

Press Release: for immediate release



Now we are five

it is time to celebrate the annual festival that has provided exciting opportunities for older people to take part in creative activities nationwide

It's not too late to become part of Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing festival, in 2017. If you are planning creative activities or events this October which are aimed at older people or have a theme relating to ageing, come and join the party for our birthday celebrations.

An online proposal form is now live on our website www.luminatescotland.org, and the deadline for inclusion in our brochure is 5pm on Friday 30 June.

As Luminate's fifth birthday celebrations approach, we have been reflecting on past achievements and detailing innovative and exhilarating future plans.

Luminate was initiated in 2012 to focus on Scotland's ageing society and create an awareness that the arts have a tremendous amount to offer everyone as we grow older. Research shows that greater engagement improves health, wellbeing and quality of life, yet after the age of 65 we engage less with the arts and culture.

Over the years and throughout the country, Luminate has helped address this with an eclectic array of festival programmes encouraging older participants as artists and audiences; sharing views and experiences that may not always be heard; and challenging stereotypes of ageing and older people.

Outside our festival month we have commissioned and piloted projects exploring new ways of working with and for older people and run activities addressing artist and care staff training. These have had rewarding and positive results.

What does the future hold? Over the next five years we are planning a new programme which focuses on year-round developmental work. We will continue to present nationwide festivals but at less frequent intervals, so from next year you will see an increased frequency of activity across the country including some innovative pilot events.

Brian Sloan, Chief Executive, Age Scotland: *'Luminate encourages us all to recognise the valuable contribution that older people make to society.'*

Anne Gallacher, Director, Luminate Scotland: *"It is a pleasure to continue and strengthen our vision that older people in Scotland should be able to access and benefit from high quality arts, wherever they live and in whatever circumstances."*

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Luminate

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The Baring Foundation



Notes to Editors:

Highlights of Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing festival:

1. West Lothian Council challenged stereotypes with fun filled events including their Old Skool graffiti project and DJ workshops for over 60s.
2. Older and younger people came together to create an intergenerational orchestra and choir for Get Creative with the BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra.
3. Since 2013 the Luminate film tour has zoomed in on the experience of ageing and showcased thought provoking cinema to a nationwide audience.
4. PRIME, Quicksilver and Gracenotes toured across Scotland, putting older dancers centre stage.
5. Live Music Now Scotland have taken their concerts to care homes, sheltered housing communities and local groups across the country.

Development

1. Luminate partnered with the Care Inspectorate and Creative Scotland on the creation of the Arts in Care pack. The resource inspires and supports creative activities for older people living in care homes.
2. Together with LGBT Age and Dive we ran a community cabaret project for older LGBTI+ community members to explore and share their personal stories.
3. We have worked with charities such as Alzheimer Scotland to improve opportunities for people living with dementia.
4. Digital Scotland have helped us to run creative workshops that promote digital inclusion among older people.
5. With the support of Scottish Care we have delivered innovative arts projects in care settings and highlighted the importance of the arts in the care sector to a wider audience.

Facts that you might not know about Luminate

1. There has been a total of 1,902 events over the past five years
2. From Shetland to the Scottish Borders more than 200,000 people have attended Luminate events since 2012.
3. Luminate is truly intergenerational. Participants' ages have ranged from 1 to 102
4. Author Jamie Stuart was 93 when he took part in the 2013 festival making him Luminate's oldest ever performer.

5. The programme has featured international performances, including work from Australia, Finland and Germany.

Artists and the work they have created for Luminare

1. Jo Hodges & Denise Zygadlo developed *Changing Rooms*, a participatory art project that explored the important, but rarely discussed, topic of menopause.
2. Photographer Colin Gray presented an intimate and moving exhibition, *A Journey with his Parents through Love, Life and Death*.
3. Shetland-based artists Roxane Permar and Susan Timmins created 3 innovative art installations inspired by the memories of older people who had been members of the Royal Observer Corps.
4. BAFTA Scotland-winning filmmaker Duncan Cowles supported residents at North Merchiston Care Home to direct and star in five short documentaries.
5. Spoken word duo Rally & Broad presented the hugely popular *Luminare Poetry Slam*.