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INTRODUCTION



Welcome to Starcatchers' Annual Report for 2017/18 – a year that saw us develop and grow as an organisation and culminated in confirmation that we will become one of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations from 2018/19 for the first time. We're delighted and look forward to working with Creative Scotland, the hugely talented artists and our other partners to realise our programme of activity for 2018/19.

This year, as part of our Producing and Touring strand we created *MamaBabaMe* in partnership with dance company Curious Seed – a beautiful new production that combines dance, physical theatre and a live cello score to explore the emotional connection between babies and their carers.

We also revisited well-loved older productions. *The Attic*, originally created in 2011 by Hazel Darwin-Clements as part of her Inspire residency opened in Edinburgh during the festive period before touring Scotland in the Spring, including a three week tour as part of the Theatre in Schools Scotland project. We also revisited *Hup*, our classical music and theatre production for babies 0-18 months, sharing performances in Scotland before touring to New Jersey and the Lincoln Center in New York.

Our Community Engagement activity saw ongoing delivery of Expecting Something with new support from Big Lottery, BBC Children in Need and the Robertson Trust, developing relationships with new participants and local partners. Sprog Rock worked directly with children in nurseries across Scotland pushing the boundaries of what kind of music they are capable of creating! Our new pilot project Creative Kin, developed in partnership with Children 1st with support from the Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Project Fund through Scottish Government combines approaches developed through Expecting Something and Creative Skills, working with kinship carers and their families in Ayrshire and Moray.

The Creative Skills Programme built the creative confidence and capacity of hundreds of early years practitioners across six local authority areas and two further education colleges. It was wonderful to observe the way that this training has impacted on their practice and empowered children across the country to play more creatively. It was also exciting to see practitioners convert their training in to our SQA-accredited qualification.

We were also delighted to be able to offer the opportunity for three artists to participate in our Erasmus+ research and exchange project with Compagnie Acta from France and 2 Turvenhoog from The Netherlands. We look forward to seeing how this project develops during 2018/19.

As ever, Starcatchers would not be able to do what we do without the passion and commitment of the staff team, artists, other practitioners and Board of Directors. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been involved this year for everything they have done to make Starcatchers the success it is and look forward to seeing the organisation continue to flourish.

Rhona Matheson, Chief Executive



Starcatchers is Scotland's National Arts and Early Years organisation.

MISSION

Starcatchers' mission is to inspire Scotland's youngest children and their parents and carers through engagement with exceptional arts experiences that are created by artists who understand the needs of this unique audience.

VISION

Our vision is that all of Scotland's youngest children are able to fulfil their right to engage with, and participate in high quality, innovative arts and creative experiences regardless of where they live and that regular access to these experiences has a long-lasting impact on their lives.

We will realise our vision through the delivery of three main pillars of activity:

- **PRODUCING AND TOURING**
- **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**
- **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**



PRODUCING AND TOURING

We make beautiful, innovative productions with exceptional artists who specialise in work for babies and young children age 0-5.

We believe that young children have the right to access innovative, inspirational, high quality and age appropriate theatrical and creative experiences. Working with specialist artists, we produce beautiful and inspiring performances for very young children aged 0-5, which tour to venues and communities across Scotland and internationally.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We deliver engagement projects across Scotland placing artists directly into communities.

We connect artists to communities to explore how consistent longer-term artistic engagement impacts on children and families' lives often in 'hard-to-reach' communities and settings.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We deliver programmes of professional development for artists and early years professionals to develop their practice using arts and creativity with very young children.

Our artist development opportunities enable artists to develop their artistic practice when working with very young children and their parents and carers.

Our pioneering Creative Skills Programme takes place in local authorities across Scotland, run by specialist artists and facilitators using a playful, child-led approach that helps support the delivery of key policies.

PRODUCING AND TOURING

Since 2006 Starcatchers has worked with a range of artists to produce beautiful and inspiring performances and experiences for Scotland's youngest citizens.

Our productions are designed for both babies and their adults, providing beautiful, safe and stimulating spaces in which to share an experience together.

In 2017/18 Starcatchers produced and toured:

- MamaBabaMe
- The Attic
- Hup

"I found it quite emotional as a mum and enjoyed watching my son engage. The standard of music/performance was excellent."

"It was a beautiful thing to watch him totally immersed in the performance, mirroring the movement and sound"

Audience members

MamaBabaMe

MamaBabaMe is an innovative new dance co-production created by Artistic Director of Curious Seed, Christine Devaney especially for young children age 18 months - 3 years and their adults.

MamaBabaMe combines dance, physical theatre and live music, exploring the profound new relationship between parent and child and how this eternal bond evolves and grows. It features live music composed by award-winning musician and performer Greg Sinclair, set design from visual artist Yvonne Buskie and lighting design by Simon Wilkinson.

The audience is invited to sit within the set around a mini-arena with soft boundary edges on which to lean, lie and observe the action.

MamaBabaMe toured Scotland and the UK between May - June 2017 visiting Renfrewshire, Inverclyde, Aberdeenshire, East Lothian, East Ayrshire, Fife, Dumfries and Galloway, Leicester, Edinburgh, Scottish Borders, Glasgow and Stirling.

"A tender, sensuous, encompassing piece of children's theatre"

The Edinburgh Guide



"Pitched perfectly for its target age range"

The List



"Brilliantly conceived, wonderfully choreographed and beautifully performed."

The Sunday Herald

1824
audience

50
performances

17
venues

4
performers

The Attic

We were delighted to blow away the cobwebs and rediscover The Attic for a new generation of 2 – 5-year-olds in 2017/18, seven years after the production was first created.

As Lucy and her imaginative and playful grandmother unpack old boxes and suitcases, the sleepy attic springs to life with memories and surprises.

There were brand new knitted cakes, a new cast member playing granny and some new ideas from creator Hazel Darwin-Clements. But the beautiful live score by David Paul Jones, expert physical theatricality and ever popular interactive tea party at the end all endured to fire audience imaginations again.

This tour visited arts venues across Scotland, as well as school gym halls and other community venues as part of Theatre in Schools Scotland, and also included a number of dementia-friendly performances, bringing live performance to more diverse audiences.

“The Attic was made at the Byre and is a kind of love letter to theatre. It reminds me why I will always campaign to protect these precious, intimate experiences of lovingly crafted live performance.”

Creator Hazel Darwin-Clements



2612
audience

12
schools

64
performances

12
arts venues

Reaching diverse audiences

Theatre in Schools Scotland (TiSS) is a ground-breaking project to introduce more children to high quality theatre by taking productions into school gym halls and other community settings.

With The Attic part of its 2018 programme, this was the first time TiSS had been extended to nurseries, reaching pre-school children as young as 2-years-old.

Now in its third pilot year, TiSS is aiming to create and test a touring and producing model that could ultimately bring one piece of high quality theatre to every school and nursery child in Scotland each year.

The Attic's cast and crew cleverly adapted the set to ensure it could be set up in a gym hall or other community venue and dismantled with ease.

One of the TiSS performances in a community hall for Kirkcaldy North Primary was shared with Abbeyfield care home and the Get Together group from Bennoch church.



“We see a huge difference in our children when they come in and get this experience – something live, something right in front of them, something they can interact with. The marvel, the wonder and the joy on their faces and not a screen in sight. All of that helps to develop their imagination and communication skills.”

Catriona Kavanagh, Whitecraig Primary School Headteacher

“Well done Starcatchers, you have made some beautiful memories for our community and helped us strengthen the intergenerational learning opportunities in our area.”

Kirsty Woodhouse, Principal Teacher, Kirkcaldy North Primary School

“My daughter was mesmerised from start to finish, it's wonderfully spellbinding with a beautiful score.”

“Both my girls aged 1 and 4 were glued to the show and especially loved the audience participation at the end. Will definitely be back for more!”

Audience feedback

HOW DID YOUR CHILD RESPOND TO THE PERFORMANCE?

"She watched at first, took things in, but then started to interact"

"Quiet but soothed. He really enjoyed it"

"Mesmerised"

"Full of concentration"

"He loved the music and followed the performers"

"Captivated"

833
audience

4
venues

19
performances

2
countries

Hup

Our five star show Hup crossed the Atlantic in March 2018 to give Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts in New York, USA, its first live classical music and theatre experience for babies.

This 2018 tour was made possible with funding from Creative Scotland's Onward Touring Fund and Baillie Gifford. The tour also included performances at the RVCC, New Jersey, US, as well as returning to venues in Edinburgh and Stirling.

Hup was developed specifically for babies during a 2013/14 artist residency project in which Starcatchers Associate Artist Hazel Darwin-Clements and musician and composer Abigail Sinar spent six months working in nurseries with the show's target age group. Their research culminated in a relaxed, comfortable and intimate performance that combines live classical music from two violins and a cello with a heart-warming storyline about an inquisitive raccoon. The show toured to critical acclaim across Scotland, Canada, Macau, and Hong Kong during 2015/16.

Russell Granet, Executive Vice President of Lincoln Center Education, said: "Shared arts-going experiences strengthen bonds between parents and children no matter what the age.

"We're so pleased to present this classical music experience designed for babies – a first here at Lincoln Center."



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

We connect artists with communities to explore how consistent longer-term artistic engagement impacts on children and families' lives, often in 'hard-to-reach' communities and settings.

In 2017/18 Starcatchers delivered 3 Community Engagement projects in Scotland:

- Expecting Something
- Creative Kin
- Sprog Rock

2
local authority
areas

38
young parents

41
babies and
toddlers

29
artists

Expecting Something

Expecting Something offers vulnerable young parents under 25 and their babies the opportunity to participate in inspiring arts and creative activity.

Weekly sessions in Lochgelly, Fife and Wester Hailes, Edinburgh are led by Starcatchers Associate Artists and artists who have experience and expertise across different art forms and of working with vulnerable groups and young children. Through participation in artistic and creative experiences with their child, the focus is on improving participants' wellbeing, increasing confidence and reducing feelings of isolation – all of which can impact on the bond between parent and child.

Expecting Something 2017/18 was supported with funding from Big Lottery Fund, BBC Children in Need, Cattnach Trust, CORRA Foundation, the Robertson Trust, Edinburgh & Lothians Health Foundation, Fife Cultural Trust and WHALE Arts.

"I'm quite shy and it's helped my confidence. Even today going round and doing the story, it's a bit scary but I can do it here."

"I like the projects... it's given him something different from what other groups could. It's made me think about jobs I could do that are more creative. It's opened my mind a bit. It's making your brain work."

Participant testimonies

"Expecting Something is all about creating a safe space where these young parents can tap into their creativity and grow in confidence."

Lead artist Hazel Darwin-Clements

"Working with Expecting Something has given us the opportunity to develop and extend our Early Years work with the community. We have really valued the inspiring, fun, engaging and compassionate skills of the practitioners and artists who have shown participants new creative possibilities."

Kate Griffin Programme Manger, Whale Arts

Expecting Something cont'd... 'Creating Ellie's Egg'

In 2017, the Expecting Something group in Lochgelly worked alongside artists to write and publish a children's story about their experience of being new parents - just one example of many creative projects the young parents have participated in with their children throughout the year.

Ellie's Egg is a beautiful, truthful story about a hen and her newly-laid egg, which reflects the anxieties, vulnerabilities and wonder of becoming a new parent. It is the culmination of weeks of hard work, taking part in a range of creative activities to inspire, write and illustrate the story in collaboration with poet Leyla Josephine, illustrator Kate Charter and Expecting Something Lead Artist Hazel Darwin-Clements. The group did a reading of the story to youngsters at Sunflower Family Nurture Centre, Lochgelly.



"Ellie's Egg started as a conversation about how the group sometimes felt marginalised and that their tastes and interests weren't reflected in the arts. They wanted to make something for their peers and came up with the idea of publishing a book."

Lead Artist Hazel Darwin-Clements

"The atmosphere is safe, unintimidating, non-judgmental... The group are warm towards each other's children - occasionally getting another person's child to sleep or entertaining them. The children are very confident with the space and the adults in it and expect to be creative and get stuck in."

Lead Artist Katy Wilson

Creative Kin

Creative Kin, developed in partnership with Children 1st, provides a safe space where kinship carers and the children they care for can participate in creative and artistic experiences together.

The artist-led sessions in Moray and North Ayrshire are an opportunity for families, many of whom have experienced trauma, to spend quality time with each other away from the ongoing daily challenges they face.

Working alongside community artists with expertise across a range of different artforms and with support from Children 1st staff, participants are supported to explore their innate creativity. Photography, film-making, music, drama, puppetry, and visual art are just some of the activities carers and children have explored during weekly sessions.

Not only do the sessions provide protected time together, helping to strengthen family relationships, they focus on building participants' resilience, confidence and wellbeing. Taking part in a photography session for example, helped participants bring their own stories to life and make connections with each other.



Creative Kin has completed year one of a two year pilot project funded by the Scottish Government Children, Young People and Families Early Intervention Project Fund



"Creative kin has given us a chance to bond as a family; we never get the chance when he is at school. I wish there was more of it."

Carer

"We've enabled families to carve out time to be creative together, play together and build attachment. The families may not have been able to put that time aside if they hadn't been involved in Creative Kin"

Artist

Read more about how Stacatchers' Creative Skills training model has been used to support the Children 1st staff and the kinship carers involved in this project on page 23.

Sprog Rock

Sprog Rock pushes the boundaries of what kind of music is of interest to young children – and what kind of music they are capable of creating!

The Sprog Rock team work directly with young children under 5 experimenting with all kinds of instruments, songwriting and using the children’s contributions to co-create new songs performed at live gigs for little ones and their grown-ups.

In 2017 Starcatchers, with Sprog Rock, secured funding from the Youth Music Initiative Fund to deliver a community project in four nursery settings across Scotland.

With each nursery – based in Stirling, Glasgow, Inverclyde and Edinburgh – the team ran workshops with the children culminating in a gig for families in a local arts venue.

Sprog Rock was originally developed as part of artist Katy Wilson’s Starcatchers Residency at Tramway in 2010.



“It’s been fun working with different nurseries to get the children to help us write songs for the band... we’ve managed to find a way really quickly and easily incorporate the children’s ideas into our songs.

Dancing to Battles with 4-year-olds is probably one of the most joyful experiences you could ever wish for! And because of all that dancing the children started speaking about things that make them dizzy. Which is what their song is about that we’ll play in the gig.”

Sprog Rock Artist, Greg Sinclair

“At the gig it was amazing to see the children from the nursery come to the front of the stage and come to sing and dance along with us when their song was playing!”

Sprog Rock Artist, Geraldine Heaney

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We believe in the transformational power of the arts to help young children and those who care for them lead healthier, happier lives. We work with professionals across the early years, education, health, and the arts to put the arts and creativity at the heart of practice in Scotland.

Starcatchers provides a programme of professional development opportunities for both artists and professionals who work with young children.

“Creative Skills brings out the playfulness in people working with children”

Participant

Creative Skills

Starcatchers’ Creative Skills core training programme continues to reach Scotland’s Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) workforce and students, empowering them to be more creative in their work with young children and to put open-ended, child-led approaches to the expressive arts at the heart of their practice.

This unique programme is developed and delivered by artists who have experience of working with young children and expertise in drama, music, visual arts, movement and storytelling.

The Creative Skills Core Programme is funded by the Scottish Government’s Children, Young People & Early Intervention Fund (CYPFEI), identified as a Key Early Intervention Programme in 2016 and funded until March 2020.

In 2017/18 the programme was expanded from five to six local authority areas and reached early years staff across sectors, including nursery and family centre practitioners, teaching assistants, early stage primary teachers, health workers, childminders and playworkers.



The Creative Skills core programme was delivered in six local authority areas in 2017/18:

- Aberdeen City
- Dundee
- Fife
- Inverclyde
- Midlothian
- North Ayrshire

The programme was also delivered as part of the following early education and childcare courses:

- Edinburgh College (Childhood Practice HNC)
- Glasgow Kelvin College (Childhood Practice HNC)



Impact

For professional practice:

“This has to be the best course I have ever attended. The activities through the day pushed me out of my comfort zone and opened my eyes to approaching creativity in a totally different way”

“I have more confidence to play with experiences without outcome in mind”

“It’s taught me to think outside the box”

“It has helped me to reflect deeply on my own pedagogical beliefs and how I can appropriately support children to explore and develop their own creativity”

For the child:

“When I stopped talking and started humming the child I was working with stopped crying, I wouldn’t have thought of this before”

“The children with sensory needs specifically, who were quieter as well as sometimes not participative before, have found these activities beneficial”

“It has given children confidence to express themselves and the ability to be creative. It has also impacted listening skills”



Creative Skills SQA Qualification

Participants who have completed Starcatchers' core Creative Skills training can progress to the Creative Skills in Early Childhood Practice – a bespoke, SCQF level 7, 24-credit qualification developed by Starcatchers.

In 2017/18, due to high demand from participants in and around the Aberdeen area, the qualification was delivered there.

The qualification incorporates:

- The theory behind creativity and play
- Relevant policies and legislation
- A practical exam focusing on how to apply theory in practice
- A final 2000-word essay focusing on creativity in the early years

Impact

"Starcatchers training workshops really did change my life by giving me the confidence to believe in myself which in turn gave me the courage to change my early years practice."

"The most defining change is the move away from adult-led craft activities towards child-led creativity where the process of learning and taking part superseded the finished product. It showed me that it's not always necessary for children to have a craft item to take home but better to have the new skills or ideas to take home and practice and share with family and friends."

Commissioned Training

Starcatchers' commissioned Creative Skills training programme is for settings that are not part of the core, funded programme.

Bespoke artist-led sessions designed to meet individual settings' requirements can focus on specific art forms, such as creative movement, puppetry, drama or music, or take a more broad-based approach. They can be delivered as one-off inservice days or over a longer time period.

"What stood out for me was the choreography piece that brought people out of their comfort zone and encouraged them to be more confident."

The importance of creativity:
creative movement in
the early years.
Arnhall Nursery, Dunblane

Creative Skills for Creative Kin

Adapting Starcatchers' Creative Skills training model for the Children 1st staff and kinship carers participating in Creative Kin (page 17) has been crucial for this community engagement project's development.

This bespoke training, which was delivered immediately after the Creative Kin sessions, helps both put creativity at the heart of their interactions with the children in an engaging, playful, open-ended and child-centred way.

For the Children 1st staff the training has supported them to incorporate creative methods into their own work and apply this across all of their services.

16
Creative Skills
training sessions

10
Kinship
carers

26
Children 1st
staff

"As a result of this training some staff are now running their own Creative Kin-style sessions within their workplace setting with a range of families with additional support needs."

Children 1st staff

Artist development: Artists, Art and Early Childhood

Participating in high quality arts experiences can have a transformative impact on children, particularly those who are vulnerable, and we are committed to ensuring artists are supported to meet the needs of this very diverse group.

In 2017 Starcatchers received funding from Erasmus Plus to lead a two-year European research project, *Artists, Art and Early Childhood*, with Compagnie ACTA (France) and 2 Turven Hoog (Netherlands).

The project will create a European network of artists whose focus will be 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 that this has on both children and artists themselves.

What is the nature of the relationship between artists, children and their carers in different settings? How does short and longer-term engagement with artists benefit children and their carers? And how can this relationship be woven into the creation of artists' work so that it better meets the needs of its audience?

During a series of study visits to each of the participating countries, participants will learn about each country's policies and approaches to culture and the early years, visit ELC settings and explore artistic experiences for young children in arts venues and festivals. They will have the opportunity to observe, share practice and reflect on their learning.

UK artists involved taking part in
'Artists, Art and Early Childhood':

- Kim Donohoe
- Brian Hartley
- Matt Addicott

The programme (2017/18):

Study visit to Villiers-le-Bel, Paris, November 2017

Participants explored Early Learning and Childcare approaches with sector professionals and visited settings. Artists also met Julie Chene, The Puzzle Collection, and visited Lunatic Compagnie, in residency at ACTA, to see their work in development Twinkle.

Study visit to Edinburgh and Glasgow, January 2018

Participants explored approaches to Early Learning and Childcare within the Scottish context and visited a range of settings and early years and arts projects, including an outdoor nursery and Starcatchers' own Expecting Something projects and Platform's Playcafe. They also attended a performance of *The Attic*, Starcatchers' live music and theatre experience for children aged 18 months to 3 years.

Residency in Villiers-le-Bel, Paris, March 2018

Participants worked in pairs in various ELC settings over the course of two weeks, experimenting with and exploring a range of performative approaches with the children. Reflection and evaluation of their work took place in the afternoons at Compagnie ACTA, where participants had the opportunity to exchange and develop their practice. In the final week, participants attended Premieres Recontres (First Meetings), Compagnie ACTA's forum, which focuses on arts in early years and included not only shows but workshops, debates, exhibitions and talks from artists, researchers, scientists, sector professionals and local politicians..



RFO FUNDING

RFO funding 'recognises value of arts for babies and young children'

We were delighted to receive confirmation that Starcatchers will become one of Creative Scotland's Regularly Funded Organisations for the first time in 2018.

Creative Scotland announced its portfolio of organisations that will receive Regular Funding from April 2018 until March 2021 in January 2018.

Rhona Matheson, Chief Executive of Starcatchers, said: "We are delighted to learn that Starcatchers has been selected to be part of this portfolio of creative organisations.

"The Scottish Children and Young People's theatre sector is recognised across the world as creating some of the most innovative experiences for our audiences and this decision is recognition of the right that babies and young children have to participate in high quality arts and cultural experiences, and of the positive impact these experiences can have on their lives.

"We look forward to working with Creative Scotland, the hugely talented artists and our other partners over the next 3 years to realise our programme of activity that includes: creating and sharing innovative new work to spark the imaginations of young children and their carers; connecting artists with some of Scotland's most deprived communities; and helping our early years workforce achieve the skills and confidence they need to nurture young children's creative confidence."

"We look forward to working with Creative Scotland, the hugely talented artists and our other partners over the next 3 years to realise our programme of activity"

Rhona Matheson,
Chief Executive



STARCATCHERS
Winner of
The Judges Choice Award
for absolute stand-out prominence
in the Scottish arts at the
Sunday Herald Culture Awards
(July 2017)

OUR CREATIVE JOURNEY

Starcatchers contributes to development of new Care Inspectorate resource

Our Creative Journey, a resource exploring how expressive arts benefit children, was officially launched by Minister for Childcare and Early Years, Maree Todd, in February 2018.

Starcatchers has worked with the Care Inspectorate and in collaboration with a number of partner organisations to develop the resource during 2017.

Our Creative Journey features a number of Starcatchers projects and practitioners' experiences of Starcatchers' Creative Skills training programme. It aims to promote good practice in all types of early learning and childcare in Scotland.

All of the examples in the resource are set out under Scotland's GIRFEC wellbeing indicators to show how individual outcomes are being met. This fits the approach of the new Health and Social Care Standards, which describe how high quality care should be experienced by an individual.

Our Creative Journey models the new Standards by highlighting how expressive arts can positively affect the outcomes of individual children. Inspections of services will increasingly focus more on assessing the impact on children's outcomes rather than just provider inputs.

"We understand how creative approaches to the expressive arts can improve outcomes for children and we've been delighted to work closely with both local authorities and the Care Inspectorate to support high quality staff development."

Heather Armstrong, Starcatchers' Creative Skills Manager



Arts As Attainment

Starcatchers campaign leads to parliamentary reception at Holyrood

Starcatchers' 2017 campaign **#ArtsAsAttainment** focusing on how the Arts can help to close the attainment gap in Scotland led to a parliamentary reception at Holyrood on 31st May 2017.

The event was hosted by Gordon Macdonald MSP and introduced by Mark McDonald MSP, then Minister for Childcare and Early Years.

"Children who experience a wide range of activities like being read to, singing nursery rhymes and drawing, from an early age score higher in cognitive ability tests at age three than children with less experience of these activities."

GUS Key Findings



#ArtsAsAttainment context:

- **200,000** children in Scotland live in poverty
- The difference between the most and least advantaged children (by age 5) is a **vocabulary gap of 18 months** and a **gap of 13 months for problem solving**
- The Scottish Centre for Social Research demonstrates a **link between cultural engagement and positive wellbeing**
- Creativity is central to **Curriculum for Excellence** with Education Scotland promoting the use of expressive arts across all curriculum areas
- National Pre-Birth to Three Guidance highlights **expressive arts activity (including singing, mark-making, creative and imaginative play) as effective ways to develop literacy**
- Growing Up in Scotland (GUS) found **children (aged 3) score higher in cognitive ability tests if they have experienced regular creative activity** as well as adjusting to school better, and are partially insulated from the negative effects of poverty
- The Scottish Household Survey (2014) indicates **the least advantaged families are the least likely to engage in cultural activity or visit cultural spaces**, even when they're free
- **73% of Starcatchers audiences previously rarely attend productions** with their children/babies
- **Article 31 of the UNCRC** gives all children the right to access art and cultural activities

We asked people to support our campaign by ensuring that:

- Creativity is embedded in improvement plans for every setting in Scotland
- Practical training in child-led approaches to the arts is available for the whole ELC workforce
- All young children can access high quality arts provision
- Parents are supported to build the knowledge, skills and confidence to engage with their young children in creative activity
- You are championing arts and creativity approaches in all early years settings
- Resources are provided for these approaches to be effective

Attendees signed up to the pledge: "I believe access to the arts can help to close the attainment gap"



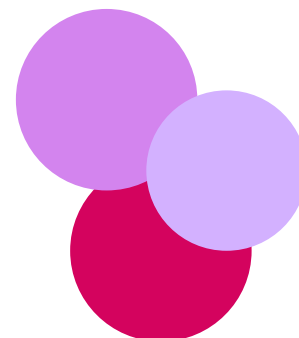
THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS

Starcatchers is fortunate to have our work recognised by a wide range of supporters.

Our work has attracted and captured the imagination of those with a profound commitment and interest in valuing the importance of arts in the early years from across Scotland and abroad.

We are grateful to the wide range of Grants Makers and Trusts who have enabled us to deliver our strategic aims and objectives, including: Scottish Government, Creative Scotland, Big Lottery, Children in Need, Roberston Trust, Cattanach Trust, Corra Foundation, Foundation Scotland, Hugh Fraser Foundation and Erasmus Plus.

We are also grateful for the corporate support from investment bankers, Baillie Gifford, and to our many partners, referred to throughout this report, who we have worked with during this year.



Investment managers



Starcatchers' Forward For Families campaign

During April and May 2017 Starcatchers launched a campaign to provide seats for families who would otherwise struggle to experience theatre.

The campaign raised 106% of its £800 target through 63 individual donors and purchased tickets for families to see MamaBabaMe.

The aim of the Forward for Families campaign was to:

- Generate funds from individual donors through a JustGiving site to purchase tickets directly from venues.
- Provide an agreed number of seats per venue for families to attend a production of Mamababame.

"This was some of these mothers' first chance to visit the theatre with their child and for some it was their first time in visiting Lochgelly centre. Without the offer of the tickets they would never of had the experience and we're very grateful for it and to Starcatchers."

Lochgelly Centre, Fife



WHO WE ARE

Board

Fiona Carr Development Manager, Edinburgh Festival Fringe
Dr Ben Fletcher-Watson Research Associate, University of Edinburgh
Mary Glasgow Director of Children and Family Services and External Affairs, Children 1st
Susannah Jeffries Primary Teacher
Gemma Statham Senior Legal Counsel, RBS
Mhairi Taylor Equality and Diversity Manager, University of Glasgow

Staff

Heather Armstrong Creative Skills Manager
Amy Briggs Marketing and Communications Manager (To August 2017)
Alex Forrest Creative Skills Administrator
Claire Gillespie Expecting Something Coordinator (to May 2017)
Jo King General Manager
Rebecca Leary Adminstrator
Rhona Matheson Chief Executive
Sasha McDougall Business Development Manager
Natasha McLaughlin Expecting Something Coordinator (from August 2017)
Nicola Pay Communications and Marketing Manager (From December 2017)
Jennifer Phillips General Manager (Maternity cover) and Producer
Fraser Stone Creative Kin Coordinator

Associate Artists

Matt Addicott Theatre
Charlotte Allan Theatre
Andy Cannon Storyteller
Solen Collet Photographer
Hazel Darwin-Clements Theatre/Puppetry
Kim Donohoe Theatre
Dr Rachel Drury Music
Heather Fulton Theatre
Ellie Griffiths Theatre
Brian Hartley Visual Arts
Geraldine Heaney Film
Pearl Kinnear Visual Arts
Xana Marwick Theatre
Naomi O'Kelly Storytelling
Skye Reynolds Dance
Abigail Sinar Music
Greg Sinclair Music
Katy Wilson Visual Art

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVIES FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 MARCH 2018

	UNRESTRICTED FUNDS 2018	RESTRICTED FUNDS 2018	TOTAL FUNDS 2018	TOTAL FUNDS 2017
INCOME AND ENDOWMENTS	£	£	£	£
DONATIONS & LEGACIES	2,865	-	2,865	43
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	56,232	406,887	463,119	427,999
INVESTMENTS	451	-	451	276
OTHER INCOMING RESOURCES	649	-	649	-
TOTAL INCOME	60,197	406,887	467,084	428,318
EXPENDITURE				
CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES	75,119	456,788	531,907	427,749
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	75,119	456,788	531,907	427,749
NET INCOME / (EXPENDITURE)	(14,922)	(49,901)	(64,823)	569
TRANSFERS BETWEEN FUNDS	-	-	-	-
NET MOVEMENT IN FUNDS	(14,922)	(49,901)	(64,823)	569
FUNDS RECONCILIATION				
TOTAL FUND BROUGHT FORWARD	41,899	84,757	126,656	126,087
TOTAL FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	26,977	34,856	61,833	126,656



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1 Summerhall | Edinburgh | EH9 1PL
Company number SC392561, Charity Number SC042222