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Photography by: Beth Morten; Chris Radley; Diane Smith; Geraldine Heaney; Jassy Earl; and Solen Collet.



Introduction

Rhona Matheson, Chief Executive

I'm delighted to welcome you to Starcatchers' Annual Report for 2019/20 – another year packed with projects and activity.

An extraordinary end to the year

Almost all of our work for and with young children and their families during this time was face-to-face in groups, which makes reflection on the final part of this period – towards the end of March 2020 - even more poignant.

Between 13th and 31st March the Starcatchers' team moved to home-working, all our face-to-face community engagement projects shifted to online delivery and the upcoming tour of Little Top, our first circus experience for babies, to the Edinburgh International Children's Festival and to the Ricca Ricca Festival and Mirai Festival in Japan were postponed.

Everything changed in a very short space of time, with the exception of our mission – to ensure that all of our youngest children 0-5 are inspired through innovative arts and cultural experiences.

There is no doubt that digital engagement will have a lasting and positive legacy, which will certainly be reflected on in great detail as part of next year's annual report. I will take this opportunity therefore, to focus on the hugely positive impact face-to-face engagement has, with every hope and belief that this kind of work will begin again soon.

The magic of live performance

The experience of live performance cannot be matched. In describing what makes Little Top unique as a first circus experience, creator Ellie Dubois describes experiencing real circus "close up... the set, the acrobatics, the colour and the magic". In all of Starcatchers' live productions, performers are guided by the babies and children in the room with them - their laughter, stares and even cries, which tell them where to push further or where to pull back. No two performances are ever exactly the same.

Face-to-face storytelling sessions with small groups of children have been an important part of Andy Cannon's development of Spike (Page 10). He describes how you connect deeply with children through storytelling - through eye contact and by being responsive to what they tell you through their body language.

Building connections; strengthening relationships

It's been wonderful to see participants from our community engagement projects (page 13) benefitting from the huge range of creative opportunities that Starcatchers' artists have facilitated. Feedback and evaluation consistently demonstrates how participating in this way can help strengthen parent/child bonds, as well as create new connections with peers, and improve the babies' physical, social and emotional development.

Child voice

A big focus this year has been on children's rights, as Scotland prepares to incorporate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) into domestic law.

Our work has always been underpinned by Article 31 of the UNCRC – every child's right to participate freely in arts and culture. However, we've been less explicit about how participating in the arts can help ensure other rights are fulfilled, in particular the right to be listened to and have a voice (Article 12). Our campaign Making My Mark (Page 27) addressed this and we're committed to continuing and developing this work, working with partners to demonstrate how arts-based approaches can help ensure self-expression and participation are nurtured from birth.

European partnerships

Finally, in the year that the UK leaves the European Union, our two-year Erasmus+ project Artists, Art and Early Childhood (Page 25) enabled artists to take part in their sixth and final residency, this time in The Netherlands to coincide with the 20th 2Turvenhoog Festival.

This project created a network of artists from Scotland, France and The Netherlands who specialise in developing work with and for young children. The connections made are vital for artist development and the future of the sector and so we remain committed to ensuring projects like these can continue.

Thank you to a wonderful team

Kobre Mataph.

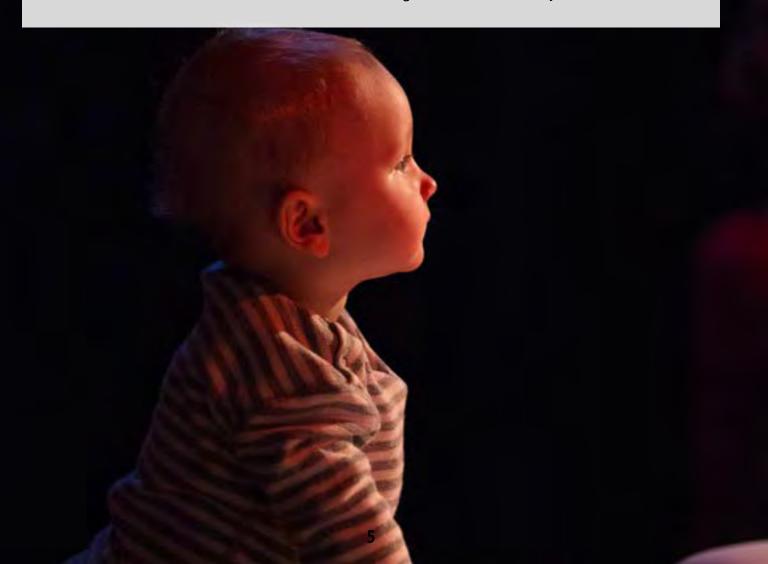
I say it every year and will do so again – I am indebted to the commitment, energy and enthusiasm of the Starcatchers team, including the 70+ artists we have worked with this year (Page 32) and our fantastic board. Thank you to everyone – we could not do it without you.

About Starcatchers

Starcatchers is Scotland's National Arts and Early Years Organisation. Our mission is to ensure that all of our youngest children age 0-5 are inspired through beautiful and innovative arts and cultural experiences.

We strive to achieve this by:

- Creating live theatre and dance performances, and visual arts installations for babies, young children and their grown-ups
- Connecting artists with communities, particularly those where there are multiple, complex barriers to young children's participation in the arts
- Empowering early years professionals to transform children's experiences through expressive arts
- Inspiring artists to push the boundaries of artistic practice in their work with this age group
- Working across sectors and with decision-makers to advocate for young children's right to access arts and culture from birth and throughout their earliest years





Our organisational values are our touchstone – they guide and support us and those we work with, and help us deliver our work with purpose, focus and confidence.

Creative and Curious

We believe in the innate creative capacity we all have. We know that by nurturing curiosity and by asking questions it allows us to create and deliver exciting, innovative work.

Bold and Brave

We are unafraid of new ideas and taking risks. We want to be pioneers, challenging perceptions of what can be made and shared with babies, toddlers and young children.

Collaborative and Connected

We celebrate our existing partnerships and seek out new relationships in the knowledge that our work is stronger because we are working with others who have differing expertise. We are open and care about those we work with, ensuring that everyone is able to have their voice heard and respected.

Reflective and Responsive

We are a reflective organisation. We want to learn from the work we have delivered, understanding the successes and challenges to inform what we do next, and sharing our experience openly so that others can also learn from what we have done.





Little Top is a magical first circus experience for babies aged 0-18 months and their grown-ups, developed through a unique partnership between Starcatchers and SUPERFAN.

At a time in their development when young children are discovering their own physicality, and the pleasures and perils of gravity, Little Top invites babies to experience all the fun of the circus. Roll up for a gently thrilling performance which includes spectacular balances, astonishing tumbles and inventive juggling.

Little Top will transport you to a playful, joyous, upside-down, topsy-turvy world where patterns fill the air and anything is possible.

'We are creating real circus in miniature'

Little Top is the brainchild of award-winning circus artist Ellie Dubois and early years artist Kim Donohoe.

Whilst Ellie is reinventing traditional notions of what modern circus can be, Kim strives to push the boundaries of what kind of performances can inspire very young children. Together they created a unique first circus experience.

"I am passionate about circus and I want to push the boundaries of what it can be, where it can exist and what it tells us about the world.

"When I mention circus to people, their eyes light up, but traditionally it's something an audience experiences from far away as part of a large crowd. When you get to see circus close-up as you do in Little Top, you get a different experience... We are creating a real circus in miniature. The set, the acrobatics, the colour and the magic will simply be distilled down into a much smaller, comfy and welcoming space."

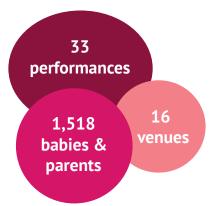
Ellie Dubois





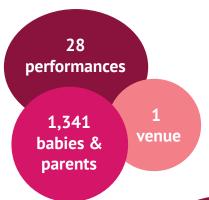
Spring Tour 2019

Little Top toured across Scotland, including to Scotland's most northerly mainland arts centre, Lyth Arts Centre.



Edinburgh Festival Fringe

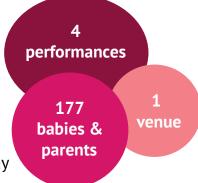
Selected to be part of the Made in Scotland Showcase, Little Top was one of 22 innovative shows by Scottish artists and companies at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019.



International touring

Little Top toured to Bærum Kulturhus Culture House, Norway, in January 2020. The venue said the show prompted the highest demand it's seen so far for tickets to a performance for children.

Little Top was due to tour to the Ricca Ricca Festival and Mirai Festival, the showcase event of the ASSITEJ World Congress, both in Japan, and Edinburgh International Children's Festival in May 2020. Both were postponed.



New Work Development

During 2019/20 five new pieces of work were in development. Covid-19 has had a significant impact but we continue to work with these artists to develop and realise their visions for new performances for babies and young children.



Spike

Mary Anne lives in an ordinary little town with an extraordinary museum of everything there ever was! There are rockets and planes, boats and trains, tigers and sloths, butterflies and moths - but Mary-Ann's favourite is Spike, a wee dinosaur in a big world.

2
nurseries

48
3
visits

ad
artists

artists

Spike is the wonderful story of a little girl, her grandmother and a Stegosaurus - powerfully told through theatrical storytelling and dance.

With a truly intergenerational cast, this is a show about the passing of time and stories passed on, which bring families together.

Spike is being developed by Andy Cannon, whose development work has been guided by preschool children in two Edinburgh nurseries.

Using a range of storytelling techniques, the children's responses and ideas have informed development of the storyline.

"Storytelling provides lots of opportunities to connect deeply with children, through eye contact and by being responsive to what they're telling you verbally or through body language. Continuously seek to sense where they are."

Andy Cannon



Mix Up

Bring together a dancer, some music and brightly coloured paint with the fearless imaginations of very young children. Mix them up and what do you get?

nursery visits children artists

"Something that's unique, probably chaotic and unpredictable but bright, bold and very beautiful in its own way", says Starcatchers Associate Artist, Katy Wilson.

As part of her research Katy worked with nursery children in Edinburgh who helped her develop ideas to inspire a multi-sensory, pop-up arts experience for babies and young children involving paint, music and dance.

"I'd love to create an opportunity for the very young to independently push the boundaries of their own creative expression through mark-making."



Island

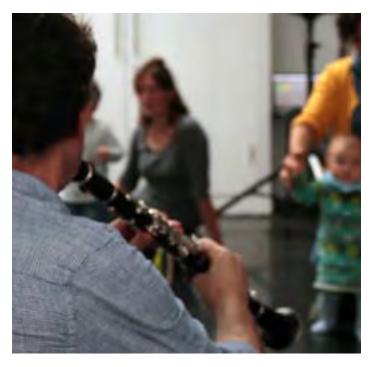
Island embarks on an adventure to explore ideas around the experiences of parents and babies, and their relationships with one another.

15 children

artists

The project is led by Heather Fulton, Starcatchers Associate Artist and Artistic Director of Frozen Charlotte.

In October 2019, the creative team had a week of development and sharing with babies and their parents/carers at Roseisle Hall, Moray.



Bounce

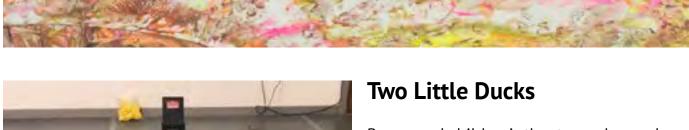
Inspired by bouncing and conceived by award-winning, UK-based composer and renowned music educator Stephen Deazley, Bounce is a new performance experience for babies and their adults.

3 artists

12

Collaborators included clarinettist, improviser and digital sonic artist Dr Pete Furniss and visual theatre maker Al Seed.

Continuing their research from 2018/19, the team spent a week developing music which ended with a magical showcase for a group of babies and toddlers age 0-18 months and their parents.





Renowned children's theatre maker and designer, Shona Reppe, is working with Starcatchers to develop a new show for babies that explores the ideas of opposites and 'baby bingo'.

Working with Tessa Berring and Mat Clements, Two Little Ducks will be a theatrical interactive installation and an exploration of moments, inspired by traditional bingo calls, creating a shared experience that is beautiful for the baby and the parent.



Community Engagement

In 2019/20 Starcatchers delivered five community engagement projects in Scotland:

Expecting Something





Expecting Something is in its seventh year, working with new, young and expectant parents in two communities: Wester Hailes in Edinburgh and Lochgelly in Fife.

During 2019/20, regular weekly sessions were based at WHALE Arts and the Lochgelly Centre. Facilitated by professional artists, Expecting Something provides a safe space for parents to spend time engaging in creative activities with their little ones.

In addition, six satellite sessions took place in communities in Edinburgh and Fife, as well as a 10-week pilot in partnership with the Citadel Youth Centre in Leith, Edinburgh.

Each session is completely different, offering photography, painting, sculpture, music, puppetry and a range of other arts experiences.

"Taking part
in artistic and creative
activities together is protected
time for parents and their children,
when they can really focus on
being together. It helps strengthen
relationships and encourages
deeper bonds."

Kerry Cleland, Expecting Something Project Coordinator

Creative confidence is nurtured, and families are supported to visit other places in their local area and engage with cultural activities.

Expecting Something Highlights

The children from Wester Hailes became Jupiter Artland's youngest participants of a creative sculpture workshop inspired by the work of sculptor, photographer and environmentalist Andy Goldsworthy.

Armed with natural materials forged from the beautiful grounds of Jupiter Artland, the children and their parents co-created some fascinating sculptures.

Expecting Somthing Lochgelly explored the meaning of motherhood and life through the eyes of the children using spoken word, storytelling, film-making and Kintsugi, the Japense art of repairing broken pottery.





10
sessions in
partnership with
Citadel Youth
Centre

Expecting Something ran a 10-week pilot project working with young parents at Citadel Youth Centre, Leith, Edinburgh.

"Expecting Something has been a fun and exciting opportunity for the young mums and their babies who attend our services here at the Citadel.

6 parents "The partnership has supported mums and their babies to develop and strengthen their relationships, improve their parental capacity and, as a result, we've seen improved attachment.

6 babies

"We have also observed an increase in the babies" physical, social and emotional development

by delivering activities that increase their socialisation with other babies and adults, as well as providing sessions that focus on the importance of play."

Emma Sangster, Citadel Youth Centre

During the Edinburgh Festival Fringe 2019 Citadel families attended a live performance of Little Top, Starcatchers' and SUPERFAN'S first circus experience for little ones and their grown-ups (page 8). "It's kind of made
me realise that being
creative is something I really
enjoy doing. It's been so much fun.
The things we have managed to make,
especially the things that me and my child
can make. I didn't realise I enjoyed doing it
until I came here."

Expecting Something parent, Lochgelly



Starcatchers worked with Aberdeen Performing Arts during Winter 2019 to deliver four creative sessions for babies and their families as part of the Music Hall Babies Project.

Using the same delivery model as Starcatchers' Expecting Something, a further six sessions were delivered in the Seaton area of Aberdeen, engaging more families in areas of deprivation who may not normally have the opportunity to participate in arts and cultural activities.

Lead artist, Heather Fulton, provided a glimpse into one of her creative sessions with the Music Hall Babies group in a blog published as part of Starcatchers' Making My Mark campaign:

Climb up, up the stairs, right to the top of the Music Hall, open the creaky door and step into the attic.

There are a few things we need to look out for when we explore the attic.

There might be some little mice; maybe some spiders! Watch out for the holes in the roof – the rain might get in! Let's take the dust sheet off the piano...

This was the scene that opened my third week with a wonderful group of mums and their nearly 2-year-olds in Aberdeen. The aim of this session was to create a space where people feel relaxed, happy and intrigued – a space where imaginations are sparked.

On the piano, fellow artist Matthew played beautifully as the mums, dads, grannies, grandpas and toddlers explored the boxes of bags, shoes, dressing up clothes and fabrics. When the music paused we all hid from the mice, and ended with a tea party with imaginary tea and knitted cakes.

An extract from **Space for Imagination**.



Pre-school pupils from an Edinburgh primary school worked with artists and a playworker to co-design and create an interactive playground installation that would ease their transition from the nursery garden to the P1 playground in August 2019.

3 artists

A variety of artistic and creative activities such as sculpture, outdoor drawing, painting, weaving, building obstacle courses and gardening helped the children communicate what they needed from a physical space.

The final installation is an aluminium, domed frame covered with colourful materials, accompanied by two smaller 'eggs': one for sensory-seeking children and one for those wanting a quieter space. The structures encourage inclusive play and were unveiled at a celebratory event with Minister for Children, Maree Todd.

"We know that the playground can sometimes be an intimidating and anxious experience for younger children, particularly those with additional support needs. We wanted to help them create a physical space to help overcome this.

"It's not enough to simply ask very young children what they need. In a series of sessions over four months, we presented them with artistic and creative stimuli. We've observed, listened, interacted and responded to ensure what they are communicating is incorporated into the playground installation."

Lead artist Kirstin Abraham





In January 2020, kinship families in North Ayrshire took part in a series of eight participatory creative workshops facilitated by artist Fraser Stone, focusing on music creation and performance, song-writing, singing, rhyme, movement and dance.

It built on two years' experience delivering Creative Kin (2017-2019), which demonstrated the significant impact that creative respite can have on the confidence, wellbeing and relationships of kinship carers and the children they are looking after, many of whom have experienced trauma.

Delivered with support from kinship support group, SHOUT, Sound Kinnections culminated in the co-creation of a song and accompanying <u>music video</u>, which were shared nationally as part of Scotland's Kinship Care Week 2020, hosted by Citizens Advice Scotland's Kinship Team.

We're delighted that funding has now been secured to continue Creative Kin in North Ayrshire without pause until 2023, providing consistent creative intervention for families and supporting local infrastructure for longer-term provision thereafter.



How do you feel when the school bell rings?

Starcatchers was commissioned by the Scottish Government to engage with young children age 4-6, ensuring their voices were reflected in a consultation about the future of Out of School Care.

Artists worked with over 100 children at three primary schools and one nursery. Through creative, open-ended play and expressive arts activities they facilitated responses from the children about their needs, wants, worries and expectations in relation to Out of School Care. A full report of their findings is available.

This project is recognition that all children, including early years children, have the right to be involved in decision-making that has an impact on their lives. This is enshrined in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC), currently being incorporated into domestic law in Scotland.





We work with nursery, family centre and out of school care staff, teachers, childminders and play workers to ensure they have the confidence and skills to put expressive arts at the heart of practice.

Participants are challenged to explore their creativity and learn how expressive arts such as music, drama, puppetry, visual art, storytelling, and creative movement can transform early years learning environments.

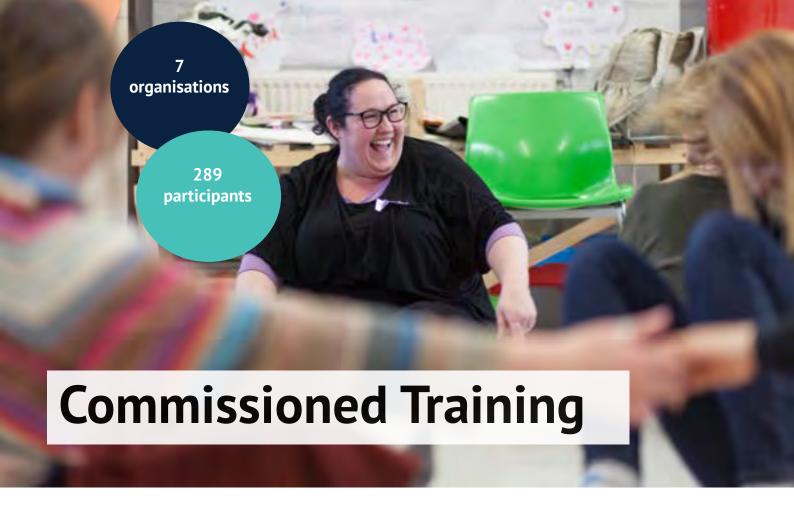
Funded by the Scottish Government, we work in local authority areas across Scotland.

In 2019/20 we worked in five local authorities – Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow and East Renfrewshire – and with The University of Highlands and Islands in Inverness, Glasgow Kelvin College, and Edinburgh College.

After completing the Creative Skills training, some practitioners choose to further their learning and focus on the theory around creativity in childhood, as well as examining how to integrate creative skills into their practice with our SQA qualification. In 2019, we delivered the SQA qualification at Glasgow Kelvin College.

"We're rewriting our literacy framework at the moment and thanks to these sessions I'm putting creativity at the centre – it's so key, but people forget just how important creativity is."

Creative Skills Participant, Glasgow



We work directly with organisations to deliver bespoke artist-facilitated sessions designed to meet individual settings' requirements and can focus on specific art forms or take a more broad-based approach. They can be delivered as one-off training sessions or over a longer time period.

In 2019/20, Starcatchers was commissioned to deliver training by a number of organisations, including:

- The National Third Sector GIRFEC (Getting it Right for Every Child) Project
- Playspace
- Rocking Horse Nursery
- Scottish Association of Music Education
- East Renfrewshire Council
- The West Partnership
- Children in Scotland.

"The whole day
made me really start to
put my imagination in use to make me think how a child
thinks and sees things."

Participant, Rocking Horse Nursery





Since its launch last year, Starcatchers' artist development programme has supported 41 artists through training, mentorship, and opportunities for networking and sharing practice nationally and internationally.

The artists are at different stages of their careers and specialise across different artforms. All demonstrated a commitment to working with, or developing work for, babies and young children.

We hope that, through this support, they find inspiration to push boundaries and create art experiences for young children and their parents that are high quality and innovative.

International Festivals

12 artists attended:

- The 2Turvernhoog Festival, Almere, Amsterdam
 April 2019
- Baboró International Arts Festival for Children, Galway – October 2019
- El Mes Petit Des Tots, Barcelona November 2019
- ŻiguŻajg International Arts Festival for Children and Young People, Malta – November 2019

Playdays

Playdays provide opportunities for artists to meet other artists in order to collaborate, share and explore new ideas.

"I was there
looking for how performers
create unspoken theatrical rules and
boundaries for audience members.

I wanted to see how very young audience members encounter performance spaces. In each performance, the level to which companies had considered this in set, lighting and movement inspired ideas of spaces and journeys to create that trigger and nurture curiosity."

Rosa Duncan, El Mes Petit de Tots Festival, Barcelona There were three Playdays in 2019/20:

Making Your Mark: Agency in Expressive Arts Experiences for 0-5s, facilitated by Heather

Armstrong and Skye Reynolds

 What is our role as artists in a green revolution? facilitated by Hazel Darwin-Clements

 Outside In, facilitated by Brian Hartley and Matt Addicott

Mentoring

Four artists – two early career and two experienced dancers - were supported to shadow artists delivering training for early years professionals as part of Starcatchers' Creative Skills programme.

The Bursary Artists attended five sessions each, and the programme was delivered in Aberdeen and Dundee.

"One of the most important things for me was to learn about the barriers that early years practitioners and teachers face in providing a creative space for the children they teach and care for.

"To discuss the pressures, expectations and limitations placed on their roles made for a greater understanding in my facilitation practice.

"I now have a much wider understanding of the participatory sector in educational contexts and, in the future, will be able to present workshops and projects in a way that works better for staff in those settings"

Kirsty Pennycook Creative Skills Bursary Artist

Online Gatherings

In March 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19, our artist development work moved online providing fortnightly artist gatherings for artists to share ideas, thoughts, challenges and to support each other during challenging times.





Artists, Art and Early Childhood was a two-year (2017-2019) research project, funded by Erasmus + and led by Starcatchers (UK), Compagnie ACTA (France) and 2 Turven Hoog (Netherlands).

The project focused on the relationship between artists and young children in day-to-day life — in early learning and childcare (ELC) settings, arts venues and festivals — and the impact this has on both children and artists themselves.

During a series of study visits to each of the participating countries, participants learnt about each country's policies and approach to culture and the early years, by visiting ELC settings and exploring artistic experiences for young children in arts venues and festivals.

The Netherlands (April 2019)

The final residency coincided with the 20th 2Turvenhoog Festival in Almere, enabling artists to see work from The Netherlands and across Europe as well as develop their own work.

Artists worked in their own studio space in Almere, building on ideas that were the focus of their work in Scotland including falling, gravity and nature.

Groups of children and their grown-ups observed their 'work in progress' experience in the studio as part of the festival. Artists also developed concepts, including the use of film, green screen and digital technology within a pop-up studio they had in the festival venue.

The project has successfully strengthened the relationship between the three organisations involved, and as a result of our participation we are continuing to work closely together to share practice and seek opportunities to support more project activity.

After the final visit, some of the Erasmus artists continued to work together and collaborated on a separate project in Italy in 2019. They also developed a lab-based approach to working with early years audiences as a direct result of their participation in the Erasmus+ project. The three organisations are continuing to discuss and utilise their own resources to support the development of this concept that will continue to facilitate artistic exchange between artists from different countries.





"I nrougn art,
babies and young
children make their mark
on this this world
– they have a voice."

Rhona Matheson Chief Executive Starcatchers Starcatchers' Making My Mark campaign, launched in August 2019, raised awareness of the role that arts and creative experiences can play in helping children learn about their rights during their earliest years – in particular how participating in the arts helps young children express themselves, develop agency and learn that they can make a difference.

Campaign delivery

The campaign's key messages were shared and explored by artists and early years professionals across sectors through:

- Launch film <u>I am... Making My Mark</u>
- Making My Mark information resource
- <u>A series of short films</u> made in partnership with a nursery in Bathgate a singing and music session; an outdoor painting session all showing how participation in arts-based activities can help children connect, express themselves and develop a sense of agency
- A Making My Mark practical workshop at the Children in Scotland Annual Conference 2019
- A day of training delivered in partnership with the National Third Sector GIRFEC Project Engaging 0-5s: a children's rights-based approach
- A series of blogs written by artists, academics and organisations focusing on specific artforms, shared throughout November and December 2019
- An event as part of The Fire Starter Festival 2020 *A creative approach to giving young children a voice in service planning* encouraging innovation in public services and bringing together individuals from across sectors to ask challenging questions.

Foundations for future work

Making My Mark highlighted the opportunities that participation in the arts can provide for children to express themselves, develop agency and learn that they can make a difference.

It also raised questions that will provide the foundations for future work. A key question that emerged, particularly from the campaign events, is whether spontaneous explosions of children's imagination and creativity, expressed through participation in arts activities, could help leaders, decision-makers and others to build better services and communities for our youngest citizens.

We need to:

- Move away from using adult-led consultation methods with young children asking them what they think about something already articulated by adults – towards a bottom up approach, with decision-makers responding to what young children are telling us.
- Take an evidence-based approach, demonstrating what arts-based methods can achieve with young children, and the contribution that professional artists can make.
- Increase awareness of the critical role the early years workforce plays in advocating for very young children.
- Work with partners across sectors to develop methodologies that will help ensure selfexpression and participation is nurtured from birth.

These ideas were due to be presented at a Parliamentary Reception, Young Children have Powerful Voices Too, sponsored by Annabelle Ewing MSP. The reception was unable to go ahead due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, Starcatchers will continue to work with partners and build on the ideas and learning developed during this campaign.





Starcatchers responded to the <u>Scottish Government's consultation on Incorporating the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child into Scots Law.</u>

We put forward that additional non-legislative activities relating specifically to the under 5s were required to further implement children's rights in Scotland.

The existing Child Rights Action Plan cited methods of engaging children in decision-making, including unconferences, digital technology and local discussion groups, which are unsuitable for young children.

We expressed concern about the lack of resources and knowledge around child voice for the under 5s and highlighted that the expressive arts can be particularly effective in developing young children's agency and voice.

The full response is available on the <u>Scottish Government's Citizen Space</u>.



In April 2019 Starcatchers submitted evidence to the Arts Funding Inquiry led by the Culture, Tourism, Europe and External Affairs Committee.

The Committee's inquiry called for evidence on funding for the arts in Scotland in recognition of the need for a more flexible, innovative approach.

We advocated for a refreshed funding model - one which allows artists and companies to take risks, experiment and develop inspirational new work, and which recognises the contribution arts and culture make to individuals and society as a whole.

Full details of the inquiry and all evidence submitted is available at the <u>Scottish Parliament's</u> <u>website</u>.



At Starcatchers we are committed to monitoring, managing and minimising our environmental impact.

Activities to reduce our environmental impact this year have included:

- Organisational membership of Creative Carbon Scotland's Green Arts Initiative
- Encouraging and supporting staff, artists and project participants to use public transport when travelling
- Establishing the Starcatchers Green Team to champion sustainability throughout the year by identifying issues, however small, and seeking solutions
- Committing to a Plastic Free Month in February 2020, reducing our plastic waste by more than half.

Due to Covid-19, since March 2020 all staff have been working from home, with all activity moving to online. It has already greatly reduced the organisation's carbon footprint created from travel and has encouraged us to look into how we continue some of these practices.

With thanks to our supporters

Stevenson Trust

The Scottish Government
The Corra Foundation
Creative Scotland
Austin Hope Pilkington Trust
Baillie Gifford
Baily Thomas Charitable Trust
Bank of Scotland Foundation
BBC Children in Need
British Council
Chance to Flourish
Children's Aid
City of Edinburgh Council

Dr Guthrie's Association
Erasmus+
Henry Duncan
James T Howatt Trust
Made in Scotland
Persimmon Building Futures
Ponton House Trust
Prudential
Queen Margaret University /
Santander
The Robertson Trust

The Souter Charitable Trust
Tampon Tax
Tesco Groundwork
The National Lottery Awards
for All
The Maple Trust
Trefoil Trust
Wester Hailes Community
Development Trust
Western Recreation Trust

Who we are

Board

Ben Fletcher-Watson Administrative Manager of the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh

Velavan Gnanendran Climate and Environment Director at the Department for International Development (Treasurer)

Mary Glasgow CEO of Children 1st

Adrian Harris Former CEO of Queen's Hall, Edinburgh (Chair)

Susannah Jeffries Deputy Head Teacher, Canal View Primary School

Gemma Statham Senior Compliance and Conduct Manager at Natwest

Mhari Taylor Equality and Diversity Manager, University of Glasgow

Staff

Heather Armstrong Creative Skills Manager

Kerry Cleland Expecting Something Coordinator

Louise Duncan Digital Communications Intern

Natalie Gibson Administrator and Marketing Assistant

Laura Kearney Development Manager (to December 2019)

Rhona Matheson Chief Executive

Nicola Pay Communications and Marketing Manager

Jennifer Phillips Producer

Fraser Stone Community Engagement Manager (to January 2020)

Judith Walsh General Manager

Catherine Wilson Creative Skills Administrator

Artists

In 2019/20 more than 70 different artists worked with Starcatchers to deliver the projects set out in this report:

Productions

Little Top

Ellie Dubois*
Kim Donohoe*
Gabrielle Cook
Nat Whittingham
Laura Bradshaw
Kim Moore
Becky Minto
Michaella Fee
Chris Gorman
Zoe Squair

Bounce

Stephen Deazley*
Al Seed
Matt Addicott
Brian Hartley
Pete Furniss
Rob Heaslip
Kai Fischer
Joel Wilson

Mix Up

Katy Wilson*
Skye Reynolds
Dougal Marwick
Matt Addicott
Mark Bleakley
Brian Hartley
Geraldine Heaney

Island

Heather Fulton* Wilson Noble David Rankine Kate Mackay Diane A Smith

Two Little Ducks

Shona Reppe*
Mat Clements
Tessa Berring

Spike

Andy Cannon*
Catherine Wilson

Community Engagement

Expecting Something

Marion Geoffray* Katy Wilson* Kerry Cleland Rebecca Fraser

Expecting Something (Visiting Artists)

Kirstin Abraham Rory Clark Elizabeth Godfrey Becky Manson Morgan Njobo Greg Sinclair Skye Reynolds Cat Thomson

How do you feel when the school Ellen Shand bell rings?

Matt Addicott*
Geraldine Heaney*

Music Hall Babies, delivered by Expecting Something

Kerry Cleland*
Heather Fulton*
Kate Davidson
Lynn Shaw
Abigail Sinar
Mark Wood

Sound Kinnections

Fraser Stone*
Dario Batzella
Kelman Greig-Kicks
Angus Lyon
Skye Reynolds
Chris Waite
Innes Watson

Stripy Nest

Kirstin Abraham* Katy Wilson Max Alexander Leah Murray Chris Radley

Professional Development

Creative Skills

Matt Addicott Charlotte Allan Hazel Darwin-Clements

Dr Rachel Drury
Heather Fulton
Amy Gibson Hall
Brian Hartley
Pearl Kinnear
Skye Reynolds
Greg Sinclair
Fraser Stone

Creative Skills Bursary Artists

Mhairi Allan Hayley Durward Kirsty Pennycook

Erasmus

Matt Addicott Kim Donohoe Brian Hartley

Playspace

Matt Addicott*
Hazel Darwin-Clements*
Brian Hartley*
Skye Reynolds*
Kerry Cleland
Rosa Duncan
Heather Fulton
Pete Furniss
Sonia Gardes
Marion Geoffray
Beth Morton
Thomas Small

*Lead artist

Katy Wilson

Lisa Wilson

Financial Overview

Statement of financial activities for the period ending 31 March 2020

	Unrestricted Funds 2020	Restricted Funds 2020	Total Funds 2020	Total Funds 2019	
Income and Endowments					
Donations & legacies	£356	-	£356	£2,050	
Charitable Activities	£47,171	£397,647	£444,819	£594,866	
Investments	£675	-	£675	£986	
Other Incoming Resources	£10,206	-	£10,206	£23,374	
Total income	£58,408	£397,647	£456,056	£621,276	
Expenditure					
Charitable activities	£66,693	£500,811	£567,504	£525,798	
Total expenditure	£66,693	£500,811	£567,504	£525,798	
Net income (Expenditure)	(£8,285)	(£103,164)	(£111,449)	£95,478	
Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	
Net movement in funds	(£8,285)	(£103,164)	(£111,449)	£95,478	
Funds Reconcilation					
Total Fund Brought Forward	£33,126	£124,185	£157,311	£61,833	

An external audit was carried out by Chiene + Tait for the year 2019/20





Starcatchers Productions ltd is a company limited by guarantee, registered at G6, Hope Park Church, 1 Summerhall, Edinburgh, EH9 1PL Company number SC392561 Charity Number SC042222

