

**REPORT TO: ARTS & HERITAGE COMMITTEE 19 June 2000**

**REPORT ON: Millennium Handbag Exhibition**

**REPORT BY: Director of Arts & Heritage**

**REPORT NO: 386/2000**

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To inform the Committee of the Millennium celebration exhibition Handbag, being held at the McManus Galleries from 15 July - 3 September 2000.

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION**

2.1 That the Committee note the content of this report.

## **3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

3.1 The costs of the exhibition are £6,000. A grant of £2,000 has been awarded by the Scottish Arts Council. The costs of the outreach programme and associated marketing are being met with a grant of £2,500 from the Millennium Fund. The balance of £1,500 will be met from the Arts & Heritage revenue budget for 2000/01.

## **4.0 LOCAL AGENDA 21 IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The project was set up to reflect the key theme "Opportunities for culture, leisure and recreation are readily available for all."

## **5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 The project will provide opportunities for all sectors of the community to engage in the project regardless of ability, social background, race, sex or disadvantage.

## **6.0 MAIN TEXT**

6.1 Handbag is a City Gallery Touring exhibition from Leicester. This is its only Scottish venue and provides an opportunity to see work by many leading contemporary makers for the first time in Scotland.

6.2 Featuring new bags by 25 artists and designers, specially created for the exhibition, Handbag offers a fascinating insight into a contemporary icon. Makers have filled their bags with unique contents giving us all a chance to find out something of the person they believe might own and use the bag.

6.3 Featured makers include:

- Colette Gilmartin, whose nest bag is made from hair extensions and kirby grips
- Asta Barrington, internationally known for her beautifully embroidered bags
- Lesley Osbiston, graduate of Duncan of Jordanstone, who has created a sumptuous bag and negligee for the 'Ultimate Dirty Weekend'
- Dianne Read, who has constructed a bag from paper pulp for an undercover agent who is 'Granny By Day, Spy By Night'

6.4 Arts & Heritage staff plan to enhance the exhibition with a handling collection of materials used in the construction of exhibits, and a children's discovery table of weird and wonderful bags. Visitors will also be asked to contribute memories of their favourite bags.

- 6.5 The outreach programme will include Sunday Family activities and Wednesday activity sessions throughout the exhibition run, a guided tour, and a series of artist-led workshops organized in conjunction with Dundee Contemporary Arts.
- 6.6 Handbag is complemented by a selling show *Handbags for Everyone* at One Five Two, the Dundee Contemporary Arts craft shop.
- 6.7 A private view for the exhibition is scheduled for the evening of Friday 14 July at the McManus Galleries.

## **7.0 CONSULTATION**

- 7.1 The Chief Executive and Director of Finance have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## **8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 8.1 None

Director of Arts and Heritage \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_