



# Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums

Annual Review • 1 June 2023 – 31 May 2024

Aberdeen  
Archives,  
Gallery &  
Museums





Provost Skene's House



Aberdeen Art Gallery



Aberdeen Maritime Museum



# ABERDEEN ARCHIVES, GALLERY & MUSEUMS

**Who we are:** The city's collection has grown over centuries, and has been shared with the public since 1885, first through Aberdeen Art Gallery, then the wider museums and archives services at Aberdeen City & Aberdeenshire Archives, Maritime Museum, Treasure Hub, Provost Skene's House and Tolbooth Museum. Exploring, re-interpreting and using the collection can help all of us explore our past, share our present and inspire our future, showing the best of Aberdeen to the world.

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery and Museums is a public sector organisation and forms part of Aberdeen City Council. The team also provide care for and access to the Aberdeenshire Council's accumulated archive and strives to achieve the same ambitions for that collection as it does on behalf of Aberdeen City Council.

**Our purpose is** to share the city's collection in engaging ways.

To do this we need to care for and understand the collection, create opportunities for people to access the collection and venues, promote and enhance what's on offer, become more resilient and sustainable, and ensure we are relevant and accessible to all.

**Our vision is** to be a place for people to explore Aberdeen's identity and culture, and its connections to the world – making Aberdeen a better place to live, work and visit.

**We want to** collect contemporary art and craft, objects with meaning and connection, and new and old stories about the city to reflect our city's culture in its many forms - creating a record of our city and its place in the world for future generations. We aim to contribute to a healthy, safe and prosperous city. We want to open the doors to curiosity, enquiry and discovery, and look after the wonderful cultural collection and historic buildings we have been entrusted with.



**319,765**  
total admissions



**83,333**  
total social media followers



**223,383**  
total Art Gallery  
admissions including  
Spectra @ Art Gallery



**441,528**  
total web page visits



**64,314**  
total admissions to  
Aberdeen Maritime  
Museum



**31,009**  
total admissions to  
Provost Skene's House

**Global link clicks top 10**

- |                     |                    |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| 1. UK, 3997         | 6. Spain, 52       |
| 2. South Korea, 303 | 7. France, 49      |
| 3. US, 223          | 8. Netherlands, 28 |
| 4. Germany, 60      | 9. Australia, 25   |
| 5. Canada, 55       | 10. Poland, 20     |



**1,059**  
total admissions  
to Treasure Hub



**£166,104**  
total new grants  
awarded



**£60,318**  
total donations  
(in venue and online)



# CARING AND SHARING





**543**  
new acquisitions



**95,798**  
entries searchable in the  
online archives catalogue



**151,529**  
records searchable  
on e-museum



**134,637**  
e-museum visits



**1,075**  
enquiries answered



**413**  
research visits



**6**  
new collection exhibitions



**19,050,900**  
Wikimedia views  
(276 new records added)



**£73,000**  
external funds supporting  
new acquisitions and  
commissions



**£59,238**  
Art Gallery Trusts  
supporting new acquisitions

friends  
of  
Aberdeen Archives,  
Gallery & Museums

**£14,000**  
support from Friends of  
AAGM for acquisitions



## Acquisitions

AAGM's collections and archives make a **major contribution** to the **cultural identity of Aberdeen**. This year, thanks to a combination of donations, bequests, gifts and securing funding, **543 new objects and documents** have been acquired.

Highlights include:

- **Alan Measles and Claire Under an English Moon**, by **Sir Grayson Perry**. The ceramic pot was purchased with grants from the **Art Fund, Aberdeen Art Gallery Trusts**, and the **National Fund for Acquisitions**



*Alan Measles and Claire Under an English Moon, Sir Grayson Perry*

- **The Second Coming** by **Ian Howard**, purchased with Grants from **Aberdeen Art Gallery Trusts** and the **National Fund for Acquisitions**



*The Second Coming, Ian Howard*

- a **self-portrait** by Aberdeen based artist **Ade Adesina**. **Commissioned by AAGM** with a grant from the **Friends of AAGM**

- **micro-commissions** by **Daisy Williamson, Flying Lion and CUSP**. The micro-commissions programme, funded by the **Friends of AAGM**, exists to **support local artists**



Micro-commissions artists

- **Winds of Change** by artists **Heinrich & Palmer**. **Commissioned by AAGM**, supported by the **UK Shared Prosperity Fund**, and premiered as part of Aberdeen's **Spectra Festival 2024**



*Winds of Change, Heinrich & Palmer*

- **Tall Ships** by **Neil Grounds** **purchased at auction** with a grant from the **Aberdeen Art Gallery Trusts**, depicting the first visit of the **Tall Ships** to Aberdeen Harbour in 1997
- 19 original plans of **His Majesty's Theatre** dating from 1905 drawn by architect **Frank Matcham**, **purchased** with financial assistance from the **Friends of the National Libraries**

## Conservation

We **care for objects** so we can share them today and ensure they remain **accessible** to future generations. Objects receiving **treatment** over the last year include:

- **the original 1895 Rattray Head lighthouse lens.**  
The mechanism is now fully operational, and regularly lights up the **Maritime Museum**



Rattray Head lighthouse lens

- a fragile **Perth Prison Register** received from the Grampian Police Archive was treated thanks to funding secured from the **National Manuscript Conservation Trust**. The register contains around **1000 photographs and details of prisoners** released from Scotland's General Prison at Perth between 7 April 1882 - 18 January 1884
- **20 embroidery samplers**, the earliest dating from **1755**, received expert treatment to ready them for display in **Reading Between the Lines**, an exhibition opening in the **Art Gallery** in December 2024

## Collection exhibitions

**Exhibitions** help us to share the **remarkable objects and archives** in the city's care and the **fascinating stories** they hold, with visitors to our venues.

This year's highlights include:

- ***Making a Splash! A Century of Women's Beachwear***, exploring how seaside fashions have been influenced by **social and political change**, the **Hollywood** film industry and innovations in design and materials



*Making a Splash!*

- ***Aberdeen Ships, Empire and Trade***, based on research into the records of Aberdeen-built ships and their connections with the **history of the British Empire**. This exhibition focuses on the voyages made by vessels connected to Aberdeen, the **people, and goods they transported** and the **products of Empire** they brought into the city



*Aberdeen Ships, Empire and Trade*

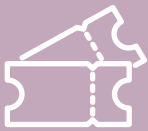
Also new for 2023/24 were the exhibitions **Miniature Marvels** exploring how artists have envisaged the universe in miniature, **Celebrating Printmaking at Peacock** to mark 50 years of the **Aberdeen institution's** role in the cultural and artistic life of the city, **Wreck & Rescue**, a survey of disasters and improvements in life-saving at sea, and **William Gillies and the Scottish Landscape**, highlighting the art of slow looking



## Loans

Loans to other museums and galleries **build Aberdeen's profile** nationally and internationally. This year we have **loaned 23 objects and artworks** including:

- Francis Bacon's ***Pope I*** to **Sotheby's** exhibition London: *An Artistic Crossroads*. Over six weeks, this brought together a **dozen masterpieces** from UK museums by an international array of artists connected to and influenced by the UK's capital city to celebrate **200 years** of the **National Gallery**
- **Pre-Raphaelite paintings** and sculpture to **San Domenico Museums, Italy**
- clothing once owned by the **fabulous Frances Farquharson** to the **V&A Dundee** for their exhibition ***Tartan***. The exhibition, will set off on an **international tour** later in 2024



**116,462**

admissions, San Domenico Museums

**74,896**

admissions, V&A Dundee

**24,000**

admissions, Sotheby's, London



*Pope I - Study after Pope Innocent X by Velazquez, Francis Bacon*  
© The Estate of Francis Bacon. All rights reserved. DACS 2021

## Online access

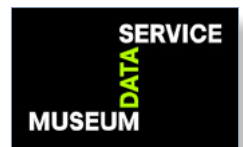
Providing online **access** to our collections and research means we can **support engagement** with the collections on a **global scale**.

**Online visitors to the museum collections can now:**

- search all **2079** prints in the **Peacock Archive**
- view images of **3313 newly digitised** collection objects

We have also participated in **national digital access** initiatives:

- preparing around 100 collections for the **Scottish Council on Archives** new **Your Scottish Archives** portal. This will enable **researchers** to search across the archives and **records of local authorities**, universities, businesses, as well as heritage and community groups
- being one of the **first contributors** to the **Museum Data Service** – a free new service that aims to connect and share all the object records **across all UK museums**



## Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums

[What's On](#) [Plan Your Visit](#) [Learn](#) [Collections](#) [Support Us](#) [Venue Hire](#) [Museum From Home](#)

[Collections](#) [Ships](#) [People/Institutions](#) [Exhibitions](#) [Places](#) [Keywords](#) [Advanced Search](#)



### Peacock Prints Selection

[View All Objects](#)

Since it was established in 1974 Peacock has been an important space for making art in Aberdeen. Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums supports Peacock by providing a secure store for its extensive print archive. The project to digitise the entire archive is ongoing. Discover more by using the search function or by following links within each item.



# CULTURAL LIFE IN THE CITY





**16**

special exhibitions  
and temporary displays



**18**

lunchtime talks



**8,191**

*Quentin Blake Summer:  
Illustrating Verse and Book  
Covers* exhibition visitors



**555**

lunchtime talks  
attendees



**12,000**

Louise Bourgeois  
exhibition visitors



**5,157**

lunchbreak concert  
attendees



**15,337**

total participants in  
public programme events



**28,642**

gallery visits during  
Spectra festival



**250**

discovery tour attendees

“

Absolutely loved Louise Bourgeois,  
will be back again and will tell  
everyone I know about it.

Gallery visitor feedback

”

“

The *Constructed Narratives*  
exhibition by three Aberdonians  
was breathtaking in its depth,  
scale and ambition.

Gallery visitor feedback

”

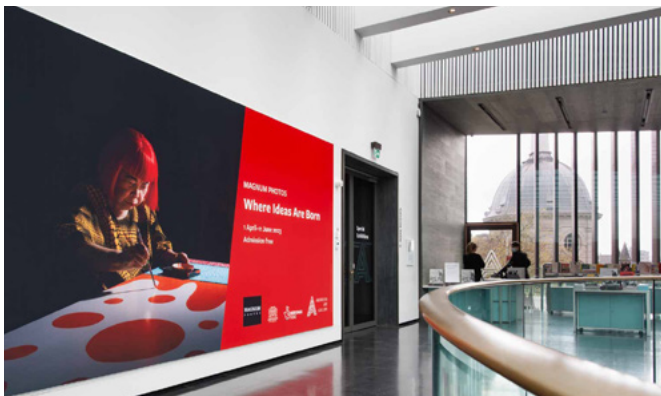


Through the **activities** we programme and the **vibrant** mix of festivals and events our venues host **AAGM** makes a significant contribution to **cultural life in Aberdeen** attracting new and repeat **visitors into the city centre**.

## Special exhibitions

The programme featured **major touring exhibitions**:

- **Where Ideas are Born** – with the celebrated **Magnum Photos agency** sharing the work of over **20 photographers**, including Inge Morath, Eve Arnold, and Robert Capa, capturing internationally-renowned artists in their studios including **Andy Warhol**, Georgia O’Keeffe, **Ai Weiwei** and Yayoi Kusama.



Where Ideas are Born

Also featured in the exhibition was a digital display of **local artists’** creative spaces produced in collaboration with **Aberdeen Artists Society**

- **A Quentin Blake Summer: Illustrating Verse and Book Covers** – celebrating the unique talent of Quentin Blake, the **UK’s best-loved illustrator**.

The associated programme engaged with **402 children**



A Quentin Blake Summer

- **Constructed Narratives** - a major exhibition of new work by three of Scotland’s foremost artists, **Lennox Dunbar, Ian Howard, and Arthur Watson**. An edited version of the exhibition went on to show at the **Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh** from 29 June until 28 July 2024
- work by French-American artist **Louise Bourgeois** who is widely recognised as one the most **important and influential** figures of modern and contemporary art. Working with **ARTIST ROOMS, Tate and National Galleries of Scotland** we hosted the **only Scottish showing** of these works attracting **12,000 visitors**



Louise Bourgeois



## Partnership projects

Each year an **exciting** range of projects are made possible by **partnership working**. This year we **collaborated** with:

- the **David and June Gordon Trust** and **Haddo Arts** to produce **Gordon Contemporaries**, an exhibition of new work by **artists with strong North East connections**. All were previous winners of the **David and June Gordon Memorial Trust Award** at the **Royal Scottish Academy New Contemporaries** exhibition in Edinburgh



Gordon Contemporaries, partners

- the **Aberdeen City Heritage Trust** to produce the exhibition **Voices from the Granite Industry**, sharing recorded memories of the last generation of the industries apprentices featuring films from local quarries brought to life with objects from **AAGM's collections**. Supported by **Historic Environment Scotland**
- **Peacock**, Aberdeen's renowned printmaking studio to **celebrate their 50th anniversary** with an exhibition of prints by seven **international artists** entitled the **New Aberdeen Bestiary**



Voices from the Granite Industry

We also worked with our **local cultural partners** to deliver **Gunpowder, Tattoos and Transportation** as part of **Aberdeen Performing Arts'** crime writing festival **Granite Noir 2024**, with **Citymoves** to host a curated selection of dance films as part of **DanceLive 2023**, and **soundfestival** to share Rolf Hind's latest work with our **Lunchbreak Concert** audience.



New Aberdeen Bestiary, artists and partners



## A love of music

The enjoyment of and participation in the **making of music** in our venues helps us to reach new audiences and stay connected with old friends. This year's **high 'notes'** include:

- **80 senior pupils** from secondary schools around Aberdeen City and Aberdeenshire visiting Aberdeen Art Gallery as part of the **Royal Conservatoire of Scotland's** 'Production Pathways' event to learn about **career pathways** in production design, applied arts and technical theatre
- partnering with **Aberdeen Jazz Festival, Haddo Arts, soundfestival and University of Aberdeen** to deliver our weekly **free Lunchbreak Concerts** - highlighting national and international talent, as well as offering a platform for **emerging performers**



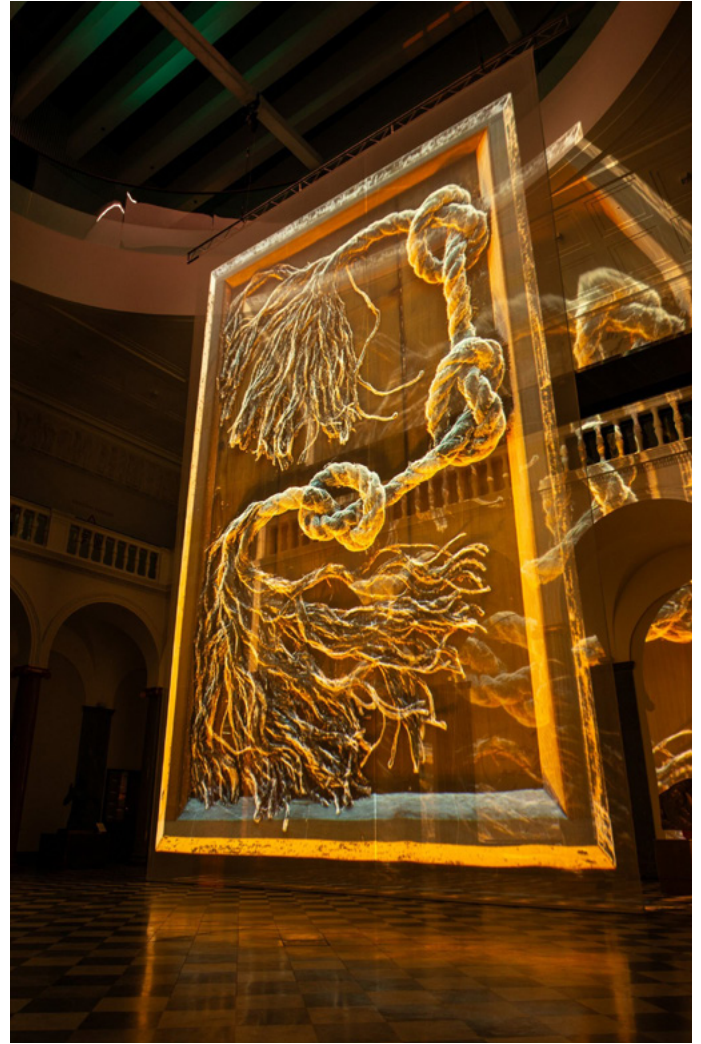
Joseph Long performing at the Cowdray Hall in Aberdeen Art Gallery

## City festivals and events

We are a **major contributor** to the **city's vibrant events programme**:

This year we:

- participated in the **10th anniversary** of Aberdeen's **Spectra festival**, attracting **28,642 visitors** into the **Art Gallery** over the course of the 4-night festival
- launched a programme of over **50 sea-themed events** scheduled to run across **Aberdeen city** in summer 2024 as part of the inaugural **Festival of the Sea** - a precursor to the much-anticipated visit of the **Tall Ships in July 2025**



Spectra festival, *Winds of Change* by artists Heinrich & Palmer



FIND YOUR  
OWN STORY!



“ My twelve months at Aberdeen Archives, Gallery, and Museums has equipped me for the workforce after University. I now fully intend to build my career in the museums and galleries field. I felt supported and encouraged throughout by the whole team, my placement supervisor, Ilona Butter, was nothing short of fantastic. ”

Calelan Austin, AAGM intern



**1,258**  
pupils visited  
Aberdeen Art Gallery



**173**  
pupils visited  
Aberdeen Treasure Hub



**962**  
pupils visited  
Aberdeen Maritime  
Museum



**328 children**  
**213 adults**  
enjoyed family fun events



**180**  
pupils visited  
Provost Skene's  
House



**138 children**  
**101 adults**  
enjoyed Guthrie's Goslings  
events for ages 2-5 and  
their adults



**350**  
visitors enjoyed three  
Hub Open Days

“ I liked the exploration of queerness within the different artworks. I enjoyed the different interpretations of different artworks and the group discussions. ”

Let's Talk about Art, participant quote



# FIND YOUR OWN STORY!

We develop informal activities and host educational visits and training opportunities designed to help everyone find their own story.

This year's highlights include:

- supporting the **transition of Primary 7 pupils to Northfield Academy**. We hosted **173 pupils** over 14 sessions at the **Treasure Hub**. The pupils were encouraged to explore and respond creatively to the theme of 'treasure'
- supporting a **12-month internship** for **Robert Gordon's University** student Caelan Austin, to **develop a strategy** for AAGM's social media presence. Focussing on trend based light-hearted content, **TikTok followers had risen from 23 to 1182 by March 2024**, and video likes from **100 to 8000!!!**
- delivering **Constructed Narratives Portfolio Workshop**, a free one-day workshop, to **senior school students** from Aberdeen Grammar School and Northfield Academy
- receiving **£30,000 over 2 years** to participate in **Science in Your World** - a new partnership programme with **Science Museum Group** to support AAGM staff to promote **science learning** across our venues



Caelan Austin, AAGM intern

7 May 2024, 21:02

I really want to commend whoever is running this account - the posts and captions recently have been 🍷 Love the humour and the tie in to pop culture is a really nice touch, great work 🍷

- collaborating with the **University of Aberdeen** on the **Let's Talk about Art** summer sessions, a series of Gallery based university style seminars for **young people aged 15+**



Science in Your World workshop

- supporting 3D Design students from **Gray's School of Art** to show their final designs in **pop-up display Editions** at Shop at the Top in the **Art Gallery**
- hosting two **Doctoral internships** from the **Scottish Graduate School of Arts & Humanities (SGSAH)** to complete **research projects** focussing on **AAGM collections**

We support audiences to **engage** with our **venues and collections** in a variety of ways, this year we have:

- launched **10 Things To Do on Your Visit**, a printed trail for younger Art Gallery visitors
- introduced **Discover Aberdeen Maritime Museum** tours
- created a profile for **Aberdeen Maritime Museum** on the **Bloomberg Connects** app, enabling users to explore the **extraordinary story** of Aberdeen's maritime heritage at any time **day or night**

**Bloomberg  
Connects**



## Open days and outreach

Open days and outreach activities are a vital way to **connect with our communities** and promote the city's **history and arts assets**. This year:

- the archives team delivered a series of talks at **Aberdeenshire libraries**, supported **Doors Open Day** at Old Aberdeen House, and a **Port of Aberdeen** open day
- the collections team have taken over **350 people** behind the scenes at the **Treasure Hub** during **free open days**
- history curators led an event for **Scottish Archaeology Month** attracting over **380 visitors** to explore Aberdeen's **medieval past**
- art curators delivered sessions with groups of students from **NESCOL** on object handling, **careers in museums** and the fashion designer Bill Gibb



Archives talk

## Listen and Learn

Our lecture programme provides audiences with access to high-profile artists, diverting discussions and some of the latest academic research in the North east. This year we hosted:

- artists Arthur Watson, Lennox Dunbar and Ian Howard, Heinrich & Palmer, and Gordon Burnett as part of the **Guest @ Gray's series**. Attracting around **160 people per talk**.



- British-Indian photographer **Arpita Shah** in conversation with Catriona McAra, **Art Historian** at the **University of Aberdeen** about Shah's series **Nalini**, an exploration of her grandmother through the medium of **photography** and the inherited object.
- an in-conversation event, with Dr Joanne Anderson and **Professor Miri Rubin**, exploring the visual **legacy of the feminine** with reference to artworks in the **AAGM collection**. Part of the **Gifford Lecture Series**, the event was presented in partnership with the University of Aberdeen and introduced by the **Principle of the University**, Professor George Boyne.

In addition, **AAGM curators**, partners, and guests, including **Nuart, GREC, RNLI** and the **RSPB** presented **18 lunchtime talks** at the Art Gallery and Maritime Museum attracting **555 guests**.



WELCOMING SPACES  
OPEN TO ALL



“ I would like to say a huge thank you to all the gallery staff - reception, cafe and especially Bill - everyone has been so welcoming and helpful. ”

Musical Memories volunteer

“ A great time for the kids - especially those with additional needs! Super patient staff and really cool equipment. ”

Visitor comment, Soundplay Projects



**706**

Musical Memories attendees



**987**

Soundplay attendees



**47**

Our Aberdeen attendees



Our Aberdeen session





“ The (team) were so friendly and welcoming and provided such a knowledgeable descriptive tour that was rich and detailed. Their passion for art and the exhibits on display was obvious. I personally felt it really added something to the visit to hear from four different curators as they each brought their own thoughts, personalities and humour to their descriptions. ”

Visual description tour feedback





# CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS



“ Thank you for having me volunteer for you today, it was something new for me and it was lots of fun, I hope I can do it again sometime. ”

Volunteer at NESCol Fashion Show at the Maritime Museum

“ Invaluable volunteer support has helped fast-track the cataloguing of a new acquisition of a private collection of 480 studio ceramics. ”

AAGM curator



**160**  
registered  
volunteers



**73**  
active volunteers



**23**  
new  
volunteers



**3,078**  
hours contributed  
by volunteers

“ Working with our most dedicated volunteers, on the McBey library project has been very rewarding and the way they bring their skills, knowledge and enthusiasm is really infectious and inspiring. ”

AAGM curator

“ I really enjoy volunteering with AAGM. It's different every time and you never know what to expect. The time just flies by! ”

Family Fun volunteer



# CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are a **valued and essential** part of our workforce. The **delivery** of many of our projects relies on the **time and skills** they donate.

This year:

- **20 volunteers** have worked to appraise, list, catalogue, index, and re-pack **archives** collections, making **6316 items searchable for the first time**
  - 3 newly **recruited Digitisation Volunteers** have improved access to **Aberdeen-built Ships** material and images, increasing the amount and variety of content searchable via e-museum
  - a core team of **8 volunteers** has provided support at the popular **Aberdeen Treasure Hub open days**
  - **Aberdeen-built Ships volunteer**, Dr Colin Helling, has **researched** connections between ships built in Aberdeen and the British Empire resulting in the **new exhibition *Aberdeen Ships: Empire and Trade***, in the **Maritime Museum**
- Our **dedicated volunteers** have continued to work over a range of projects including cataloguing the plans of the *St Helena*, the **last ship built in Aberdeen**, supporting a review of the **wedding dress** collection, reviewing over **3000 books** and publications in the Art Gallery **McBey library**, and participating in our events programme, welcoming visitors, and **supporting tours**.



Archives volunteers





**£48,579**  
corporate hire net income



**158**  
venues hires



**£2,615**  
venue tour income



**£539**  
travel trade income



**£5,291**  
filming, photography and  
image sales income



**28,642**  
visitors to Gallery over  
the Spectra weekend



**5,678**  
visitors to Gallery over two  
Tea Green market weekends





# THE CITY'S ECONOMY AND SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

The venues we open to the public and the activities we run offer **income generation opportunities**. These help to secure a more **sustainable future** for the city's archives, museums, and gallery service. Our activities also contribute towards the **wider city economy** helping to make **Aberdeen** a vibrant and **exciting place** to visit.

## Support for the city's economy

We have developed our **venue hire** profile, attracting **major corporate and civic clients** to book the Art Gallery and Maritime Museum for events, celebrations, and networking sessions.

We have cemented our position within the **city's successful events programme**, acting as a key location for the **Spectra festival** and **NUART**.

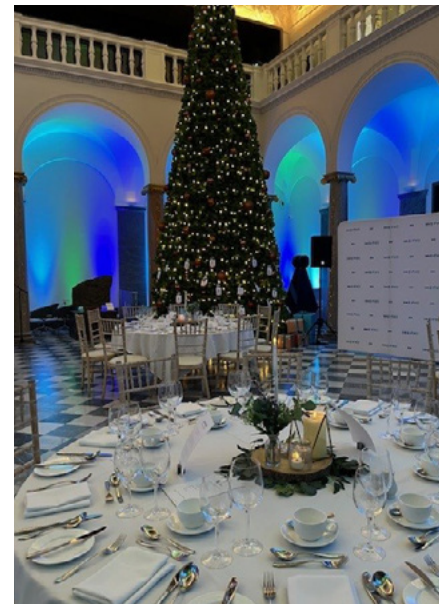
## Support for the creative community

We have provided **commercial opportunities** for **artists** and the **local creative community**, including hosting **selling exhibitions** *Constructed Narratives* and *Gordon Contemporaries*, and two **Tea Green market** weekends. **AAGM curators** successfully applied to **Aberdeen Art Gallery Trusts** and the **National Fund for Acquisitions** to acquire items for the collections from both exhibitions and craft fairs.

## Support for special exhibitions

We have **responded** to the Art Gallery's special exhibitions programme by **re-vamping** the **Shop at the Top** with themed stock, in particular **products** linked to *Where Ideas Are Born* and ever popular **Quentin Blake and Roald Dahl goods** during *A Quentin Blake Summer*.

## Purchases from the Tea Green market in November 2023 supported by the Friends of AAGM



Christmas corporate hire



Aberdeen Kilt Pin, Islay Spalding



Silver spoon, Scott Smith



Green Cells Pedestal Pot, Pinstripe Vase and Red Cells Vase, Ceri White



Man Pin, Islay Spalding and Louise Forbes



**£242,108**  
total retail income (net of VAT)



**£10.97**  
average retail transaction



**104,147**  
total Art Gallery cafe customers



**8.45%**  
conversion of visitors to customers across venues

“ The shop is a treasure trove of all things sea-related and a challenge to resist, I loved it. ”

Tripadvisor visitor feedback on Maritime Museum shop



Top floor café, Art Gallery

“ Coffee at the top was great and lovely service too. ”

Gallery visitor feedback



AND MORE....





## The winner is...

In September 2023 **Aberdeen Art Gallery** was named as **Best Visitor Attraction 2023** at Aberdeen City and Shire Thistle Awards.



Museum supervisors Hollie Weatherhead and Dani Jones receive award, pictured left and centre

Image overleaf:  
Staff team planting a wildflower meadow at the Treasure Hub



### Visiting Vessie

In November, **Sheila and Carl Bug** visited from **North Carolina** to see James McBey's portrait *Vessie Owens*. They were close friends with **Vessie's sister Nancy**. Nancy had died the year before, shortly after finding out that the portrait of her sister, **painted in 1940**, existed.



Sheila and Carl Bug

### Royal visit

In January 2024, we welcomed **Her Majesty Queen Camilla** to Aberdeen Art Gallery to unveil a newly commissioned artwork *You Are Not the Darkness You Are the Light* by Shelagh Swanson, made in memory of victims lost to **domestic abuse** and to reflect and celebrate the **strength of survivors**.



HRH Queen Camilla unveiling commission

### Hidden treasures!

In March, **auctioneers** Lyon and Turnbull hosted a **public valuation event** at the Art Gallery. Over **180 family heirlooms**, hidden treasures and curiosities were assessed by the team of professional auctioneers.

### French connections

Also in March, welcomed **Her Excellency Madame H  l  ne Duch  ne**, French Ambassador to the United Kingdom, on a visit to the **ARTIST ROOMS Louise Bourgeois** exhibition at **Aberdeen Art Gallery**.



Madame H  l  ne Duch  ne (right) enjoys Louise Bourgeois exhibition

## Life's a beach

In May **AAGM staff** and family members, working with **East Grampian Coastal Partnership** collected over **50kgs of rubbish** from Aberdeen beach.



AAGM team

## 'Bee'n buzzy

We have **'bee'n buzzy** re-housing two **beehives** and creating a **wildflower meadow** at the Treasure Hub. The team has worked in their own time to help secure a future for **species** at risk of **regional extinction**, protecting them for **future generations**.



Checking hives

## Master-Phil

Recently, **Phil Astley**, Team Leader, Archives, was **awarded the honorary degree of Master of the University (MUniv.)** by the University of Aberdeen.



Phil Astley (right), alongside Professor Jackson Armstrong

## Famous faces

This year nestled in amongst over **300,000 visitors** we managed to spot a few famous faces, including **Michael Gove, Annie Lennox, Frances Walker, Pet Shop Boys,** and **Gordon Brown**.



Neil Tennant, Pet Shop Boys



## Tripadvisor feedback



### Art Gallery

★★★★★

#### Very comfortable and informative gallery/museum

Jun 2023

Nice eclectic collection of art. Various mediums and ages. Easy flow through the galleries. Informative information and inviting space. Very friendly and helpful staff. Voluntary entry/use donation fee. I really enjoyed the entire visit.

★★★★★

#### New favourite art gallery

Jul 2023

Oh this is wonderful. I've always had the Samsung Leeham as my favourite gallery for its curation, now having visited here for the first time I would say it is equally as good. Joint top spot. Keep doing what you do so sublimely well.

★★★★★

#### Best Art Gallery I have ever been to

Nov 2023

I often visit art galleries but Aberdeen's was so well set out with every room or exhibit being interesting. I don't think I have been to a gallery which was better layed out. I went to the ground and first floor and enjoyed every section. There is a top floor to explore too which I can explore another time. I loved the ceramics and the modern art, the older Paintings were next to sculpture and information which brought the art to life.

★★★★★

#### I'd recommend visiting

Jan 2024

Great clean place, with friendly staff and interactive activities as well. I especially love the spot wherein you can make your own drawings. I have been to the art gallery many times since I moved to Aberdeen last Sept, and I love it.

★★★★★

#### Excellent exhibitions & welcoming staff

26 Mar 2024

Only had a short time to visit so we limited what we saw. Lots of interesting exhibitions but I particularly enjoyed the ones about women and the comparisons between French & Scottish Impressionists. Really well done & informative.

★★★★★

#### Great gallery with diverse range of art, a lot of local artists and art themed around the city there too.

Apr 2024

Anyone with interest in art or the city and can appreciate getting a sense of its history and character through art should definitely go there for an hour or two!

★★★★★

#### A wonderful space in the heart of Aberdeen

9 May 2024

What a great place to visit. Well laid out and varied, eclectic collection of art covering different mediums and ages. Informative and lovely airy space. Very friendly and helpful staff. Free entry but please donate if you can. I really enjoyed the visit and highly recommend. Cafes on ground and second floor and you can step outside on the second floor. Louise Bourgeois exhibition was great. Well done!

★★★★★

#### Don't miss this gem

4 Jun 2024

Well curated exhibits. Easy to understand and appreciate by all ages. Loved the gallery devoted to women's empowerment.



## Aberdeen Maritime Museum

★★★★★

### Interesting and informative

Jun 2023

Small, well managed museum. A lot of information packed into a multi-level space. Very helpful staff. Great displays. Very much enjoyed the visit.

★★★★★

### A fascinating museum

9 Jul 2023

This is a stunning gallery and gives a very good overview of life on an oil rig. I learned a lot about the issues surrounding oil exploration and the decommissioning of rigs.

If you came to this museum only for the ship models, you would be blown away. This is the greatest collection of ship models in the world. The rest of this museum is fascinating also. The detailed movie on the history of shipping in this area was just amazing. I learned a lot from fishing to oil. This industry was a hard job for not only the fishermen but the whole family. It is definitely worth a visit.

Aberdeens maritime history is extensive and this museum does it proud. From very early fishing to todays oil industry, it's all here with lots of well-described exhibits and plenty of kid-friendly stuff too. It's not as large as some maritime museums but it is in the city centre so easy to get too. And free!

Both building and content were a mixture of history and the present. The museum is free, which is very important for everyone to have the same opportunity to take part in history. I think it was both interesting and impressive what they have achieved.

★★★★★

### Great Maritime Museum!

16 Mar 2024

What a gem! Firstly, it was free, donations accepted. We took the lift to the top floor and worked our way around the museum and down the circular stairs! Learning about the very interesting history of Aberdeen, from fishing port to oil over the centuries, with many interactive features. Staff on each floor to assist with enquiries, we spent a very enjoyable 1.5 hours on a damp Thursday morning in March.

Definitely worth a visit.

★★★★★

### Fact-filled, friendly and free!

24 Mar 2024

Great for a free family outing.

Overlooking the harbour and close to rail and bus station, it is situated on the history-steeped Shiprow.

Well laid out, with masses of information about the history, importance and influence of Aberdeen's past, present and its gateway to the future.

The staff were all so helpful and friendly.

The shop is a treasure trove of all things sea-related and a challenge to resist, I loved it.

★★★★★

### Excellent maritime museum

April 2024

Excellent maritime museum. Brilliant museum that covers a huge range of maritime topics. It has an interesting layout that makes the experience feel more authentic. A great way to spend a few hours on a rainy day!





# WHAT YOU SAID

## Provost Skene's House

★★★★★

### A Wonderful Museum to Learn About Historical Aberdeen Figures Who Made a Difference

13 Aug 2023

★★★★★

### Great exhibition of Aberdeens people and inventions in a lovely building

29 Aug 2023

A thoughtful and well-laid out exhibition detailing everyone who's anyone and has come from or lived in Aberdeen. Certainly, the role-call of famous names and inventions heralding from this city are quite breath-taking. Some kid-friendly exhibits too.

Very interesting - learned a lot about Aberdeen. Definitely made me proud I have a relative studying at an Aberdeen university.

★★★★★

### Provost Skene House, Aberdeen

12 Nov 2023

Great place to visit and steeped in Aberdeen history. Excellent staff who are very friendly and knowledgeable. Karen was a brilliant guide who knows the house, area and the historical people involved intimately.

★★★★★

### Great Place to Visit with Snippets of Secrets

12 Nov 2023

Friendly and knowledgeable staff.

Very educational on Aberdeen's history and Karen provided a tour filled with secrets of the Skene's house one would not have known about by just walking through the place. Its amazing how the house has survived through centuries and conserved so well!

★★★★★

### Visiting Aberdeen ... What to see on your visit

17 Nov 2023

First rate introduction and description of history and what to look for in Provost Skene's house given to us by Karen. Her information made our visit informative and enjoyable.

★★★★★

### Amazing hidden gem @ Provost Skene's House

5 Dec 2023

Absolutely fantastic hidden gem in the heart of Aberdeen City. Free admission, there's lots to see and interact with and is steeped in local history. Would also like to mention Karen, (one of the tour guides) was just an absolute pleasure to speak to! Extremely knowledgeable and passionate about her work at Provost Skene's House and was happy to share her insights with us. 100% would recommend!

★★★★★

### Provost Skene and Karen!

12 Feb 2024

Lovely old house in the centre of Aberdeen, the oldest in the city. Fascinating exhibition on the famous and important residents of the city throughout the house culminating in the painted ceiling of the top floor, hidden for 300 years but the highlight was guide and historian Karen who brought the place to life with her passion and enthusiasm! Pity you had to close! Anyway, a must see if you're in this beautiful city!

★★★★★

### Fascinating visit and beautiful building

28 Feb 2024

What a find, a beautiful 16C townhouse in itself and the presentations on so many Aberdeen pioneers and contributors (including many of their artefacts) in all fields was fascinating and amazing. Could have stayed much longer and will definitely be back!

Aberdeen Archives, Gallery & Museums  
City Development and Regeneration  
Aberdeen City Council  
c/o Aberdeen Art Gallery  
Schoolhill, Aberdeen AB10 1FQ  
[aagminfo@aberdeencity.gov.uk](mailto:aagminfo@aberdeencity.gov.uk)  
[www.aagm.co.uk](http://www.aagm.co.uk)

