



Creative ageing: the Scottish experience

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Luminate's purpose

Luminate works across Scotland to ensure that older people's creativity can flourish whatever their circumstances, experience, interests and ambitions.



Why do we do it?

- Everyone has the right to a creative and cultural life
- Creativity brings joy, purpose, self-expression, confidence and connections with others of all ages
- There is growing evidence that taking part in creative activities is good for health and wellbeing as we age
- The pandemic has shown clearly the importance of creativity, from online choirs to outdoor performances





Scottish Household Survey 2012-2019



Our founding partners

- Creative Scotland national arts funder in Scotland
- Age Scotland national ageing charity
- The Baring Foundation charitable trust based in London that supports arts with marginalised groups







ALBA | CHRUTHACHAIL

Luminate from 2012 to 2019

- Annual nationwide creative ageing festival over 300 events each year
- Small number of activities at other times of year starting in 2014, which grew into a larger programme over time



Festival programme



- Age friendly arts activities
- Activities in care settings
- Intergenerational projects
- Work exploring themes of ageing
- Work by older artists

Why change?

- Creative ageing practice in Scotland needed more support to develop
- Growing programme of year-round activities was having an increasingly positive impact



Luminate from 2019 onwards

- Year-round programme of developmental activities became our focus
- Festival came to an end



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Professional development and bursaries

- For artists who work with older people
- For older artists

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Research & development

Example: research into adult learning opportunities in the arts for older people in Scotland

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Dementia Inclusive Singing Network

Supporting the development of dementia inclusive singing groups around Scotland through networking, training and grants

Collaborative approach

- Very few projects or activities are run solely by Luminate
- Bringing together knowledge, skills, experience and networks from across different sectors improves and quality and impact of the work



Collaboration at a strategic level

- Age Scotland
 - Luminate is located in Age Scotland's office and works alongside their staff
- Challenges
 - It takes time and effort to make the most of the opportunities
- Benefits
 - Increased profile for both charities
 - Shared costs and networks
 - Shared learning and understanding



Collaboration at a local level

- Erskine care homes
 - 3 year artist residency
- Challenges
 - Work pressures on care staff
 - Artists' lack of experience of working in care settings
- Benefits
 - As trust and confidence grew, we could take risks together
 - New ways of working have been developed





For more information

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