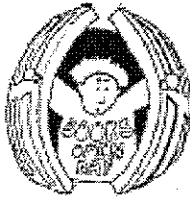


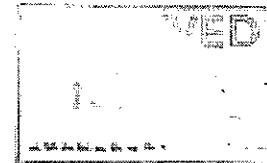
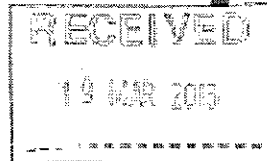
REF 5.1 DOORS OPEN DAY



18 March 2013

City Chamberlain
 Corporate Governance
 Aberdeen City Council
 Town House
 Broad Street
 Aberdeen
 AB10 1AH

doors
open day



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Dear City Chamberlain

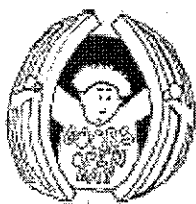
Doors Open Day 2013

In my capacity as Chairman, I am writing to you in respect of possible sponsorship of Doors Open Day event from the Common Good Fund. For as long as Doors Open Day has been running, we have had the support of Aberdeen City Council which has been invaluable in allowing as many people as possible to view the buildings open on the day throughout the city.

We have been fortunate that the cost of Doors Open Day has been underwritten by Aberdeen City Heritage Trust since 2005. The Trust has offered to support the event again in 2013, but it is not in a position to continue to underwrite the whole cost of the event. Like everyone else, we now find ourselves in a dilemma we are actively looking at alternative ways in which we can maintain this event at the present level. As a 'not for profit organization' looking only to cover the expenses incurred in staging the event, this year we could be in a situation where the event has to be scaled back or indeed even cancelled which is the reason for my writing to you today.

Doors Open Day is organized locally as part of Scotland's contribution to European Heritage Days, a joint initiative of the Council of Europe and the European Union. The annual programme offers the chance to explore buildings, monuments and sites, many of which are not normally accessible to the public. Through widening opportunities and access, it aims to encourage care for our architectural and environmental heritage.

Aberdeen's first Doors Open Day took place in 1994 when 20 buildings were opened up to the public. The popularity of the first year guaranteed its continuation and hopefully with support it will celebrate its 20th anniversary in 2014. In Aberdeen the event is held on the second Saturday in September, this year 14 September 2013 which also coincides with the end of Aberdeen's 'Get Out and About' over 50's Festival.



doors **open** day

1

18 March 2013
City Chamberlain

Doors Open Day 2013

The Aberdeen event is organized by an independent Doors Open Day committee comprising representation from Aberdeen City Council, the Civic Society, the Royal Incorporation of Architects, the Architectural Heritage Society of Scotland, Aberdeen City Heritage Trust and the wider Arts Community.

We now arrange for more than 30 buildings to be opened on an annual basis and the feedback from the general public and from the participating building owners to the event has always been very positive with visitor numbers to certain individual buildings within the city centre being in excess of 2,500. This has largely been due to the substantial publicity before and during the event.

The annual expenditure is generally in the region of £1,650. The major part of the cost goes towards the printing of about 12,000 pamphlets, 300 posters, and the hire of an open top double deck bus which tours a number of the projects during the day and for which we do not charge the public. The leaflets and posters are all emblazoned with the sponsors' names. There has also been other publicity in the past in the form of articles in Leopard Magazine, a double page spread in the Aberdeen Evening Express preceding the event and interviews on local radio. Wherever possible sponsors' names are also noted and included.

On the evening of the event, at the invitation of the Lord Provost of Aberdeen, there is a reception in the Town and County Hall to which sponsors, organizers and participants are invited. Following the 2012 event, Lord Provost George Adam highlighted the importance of such events for the community of the City and visitors.

Resources to operate Doors Open Day are derived from support in kind offered through Aberdeen City Council who design all publicity and administer meetings of the committee. Other sponsorship has been obtained from a variety of sources in the past, both public and private; but with current financial constraints that funding is more difficult to attract and sustain. The committee has been successful in attracting assistance for this year's event from Aberdeen City Heritage Trust and Vibrant Aberdeen; however, this still leaves a shortfall in funding. Without further sponsorship, there is a doubt about whether the event will run in 2013. A breakdown of funding confirmed and budgeted is attached overleaf.



doors open day

2
16 March 2013
City Chamberlain

Doors Open Day 2013

Doors Open Day	2012	2013 Budget Estimated Costs
Sponsorship: Aberdeen City Heritage Trust	£1344.22	£500.00
Sponsorship: Vibrant Aberdeen		£800.00
Expenses: Printing advertisement and general expenses	£1034.22	£1250.00
Expenses: Bus Hire	£310.00	£350.00
Shortfall	nil	£300.00

A more detailed breakdown of charges and copies of our Constitution and Accounts can be forwarded on request.

We would hope you can look at this request in a favorable way, accepting that we are 'all in the same boat' with cutbacks and reduced income/resources. We feel that we are requesting quite modest financial support considered the amount of pleasure derived from the event by so many of our citizens and their families.

We would be very anxious to know whether The Common Good Fund would be able to assist in sponsoring this year's event.

We hope that this initiative may be of interest to the City and look forward to hearing from you.

Our contact details are noted below if you wish to discuss the matter further.

Yours faithfully,

Gordon Smith
Chairman
for Doors Open Day (Aberdeen)



REF 5.2 QUEENS CROSS CHURCH – LAJEE CENTRE VISIT

My church, Queens Cross Church, along with other churches and groups, are trying to support an Art and Cultural visit to Aberdeen by 16 teenagers from the Lajee Centre in Palestine. They are touring Ireland and Scotland late June early July and are already planned to visit Glasgow and Edinburgh. In order to achieve this we need to raise £1,000 to fund their transport costs.

We have offered to host any performance at our church and are going to have various fundraising events. I am also going to contact my daughters' schools, Hazelhead and Cults, to see if they would wish to get involved and perhaps have the teenagers from Palestine visit the schools.

Would the Council be willing to financially support in any way this visit?

I attach some information about the Lajee Centre.

Best regards,

Stephen.

Stephen Hadden,

Lajee Center

Lajee Center ('Lajee' means 'refugee' in Arabic) was established in Aida Refugee Camp in April 2000 by a group of 11 young individuals from the Camp who wanted to serve the community. Lajee is a community-based, grassroots, creative cultural center that works with new generations of Palestinians as they continue their ongoing struggle for justice and rights for Palestine, and all Palestinians.

Lajee seeks to encourage and enhance the talents of members by supporting and fostering their cultural, artistic and rights-based development through our programmes. We believe that by providing the new generations with developmental opportunities, we will give them the motivation and the skills necessary to pursue their interests and vocations. All the Center's activities aim to provide members with a key to their future and a conviction that they are the makers of their own future.

The Cultural Tour 2013 is one aspect to our diverse and active annual programme.

Cultural Tour 2013

During June 2013, 16 members of Lajee Center will leave Aida Refugee Camp, Palestine, and travel to Scotland and Ireland for a 12 day Arts & Cultural Tour. In an exciting and engaging programme of events, they will be performing traditional Dabka dancing, exhibiting their award-winning photography work, and screening their films. Building on the success of last year's tour, Lajee has organised a diverse and educational programme which is representative of Palestinian culture and life, and an insight into the work and activities of Lajee Center. The tour members are young active artists and dancers aged between 15 to 20 years old. We are currently working on a programme that will include many public events to be held across Scotland and Ireland, and it is expected to attract many visitors.

Lajee Center has started to fundraise and some individuals are already keen to support the project. We are calling on any individual, charity, organisation, society or group around the world who are able to support us in turning this project into a reality. We are close to realising this dream and every pound, dollar or euro that can be donated to the project will bring us one step closer. Please forward this appeal to everyone who may be interested.

For further information please contact: Lajee Center

<http://lajeeculturaltour.wordpress.com/>