable skills
- Improved confidence to contribute positively through opportunities for self-expression and community involvement
- Improved feeling of inclusion and equality through greater understanding of other cultures and lifestyles
- Improved mental and physical health through more active involvement in creative and social experiences

# Case Study: Schools Out for Summer!

This project was envisaged to consist of eight special film screenings, with refreshments, in the auditorium at Mareel of Jack Black's iconic coming-of-age school film *School of Rock*. The screenings were free of charge and open to young people who were leaving Primary 7 in June 2021. Each session was targeted at a separate geographic region of Shetland. This was planned to allow pupils to meet their peers from the same catchment areas and have some more familiar faces around them when they go up to Secondary school. Assistance was available with transport, with bus passes available for every young person to ensure that there were no barriers to participation. The session was as close as possible to a regular cinema experience, preceded by a series of short films made by our young Film Crew participants to encourage young people to gain confidence in their creative abilities and engagement with the arts.



*"We haven't been able to deliver many Creative Learning opportunities this year.... A key part of this is transitions, meeting other pupils from our very small primary schools. This project offers the opportunity for pupils to meet and experience a film screening at Mareel. A significant number of pupils have never been in a cinema or auditorium. Following this year, this figure is just going to be higher - it is important to continue to try to offer these experiences to our young people who might not otherwise get the chance"* (Noelle Henderson, Creative Links Officer, Shetland Islands Council)

The project was devised with the following Social Outcomes in mind:

- Improved confidence to contribute positively through opportunities for self-expression and community involvement
- Improved mental and physical health through active engagement in creative and social experiences

We aimed to reach as many of these young people as possible, putting a call out through schools, youth groups, social media and the local press. Unfortunately, participation rates were far lower than we hoped, partly due to the school term having finished by the time the funding was confirmed which reduced our access to the young people and partly due to the reluctance of 11-year olds to sit alone, as cinema COVID guidance meant they had to be socially distanced from their friends. 38 pupils attended across the 8 sessions, with many taking advantage of the bus passes to reach Mareel. All of the young people who did attend reported enjoying the film and feeling more upbeat about starting secondary school as a result.

In summary, whilst the project was successful in achieving the intended outcomes, the number of young people we reached was disappointingly low.



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LOCUS PUBLIC ART TRAIL  
2021

LOCUS



Shetland *arts*



ANALYTIC CONSULTING

Funded by



Shetland  
Charitable Trust



Shetland  
Islands Council





LOCUS is a contemporary public art trail for the centre of Lerwick.

With grant funding from Shetland Islands Council via the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund, four sculptures and two murals have been commissioned by Living Lerwick to act as place-makers, animate and enhance the area, and offer a new way to engage with contemporary art and the environment.

For more information on the trail, the artists, and to download the trail map and audio guide please visit [shetlandarts.org/locus](https://shetlandarts.org/locus) or [livinglerwick.co.uk/locus](https://livinglerwick.co.uk/locus)

## **LOCUS Stage 1: Four Works of Public Art + Trail Map & Guide Final Report**

Budget: £63,770 Town Centre Fund + £2,230 revenue funding from Living Lerwick

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The LOCUS Public Art Trail was conceived in 2019 as a partnership between Living Lerwick and Shetland Arts.

Enhancing the town centre through public art – in line with Living Lerwick's Business Plan for 2017-2021 – the ambition for LOCUS was to inspire the local community and visitors to Lerwick to engage with contemporary art and the environment, and bring new footfall to the area through the commissioning of new works of contemporary public art. With an accompanying trail map as interpretive guide, the self-led walking trail would encourage people to consider the town and its amenities with a fresh perspective.

With generous funding from the Town Centre Fund via Shetland Islands Council work began on LOCUS in December 2019 involving residents, community organisations and businesses from across the town, focusing on three key themes:

***Where we are / Where we're going / Where we've come from***

## THE ARTISTS

The artists were chosen through an open call and selection process, with a panel consisting of two directors of Living Lerwick, two Shetland Arts staff, one independent local creative professional and one University of the Highlands and Islands (UHI) Fine Art student. The application process was open to artists and designers with relevant experience. Creating public artwork is a highly specialised field of work and this was an essential requirement for a publicly-funded project of this scale and budget. There was no requirement for the artists to be based in Shetland.

The commissions for four works of contemporary public sculpture were awarded to internationally renowned contemporary artists Kenny Hunter, David Lemm, Joseph Ingleby and design collective Civic Soup.

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**Kenny Hunter** is known for his monumental civic sculpture and gallery-based work. A number of his outdoor works pay respect to the areas they are situated in – from Citizen Firefighter (2001) outside Central Station in Glasgow to the Barnsley Mining Column (2012), each resonate with their surroundings. With connections to the University of the Highlands and Islands and receiving an Honorary Doctorate from Aberdeen University in 2008, he is also Director of Outreach at Edinburgh College of Art.

Rooted in co-design and community participation, art and architectural collective **Civic Soup** encourage people to take interest in and ownership of the built environment. Driven by people, knowledge, heritage, craft and nature, they draw from a breadth of experiences to support learning and skills development. Most recently, they have worked alongside young people aged 10–21 to explore traditional building materials and methods – assisting them to design and build a round hut in the Pentland Hills outside of Edinburgh.

**David Lemm** has presented work from Amsterdam to Berlin, with his practice spanning across various processes including printmaking, drawing, video and collage. With work often research led, David has worked on a broad range of projects which tackle notions of place, landscape, narrative and perception. In 2017, he was awarded the Jon Schueler Scholarship Visual Artist in Residence at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig in Skye, where he worked with local school pupils to investigate the landscape through walks and workshops.

Well known for his site-specific public commissions, **Joseph Ingleby**'s sculptural practice stems from memory and identity. His work is held in private and public collections across the world, and in 2018, he was commissioned to create a 'Treasure Trail' of seven works for the regeneration of Denny Town Square, near Falkirk. Joseph also teaches at Glasgow Sculpture Studios, working with a wide range of materials, most commonly steel, stainless steel and copper.



By March 2020 all the commissioned artists had made their first visits to Shetland to discuss locations, meet stakeholders, make connections with local industry and carry out research into the elements of Shetland's past, present and future to inform their work.



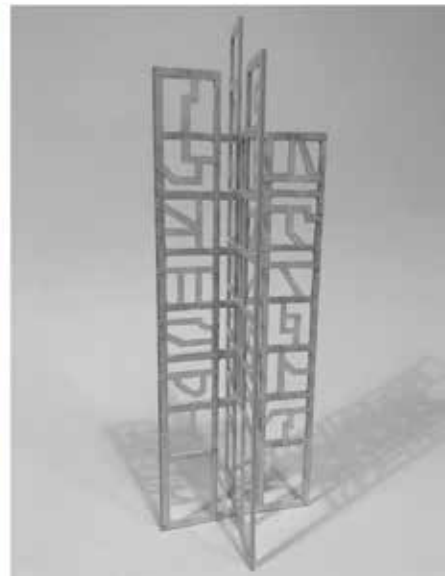
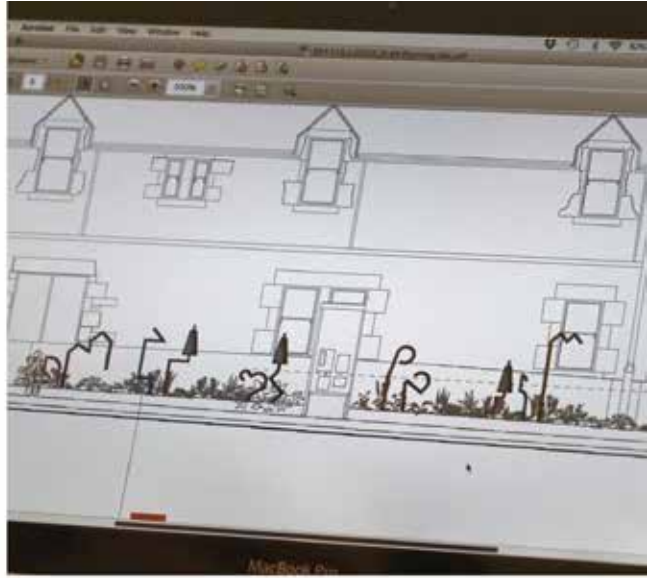
*Above left: David Lemm's research visit to LEF Ltd., Jan 2020*

*Above right: Civic Soup's workshop at Brae High School, Feb 2020*

Additional support via the [Creative Learning Network](#) from SIC Schools Service enabled design collective Civic Soup to deliver workshops in five schools across Shetland in February 2020, working with pupils from P5 to S3 to help create the resource material for their work, in line with their practice of social engagement.

The sites for the sculptures were considered at great length to enhance the business district of Commercial Street and up to Hillhead in dialogue with local stakeholders. The works were carefully considered within the context of each location and were subsequently designed specifically for each site, responding to the adjacent architecture, sightlines etc.

Progress was hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic and the project deadlines extended into 2021. The impact of this was both positive and negative, with delays to the fabrication and installation of the work offset by the additional time for the artists to fine-tune their designs and for the thorough planning process to be completed. Installation of the works and the design of the trail map and guide was rescheduled for June 2021.



Above: Work in Progress L>R:  
 Kenny Hunter, *As Above So Below*, bronze section  
 Civic Soup, *Never-Ending Gansey*, design work  
 Joseph Ingleby, *Storm Cargo*, scale model  
 David Lemm, *Stakamillabakka*, scale model

## THE ARTWORKS

All four artworks were fabricated in partnership with local industry professionals Lerwick Engineering & Fabrication Ltd., Garriock Bros Ltd. and Malakoff Ltd. The bronze element of Kenny Hunter's sculpture was cast at Powderhall Foundry in Edinburgh (there is no bronze foundry in Shetland) and transported to Shetland by road. All site works were carried out by Garriock Bros Ltd., including excavation and laying of foundations for the works at three of the four locations in Lerwick ahead of the installation at the end of June 2021.

*Overleaf: fabrication & installation images with local industry partners & artists, June 2021*





Overleaf:

**Joseph Ingleby | Storm Cargo** (top left)

Stainless steel | Outside Royal Bank of Scotland, 81 Commercial St.

Storm Cargo consists of two halves, inspired by the shape of a guillemot's egg. The outer surfaces of the work depict tides, waves, coast and landscape, along with traditional sixareen Shetland boat construction. The egg is sliced open to reveal a cargo of elements that make up Shetland: a Scatness wheelhouse and a hearth stone from Jarlshof, Edmonston's Chickweed from Unst and Fort Charlotte, compass navigation and marine engineering, all as deep cut symbol reliefs. The two oldest ones are cut deepest, the next two less so, and the most recent with the lightest 'footprint'. The inner plates also angle and wedge, creating a dynamic surface reflecting the stone construction and landscape at Scatness and Jarlshof.

**David Lemm | Stakamillabakka** (top right)

Steel & concrete | Outside The Shetland Parliamentary Office, 171 Commercial St.

Stakamillabakka is a collection of forms based on 'sea fastenings' used in local industry to secure loads to boats. These artefacts, reminiscent of letterpress blocks, have been translated into linear motifs and are presented here as a possible visual language inspired by Shetland dialect, semaphore and runic forms. Equally, details of the surrounding landscape are mirrored in the voids and lines of the structure, which create windows through which to consider Da Street anew. The steel framework echoes ladders in Lerwick harbour; devices connecting land to sea and the idea of transition between the two. Standing as a beacon, aerial or marker point, the cross design also references a compass and Shetland as a historic crossroads of cultural exchange.

**Civic Soup | The Never-Ending Gansey** (bottom left)

Powder-coated steel | Hillhead

The Never-Ending Gansey emerges from a mill of young Shetland minds, spinning yarn in an image of diverse contemporary life across the Isles. The result of layer upon layer of reinterpretation by knitters and young people, the artwork began in February 2020 through a series of workshops across five Shetland schools led by Civic Soup, reimagining Fair Isle patterns in individual motifs and colours. Drawing upon the rich heritage of textiles in the Isles, a colourful array of threads now weave across the vantage point of Hillhead, knitting together stories of place and home, as told by the next generation of Shetlanders. **Kenny Hunter** /

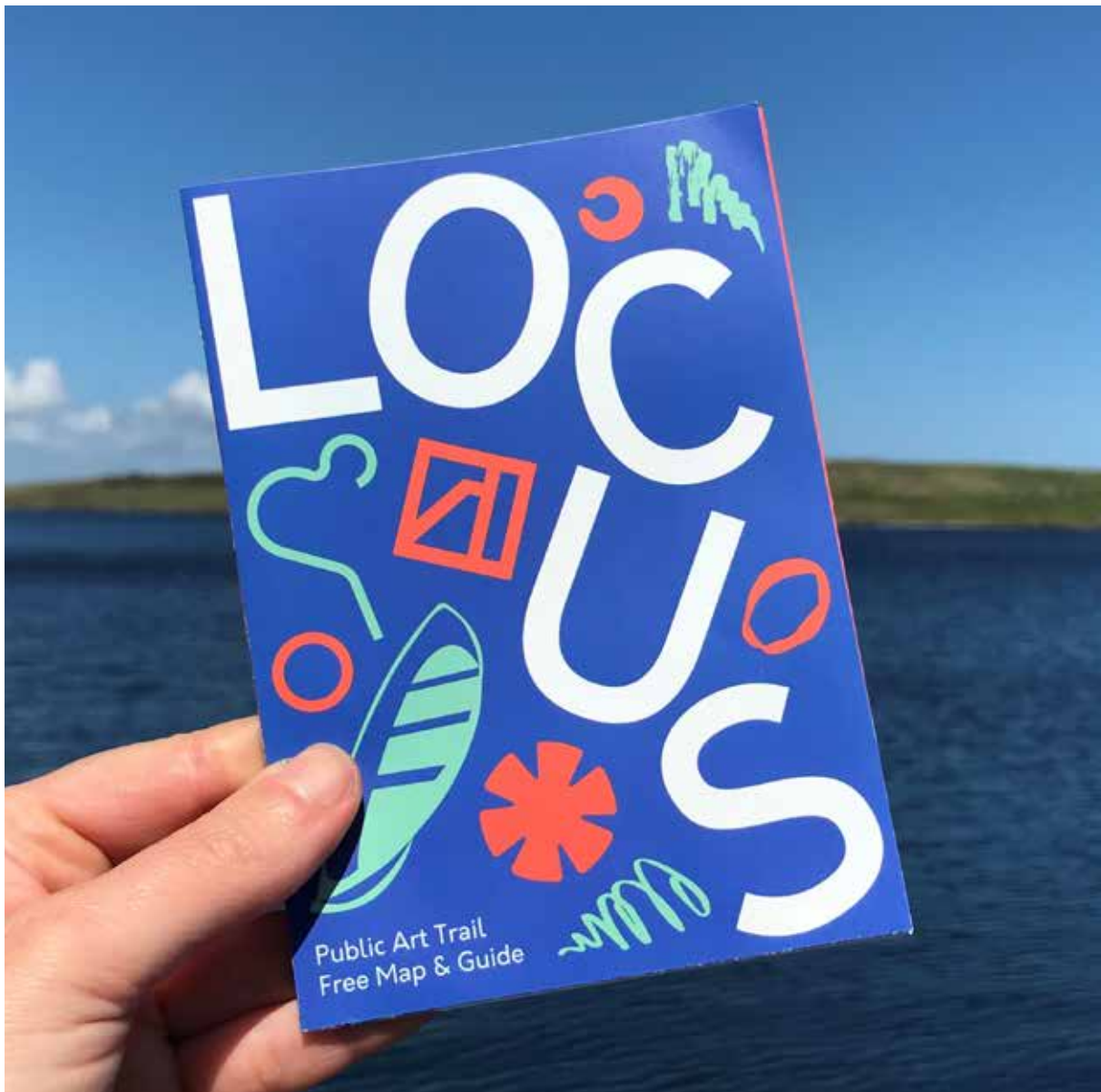
**As Above so Below** (bottom right)

Bronze & concrete | Outside Cee & Jays, 5 Commercial Rd.

As Above so Below represents the practice of gas extraction from below the seabed to the west of Shetland. The sculpture is composed as a cross-section of undersea landscape and its geology: the top section represents the gas pipeline, the mid-section the seabed and the plinth suggests the gas-pocket within the earth's crust. These three elements combine to depict the coexistence of industry and nature. Whilst the sculpture doesn't try to make a statement about this situation it does acknowledge the important role this industry has played in the development of Shetland's economy and society.







*Above & overleaf: Trail Map & Guide and postcards, by Chloe Keppie*

The open-call for the design of the Trail Map & Guide was advertised in late 2020 and awarded to **Chloe Keppie** via a selection process by the project team. Originally from Gulberwick, Chloe is a graphic designer completing her final year of Communication Design at the Glasgow School of Art.

Her design incorporates information and visual elements of each of the LOCUS artworks, an introduction to the history of Lerwick and a suggested route around the town via the map.

A film was made to publicise the project and a launch event was held on 3 July to celebrate the completion of LOCUS Stage 1, with a walking tour for press and local stakeholders, screens showing the film in local shop windows and an information point in the centre of town. Designer Chloe Keppie created a series of four illustrated postcards to complement her trail map design that were given out at the event with free sets of crayons for children to colour in.





## **LOCUS Stage 2: Murals**

Budget: £17,540 TCCGF + £3,000 core funding from Shetland Arts

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Building on the success of Stage 1, Living Lerwick successfully secured further funding from the Scottish Government's Town Centre Fund to extend the LOCUS public art project to include two murals exploring the same theme. Suitable walls were identified through consultation with local business owners.

### ***SELECTION / DESIGN PROCESS***

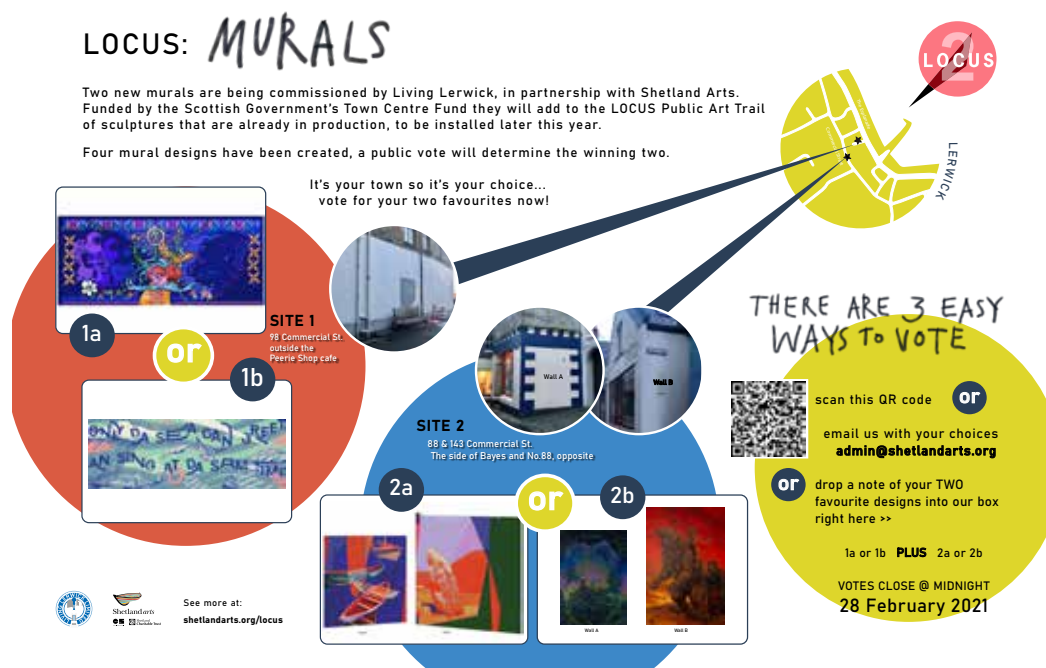
The commissions advertised locally and nationally in January 2021. The application process was open to artists and designers with relevant experience. Creating public artwork is a highly specialised field of work and this was an essential requirement for a publicly-funded project of this scale and budget. There was no requirement for the artists to be based in Shetland.

In early February 2021 a panel consisting of two directors of Living Lerwick and two Shetland Arts staff selected four artists/collectives that were each commissioned to create a design for one of the two identified sites. The four designs (two for each site) were then put to a public vote between 23-28 February 2021. This process was seen as a positive step to encouraging community engagement and investment in the project.

*Below left: Site 1, 98 Commercial Street, Lerwick*

*Below centre & right: Site 2, 143 & 88 Commercial Street, Lerwick*





A total of 642 votes were cast by the local community via a combination of online and on-street processes (see above voting panel) and the two winning designs Cobolt Collective and Gavin Renshaw were commissioned, to be painted in summer 2021. Planning permission and Listed Building Consent was granted in April 2021.

## THE ARTISTS/DESIGNERS

**Cobolt** is a mural collective of three designers – Erin Bradley-Scott, Chelsea Frew and Kat Loudon – based in Glasgow. They seek to transform a wall or space into one that exudes positivity, encouragement and/or celebration for the people it is designed to be used by.

**Gavin Renshaw** is a visual artist combining elements of classical painting and graphic design with a graffiti aesthetic. His murals can be seen in cities across the UK. In his work he considers topography, local heritage and the ability to respond to built environments, with a strong focus on its architectural infrastructure.

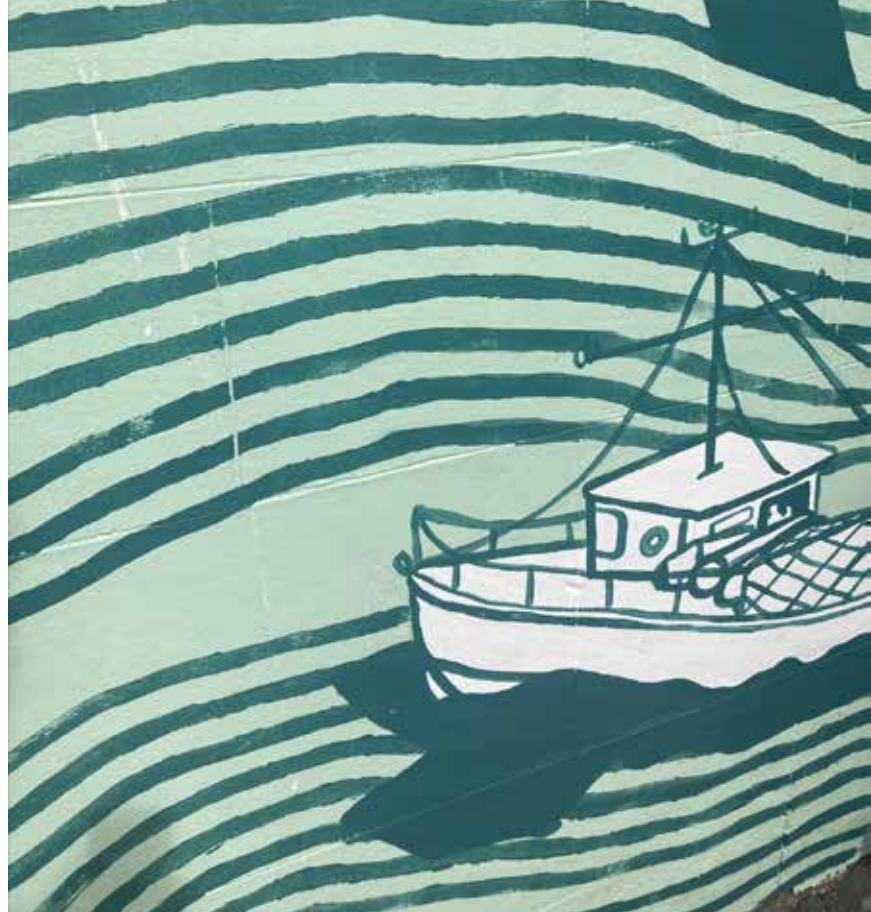
## THE ARTWORKS

Overleaf: **Cobolt Collective | Only da Sea**

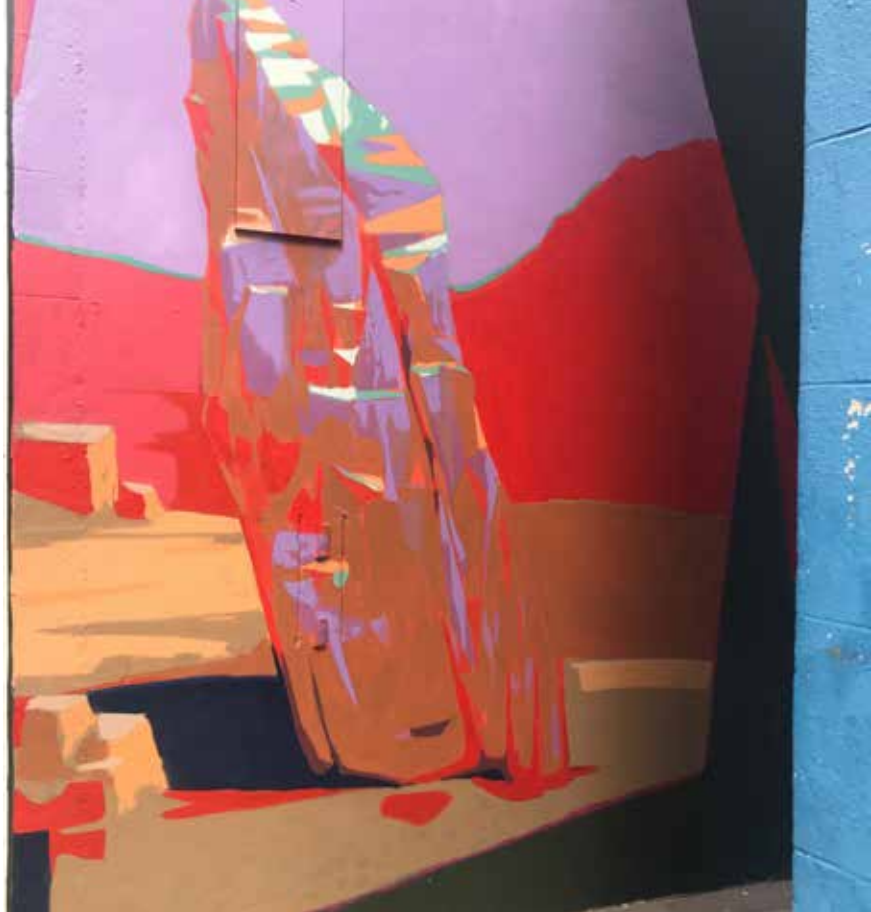
Painted mural, completed August 2021

Side of The Dowry, 98 Commercial St., outside The Peerie Café









For centuries, the sea has been a place of work and leisure for Shetlanders. It has welcomed new people and said goodbye to others. It is home to a wealth of living things from orcas to otters, and is almost like a living creature of its own. The rhythm of the waves is like the heartbeat of the island, steady and constant, and this has been – and still is – a comforting presence for people during difficult times. The line from the poem “Discontinuity” by Shetland-born poet Christine De Luca: “Only da sea can greet an sing at da sam time” captures the idea of the sea being a living thing, capable of its own emotions, singing to its own melody and rhythm.

*Previous page: **Gavin Renshaw | PUSH/PULL**  
**Painted mural, completed July 2021**  
**Side of Bayes & No.88, Commercial St.***

PUSH/PULL explores the intrinsic relationship between land and sea, not only with regards livelihood and travel but also in the spiritual and primal sense of ancient and future culture. The standing stone looks out to sea; a beacon, an ancestor, or a way marker? The goal looks for the stone, a reference to land. They are floating amongst two worlds, a way of navigating between them both, anchored to one, released to the other.

The mural designs were incorporated into Chloe Keppie’s trail map and guide.

An audioguide was created to complement the trail map and guide, with contributions from all the artists involved in both LOCUS Stage 1 & 2 (sculptures and murals) and an introduction to the history of Lerwick by Living Lerwick, available as a download from both the Shetland Arts and Living Lerwick websites.

The free trail map and guide is available from Mareel, Visit Scotland iCentre and other locations around the town. It can also be downloaded as a pdf and plain text document from Shetland Arts’ website ([shetlandarts.org/locus](https://shetlandarts.org/locus)) and Living Lerwick’s website ([livinglerwick.co.uk/locus](https://livinglerwick.co.uk/locus)).

Of the seven LOCUS commissions (four sculptures, two murals, one trail map) there are 6 male identifying and 6 female identifying artists involved.

The trail has a minimum lifespan of five years.

Indicative 2021/22 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	2	0			2	69	0			69	37	30			67	414	358			772
2. Education & Learning	1	0			1	180	0			180	169	185			354	506	897			1403
3. Arts & Well-being	0	0			0	0	0			0	17	6			23	246	74			320
4. Development & Support	120	186			306	4524	10462			14986	21	13			34	102	217			319
5. Programming	928	579			1507	17028	32152			49180	13	17			30	90	239			329
6. Recording Studio	0	0			0	0	0			0	19	22			41	48	43			91
Programme Total	1051	765	0	0	1816	21801	42614	0	0	64415	276	273	0	0	549	1406	1828	0	0	3234
SCT Annual Target					4229					161112					2218					20902
% of SCT Target					42.9%					40.0%					24.8%					15.5%