

DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

REPORT TO: Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 19 April 2004

REPORT ON: Exhibition at McManus Galleries

REPORT BY: Director of Leisure and Arts

REPORT NO: 299-2004

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform committee of the forthcoming exhibition "Robert Callender: Plastic Beach and other works" and its supporting programme.

2.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Committee notes the content of this report.

3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 3.1 The total exhibition costs of £5,000 will be met from the Leisure and Arts Department's 2004/2005 revenue budget.

4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 The project supports the principles: "opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are available to all" and "access to the skills, knowledge and information needed to enable everyone to play a full part in society". It also highlights the environmental impacts of any reliance on non recyclable materials.

5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 The project enhances the position of cultural and heritage resources for all age groups.
- 5.2 The project provides opportunities for people of all ages regardless of ability, social background, race, sex or disadvantage.

6.0 MAIN TEXT

- 6.1 The exhibition will run in the McManus Galleries from Friday 7 May to Sunday 20 June 2004.
- 6.2 The exhibition is being organised by the McManus Galleries, liaising directly with the artist. Born in Kent in 1932 but based in Scotland since 1950, Callender began his distinguished career as a painter but has been a sculptor since the 1980s. Dundee City Council owns a major oil painting by Callender, "Short Cut", 1974, which was recently gifted by the Scottish Arts Council.
- 6.3 'Plastic Beach' is a remarkable environmental installation. It highlights the plight of our beaches, particularly in remote areas, which are polluted by non-degradable plastics from all over the world. Using the materials gathered from the shore as reference material, Callender has realistically re-created 500 'plastic' items by constructing them from cardboard, paper and paint. The observation and attention to detail are masterly.
- 6.4 The exhibition features in total three floor pieces, seven wall pieces and three oil paintings. A mini-retrospective, the span of the works ranges from 1974 to 2004.

6.5 There is a supporting Events Programme. Two free admission adult events have been planned for the McManus Galleries: 'Meet the Artist – Gallery Tour by Robert Callender' will take place on Thursday 20 May at 1.00pm; and 'Robert Callender in Conversation' (with Tom Clark, poet and gallery director) will take place on Thursday 3 June at 5.30pm. Three Children's Art Workshops will be held on Saturdays 15, 22 and 29 May at the cost of £2 a session. Also the Portal Group will undertake a four week construction project based on the exhibition.

7.0 CONSULTATION

7.1 The Chief Executive, Depute Chief Executive (Finance), Depute Chief Executive (Support Services) and Assistant Chief Executive (Community Planning) have been consulted on this Report and are in agreement with its contents.

8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

8.1 None

STEVE GRIMMOND
DIRECTOR OF LEISURE and ARTS
29 MARCH 2004