



Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation
A new direction...

2017 was another successful year for Luminate, when it celebrated its fifth birthday and its sixth nationwide creative ageing festival. Now we feel the time has come to move forward and are excited to introduce a new approach for Luminate, moving away from focusing exclusively on our nationwide festival to becoming an organisation that supports and advocates for the development of work with, for and by older people all year round. This has been assisted by our successful application to Creative Scotland for Regular Funding, and we are grateful for their continued support.

Scotland has an ageing population, with a 53% increase in the number of people aged over 65 projected between 2014 and 2039. Research indicates the positive impact of creative activity as we age, and yet the annual Scottish Household Survey tells us that people over the age of 65 engage less with the arts and culture than younger age groups. Luminate wants this to change.

We want older people in Scotland to have the opportunity to attend and participate in high quality creative activities in their local area throughout the year, from dance classes in village halls to community choirs in local arts venues, and from photography projects in care homes to writing workshops in libraries. For those who want to take their skills further, we are developing a programme of activities to support older people who emerge as professional artists later in life. By working with artists, cultural organisations, community groups and care professionals across Scotland throughout the year, Luminate will have a positive impact on the growth and development of these activities nationwide.

In order for us to offer our new year-round programme there will be no nationwide festival this October, but we are working towards presenting a biennial festival starting in 2019. To ensure sure we don't lose the important showcase opportunities the previous festivals have provided, you will continue to see Luminate work being presented in different ways and at different times of year from now on.

More details of our new and innovative programme will be announced over the next few weeks. To date, we have already advertised a series of one-day labs for older people who are at the early stage of an artistic career in partnership with **Magnetic North Theatre Company**, and we are running a dementia awareness session for artists in collaboration with **Age Scotland**, one of our founding partners.

We are also delighted to be one of the partner charities in **Unforgotten Forces**, a longer-term collaboration involving 14 Scottish charities and supporting older veterans in Scotland. Artists James Winnett and Gill White are working in residence in Erskine's four care homes over a three-year period. Erskine is Scotland's foremost care provider for veterans and their spouses, and James and Gill are working closely with residents and staff to offer a range of creative activities that meet the individual needs of the people they are working with. This is a particularly exciting collaboration for Luminare, giving the opportunity for an in-depth relationship to develop between a cultural organisation and care provider, and enabling personalised creative activities to be designed for the veterans and their spouses who live in the homes.

Anne Gallacher, Director of Luminare said: "I am excited to see our new, year-round programme emerging, and inspired by the potential it offers to widen access to the arts for older people across Scotland. The new initiatives that are underway are already reinforcing the value of our new approach, and in particular our collaboration with Erskine is allowing us to share learning and skills across both organisations. This is not only important to ensure the best possible creative experiences for Erskine residents, but it is also enabling us to try new approaches together which we can learn from and share with the arts and care sector as the work develops."

Derek Barron, Director of Care at Erskine, said: "We are thrilled to be working with Luminare on this innovative approach to engaging our residents and drawing out their artistic interests. The impact that James and Gill have had on our residents already is inspiring, the joy and passion can be seen in the faces of individuals who have taken part so far. I am delighted this is a three year project, as there is so much more we can and will do together."

For further information contact:

Liz Smith, Luminare Communications m: 07971 417210 e: daisy.ben@live.co.uk

Luminare

First Floor, Causewayside House, 160 Causewayside, Edinburgh, EH9 1PR

w: www.luminareScotland.org

t: 0131 668 8066

e: info@luminareScotland.org



Note to editors

Unforgotten Forces is a partnership between 14 leading organisations which will deliver a range of new services and enhancements for older veterans living in Scotland. These services will cover areas such as advice, access to healthcare, social isolation, respite, along with creative activities and events for those in care settings.

The consortium has been awarded £4 million of funding from the Aged Veterans Fund, an HM Treasury grand-giving body which distributes funding from LIBOR banking fines. The money will be used over the next three years to improve the coordination of existing provision and introduce new services aimed at supporting aged veterans.

Unforgotten Forces is comprised of the following organisations: Action on Hearing Loss Scotland, Age Scotland, Care and Repair, Citizens Advice Scotland, Defence Medical Welfare Service, Erskine, Fares4Free, Legion Scotland, Luminare, Music in Hospitals and Care Scotland, Poppyscotland, Scottish Older People's Assembly, Scottish War Blinded and the University of West of Scotland.