

## DUNDEE CITY COUNCIL

**REPORT TO:** Leisure and Arts Services Committee – 16 September 2002

**REPORT ON:** Shoe Exhibition, McManus Galleries

**REPORT BY:** Director of Leisure and Arts

**REPORT NO:** 680-2002.

### 1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To inform the Committee of the exhibition **Shoe**, to be held at the McManus Galleries from 4 October 2002 – 5 January 2003.

### 2.0 RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee note:

2.1 The report and the pre-exhibition audience development project;

2.2 The evening opening on Thursday 3 October and that a special community preview will be held on Friday 25 October 2002, to celebrate St Crispins Day .

### 3.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The total cost of the exhibition and related programme is £18,000. A grant of £8,000 has been secured from the Scottish Arts Council, Crafts Department. The balance of £10,000 can be met from the Leisure and Arts Department Revenue budget 2002/03.

### 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".

### 5.0 EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 The exhibition and **The World At Your Feet** display have been specifically programmed to provide opportunities for people of all ages regardless of ability, social background, race, sex or disadvantage to engage with the art works, or take part in the associated programme of events and activities.

### 6.0 MAIN TEXT

6.1 The exhibition is the sequel to the hugely successful **Handbag** show, held at the McManus in the summer of 2000. The exhibition will further strengthen the McManus Galleries national reputation for showing high quality Contemporary Craft exhibitions. This is the only Scottish venue for this national touring exhibition from the City Gallery, Leicester. The exhibition is complemented by **The World At Your Feet**, a display of footwear from around the world from the permanent collection.

6.2 The exhibition features work by artists and craft practitioners and examines the shoe as an urban accessory. It will explore the myth of the femme fatale, what our consumption of shoes tells us about our consumer culture and the power that shoes have to evoke memory and act as poignant souvenirs of past events.

- 6.3 The **Shoe** exhibition creates an exciting opportunity for the McManus Galleries to show material from their significant, but little seen, collection of footwear. **The World At Your Feet** will illustrate the major trends in Western footwear and display spectacular material from our rich Ethnographic collection.
- 6.4 A significant grant from the Scottish Arts Council was awarded in order to support an ambitious pre-exhibition and exhibition programme. This has allowed us to target work with young people and programme a series of workshops with the aim of building an informed audience prior to the exhibition opening. Successful projects have been initiated with The Shore, Ergo and the MacKinnon Centre. Evidence of these workshops will be shown in the Shoe Factory during the exhibition (see 6.5 below).
- 6.5 During the exhibition it is intended that the following educational resources will be available to all visitors:
- artist facilitators will be available at advertised times to encourage visitors to get the most out of the exhibitions.
  - the McManus Activity Room will be turned into the Shoe Factory for the duration of the exhibition. Not only will you be able to take part in workshops, you will also be able to display your own work here.
  - a programme of related talks and other activities.
  - hands-on interactives that will allow visitors to try on shoes similar to those in the collection and to recreate the experience of stepping into your mother's shoes for the first time.
  - a special programme of activities delivered in partnership with the WORDS project working with creative writing groups to respond to the exhibition with new work and performance in the gallery; and Dundee Rep Community Company will offer workshops exploring how shoes can change and affect the person wearing them.
  - a dance performance based on a commission to explore the themes raised by the exhibition through movement.
  - a programme of bookable children's October school holiday activities and Saturday workshops.
  - a programme of bookable Sunday afternoon activities for families.

## 7.0 CONSULTATION

- 7.1 The Chief Executive, Director of Support Services, Director of Finance, Director of Education and Director of Corporate Planning have been consulted on this report and are in agreement with its contents.

## 8.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 None

Director of Leisure and Arts \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_