



PRESS RELEASE: embargoed until 6pm Wednesday 25 October 2017

Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland

Jeane Freeman MSP, Minister for Social Security, will launch Luminate's new publication *Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland* by Andrew Eaton-Lewis at a reception in the Festival Theatre, Edinburgh, on Wednesday 25 October at 6pm.

As well as introducing the publication, the reception will celebrate Luminate's 5th birthday and the 2017 festival programme, and will feature extracts from two of this year's festival events - the Festival Theatre's *Vintage Chorus* and *Flames* by Glasgow based performance company Tricky Hat.

There are many creative programmes that engage older people across Scotland, and *Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland* aims to collect some of these stories in one place, to reflect on the evidence of the benefits of the arts as we age, and to consider whether the individual stories actually amount to one story – pointing towards a significant change in the engagement of older people in the cultural life of the country.

Author Andrew Eaton-Lewis was group arts editor of The Scotsman and Scotland on Sunday until 2014 and is now Arts Lead for the Mental Health Foundation.

Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland was commissioned by The Baring Foundation and Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation. The Baring Foundation is an independent grant maker that aims to tackle discrimination and disadvantage through strengthening civil society; the Foundation's arts programme since 2010 has focused on older people. Luminate, Scotland's creative ageing organisation, offers a programme of creative ageing projects and events including its signature nationwide festival, and aims to ensure that older people across Scotland have access to high quality arts and activities, whatever their circumstances and wherever they live.

Minister for Social Security Jeane Freeman, said: "Luminate Festival continues to bring together older people in our communities through a varied, innovative and engaging programme. We know that people who participate in cultural and creative activities are more

likely to report good health and life satisfaction than those who do not. Older people should have the opportunity to access and engage in the arts, and I welcome Luminate and partners work in bringing together people of all ages throughout Scotland.”

David Cutler, Director, The Baring Foundation, said: “The Baring Foundation is delighted to have commissioned *Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland* in partnership with Luminate. The publication celebrates the high quality arts activities that are available to older people across Scotland, and the positive impact that this work can have. I hope it will inspire and support others to develop more creative ageing work in future.”

Luminate Director, Anne Gallacher, said: “I am very grateful for the support of the Baring Foundation which has enabled us to commission Andrew Eaton-Lewis to write this new publication. *Late Opening: Arts and Older People in Scotland* makes it clear that the growth of creative activities with, by and for older people can have a huge impact on our ageing population, and its launch in the middle of our nationwide creative ageing festival is particularly timely. There is wonderful work taking place across the country this October with festival events from the Scottish Borders to Shetland, and through this programme and the new publication we are once again proving that creativity has no age.”

www.luminatescotland.org.

Luminate’s principal supporters are Creative Scotland, The Baring Foundation and Age Scotland. We are also grateful to Baillie Gifford for their generous support of the festival.



**The Baring
Foundation**



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For full programme listings or to download a copy of the brochure visit

www.luminatescotland.org

Notes to Editors

Event: Luminate Reception

Venue: Festival Theatre, 13-29 Nicholosl Street, Edinburgh EH8 9FT

Date: Wednesday 25 October

Times: 6pm – 7.30pm