

CREATIVE DESIGN, PASSION, ENGAGEMENT, VISION, TEAM PLAYER, LOCAL TO GLOBAL

Dumfries & Galloway Cultural Partnership Research and Branding

JULY 2025

OVERVIEW

This document provides a source for research for Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership (DGCP) brand identity. It will be shared, developed and will provide much of the thought process and methodology in creating a new brand identity, brand guidelines and vision which will feed into the DGCP brand strategy.

Research

Firstly we will look at existing resources, to identify the broad parameters of the project. This will include:

- The definition of "Culture" and "Partnership".
- Summary of the D&G Cultural Strategy 2022-2030
- Partner brands and messages.
- D&G creative and cultural organisations brands and messages.
- Feedback from a public meeting of D&G invited creatives to share their views.
- National and international relevant brands and messages.

From this research we will identify current brand images, perceptions and organisation messages. Cross referring the results we will be able to identify commonalities, potential directions and desires.

WHAT IS 'CULTURE'

Definition:

Culture encompasses the shared beliefs, values, behaviours, and material objects that characterise a group of people. It shapes how individuals perceive the world, interact with each other, and organize their lives. Culture is learned, not innate, and is passed down through generations, evolving over time. It includes customs, traditions, language, religion, art, and social structures.

What is a partnership?

Definition:

The state of being a partner. A partnership is a business structure where two or more individuals agree to share in the profits or losses of a business. Partners are jointly liable for the business's debts and obligations. Essentially, it's a business owned and operated by more than one person, with each partner contributing resources, expertise, or capital.

DGCP acts as a connector and amplifier, helping people, places, and projects work better together across the arts, heritage, and creative sectors. The Partnership supports cross-sector working: linking culture and heritage to health, tourism, education, the economy, and community wellbeing.

WHAT IS A CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

Definition:

A cultural partnership is a collaborative effort between two or more organizations, individuals, or groups to achieve shared goals related to culture, arts, heritage, or creativity. These partnerships can take many forms and aim to leverage the strengths and resources of different entities to enhance cultural experiences, promote community engagement, and foster creativity.

Key Characteristics of Cultural Partnerships:

Shared Goals:

Partners agree on a common purpose or objective related to cultural development, education, or promotion.

Resource Sharing:

Partnerships often involve the pooling of resources, such as funding, expertise, facilities, or networks, to achieve the shared goals.

Collaborative Approach:

Cultural partnerships foster a collaborative environment where different stakeholders contribute their unique perspectives and skills.

Diverse Participants:

Partnerships can include a wide range of participants, such as artists, educators, community organizations, local authorities, and businesses.

Creative Outcomes:

Partnerships can lead to a variety of creative outcomes, including new art forms, exhibitions, educational programs, community events, and cultural spaces.

Examples of Cultural Partnerships:

Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership:

This partnership focuses on delivering the region's Cultural Strategy, with Thematic Groups working on specific areas like "Our People," "Our Place," and "The Difference We Make".

Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs):

These partnerships bring together organizations from various sectors to enhance cultural education opportunities for children and young people.

Cultural Exchanges:

These can involve artistic exchanges, language classes, sports competitions, or academic conferences.

Partnerships between Galleries, Museums, and Universities:

These collaborations can lead to innovative exhibitions, research projects, and educational programs.

Benefits of Cultural Partnerships:

Increased Impact:

Partnerships can amplify the reach and impact of cultural initiatives by combining resources and expertise.

Enhanced Creativity:

Collaborations can spark new ideas and approaches, leading to more innovative and engaging cultural experiences.

Community Engagement:

Partnerships can foster a sense of belonging and shared identity, promoting social cohesion and community development.

Economic Development:

Cultural partnerships can contribute to local economies by attracting visitors, supporting creative industries, and enhancing the overall quality of life.

D&G CULTURAL STRATEGY 2022-2030 (SUMMARY)

Scotland's rich cultural heritage and creativity of today is inspired by people and place, enlivens every community, and is celebrated around the world.

By 2030 Dumfries and Galloway's distinctive creativity, culture and heritage will have an international profile and be renowned for their contribution to the region's economy and quality of life.

To achieve this aspirational vision this strategy lays the foundations for Dumfries and Galloway to achieve a national and international reputation as a place where creativity, culture and heritage are supported to flourish, and to make a positive difference for people and places across our region.

Ambitions: 1. Our people, 2. Our Places, 3. The Difference we make.

It will work towards removing any perceived or real barriers (such as cost, transport, venue accessibility and language) so that more people can participate, including those experiencing social and rural isolation, poverty, loneliness, mental health issues or people who are cared for by others.

Given our small population size, this means that our cultural infrastructure is as much about partnerships, volunteers, innovative creative communities and regenerationdriven initiatives as it is about buildings and physical resources. Our strengths include committed creative and community leaders who champion creativity, culture and heritage and are catalysts for making things happen locally.

Enablers: Capacity / Connectivity / Communication

Open, inclusive communication across Dumfries and Galloway's cultural sector.

Effective communication is rooted in cooperation and shared goals, and these principles will play a key role in meeting this strategy's aspirational vision.

We envisage that the Dumfries and Galloway Partnership for Culture will provide a forum for collaboration and strategic planning, bringing together our Council, sector representatives and key partners to deliver the vision for this strategy.

Guiding principles

In achieving the goals of this strategy, the Dumfries and Galloway Partnership for Culture will consider the way that it collaborates with our people, places and partners. To reflect this, the spirit of the partnership will be to encourage:

- Collaboration and not competition
- Resilience and growth
- Mutual support whilst accepting differences
- Funders to support and invest
- Equality and diversity
- Evidence based decision-making
- Trust and integrity

The strategy's three ambitions and enablers form the spine of the framework for measuring success. In addition to project specific evaluation, we will:

- Monitor media coverage
- Gather evidence through funding reports, case studies, commissioned research
- Maintain and grow political and public support
- Engage new working partnerships with stakeholders from other sectors for example, tourism, health, and education
- Use our collective voice to influence decision makers
- Ensure a positive legacy and communicate the difference this strategy makes to our people and places.

Dumfries and Galloway Council

Leisure, sport and culture (as main category online).

Sport and physical activity, leisure centres, swimming pools, an A to Z of sporting activities, parks and outdoor spaces, things to do, harbours and the Young Scot National Entitlement Card.

Things to do in Dumfries and Galloway: Camping, caravan and motorhome sites, museums and galleries, cycling, fishing and National Scenic Areas.

Directed to https://www.dgculture.co.uk/

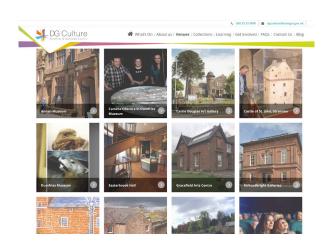
From Robert Burns' last home to a medieval castle and from a jail house to a windmill, our iconic museum venues and art galleries can be found across Dumfries and Galloway. The region is home to the oldest working camera obscura and Scotland's smallest cinema.

Recognised collections of national significance

"broad recognition of culture... arts and heritage"; "funding: Major Festivals & Events Fund";

"socialisation, self-expression... wellbeing".

As DGC services and venues are so vast, their website prioritises finding essential information, such as DGC venues, description of facilities and opening times.











D&G Museums and Heritage Network

The Dumfries and Galloway Museums and Heritage Network exists to support and promote the rich heritage held and showcased in the museums and galleries of Dumfries and Galloway.

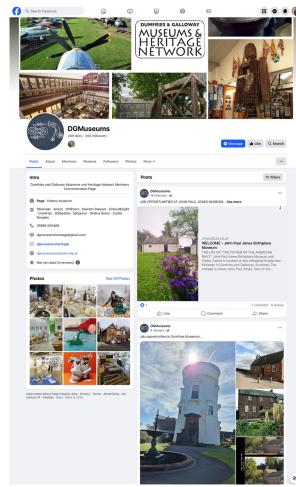
The Museums and Heritage Network provides opportunities for members to network, meet regularly and discuss issues of common interest and to share good ideas and best practice. The Network provides a useful interface between the publicly funded Dumfries and Galloway Museums service and the wide range of independent museums and heritage groups operating in the region.

"supports and promotes the rich heritage held and showcased in the region" Encourages networking, skill-sharing, collaboration, touring exhibitions and joint marketing.

Most of the D&G Museums and Heritage Network are council run facilities, with some additional members.







South of Scotland Enterprise

We are the economic and community development agency for the South of Scotland. We are here to help businesses and enterprising communities throughout Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders to thrive, grow, and fulfil their best potential.

SOSE was set up in 2020 to address the unique situation in the South of Scotland, and establish the South as a centre of opportunity, innovation and growth. It aims to drive inclusive growth, increase competitiveness, and tackle inequality within the region.

SOSE works across Dumfries & Galloway and the Scottish Borders, providing a range of services and support to help businesses and communities to realise their full potential.

"Economic and community development agency for the South of Scotland" "Helping businesses and enterprising communities across Dumfries and Galloway and the Borders to thrive, grow and fulfil their potential" "Driving inclusive growth, increasing competitiveness, and tackling inequality" Key phrases: Support, Driving Change, Enterprising Communities, Innovation, Business Development





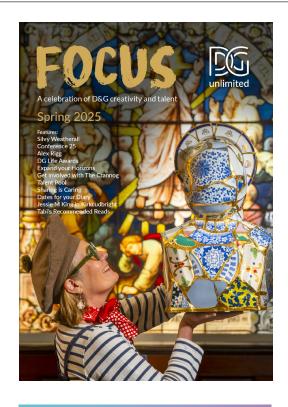
SOSE's image is much more corporate and business orientated.



DG Unlimited

We are a membership organisation working to showcase, support, and champion the people who make the Dumfries and Galloway creative and cultural sector. We work with our partners across the South of Scotland to advocate for the vital contribution creative practitioners and organisations make to our communities. Whether you're a new face or an old friend, you're in the right place to find out more about the work we do with and for Dumfries and Galloway's creative and cultural community.

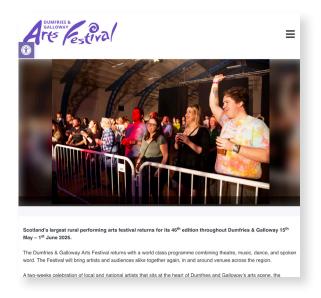
Call to action terms / key words: Join our membership, support, workshops, Bringing Voices Together, opportunities, funding, unlimited



DG Unlimited have recently had a brand refresh which includes brand guidelines.



Festivals and Events



https://dgartsfestival.org.uk

This year's programme encompasses the best of Scotland's performing arts scene with a focus on bringing audiences and artists together, to share in their love for the performing arts, and connect with their communities. The festival will shine a light on the best that the region has to offer, through a meticulously curated programme of local and national talent, located in picturesque landscapes across Dumfries and Galloway.

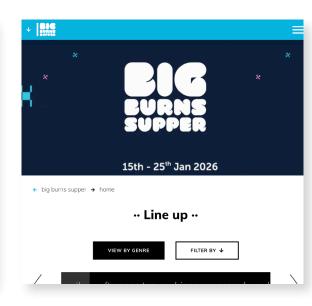
"connecting artists and audiences", "Scotland's largest rural performing arts festival", "ambition and excellence in performance"



https://www.spring-fling.co.uk

Spring Fling is a vibrant visual art and craft open studios event covering the length and breadth of Dumfries and Galloway in South West Scotland. It is highly regarded as one of the UK's most successful contemporary visual art and craft events. Spring Fling is delivered by Upland, the visual art and craft development organisation for Dumfries & Galloway.

Open studios



https://bigburnssupper.com

Big Burns Supper brings together a global community to celebrate Scotland's past and present.

We are a producer of cultural programmes. We're one of the biggest community platforms in the South of Scotland, and we work with our partners to use culture as means to improve the lives of our community who are experiencing high levels of social and rural isolation. As a unique social co-operative, we have nearly 800 members who contribute to our social model through volunteering, sponsorship or advocacy.

"Scotland's biggest Burns Night party", "celebrating Dumfries' cultural life"

Festivals and Events



https://www.wigtownbookfestival.com

A ten-day literary celebration in Scotland's National Book Town. Our flagship event, Wigtown Book Festival welcomes international audiences and a prestigious cast of authors each year.

"A ten-day literary celebration in Scotland's National Book Town" "One of the UK's best-loved literary events" since 1999, with 250+ events including music, theatre and visual arts. 13,000 visitors to the festival, held in a town of just over 1,000 people.

Mission & Impact: "To produce the UK's most vibrant book festival and develop the literary and cultural wealth of Scotland's National Book Town and its region" "A community of books changes lives" — building social and economic benefits. Delivers a wide-ranging educational programme: children's festivals, schools tours, YA strand, Poetry & Essay Prizes, writing mentorship



https://edenfestival.co.uk

Eden Festival is an independent, family-friendly, 4-day festival celebrating music, arts and culture. Our 15th edition of the festival takes place from the 11th to the 14th of June 2026.

Showcasing both internationally acclaimed artists as well as local up and coming, from Folk, Soul and Electronica to Jazz, Rockabilly, World and everything in between. With more than 250 acts over 10 stages, as well as plenty of cabaret, comedy, kids activities and workshops.

"Scotland's best independent, not-for-profit, family friendly festival" "held at Raehill's Estate ... capacity of 5,000, shortlisted for Best Family Festival in 2023" "delightfully intimate, fiercely independent, wonderfully inventive ... warm & welcoming".



https://www.knockengorroch.org.uk

If you prefer a bigger festival in a smaller pot you are a Knockengorrocher!

Join us beside the glittering Water of Deugh beneath the broad shoulders of southwest Scotland's great mountain peaks to celebrate some of the finest music from the Celtic diaspora and everywhere in-between.

"celebrate some of the finest music beside the glittering Water of Deugh" "unparalleled acoustic roots and electronic music ... arts and workshops"

Values: Environment and Land, Equalities, Diversity, Inclusion.

Festivals and Events

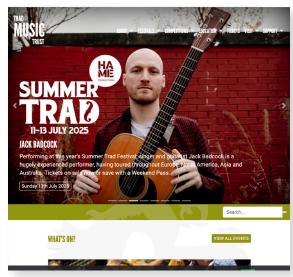


https://www.kirkcudbright.town

Kirkcudbright (pronounced kir-coo-bree) is one of Scotland's most vibrant communities with events, exhibitions and activities taking place throughout the year. A lively fishing port, Kirkcudbright makes an ideal location for a weekend break or as a base to explore the beautiful south west of Scotland.

Kirkcudbright is one of Scotland's most vibrant communities with events, exhibitions and activities taking place throughout the year.

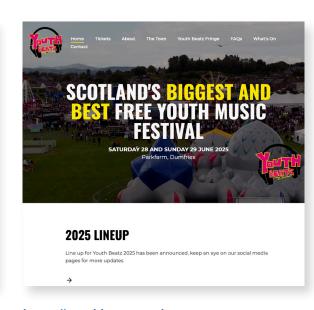
"weekly events building up to the spectacular Floodlit Tattoo and Firework Display" Includes a Vintage Fair, craft markets, kite picnic, country fair, plus charity and volunteer options. Free admission and supported by volunteers, charity shop, and donation links.



https://www.tradmusic.com

Newton Stewart & Minnigaff Traditional Music & Dance Festival will celebrate its 10th anniversary over 11th-13th July 2025. The charity has created a viable, sustainable, event that continues to grow and develop, proudly celebrating the very best in traditional Scottish, Irish and World music.

Encourage, develop, support and promote traditional music, dance and language learning and performance in Wigtownshire, Dumfries & Galloway" "Charityrun, volunteer-led" and managed by a Board, Festival Director, Dance Coordinator and community volunteers" "Year-round events at The Vault Arts Centre—concerts, folk clubs, fiddle and guitar sessions, bluegrass, harp workshops—all free or low-cost" Includes community-led Highland dancing competition, annual Autumn Trad Festival, workshops and masterclasses



https://youthbeatz.co.uk

Youth Beatz Festival has been held annually since 2009, and is primarily aimed at 12-25 year olds, with the aim of providing youth services information, activity based entertainment and a large scale outdoor music event in Dumfries and Galloway. The aim of Youth Beatz is to provide young people aged 12-25 with an event they can attend with their peers in a safe environment and to gain information on a range of youth services available to them. To develop new skills, encourage and build confidence/self-esteem, foster community spirit and civic pride among young people participating in the event.

"Scotland's largest free youth music festival!" "aimed at 12–25 year olds, providing a safe environment and access to youth services"

Festivals and Events



https://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk

From travelling back in time to soaking up culture, getting back to nature or going downhill fast, it's all in a day's work at Drumlanrig Castle.

At Drumlanrig Castle, you will find something for everyone. Admire the magnificent Pink Palace. Marvel at the sights of the stunning Victorian Gardens or take a guided Garden Tour. Shriek with delight in the woodland adventure playground.



https://wildgoosefestival.scot

Established in 2020, Wild Goose Festival is an annual programme of inspiring and educational family-friendly activities and events across Dumfries & Galloway. Taking place every Autumn, the festival is inspired by the migratory route of barnacle geese between Svalbard and the Solway estuary, focusing on our regions connection to these fascinating birds and the incredible journey they make to reach us.

"Annual programme of inspiring and educational family-friendly activities and events across Dumfries & Galloway" Inspired by the migratory route of barnacle geese, celebrating "our region's connection to nature, creativity and place" "Over 70 events... interactive storytelling, nature walks, performances and creative workshops for all ages"



https://www.moniaivefolkfestival.com

Moniaive Folk Festival was started back in 2001 by Hugh Taylor and Sue Grant, following the foot and mouth pandemic, as a way to attract visitors and inject money into the local economy. Its guiding principle remains the same.

"Annual community folk music festival held 9–11 May 2025, operating on a suggested donations basis (not free)" "A wonderfully low-key, family-friendly, refreshingly non-commercial event" with informal jams in local pubs. Hosts "intimate gigs with fabulous performers of many kinds" in a small village setting renowned for its creative community.

Festivals and Events

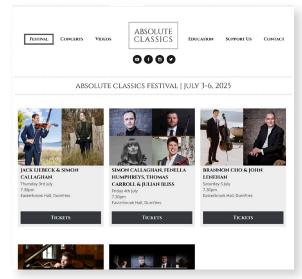


https://stranraeroysterfestival.com

Join us in celebration of Scotland's last remaining wild and native oyster bed.

Celebrity chef demos, live music, the Scottish Oyster Shucking Championships, amazing food & drink, family fun, watersports and, of course, a huge oyster bar with our sensational native oysters, freshly landed from beautiful Loch Ryan.

Fri 12–Sun 14 Sept 2025. Features celebrity chef demos, Scottish Oyster Shucking Championships, live music, artisan markets, watersports, kids' activities, and fireworks. Community-led regeneration initiative through Stranraer Development Trust. AoE emphasis: Eco Zone talks, nature-based walks, shell recycling, spotlighting Loch Ryan's ecological importance.



https://absoluteclassics.co.uk

Set in Dumfries and Galloway, South West Scotland, Absolute Classics present an offering of classical music like no other. With multiple vanues located across the wide geography of our region, we bring the music right to your doorstep.

Each year we host a 4-day summer Festival and a winter Series that runs from August to March. Quite uniquely our visiting musicians tour the region and along the way visit schools to work with our local young people.

"classical music like no other"; "top flight concerts, masterclasses & festival"; "strong emotions... accessible to all"; "music education... young people benefit".



https://kirkcudbrightjazzfestival.co.uk

Whether you've been coming the to Kirkcudbright Jazz Festival for years, or this is your first time at our four day celebration of all things Jazz, we look forward to welcoming you to our vibrant town and to a range of the finest musicians from across the United Kingdom and Europe.

"Celebration of New Orleans, Dixieland and Swing jazz" in SW Scotland. Features four-day lineup of finest UK & European jazz musicians, plus the iconic Brolly Parade through town streets "Jazz Church Service" clusters community participation with musical performance

Festivals and Events

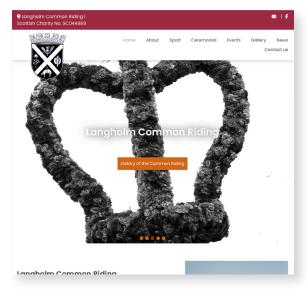


https://www.walkfestnewtonstewart.com

Newton Stewart Walking Festival

Thank you for your interest in Newton Stewart Walking Festival. Galloway is a wonderfully unspoilt landscape with an endless variety of routes for walkers to enjoy. Each year offer a programme of around 30 routes over 7 days, with transport and guides included, as well as a programme of evening social events.

Week-long event (9–15 May 2025) exploring Galloway Hills & Solway Coast with 30–40 guided walks ranging from easy to strenuous walks. Includes transport, expert guides, evening social events, and is volunteer-run. Recognised with the Biosphere's Sustainable Event Charter, featuring nature screenings (e.g. Heart of the Biosphere) alongside trails



https://www.langholmcommonriding.com

In 1759, the three owners of the Ten Merk Lands of Langholm were parties in an action in the Court of Session in Edinburgh for the delimitation of certain areas of ground in and around the town. The boundaries were duly defined, but in the award it was laid down by the Court that the Burgesses of Langholm had certain legal rights and privileges, and that part of the Ten Merk Lands, particularly the Common Moss and the Kilngreen, had belonged inalienably to the community.

Other festivals, which currently don't have dedicated websites:

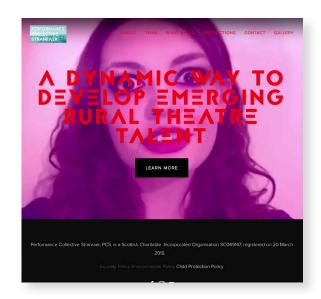
https://www.facebook.com/muckletoonaf/

https://www.facebook.com/events/portpatrick-lifeboat/portpatrick-rnli-lifeboat-week-2024/1679263812560821/?locale=en GB

https://www.facebook.com/p/Guid-Nychburris-Association-100064471218392/?locale=en_GB

https://www.facebook.com/beltiebeer/

Charities / CICs



https://www.performancecollectivestranraer.

Performance Collective Stranraer [PCS] is a development organisation created to nurture, promote and sustain rural theatre artists from Southwest Scotland – primarily Dumfries and Galloway, and South Ayrshire. These areas have little-to-no artistic training provision and we exist to bridge the gap between youth theatre and the professional performance industry – turning artistic outlets/hobbies into viable career-paths.

"a development organisation created to nurture, promote and sustain rural theatre artists from Southwest Scotland" "bridge the gap between youth theatre and the professional performance industry"

"a dynamic way to develop emerging rural theatre talent"



https://thestove.org

The Stove Network is an award-winning arts and community organisation based in Southwest Scotland. We use creativity to bring together people and ideas, inspire and support new community-led projects, grow opportunities and celebrate our local places and people

We believe art, community and creativity are a gateway to help understand our world and empower us to make the changes necessary to support and grow the ideas and experiences we need to map a fairer future for us all.

"arts and community organisation in the heart of Dumfries High Street" "use creativity to encourage, gather, learn and bring life back to our town centre" Core values: Risk-taking, Collaboration, Empowerment, Positive disruptive change, Innovation, Inclusion



Outpost Arts was founded in 2018 by a small group of enthusiastic, creative-minded individuals with a keen interest in building sustainable focal points for art-related activity in the Esk Valley. The group quickly gained charitable status, delivering a range of projects the engaged with local communities. Outpost Arts has since worked consistently to identify partners - plugging into esting networks, developing relationships and forging connection in order to create new opportunities for future work and for the development of our organisation.

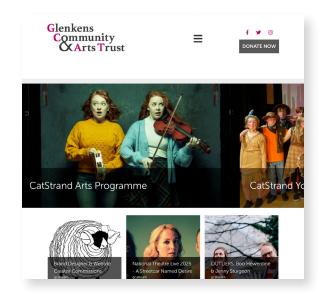
https://outpostarts.co.uk



Outpost Arts was founded in 2018 by a small group of enthusiastic, creative-minded individuals with a keen interest in building sustainable focal points for art-related activity in the Esk Valley. The group quickly gained charitable status, delivering a range of projects that engaged with local communities. Outpost Arts has since worked consistently to identify partners - plugging into existing networks, developing relationships and forging connections in order to create new opportunities for future work and for the development of our organisation.

"We believe that rural arts can be ambitious, contemporary and diverse" "engaging our community ... a powerful force for change"

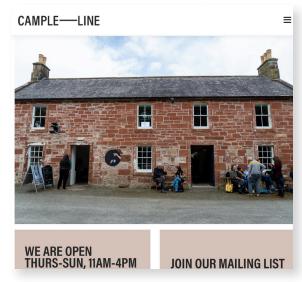
Charities / CICs



https://gcat.scot

Our Community Venue Partners currently operate their own volunteer run programmes of arts events for their communities making use of their halls, venues and spaces locally.

"a 22-year track record of economic regeneration through arts and community work in the Glenkens" "Interweaving Arts, Community and Heritage to enrich the life of the area" "playing a central community development role"



https://campleline.org.uk

Located near to Thornhill in rural south west Scotland, CAMPLE LINE is an independent arts organisation dedicated to presenting contemporary art and film of international scope for our local communities and beyond.

"distinctive and welcoming rural space for the contemporary visual arts" "Every year, we deliver an ambitious visual arts programme ... connecting people and communities in the south west of Scotland" "foregrounding rural community and industrial history ... addressing socio-economic challenges faced by local communities"



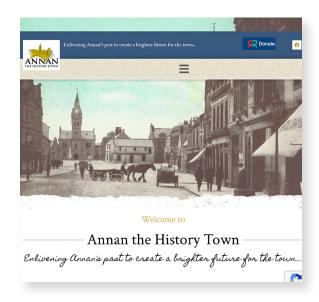
https://www.weareupland.com

Upland is a bold, ambitious, rural-based visual art and craft development organisation based in Dumfries & Galloway, South West Scotland.

Spring Fling Open Studios continues as Upland's flagship event but we now offer a year round programme delivering a range of projects, events and exhibitions working with young people, emerging and established artists and makers.

"bold, ambitious, rural based visual art and craft development organisation based in Dumfries & Galloway" "Spring Fling is a vibrant visual art and craft open studios event ... highly regarded as one of the UK's most successful contemporary visual art and craft events"

Charities / CICs



https://www.annanthehistorytown.org

Annan's history came in waves like our Solway tide, carrying Romans to settle on our river banks, bringing Vikings with their haaf net fishing which we still practise here today'; attracting the Normans including Robert the Bruce's family who built Annan Castle. The fierce power of Annan River swept it away and centuries of turmoil ensued. When cross-border hostilities ceased, exciseman Rabbie Burns patrolled this smuggler coast and wrote great poems in Annan.

"promoting and preserving Annan's history and heritage" "community-led events and archive celebrating local stories"



https://www.crawickmultiverse.co.uk

Welcome to Crawick Multiverse and the start of your journey of discovery. Whether you are interested in art, science, cosmology, walking or simply looking for new experiences, there is so much for you to explore and enjoy when you discover our spectacular site.

Mission: To advance public understanding of landscape, environment, and cosmology through large-scale land-art and site-based learning. To regenerate a post-industrial site, reconnecting communities with their industrial past and ecological surroundings. To deliver immersive educational visits, guided tours, and multi-disciplinary events that inspire curiosity — from solstice celebrations to Music at the Multiverse. To maintain Crawick as a designated 21st Century cultural landscape, celebrated for its artistic and environmental innovation



https://www.whithorn.com

Whithorn is famed as the site where the earliest known evidence for Christian practice and settlement has been found anywhere in (what is now) Scotland – in around 450AD. Archaeologists have been excavating here for 130 years and have uncovered evidence of Scotland's first town, widespread trading contacts, a burgeoning pilgrimage trade and occupation dating back 1600 years. The Whithorn Trust is a charity (SC012178) which manages the site, a permanent exhibition and temporary displays, offers guided tours of the outdoor site where there is a full-scale Iron Age roundhouse for you to experience. It also promotes research and organises community events.

Charities / CICs





UP YER AIRTS is a groundbreaking initiative empowering young people to curate vibrant cultural events and refine their craft as arts and creative industry professionals in Dumfries and Galloway. As an organisation led by young people, we are out to push the boundaries of what is possible for our region.

GRAFTIN' GIGGIN' GROWIN'



https://www.langholm-alliance.co.uk

The Langholm Alliance came together as an umbrella group of people and organisations with a drive to improve Langholm and its surrounding communities. The Alliance was structured to advance the aims of the area and its people, and to redevelop our part of the world based on advice from two Scottish Government Ministers and our local MP.

The Langholm Alliance is a community-led organisation focused on environmental stewardship, cultural heritage, and sustainable development. Through community land ownership and long-term regeneration initiatives, it aims to secure a thriving, resilient future for the people of Langholm and its surrounding landscapes.



https://dgcreativewellbeing.co.uk

In 2021-22, following the successful delivery of a pilot creative prescribing project in Langholm during lockdown, and with support from SOSE, NHS Endowment Fund and Holywood Trust, OPA carried out 6-months of research and development to map existing creative wellbeing strategies and stakeholders, scope opportunities, and potential partnerships and identify and co-design next steps via engagement and consultation.

DG Creative Wellbeing harnesses the power of the arts to foster resilience, inclusion, and emotional wellbeing. Through a range of accessible, community-based creative programmes, the organisation supports mental health and connection for people across Dumfries and Galloway.

Charities / CICs



https://creativestranraer.com

Creative Stranraer is charity based in the Southwest of Scotland which focuses on supporting innovation and change in the historic town of Stranraer, and the surrounding areas, using art and creativity to engage with the community and as the driver for change.

Creative Stranraer is a community creative hub supporting local regeneration through the arts. With a focus on inclusion, skills development, and civic pride, it offers exhibitions, workshops, and events that empower individuals, connect communities, and celebrate creativity across Wigtownshire.

Other charities/CICs, which currently don't have dedicated websites:

https://www.facebook.com/ KirkconnelParishHeritageSociety/

"dedicated to preserving and retelling the history of the area" "founded in 1999 ... maintain the history pertaining to the villages"

Other Privately Owned, which currently don't have dedicated websites:

Dumfries Music Collective

https://www.facebook.com/dmcweare/?locale=en_GB "shared values and a common vision for youth music in D&G". "platform to showcase talent, receive feedback and progress to high-level events".

Dumfries Community Choir https://www.facebook.com/DumfriesChoir/

"Community Choir... meet every Tuesday... welcome singers of all abilities and backgrounds" "Youth Choir for ages 11+... runs FREE... focused on young voices"

Privately Owned

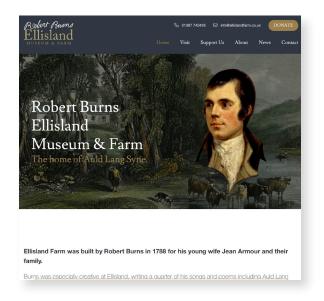


http://cairnchorus.co.uk

Cairn Chorus is a community choir, which rehearses in Moniaive, Dumfries and Galloway. There are no auditions so everyone can join regardless of ability, experience or background. As a rural choir, we have members from our immediate locale as well as further afield within the region.

"A community choir with members from all over Dumfries and Galloway" "Encourages the joy of singing in a welcoming and inclusive space" "Repertoire includes traditional, contemporary and world music, often learned by ear"

Heritage





Ellisland Farm was built by Robert Burns in 1788 for his young wife Jean Armour and their family.

Burns was especially creative at Ellisland, writing a quarter of his songs and poems including Auld Lang Syne and Tam o Shanter. During his time here, his focus moved to song-writing and collecting, including My Heart's in the Highlands, The Banks of Doon, Killiecrankie and John Anderson. Burns chose Ellisland for its beautiful setting beside the River Nith. It has changed little since the 18th century and remains the most authentic of all his homes.

"continue the legacy of Robert Burns... conserve, refurbish and enhance... for future generations"



https://www.devilsporridge.org.uk

The Devil's Porridge Museum tells the story of HM Factory Gretna, the greatest munitions factory on earth in World War One, where the devil's porridge (or cordite, an explosive) was mixed. There were 30,000 workers: 12,000 of them were women. Their contribution to the war effort helped women to achieve the vote.

"family-friendly, 5-star museum telling the story of WW1 munitions factory" "commemorates the story of HM Factory Gretna... the lives of thousands including women munitions workers".



https://johnpauljonesmuseum.com

Journey back in Time with a visit to the John Paul Jones Cottage and Museum located near southwest Scotland's Solway Firth in the village of Kirkbean. This tiny white cottage has been visible to mariners entering the Solway from the Irish Sea for centuries. We invite you to stand within the very room where Scotland's own, John Paul was born and matured into John Paul Jones, the Father of the United States Navy. Today, he is universally considered one of the greatest naval officers in history.

"John Paul Jones... born in poverty... became 'Father of the American Navy'... remembered as a pirate in Britain" The museum highlights his naval heroism and international significance, linking local origin to global history.

Heritage



https://annancinema.co.uk

The Annan Lonsdale Cinema is an independent, three-screen, family-run cinema located in Annan, Dumfries & Galloway.

With convenient on-site car parking (in Moat Road, outside Screen 1& 2), the Annan Lonsdale Cinema provides a first-class cinema experience, screening all the latest releases as well as live events from across the globe, in comfortable and relaxing surroundings with Dolby Digital projection and Dolby Digital sound.

"Independent community cinema in Annan, Dumfries and Galloway" "Bringing film and arts to local audiences since 1916" (based on its legacy).



https://www.loreburnhall.co.uk

Since taking over the management of the building in March 2024, we have supported many community groups, event organisers and promoters to host their events here and we have reignited some of the energy and community spirit that people associate with the Loreburn Hall.

Everyone has fond memories of the Loreburn Hall and our mission is to make sure that this flexible event space in the centre of Dumfries continues to be the place where good times happen!

"Historic Dumfries venue being reimagined as a hub for culture, sport and community events" "The Drill Hall Initiative aims to restore Loreburn Hall to its rightful place in the heart of local life".



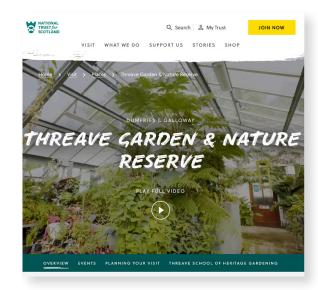
https://www.leadminingmuseum.co.uk

Wanlockhead Museum Trust will strive to: Care for, protect and share the artefacts and stories related to the industrial and social history of this rural community who were influenced by hard work, harsh conditions, education, and innovation.

Enable access to any member of the public by continually reducing barriers to learning for all ages and abilities.

"Preserves and interprets the story of Scotland's highest village and its mining history" "Explore the original beam engine, period cottages, and underground mine tours" "Run by a local charity, promoting the area's industrial and social heritage".

Heritage

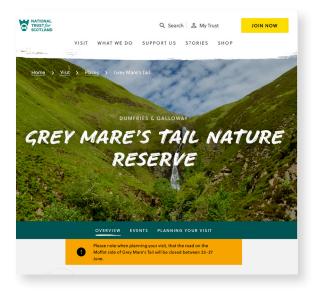


https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/threave-garden

A garden for all seasons and a haven for wildlife, with an osprey platform and bat reserve

Visit the only Scottish garden dedicated to the training of horticulturists, home of the School of Heritage Gardening since 1960.

Discover the unique garden design, where each 'garden room' showcases a different gardening style and planting scheme.



https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/grey-marestail

One of Scotland's favourite waterfalls takes a spectacular 60m plunge into the valley below

See one of the UK's highest waterfalls plunging 60m from Loch Skeen.

Enjoy a range of walks with breathtaking views.

Spot the effects of glacial erosion on the landscape. Keep an eye out for ospreys, ring ouzels, feral goats or nesting peregrine falcons.

"A paradise for wildlife enthusiasts, with rare upland plants, peregrine falcons, feral goats, ospreys, and vendace fish" 60 m waterfall in a hanging valley, set in dramatic glacial terrain with Iron Age and Covenanters' history.



https://www.nts.org.uk/visit/places/broughton-house-garden

The home of 'Glasgow Boy' E A Hornel sits in a Japanese-inspired garden and hosts an impressive collection of art

Step into the Edwardian home and studio of Scottish artist E A Hornel.

Admire the large display of Hornel's paintings, as well as those of his Scottish contemporaries.

Learn how Hornel amassed one of the world's largest collections of works by Robert Burns.

Heritage





Nestled in the picturesque countryside of Dumfries and Galloway in southwestern Scotland lies an architectural marvel that has captivated visitors for centuries.

Caerlaverock Castle, with its unique triangular shape and rich history, stands as a testament to medieval Scottish ingenuity, resilience, and the enduring legacy of one of Scotland's most prominent families – the Maxwells.

Built in the late 13th century, Caerlaverock Castle was designed to be both a formidable fortress and an impressive noble residence. Its most striking feature is its triangular layout, making it the only castle of its kind in Britain. This unusual design wasn't just for aesthetics; it provided strategic advantages, allowing defenders to cover all approaches with a minimal number of soldiers.

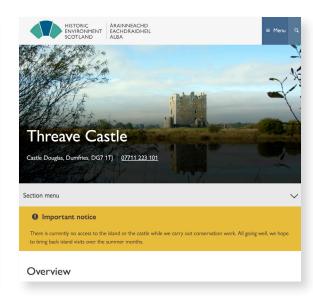


Sweetheart Abbey

Sweetheart Abbey was founded by Lady Dervorgilla of Galloway in 1273, as a shrine to both human and divine love. It was a memorial to her late husband John Balliol, Lord of Galloway and founder of Balliol College, Oxford.

Their son John became King of Scots in 1292 but was forced to abdicate in the face of an English invasion.

The abbey survived the bitter wars that followed, and its beautiful church remains almost intact today, a testament to a once-flourishing medieval monastery.



Threave Castle

Now under the care of Historic Scotland, this massive tower house was built in the late 14th century by Archibald the Grim, Lord of Galloway. It became the stronghold of the Black Douglases and still today, round its base you can see the artillery fortification, an innovative defence years ahead of its time, built before 1455 when James II besieged the castle.

Begin your journey to the castle at Kelton Mains farm and from there follow the picturesque 10-minute walk through fields and past woods until you arrive at the shore of the River Dee. Here you will find a small jetty and a brass bell with a rope pull. Ring the bell loudly - little adventurers love this bit - and the boatman will come across from the island to take you to the castle.

Heritage



https://www.dumfriesaviationmuseum.com

Dumfries & Galloway Aviation Museum is a small independent museum where we are passionate about the history of aviation and our local area. We have a fantastic collection of aircraft, including our Battle of Britain veteran Loch Doon Spitfire, our supersonic Lightning fighter and our wartime assault glider collection. There are dedicated displays on the Home Front, RAF Dumfries and the Bomber War, and the only dedicated Airborne Forces collection in Scotland.

"entirely run and operated by volunteers with a passion for historic aviation" Based in the restored WWII RAF Dumfries control tower, with a "fascinating collection of aircraft and flight memorabilia".



https://www.gsabiosphere.org.uk

Covering almost 9,800 km² of southwest Scotland's land and sea, the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere follows the rivers that flow out of the Galloway Hills: through forests and farmland, historic villages and towns, all the way to a ruggedly scenic coast.

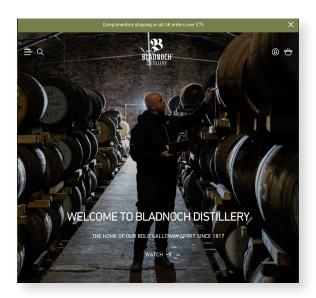
"Addresses climate change, land use, and biodiversity while supporting individual and community wellbeing" Recognised as the largest UNESCO Biosphere in the UK, promoting sustainable tourism and global knowledge networks "Closer connections with the world around us" via sustainable food, fibre, fuel and lifelong learning.



https://www.kirkcudbrightgalleries.org.uk

Kirkcudbright Galleries is a regional art gallery of national significance. The Galleries opened in June 2018: a high quality, architect designed venue, presenting the story of Kirkcudbright's art heritage in an innovative and engaging way, alongside a varying temporary historical and contemporary exhibition programme. The exciting range of displays on offer ensures that visitors and local people return to the gallery time and again, each time seeing something new. Kirkcudbright Galleries is open all year and attracts around 50,000 visits per year. The site is run by Dumfries and Galloway Council Arts and Museums service, the site also hosts the Kirkcudbright Galleries Café which is a local enterprise and has proven to be popular.

Heritage





Bladnoch's rich history dates back to 1817, when John and Thomas McClelland were first granted a licence to distil Whisky on their Bladnoch farm in Scotland's Lowlands.

For nearly a century, successive generations of McClelland family grew and modernised the distillery. At its peak, the site had six washbacks and annual production of approximately 230,000 litres of alcohol, which cemented its status as the "Queen of the Lowlands"



https://www.annandaledistillery.com

Visit Annandale Distillery and the beauty of Single Cask Single Malt Scotch Whisky. Our guides will walk you through our production with guided tastings. Top it off with a visit to the Maltings Coffee Shop to unwind.

One cask at a time – that's how we mature and bottle our whisky, so you can taste the craft and tradition that goes into every single cask.

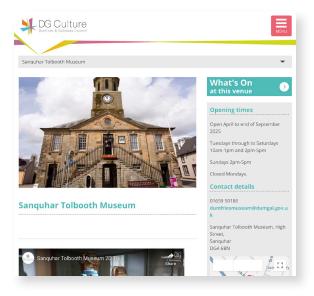


https://www.ninefolddistillery.com

Ninefold Distillery is nestled within Dormont Home Farm at the heart of Dormont Estate, Dumfries & Galloway. A quiet rural setting in southwest Scotland, this is not an obvious location for a rum distillery!

After a year of planning, work began at the start of 2018 to convert two old cattle byres that were formerly used to milk cattle on the home farm. The older of the two buildings, now containing the still house, saw the most work involved. A complete tear down and rebuild over 8 months created a fully insulated, heated and serviced distillery, with solar PV to provide some electrical energy for the running of the building. The more 'modern' and larger byre next to the distillery was simply converted into a warehouse and is now our bond, the resting place for our casks.

Heritage



https://www.dgculture.co.uk/venue/sanquhar-tolbooth-museum

Discover Sanquhar's world famous knitting tradition and the story of the mines and miners of Sanquhar and Kirkconnel. What was it like to be a prisoner in Sanquhar jail? How did the ordinary people of Upper Nithsdale live and work in times past? Explore the story of Napoleonic Prisoners of War in Sanquhar including a ship made from bone created by the prisoners. All this and more can be found in the town's fine 18th century tolbooth. Families will enjoy the children's activity area, quiz sheets and searching for characters from Sanquhar's past recreated as Lego minifigures.

"discover Sanquhar's world-famous knitting tradition and mining heritage" "stories of ordinary people... prisoners, miners, knitters"— social history focus



https://www.dgculture.co.uk

Welcome to Dumfries and Galloway. Our beautiful corner of Scotland is rich in history, renowned for its art, and we have thirteen sites situated all across the region just waiting for you to explore both.

Annan Museum
Dumfries Museum
Gracefield Arts Centre
Robert Burns Centre
Kirkcudbright Galleries
Tolbooth Art Centre, Kirkcudbright
Sanquhar Tolbooth Museum
The Stewartry Museum
Stranraer Museum
Castle of St John, Stranraer

Education



https://www.gla.ac.uk/schools/ses/

Set in 85 acres of historic parkland, the School of Social & Environmental Sustainability, Dumfries Campus is situated in south-west Scotland. Combining idyllic surroundings with world-class teaching and outstanding placement opportunities, this is the perfect setting to give you an incredible student experience.

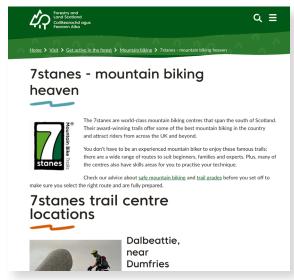
Our close-knit community is typically made up of students and staff from more than 40 countries. Creative and picturesque, Dumfries has a lively arts and festival scene, strong cultural heritage and a wealth of outdoor activities including hiking and cycling trails, rivers and lochs.

Heritage



https://www.solwayfirthpartnership.co.uk

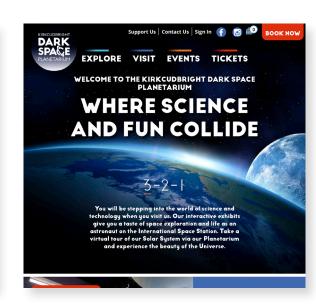
Solway Firth Partnership is an independent charity that works to support a vibrant and sustainable local economy while respecting, protecting and celebrating the distinctive character, heritage and natural features of our marine and coastal area. We do this by working with people on both sides of the Solway Firth and further afield on a wide range of projects. We also contribute to development of policies for management of the coast and sea. We aim to engage with as many people as possible to help ensure that local views shape the future of the area.



7 Stanes

The 7stanes are world-class mountain biking centres that span the south of Scotland. Their award-winning trails offer some of the best mountain biking in the country and attract riders from across the UK and beyond.

You don't have to be an experienced mountain biker to enjoy these famous trails: there are a wide range of routes to suit beginners, families and experts. Plus, many of the centres also have skills areas for you to practise your technique.



https://www.darkspaceplanetarium.org

Are you fascinated by outer space? Do you love gazing at the stars in the night sky? Have you always wondered what its like to be in space? Do you dream of being an astronaut, or visiting the ISS, even just for a day? Now is your chance!

In the Dark Space Planetarium, you can enjoy state-ofthe-art custom-made interactive exhibits. You can learn about space exploration, our solar system, and space technology while you play.

Heritage





Nestled beneath the magnificent Mabie Forest with views over the Solway Firth, Mabie Farm Park is original farm fun that's delightful for all ages in all types of weather!

Just outside Dumfries in Southern Scotland, Mabie Farm Park captures the essence and feel of an original working farm, yet has a variety of both indoor and outdoor entertainment, for children and adults of all ages!

Regardless of the weather, there is fun to be had together!



https://www.lochken.co.uk

The Galloway Activity Centre occupies a stunning location on the banks of Loch Ken in Dumfries and Galloway, South West Scotland. With our team of enthusiastic outdoor instructors and our beautiful surroundings, we specialize in providing exciting and memorable outdoor experiences in a safe and friendly family atmosphere.

Catering for families, groups and individuals, you can choose from popular short taster sessions, a full day of activities, certified courses and instructor training under the professional guidance of our skilled team.



https://gallowaycanyoning.com

Explore Scotland's wild side with unforgettable canyoning, tubing, and gorge scrambling experiences. From natural slides and splash pools to rugged waterfalls and rock jumps — every adventure is led by qualified guides, with safety and fun at the heart of it. Whether you're planning a weekend thrill or a group day out, we've got an adventure to match.

Ready to get started?

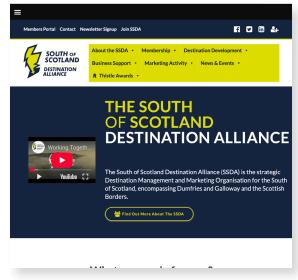
Heritage





Creetown Initiative was formed in 2002 by local residents who wanted to improve services and quality of life for people living in the Kirkmabreck Parish of Dumfries & Galloway. We have carried out many projects within our village and surrounding area.

Since then the organisation has gone from strength to strength, now employing 10 staff and expanding the scope of their work to include a consultancy service to other communities and organisations around Dumfries and Galloway and further afield in Scotland. Since 2006, we have secured £6.7 million for clients' projects across Scotland and over £4.3 million for our own home-based projects.



https://www.ssdalliance.com

The South of Scotland Destination Alliance (SSDA) is the strategic Destination Management and Marketing Organisation for the South of Scotland, encompassing Dumfries and Galloway and the Scottish Borders.

United we stand, divided we fall Partnership and collaboration are everything. Destinations succeed when they unite:

- Inspiring people to visit through coordinated, strategic marketing campaigns;
- providing a single point of clear, accurate visitor information;
- having a single voice for our sector which is loud and proud; and
- having a single Responsible Tourism Strategy which everyone is behind.



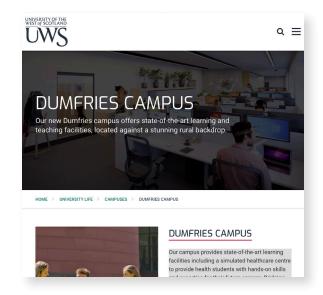
https://glenkens.scot

The Galloway Glens Landscape Partnership Scheme undertook five years of co-ordinated activity and projects in Dumfries & Galloway between 2018 and 2023, focussed on the river catchment of the Ken/Dee valley.

The aim was to 'connect people to their heritage' and in doing so, drive economic activity in the area and support sustainable communities.

The Scheme was primarily funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund Scotland, with additional support from a range of other partners, including Dumfries & Galloway Council and the Galloway & Southern Ayrshire UNESCO Biosphere.

Education



https://www.uws.ac.uk/university-life/campuses/dumfries-campus

Our campus provides state-of-the-art learning facilities including a simulated healthcare centre to provide health students with hands-on skills and expertise for their future careers. Bridging the gap between theory and practical application an immersive learning suite creates complex indoor and outdoor virtual scenarios to help students gain a new perspective on, and insight into, their chosen subject.

Facilities in the campus include:

A state-of-the-art simulated healthcare centre Immersive learning suite IT studio Open learning study spaces Flexible learning suites



https://www.sruc.ac.uk/study-with-us/student-life/campuses/sruc-barony-dumfries

Welcome to SRUC Barony

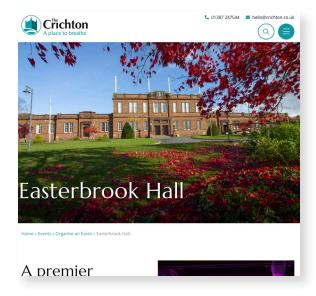
SRUC barony is set within a working 260 hectare estate, situated in the rolling landscape of Dumfries and Galloway in South West Scotland. Download our travel guide below for help getting to Barony by car, train, bus and taxi.



https://www.dumgal.ac.uk/study/subject-areas

At Dumfries and Galloway College we have two campuses. We provide a first-class further education, offering a large range of courses and qualifications available for students at any life stage that are delivered by teaching and support staff who genuinely care about what they do.

Venues



https://www.crichton.co.uk

One of Scotland's premier conference venues and the largest events venue in the South of Scotland, this Easterbrook Hall combines a large theatre-style events space with the additional option of five other rooms which can be combined to create a wide variety of spaces to suit a range of events.

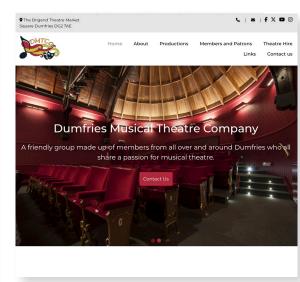
Located just outside the town of Dumfries, this beautiful art deco venue is the perfect venue for a whole host of events and our experienced team work closely with each individual client to organise and host events of all sizes.



https://www.thevenuedumfries.co.uk

Established in 1999, The Venue is a locally owned and operated, independent grassroots music venue and nightclub. Situated in the heart of the town of Dumfries, Scotland.

Spread over 2 floors, with The SkyBar on the second floor and the Ballroom on the first. We're host to many great club nights, bringing a talented selection of local and international DJ's to the area.



https://www.dumfriesmusicaltheatre.co.uk

Dumfries Musical Theatre Company – we own The Brigend Theatre and have been performing musical theatre productions in Dumfries for over 100 years, since 1922. We were originally known as Dumfries Musical and Operatic Society (DMOS) but changed to Dumfries Musical Theatre Company (DMTC) in 2008.

We are well-known in Dumfries for performing traditional musicals, as well as funky new ones, always showing off the talent of our Members and providing a high level of production quality and professionalism – seldom seen in an amateur Company.

Venues



https://www.birchvale.scot

Our first chapter starts in the mid 1930's the theatre was created as an activity for the staff and workforce at the ammunitions factory at Edingham. The Dalbeattie Drama Club came together to perform plays and musicals in the Church Hall, touring the local rural areas and entering the newly formed Stewartry Drama Festival. In 1951 they staged their first full length play, the organisation continued to stage two full length plays annually until 1960. It was fourteen years later when Theatre and the Arts were revived by the Dalbeattie and District Drama Club with the funds of £68 inherited from the earlier club.

"A small community theatre, local hub for drama, film and entertainment in Dalbeattie since 1933"



https://swallowtheatre.co.uk

The Swallow Theatre is a restored and converted byre at Moss Park, Ravenstone. It is located about three miles from Whithorn (Scotland's earliest Christian settlement and one of its very oldest towns) and ten miles from Wigtown (Scotland's book town).

"Scotland's smallest rural theatre" in the picturesque Machars peninsula" "Serves up fair-trade coffee, local beer & permaculture-inspired wildlife garden before shows "Functions as a hosted venue in the owner's garden, opening an hour before performances"



https://www.theatreroyaldumfries.co.uk

Home to The Guild of Players, the Theatre Royal (the oldest working theatre in Scotland) is in the heart of Dumfries and first opened its doors in 1792. It has strong associations with the renowned Scottish poet Robert Burns, who wrote several pieces specifically for its stage.

"The oldest working theatre in Scotland" dating from 1792 "Home to the Guild of Players, presenting world-class touring productions, live music, comedy, drama & family pantomime" "Exhilarating world-class theatre with audience engagement and enjoyment at its heart"

Venues





"Supports and promotes quality entertainment and leisure activities in the performing arts in D&G" Run by the Upper Annandale Dramatic Society for over sixty years, offering productions and venue hire

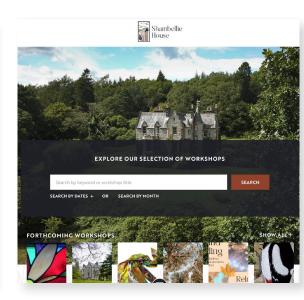


https://www.oldschoolthornhill.com

Old School Thornhill (OST) is an innovative, design-led, community asset - a space designed to foster creative collaboration for the benefit of Thornhill.

EVENTS, COMMUNITY AND CO-WORKING

Community-run arts venue offering creative workshops, performances, and youth arts engagement (based on Facebook event context)



https://www.shambelliehouse.org

Welcome to Shambellie House, a creative centre for arts, heritage and environmental courses, workshops and events. Situated at historic New Abbey in beautiful Dumfries and Galloway, Shambellie House is the ideal place to relax, learn and enjoy.

"Creative centre for arts, heritage and environmental courses, workshops and events" in a historic 19th -century mansion. Offers year-round short courses in photography, storytelling, painting, yoga, set in inspiring grounds and ancient woodland

Venues



https://www.nationalchurchestrust.org

The present church is the third church on this site; it is built of local red sandstone and was rebuilt around the previous church between 1741 and 1746, partly during the time of the second Jacobite rebellion, when the completion of the work was delayed by Bonnie Prince Charlie. The churchyard contains the elaborate Burns' Mausoleum and many other noteworthy memorials, including a Covenanters memorial and a mass grave to those who died in a cholera epidemic.

"peaceful space for reflection with spectacular Solway views"; "built with stones from Roman fort... rich Roman & medieval heritage"; "captivating architecture, magnificent memorials, spectacular stained glass"; "graves and memorials telling social history, Burns' Mausoleum"; "Category A listed Georgian church with stone spire"; "monthly heritage newsletter"

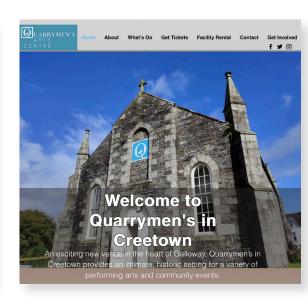


https://www.oldmillarts.com

Old Mill Arts is an multidisciplinary learning project to empower creative capacities both individually and collectively.

In our studio, through our workshops and during projects, we explore the hidden profundity of hand making creative materials. Through practising and sharing these age old crafts, we hope to remember parts of ourselves eclipsed by mass production, and to celebrate the rich history of the handmade arts.

"multidisciplinary learning project to empower creative capacities"; "exploring the hidden profundity of hand-making creative materials"; "celebrating the rich history of the handmade arts"; "specialist workshops in inks, pigments, natural dyeing, clay, paint making"; "flagship workshops, mentoring programs and talks with partners across D&G"



https://www.quarrymensartscentre.co.uk

A community owned building with a rich and historic past, it recently underwent a full refurbishment to transform it from a run-down hall into a vibrant, contemporary performing arts venue, with tasteful echoes of its rich quarrying and musical heritage.

Quarrymen's benefits from a state of the art, 80-seat raked seating system in the main auditorium, which can also be retracted to provide a larger floor space, plus a meeting/green room, kitchenette, accessible toilets, external lawn area and car parking.

"intimate, historic performing arts venue"; "communityowned... transformed... vibrant"; "stunning views of Cree estuary & Solway coast"

Venues



http://nscinema.co.uk

The Cinema - Newton Stewart

The Cinema is a Community resource and is run by a voluntary Board of Directors on a not for profit basis and relies on audience support for all our events.

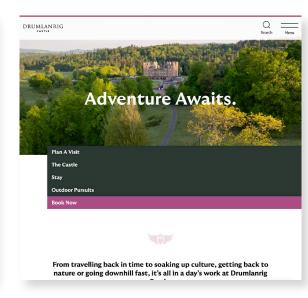
"open Wed-Sun for films... stage for live events"; "affordable—adult £7.50, child rate"; "240 comfortable sloping seats... guaranteed a good seat"



https://www.atheairts.org.uk

A' the Airts contributes to the social, economic and cultural well-being of the communities of Upper Nithsdale by actively encouraging participation in a range of arts, crafts and related activities.

A small community arts centre... an oasis in the Dumfries and Galloway hills" "Community-owned since 2010... rooted in the community with local board and volunteers" "Craft shop with crafts from local crafters, café and a cinema on site... welcoming everyone, lifelong locals or temporary visitors" "Runs craft sessions in schools, youth theatre, summer school in music, crafts, performance, and dance"



https://www.drumlanrigcastle.co.uk

At Drumlanrig Castle, you will find something for everyone. Admire the magnificent Pink Palace. Marvel at the sights of the stunning Victorian Gardens or take a guided Garden Tour. Shriek with delight in the woodland adventure playground. Watch crafters at work in the Stableyard Studios. Delight in the outdoors on our waymarked walks and family-friendly mountain bike trails. Treat yourself in the Larchwood Cabin Café.

"Immerse yourself in history at one of the finest examples of 17th Century Renaissance architecture in Scotland" "Home to magnificent rooms and spectacular collections of silver, porcelain, French furniture and art—including Rembrandt's An Old Woman Reading" Enhances visitor experience with an extensive country park, adventure playground, walking/cycling trails, and local craft Tearoom & Stableyard Studios.

D&G CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

Based on the definition of 'cultural' and 'partnership' this does include everyone. Not everyone will want to be directly involved in DGCP, but everyone should be included in the engagement and given the opportunity for participation. There are far too many categories and sub categories to list individually but here is an overview:

Museums, Galleries, Art and Heritage organisations	Artists/craftmakers /performers/creatives
Trusts, CIC's, Charities	Places of worship
Venues	Businesses which relate to the definition of 'culture' or 'partnership'
Public sector, Private sector	Cinemas
Primary and secondary schools	Restaurants (cafe's, bistro's, farm shops)
Further Education (colleges, universities)	Shopping centres
Public houses (pub quizes, bingo, DJ, dancing) Distilleries (eg. Annan, Bladnock, Dark Art, Ninefolds)	Forces (army, navy, police, airforce etc.)
Clubs (eg. bowling, golf, sports, camera, walking,	Support services: (doctors, nurses, teachers etc.)
running, foraging etc.) Musical groups/musicians	Historical sites (Castles, towers, standing stones)

The following information is notes that were collected from a gathering at Easterbrook in Dumfries to discuss Dumfries and Galloway Cultural Partnership. These are categorised in the 5 thematic groups.

1. Culture & Community Health & Wellbeing

What are the priorities in this theme?

Communicate the benefits – how are we already 'doing art and culture' Supporting PPL to access A+C+H

Define what we mean by Health – its not just about medicine and medical intervention

Continuation of activity

Getting out and about (sweaty) and grubby

Accessibility for all areas of community

Virtual for those that can't travel to access education / support

YES!

Creative ways to engage

Connecting communities through art + culture

AGE – Supporting different demographics to be involved and dictate the future direction (empowerment)

Communication and language

Ambition

Enterprise

Menopause in the workplace, awareness + support.

Who should be represented in this theme?

EVERYONE!

PEOPLE EXPERIENCING BARRIERS

People who do not usually access services or feel marginalized

NHS STAFF + HEALTH IMPROVEMENT ORGS/TEAMS/STAFF - SUPPORTING HEALTH WORKERS TO BE STAKEHOLDERS AS CITIZENS AND PPL (NOT JUST AS NHS)

Young people!

Lived experience of those suffering from mental health issues and the family and friends witnessing this.

Older adults and PPL in care homes

Carers

What are the possibilities of this theme?

To bring international culture into region – no network limitations Culture revitalization

Community engagement by statutory service

Goals driven by community (local) needs not target and health priorities Digital health

INCREASED CAPACITY TO SUPPORT PERSONAL WELLBEING BY WORKING IN NATURE

INCREASING CONFIDENCE BY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Integrated and cohesive society, inclusive

Increasing people's sense of 'being' sense of place and pride in their reason

Creating a legacy of 'care' of place

Under 30 specific roles!

A COLLECTIVE VALUE SYSTEM (DIFFERENT SECTORS HAVE DIFFERENT VALUES THAT SHAPE THEIR WORK)

What can you offer to this thematic group?

ENCOURAGEMENT (SUPPORT/COMPANY - TO BECOME VOLUNTEERS ON LOCAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS (WITH ORGS LIKE NITH LIFE) STORYTELLING

Further Discussion

Fair work and wellbeing are not separate topics

EMERGING TOPICS

- Barriers and obstacles
- What does 'community' mean
- What do we mean by 'health'
- Are you ever too unwell to engage in arts and culture?
- Context and value

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

- Equality
- Empowerment
- Values
- Language
- Communication
- Inclusion and access and health and wellbeing, feeling safe

2. Culture and Education and Skills

What are the priorities in this theme?

Schools, colleges, uni. Opps

- -Heritage
- History
- Culture

Attracting different skillsets & knowledge to the sector i.e digital

Reach + Engagement. Trying to tackle the inequality in young people's access to the arts.

Our schools play a role which we mustn't underestimate

Join up the training and employability schemes for young people from the major organisations. Collaboration.

No performing arts courses at D+G College

Skills Development

Schools are blocking collaboration

Living histories - grass roots projects

Getting key life skills (textiles) into primary and secondary

Libraries for informal learning

Engaging young people - schools engagement

Generating opportunities to learn, grow and engage young people in and out of school systems

Who should be represented in this theme?

Young people age 0-25 years

All group including people who don't or have not engaged in previous education SEND and people with additional needs

Anyone with capacity to support young people eg. Apprenticeships

- Work shadowing
- Heritage careers
- Work events etc.

Young people and those who continue to build their careers or professional lives Primary schools

Education dept

School children

Intergenerational events

All primary ages. All secondary departments. Opportunity for cross curricular projects.

Young people!

ALL young people

Training provides. SPS. College. Apprenticeships

Anyone who faces barriers to 'mainstream' education training or employment such as people with additional support needs.

The people who aren't here. Hearing their voices – those with ASN

What are the possibilities of this theme?

Cross cultural / work generation

Discovering skills in 'non-academia' children - motivation

Young people led skill development

Increasing the opportunities to help the young be inspired to stay in the region Attracting new and skilled talent into culture – how do get data scientist and codes into cultural organisations

Broadening the reach of culture and environment to those who don't traditionally become involved.

Giving hope, meaning, occupation, to marginalized communities

Training for traditional building skills (joinery, lime plaster, stonemasons, lead work)

Opportunity to ensure all who seek education can do so

Heritage and building skills benefitting regional economy

What can you offer to this thematic group?

In school / Glenkens Heritage Projects and Internships (GCAT)

Young people and community connections and venue

Mentorship (Conservation)

- Digital skills knowledge
- Technology ecosystem
- Digital pathways
- Specialist knowledge and skills in inclusion and access linking curriculum Free access to lectures (TASDNG)

Further Discussion

CROSS CUTTING THEMES

Arts practice participation and engagement as own theme

3. Culture and Place and Community Wealth Building

What are the priorities in this theme?

Working with communities in their own communities

Working with the communities for the communities' benefits and not just taking them on our ride/journey

Building on the strengths of place taking forward with new ideas

Long term investment in our places, people, & communities

Joint applications

CULTURE LED BY COMMUNITIES

Intergenerational opportunities at grassroots level

Gathering heritage / local knowledge from older residents before its lost

Diversify cultural workforce by growing culture in communities

Who should be represented in this theme?

Young people

Artists in residence from UK and overseas

New Cultural communities like digital and tech communities

Local communities

Current existing projects

Schools

New Scott Community

Those experiencing barriers

Night Cultures (gig venues, nightclubs, pubs and their users and customers

Young people!

Everyone in a place

Immigrants

What are the possibilities of this theme?

Wealth creation

Vibrant, exciting society

Sparking increased community participation

Bringing localized skills back - community empowerment

New enterprise and innovations to bring wealth to the region

Inspiring engagement – highlighting the wealth of heritage in the region increasing people's sense of belonging

Having pride in their region

Enriching both communities and the culture sector

Link into our placed based festivals and the temporary communities they create The power to shape the culture and community we are part of, to find/create the place where we belong, and the room to do that.

Summary

Engagement combined with accessibility

We want to be accessible but also need to be doing things people want – and what all people want not just those already have a voice.

So reaching out into places supporting people to make things happen that they want to see.... Culture is an enabler and a grower of community

To reach themes like

- intergenerations
- diversifying cultural workforce
- not so middle class
- young people
- opportunities
- Growing more projects direct in communities through joint applications as a regional sector to reach places
- building on the temporary communities
- created through festivals etc.
- project ideas what does 'I belong here' look like to different group
- community heritage research
- capturing stories -

Opportunities

- Joint working
- Employability
- Just connecting people and knowing who everyone is and what they do
- Mapping local skills and culture

Needs

- Capacity to do stuff not just raise money

What can you offer to this thematic group?

Visitor artists in residence -

School

Education

Art Courses

Further Discussion

Cross Cutting Themes

What does 'I belong here' look and feel like for different groups and people.

Arts practice and engagement as own theme.

Keep in Mind

Capacity. How do small orgs. Fit into multiple thematic groups.

4. Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work

What are the priorities in this theme?

Recognising (and valuing) the work and industry in Creative work and industry Agreeing Standards

Adopting the Fair Funding principles across the sector (TSDG)

Peer support for freelancers

- Moral Support
- Practical support
- Running a small business

How the small overworked organisations are going to be 'supported' ££ Creating space? Opportunity for young people to learn? exercise their rights! Youth engagement – hear their voice

Sharing good governance, practice etc

Be realistic! Who is paying for fair work?

Who should be represented in this theme?

Freelancers - supported (can there be some pay?)

Young people

New Scots

People with differing support needs

Employers / Organisations / business

How to get 'new voices' to be involved

What does 'culture' mean to people? The man on the street.

What are the possibilities of this theme?

Creating peer support networks

How to build and sustain resilience

A sector where freelance opportunities are available for those who live to work that way, but those who would like to both work in the sector and have a mortgage can find high quality long-term positions too.

Therefore a sector that can retain young people!

And one that retains highly skilled teams because people aren't always having to look for the next project.

Young people led initiatives running learning opportunities (peer led dev)

Are we truly 'a sector' ... if not, can the P'shup be the vehicle to help build-out our D+G

Sector??

What can you offer to this thematic group?

Experience and a vision of well governed partnerships.

Upland Arts Dev CIC - cross cutting themes

Intros to digital networks to support digital governance.

Explore best practice and fair work for artists/freelancers (IP/c/tm contracts)

5. Culture & Visitor Economy

What are the priorities in this theme?

Conservation and celebration

Ambition

Imagination

Inspiration

Innovation

Build on what is already happening – better external marketing and promotion

Investment

The diversity of natural experiences that D&G has to offer

Lifting the voices of less visited portions of the region

Build attractions to a critical mass that drives D&G as a popular destination

How to build resources to contribute to strong evaluation and reporting for teams with limited capacity

Creativity – ingenuity, opportunity to 'HIGHLIGHT D+Gs' wealth of opportunity Marketing

Promote D&G within Scotland as well as outwith

Quantifying and advocating for the impact

Build capacity eg. Staff resources within com-led orgs.

Who should be represented in this theme?

People who experience barriers to access

Night economies (inc. bars, pubs, gig venues and nightclubs)

Travel tech Scotland

Young People

Communities (esp rural)

Young People

Rural communities

Visitor attractions (heritage / arts / creativity focused)

Tourism Businesses

Our Biosphere

Visit Scotland

Collab if National Park goes ahead?

SSDA!

Climate hubs net zero

Southern Upland Partnership

What are the possibilities of this theme?

Inclusive tourism

Returning tourists - making D&G a place to return to time and time again.

D&G 'BRAND LOYALTY'

Economic regeneration

Vibrant night economy

Community-led tourism

Sustainable tourism

50% of visitors to Scotland come for events

Encourage visitors beyond summer months. Culture can play a part.

Remind Scotland (and wider) that D&G exists

Improve the visibility of key attractions unique to D&G Crawick Ellisland etc.

Injection of new life new possibilities to highlight the hidden gem of D&G

It's hard to reach international audiences with low budgets

Film and TV locations and then the tourism that follows i.e outlander

What can you offer to this thematic group?

Existing marketing structure - scope to build collaboratively?

Clear shared visitor targets?

Artists in residence

Conversations ideas inspiration for new pathways

Established heritage tourism structure

Economic development experience

Link to South of Scotland responsible tourism strategy

Further Discussion

Funded buses once a month to places – tours

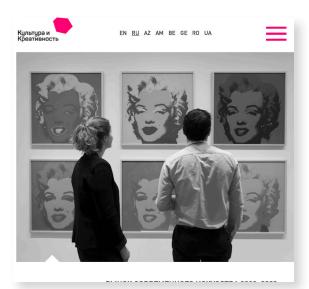
Arts Practice engagement and participation - own theme

Are we really a sector... and if not could we audit this and perhaps develop a 'sector'



https://futurecity.co.uk/cultural-partnerships/

A Futurecity project is characterised by original partnerships that help to tell the story of a place. These collaborations can result in a range of outcomes, from creative industry hubs, new start-up spaces, partnerships between galleries, museums and universities, pop-up experiences, or the involvement of high-profile institutions or individuals. At the core of our work is the knowledge that partnerships attract partnerships—cross-sector collaborations are contagious and can lead to a ripple effect of creative influence across a place. Cultural partnerships and anchors elevate the ambitions and scale of a project impactfully.



https://www.culturepartnership.eu/

The Culture and Creativity website was created in 2015 within the framework of an EU Programme aiming to promote cultural contribution to the social and economic development of the six Eastern Partnership (EaP) countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, and Ukraine.

Since then, the website has become a popular and useful resource for professionals of the cultural and creative industries. After the end of the Programme in 2019, the website continues to operate with funding from the Culture and Creativity Association and the House of Europe programme.



https://anne.art/organisation/middlesbroughcultural-partnership/

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership is a collective of arts, heritage & culture organisations, businesses and freelancers on a mission to Make Middlesbrough the Most Creative Town in the UK.

The partnership started in 2018 as a group of artists, arts and culture organisations and professionals to be a voice for creativity in Middlesbrough



https://www.surreyculturalpartnership.com

Surrey Cultural Partnership is a collective of people working in culture, heritage, local government, business, education, health and criminal justice who share an ambition to champion Surrey as a vibrant cultural county.



https://www.the-shire.co.uk

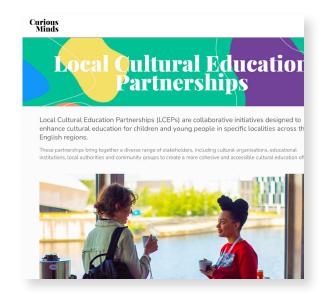
The Shire is the official website of Herefordshire Cultural Partnership (HCP). We are an independent consortium of arts, culture and heritage organisations, local government and businesses with a shared vision -celebrating this county's creative and entrepreneurial spirit.

We exist to drive forward Herefordshire's cultural strategy, create connections and spread the word that arts, culture and creative engagement plays an essential role for all people and places.



https://www.cultureandbusiness.scot

Our vision is for a Scotland where culture thrives, is celebrated, and enriches social, civic and economic lives. And our mission, therefore, is to be the connector between the culture and business sectors; to enable, inspire and support exciting and mutually beneficial cross-sector relationships, to build knowledge, skills and support where they're needed most, and to champion the impact and value of cultural experiences on all of our lives.



https://curiousminds.org.uk

Local Cultural Education Partnerships (LCEPs) are collaborative initiatives designed to enhance cultural education for children and young people in specific localities across the English regions.

These partnerships bring together a diverse range of stakeholders, including cultural organisations, educational institutions, local authorities and community groups to create a more cohesive and accessible cultural education offer.



https://www.theculturepartnership.com

True progress in building an inclusive culture requires a genuine partnership between us and the organisations we work with. We don't claim to have a magic wand that instantly solves every organisational culture block. Instead, we emphasise the importance of meeting each other halfway.

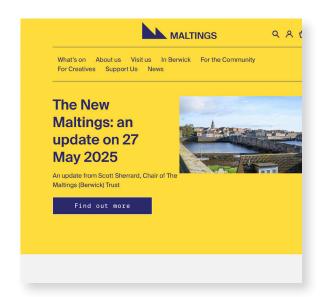
Our mission is to dig deep and uncover the underlying reasons for your current challenges. This means having open and honest conversations to address surface-level pickles as well as finding solutions to deeper, systemic issues.



https://v1.brandsnculture.com

It's become clear that brands and businesses can no longer afford to sit on the sidelines when it comes to what is making and shaping culture. But hijacking and jumping on every meme and trend is not the answer. Consumer expectations mean that brands can't just respond and react (that's table stakes, and often dangerous) to what is happening in culture.

What brands do must be enduring, meaningful and sustainable.





Our team are passionate about ensuring that high quality live performances, film, exhibitions, workshops, talks, and youth arts are accessible to everyone living, working and visiting Berwick and the surrounding area. We have strong partnerships with local artists, community organisations, schools, universities and the wider cultural sector plus a well-established outreach programme – community and audience engagement are central to everything we do.



https://www.culturecollective.scot

Culture Collective is a network of 26 participatory arts projects, shaped by local communities alongside artists and creative organisations. Funded by Scottish Government through Creative Scotland, these projects are taking place across Scotland from March 2021-October 2023.

From Shetland to Inverclyde, Aberdeen to Hawick, each unique project is designed and driven by the community in which it is rooted, playing an important part in shaping the future cultural life of Scotland. Some projects are working to creatively engage with older community members; some provide opportunities for young women and non-binary people to find their voices; and others address disconnection, loneliness and mental health in a post-lockdown world.



https://cacn.co.uk

CACN is a network for arts and cultural organisations and individual creative practitioners based in, or connected to, Cumbria.

We connect, empower, champion and extend arts and culture within Cumbria and beyond.



https://xponorth.co.uk

XpoNorth Digital is HIE's mechanism for specialist digital support for the creative economy across the Highland Council Region. It is part of the Northern Innovation Hub, a project funded through the Inverness and Highland City Region Deal and is designed and delivered by Ironworks Venue. The Inverness and Highland City Region deal is a joint initiative supported by up to £315m of investment from the UK and Scottish Governments, The Highland Council, Highlands and Islands Enterprise and University of the Highlands and Islands, and is aimed at stimulating sustainable regional economic growth.

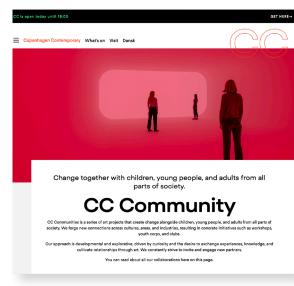


https://creativedundee.com

Creative Dundee centres creative practitioners and communities as powerful catalysts for collective good.

Built by, with and for the local creative community, equity and access are at the core of all that we do.

Our vision is that Dundee is an inspiring place where creative communities and residents make their ideas and ambitions happen, with collaboration and opportunity shaping the city's future.



https://copenhagencontemporary.org

CC Communities is a series of art projects that create change alongside children, young people, and adults from all parts of society. We forge new connections across cultures, areas, and industries, resulting in concrete initiatives such as workshops, youth corps, and clubs.

Our approach is developmental and explorative, driven by curiosity and the desire to exchange experiences, knowledge, and cultivate relationships through art. We constantly strive to invite and engage new partners.





The Creative Communities programme supports communities to develop and deliver initiatives involving culture and creative arts and focuses support on people and places where social or geographical circumstances make engaging with cultural activities more challenging. The Creative Communities approach is deeply participatory: each project is designed and led by the communities they work with and, as a result, every project is unique, reflecting the strengths, interests, priorities and talents of the people taking part. Local people lead the way, working with creative practitioners on projects that are meaningful to them in the way that suits them best.



https://www.feisean.org

Welcome to the official website of Fèisean nan Gàidheal, the organisation which supports the development of community-based Gaelic arts tuition festivals throughout Scotland.

Fèisean nan Gàidheal was established in 1991 as the independent umbrella association of the Fèis movement. It is a membership organisation that offers a range of services to its members including officer support, grant-aid, training, insurance, Gaelic language support, central Disclosure checking and instrument loans



https://www.paragon-music.org

At Paragon we believe that music and the arts have the power to transform lives. Guided by our two key principles - equality and inclusion - we're dedicated to inspiring young people and adults in Scotland to create new music and dance.

Our team of professional musicians, dancers and composers create inclusive learning and performance environments where people from all walks of life, and with a wide range of support needs, can come together to develop new skills, meet new friends and discover their true potential.



https://story-trails.com/locations/dumfries/

StoryTrails features digital experiences that invites residents to experience Dumfries like they've never seen before through augmented reality (AR), virtual reality (VR) and an immersive emotional map of Dumfries. The experiences centre around Dumfries library as well as on the streets of Dumfries itself.

Immersive technology allows audiences to travel through time and space to experience the place where they live in new and magical ways. You can explore stories across virtual and augmented reality and via a series of installations by visiting the StoryTrails station at your local participating library. Download the Story-Trails app here and see what you can discover for yourself about Dumfries.



https://www.culturecentral.co.uk

We are a collective, and a collective voice for the West Midlands.

We convene, challenge and connect, to create opportunities through culture, for the people and places of the region.

We know the power that culture has on people and places.

We believe in the strength of working collectively.

We do this to support a dynamic, resilient, inclusive cultural ecology.



https://cultureconsortiumleeds.org.uk

A network of cultural organisations collaborating to strengthen the cultural sector's resilience and voice in the Leeds city region.

Culture has the power to change lives. We want a thriving cultural sector in the Leeds city region that is well-connected, collaborative, and resilient.

Culture Consortium Leeds is made up of senior leaders of cultural organisations in the Leeds city region. Membership is open to organisations with an active cultural offer.



About MADE

MADE is Manchester's local cultural education partnership. We support educators by producing high quality and meaningful creative learning experiences, connecting young people to the arts in our city.

https://www.mademcr.org

We're on a mission to bring arts and culture to every young person in Manchester

MADE is Manchester's local cultural education partnership. We support educators by producing high quality and meaningful creative learning experiences, connecting young people to the arts in our city.

Our Vision

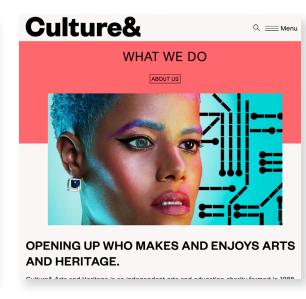
We want Manchester to become a beacon for creative education, where the arts add magic to life experiences and learning, for everyone. We want the city's young people to be engaged, confident and excited about creativity.



https://cultureliverpool.co.uk

Liverpool is a city of poets and playwrights, of artists and music makers. A city that 15 years ago took its well-earned place as European Capital of Culture, setting in motion its most profound renaissance.

Since our inception and following the delivery of the most successful European Capital of Culture to date, the vision and ambition of Culture Liverpool continues to grow and thrive. Today we build on our UNESCO City of Music status and world class reputation, using arts, music and events as the driving force behind the regeneration of our city by championing culture on an international stage.



https://www.cultureand.org

Culture& Arts and Heritage is an independent arts and education charity formed in 1988 and based in London. Formerly known as Cultural Co-operation, we work in partnership with arts and heritage institutions and artists to develop programmes that promote diversity in the workforce and expand audiences. We aim to open up the arts and heritage sectors through workforce initiatives and public programmes. Our New Museum School diploma programme (2018-2020), in collaboration with A New Direction supported and by the Heritage Lottery Fund was delivered with Art UK, Bletchlev Park Trust, English Heritage, Keats House -City of London, London Metropolitan Archives - City of London, Magnum Photos, Museum of London, the National Trust, Pitzhanger Abbey, Royal Collection Trust, the Southbank Centre and William Morris Gallery - London Borough of Waltham Forest.

50

Existing local brand cultural identities:



















































National and international cultural brand identities:





































National and international cultural brand identities:





































D&G RESEARCH

Overview of Dumfries and Galloway

Dumfries and Galloway is directly connected to the Scottish Borders, Cumbria, Ayrshire and Ireland across the Irish Sea. Many of the towns in D&G are spread across the large region with the main town being Dumfries. The region is approximately 90 miles long by 60 miles wide. The population of Dumfries and Galloway is around 149,000 people.

The natural environment consists of coastline, cliffs and beaches, rolling hills, forestry and woodlands, arable and pasture farmland.

There are a large number of heritage sites across the region, ranging from museums, castles and towers (eg. Caerlaverock, Drumlanrig, Threave, Orchardton), standing stones (eg. Twelve Apostles), estates and country mansions, collections and sites of significance (eg. GSA Biosphere, Dark Sky). The region is associated to several historical figures (eg. Robert Burns, JM Barrie, Robert the Bruce, Kirkpatrick Macmillan, John Paul Jones, James Clerk Maxwell, The Black Douglas, E A Hornel, Jessie M King, St Ninian).

There is a wide range of organisations throughout Dumfries and Galloway associated to the sectors of Art, Culture and Heritage.

A diverse range of festivals and events throughout the year connect to the environment having outdoor festivals (eg. Eden Festival, Knockengorroch). Others are connected to "People" via heritage and the large community of local artist's, craftmakers and performers (eg. Big Burns Supper, Arts Festival, Spring-Fling). Dumfries and Galloway also has a uniqueness in that some towns are strongly branded (eg. Wigtown: Scotland's National Book Town, Kirkcudbright Artists' Town, Castle Douglas Food Town).

Many Charities/CICs are working with local communities and support young people (eg. Performance Collective Stranraer, The Stove, Outpost Arts, DG Unlimited, Upland).

The 5 thematic themes

Culture and Community Health & Wellbeing
Culture and Education and Skills
Culture and Place and Community Wealth Building
Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work
Culture and Visitor Economy

"Through our strategy we will work with partners across the region's creative cultural and heritage sector, and beyond, to make sure that Dumfries and Galloway achieves its full potential as a place where **culture** and **creativity** flourish, and **wellbeing** and **prosperity**, **social**, **economic** and **environmental**, thrive as a result."

RESEARCH ANALYSIS

Key words

Culture and Community Health & Wellbeing

Health, wealth and wellbeing, mental health, thrive, grow, safe, emotional wellbeing.

Culture and Education and Skills

Learning, barriers, expertise, skills, educators, exchanges, language, skill-sharing, advocacy, mentorship, skills development.

Culture and Place and Community Wealth Building

Creative Placemaking, creative community, resources, community events, a sense of belonging, inspired, resilience and growth, economic and community development, social and rural isolation, volunteerled, youth services, unspoilt landscape, risk-taking, empowerment, positive disruptive change, creative-minded individuals, sustainable focal points, community spirit. Partnerships that help to tell the story of a place. Creative industry hubs, new start-up spaces, pop-up experiences.

Culture and Sector Governance and Fair Work

Equalities Act: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation, volunteers, diverse workforce, funding, inclusive communication, mutual support, equality and diversity, trust and integrity, inequality, opportunities.

Culture and Visitor Economy

culture, creativity and heritage, communication, community engagement, partnerships, innovative, collective voice, sponsorship, visual arts programme, immersive educational visits, creative hub, Community-led tourism.

ARTS

Performing arts, artists, craftmakers, vibrant visual art and craft, music, theatre, poetry, essays, cabaret, comedy, dance, youth theatre, community cinema, independent grassroots music, pantomime, photography, painting, textiles, ceramics, yoga.

CULTURE

Vibrant, exhibitions, activities, markets, country fair, non-commercial event, artisan markets, creativity, land art. environmental innovation.

HERITAGE

Museums and Heritage network, rich heritage, touring exhibitions, permanent exhibition and temporary displays, artefacts and stories, rich history, independent museum, gallery of national significance, history.

PARTNERSHIP

Champion, advocate, workshops, membership, together, bold, ambitious, youth engagement.

Key statements

Dumfries and Galloway achieves its full potential as a place where culture and creativity flourish, and wellbeing and prosperity, social, economic and environmental, thrive as a result

make a positive difference for people and places across our region

unified voice while embracing our individual strengths and differences

shared vision to become a blueprint for world-class provision in a rural geography

community-led events and archive celebrating local stories

multi-disciplinary events that inspire curiosity

the place where good times happen

a paradise for wildlife enthusiasts

closer connections with the world around us

the ideal place to relax, learn and enjoy

contributes to the social, economic and cultural wellbeing of the communities

working with communities in their own communities

opportunities at grassroots level

a sector that can retain young people

Shared Messages/Themes

The difference we make shine a light a global community contemporary visual art and craft international audiences develop new skills foster community spirit and civic pride educational family-friendly activities connection to nature nurture, promote and sustain bring together people and ideas celebrate our local places and people economic regeneration through arts and community promoting and preserving history and heritage empowering young people a haven for wildlife

WHAT ARE WE COMMUNICATING?

What we are:

The Cultural Partnership is a collaborative force working to bring together the arts, heritage, and creative sectors in Dumfries and Galloway to create long-term, positive change. We act as a connector and amplifier.

What we do:

The Cultural Partnership is about working together, across sectors, disciplines, and communities, to ensure that culture and heritage are part of regional planning, investment, and recovery. Culture and heritage isn't just an 'add on' - it should be recognised as vital to how Dumfries and Galloway grows, invests, and supports its people.

Our goal is to ensure Dumfries and Galloway is recognised as a region where creativity, heritage, and cultural wellbeing are central to community life and where artists and organisations can thrive professionally and sustainably.

Our Vision:

Our vision is simple: a thriving, inclusive, and sustainable cultural ecosystem that reflects and serves the people of Dumfries and Galloway - from major organisations to grassroots creatives and local communities.

Engagement with DGCP:

- Join a Thematic Group!
- Sign up to our new mailing list
- Follow us on social media
- Attend workshops, networking events, or future meetings

Benefits to you joining DGCP / a thematic group:

- Make sure everyone working in the arts and heritage is treated fairly
- Support better pay, access, and conditions for freelancers and staff
- Encourage inclusive and diverse leadership
- Share good practice around health, safety, and how decisions are made
- Making sure arts and heritage are part of local plans to improve towns, villages, and rural areas.
- Working with other sectors (like tourism, business, or housing) to build stronger communities.
- Exploring new ways for culture to bring money into the region such as funding, partnerships, or local investment.
- Creating more chances for people to learn through the arts, from pre-school to adult education
- Helping artists and cultural workers build new skills and grow their careers

- Supporting training, mentoring, and pathways into creative work especially for young people and those just starting out
- How cultural and heritage activities can reduce loneliness, improve mental health, and bring people together
- Working with health and community services to make creative opportunities more accessible
- Celebrating the ways that culture already supports wellbeing across Dumfries and Galloway
- Celebrating what makes Dumfries and Galloway unique through culture, heritage and storytelling
- Supporting creative tourism, from festivals to galleries, museums to local makers
- Helping raise the region's profile across Scotland and beyond

What assets do we need?:

brand identity/guidelines communications strategy and audience plan videos / sound files images / slideshows case studies downloads - pdfs

WEBSITE CONTENT / NAVIGATION

The proposed DGCP website sitemap will define: who DGCP are, the thematic groups, the benefits to being involved, network events and opportunities.

Proposed site navigation for discussion:

case studies (as they develop)

DGCP Get involved Social Who we are **Events** News - Vision, Mission & Values - Links to Eventbrite Social media channels - Partnerships **Opportunities** Thematic Groups - About - Facilitators - Benefits - Join form - Partners Example scenarios

Footer: Home | Contact | sitemap | Legalities | Social media links

What type of image can represent DGCP?

Style: contemporary, innovative, legible, distinct, unique, creative

Message: cultural, arts, heritage, partnering, inclusive, dynamic, stronger than the sum of its parts, approachable, collaborative, leading the way, community, grassroots, professional

Avoid: cliché, trying to say everything at once, cluttered, confusing

VISUALS

(WORKINGS FOR REFERENCE ONLY)

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY

DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY



Design:

Icon made from DGCP in window / organic shape

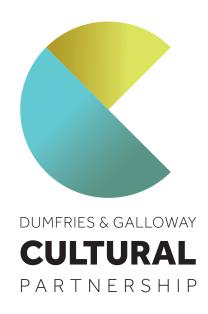
Concept development:

- animation
- creative use of graphics









Design:

Icon made of letter 'C' and 'P'.
Optional colour variations

Concept development:Graduated geometric shapes





Icon made of letter 'C' and 'P'.
Optional layouts

Concept development:Graduated geometric shapes





Design:

Icon made of letter 'C' and 'P'.
Inference of target, radiating, sharing.
Optional layouts

Concept development: Colourful geometric shapes







Design:

Icon made of letter 'C' to form a circle.

Representation of partnership, evolving, looking inwards and outwards.

Concept development: Colourful graduated shapes

DEVELOPED IDEAS





Design idea 1

Design:

Bold letter 'C' in heavy serif font to represent 'Heritage' with a hand drawn 'C' to represent 'Arts'. The two combined represent 'Culture'.

Concept development: Provides a combination of free-flowing hand drawn graphics with solid typography.



Design idea 1

Design:

Bold letter 'C' in heavy serif font to represent 'Heritage' with a hand drawn 'C' to represent 'Arts'. The two combined represent 'Culture'.

D&G in badge.

Concept development: Provides a combination of free-flowing hand drawn graphics with solid typography.

CULTURAL PARTNERSHIP culture for all

Design idea 1

Design:

Mix of typographic characters, to represent the diversity of cultural organisations and partners.

The letter 'a' is underlined to echo the tagline 'culture for all'.

D&G in badge.

Concept development:

A simple and stong brand can be identified from using the multiple typographic approach across promotional material as well as the brand identity itself.







This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.





This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.







This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.

Sub brands of the 5 thematic groups could have the same typographic treatment.





This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.



Design idea 2

Design:

Geometric block font for 'DG Culture'.

Playful, Scottish, movement, stronger than the sum of its parts.

Concept development:

- Strong shapes and colours
- Animation
- images dropped into shapes



Design idea 2

Image to show how the brand identity could be personalised and animated.

Potential to make a D&G Cultural alphabet





This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.





This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.



Design idea 3

Design:

Unification, joined up, flowing, collaboration, a common thread, rolling hills of D&G.

Concept development:

- animation
- flowing lines can separate images and colours
- connecting words







This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.





This is a very simply to show you how the brand identity would look beside an image.

decultural Partnership

Design idea 4

Design:

5 overlapping circles creating the letter 'c' for Culture.

Each circle represents the 5 thematic themes. The styling of this brand identity can be developed into the 5 thematic themes so they work together as a unified brand.

Concept development:

An inclusive and contemporary design, where the circles and overlapping shapes can build on the values of the brand.

Design idea 4

Design:

5 overlapping circles creating the letter 'c' for Culture.

Each circle represents the 5 thematic themes. The styling of this brand identity can be developed into the 5 thematic themes so they work together as a unified brand.

Concept development:

An inclusive and contemporary design, where the circles and overlapping shapes can build on the values of the brand.









This is a very simple way of creating a **sub brand** for each of the **5 thematic groups**, where the theme is within a circle and colour coded.

Each of the **thematic groups** would have their own **colour**.



This is a very simple way of creating a **subbrand** for each of the **5 thematic groups**, where the theme is within a circle and colour coded.

Each of the **thematic groups** would have their own **colour**.









This is a very simple way of creating a **sub brand** for each of the **5 thematic groups**, where the theme is the brand icon 'C' colour coded.

Each of the **thematic groups** would have their own **colour**.



This is a very simple way of creating a **subbrand** for each of the **5 thematic groups**, where the theme is within a circle and colour coded.

Each of the **thematic groups** would have their own **colour**.

ARTISRAN

de Cultural Partnership

Education and Skills Place and Community Governance and Fair Work Visitor Economy

Sub brand key colours

Design:

The same design using multiple colours, where the circles on the top level brand identity overlap and change colour.

Design idea 4

On the sub brands each thematic group is represented by one of the key colours used in the main brand identity.









This is to show you the main brand beside an image.



This is to show you a **sub brand** for each of the **5 thematic groups**, where the theme is colour coded.

decultural

culture +
community
health and
wellbeing

culture + education and skills culture + place and community wealth building culture +
sector
governance
and
fair work

culture + visitor economy





















Design idea 4

Sub brand development:

The 5 thematic groups could be sub branded to tie in with the main brand in seval ways as shown:

- 1. Simple circle with text
- 2. Colour coded letter 'C' for each theme
- 3. Colour coded letter 'C' for each theme with their own icons.

ARTI RANI

BRAND IDENTITY SUMMARY

1 3





2 4





NEXT PHASE

Following on from the research of "culture" in Dumfries and Galloway, International organisations, and providing some brand identity designs, the next stage will provide:

- Agreement on a preferred design route
- Development of the preferred design across sub brands and various formats (eg. web, social media)
- Identify associated images to go along with the brand identity and how to build a database of DGCP images
- Develop brand elements: straplines, hero statements, vision statement, core values, call-to-action terms, key words, fonts, colour palette.

THANK YOU!

