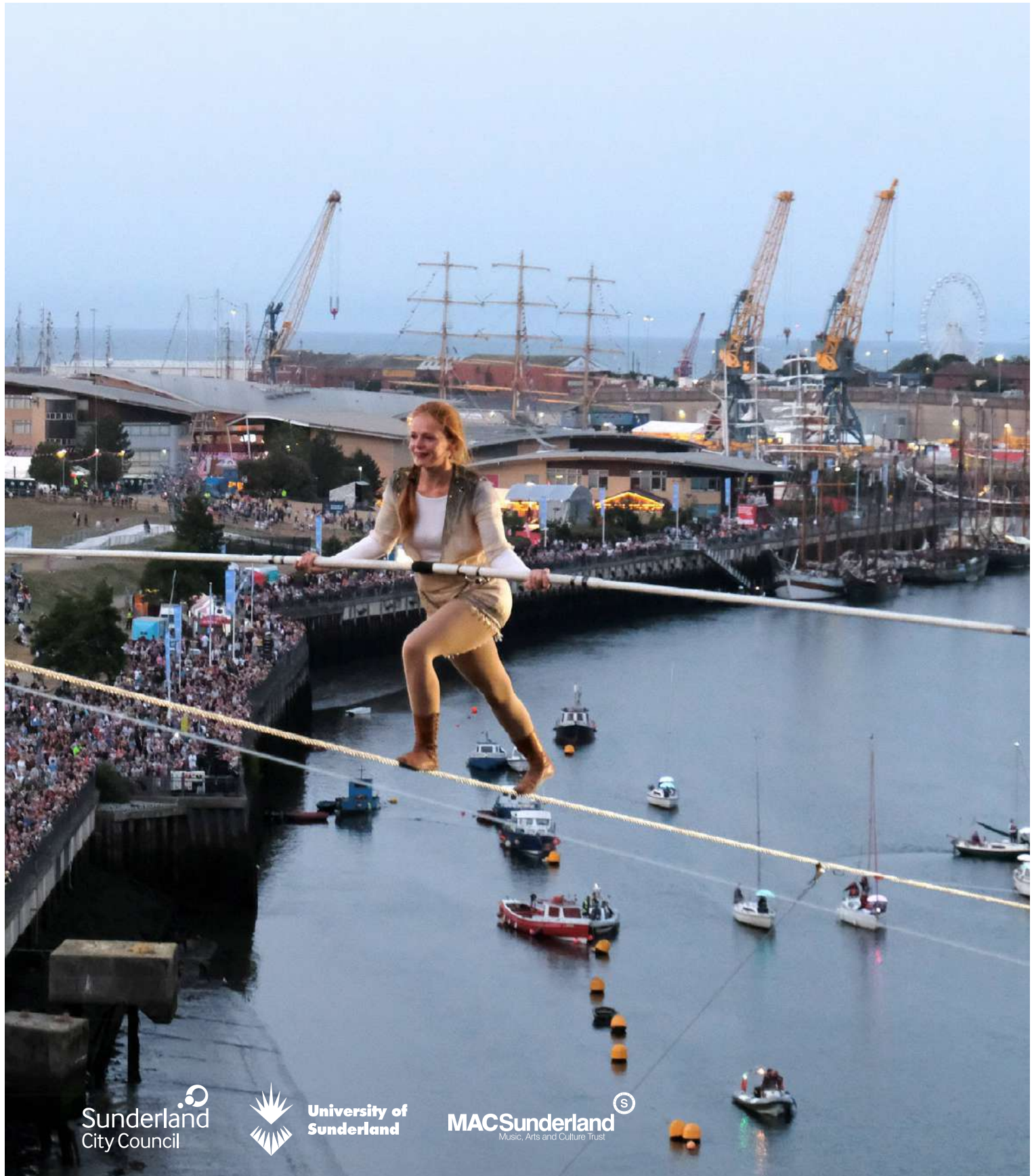




**SUNDERLAND
CULTURE**

**Annual Review
2018-2019**



Sunderland
City Council



**University of
Sunderland**

MACSunderland
Music, Arts and Culture Trust

DELIVERING STEP CHANGE THROUGH CULTURE

Sunderland Culture brings together the investment of the three main drivers and funders of arts provision in the city, Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and Music, Arts & Culture Trust into a single, independent, and resilient delivery model. In 2018 we became an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation.

We deliver the programme in National Glass Centre and Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Sunderland Museum & Winter Gardens, Arts Centre Washington and The Fire Station, as well as cross-city projects such as Sunderland Stages and our Great Place programme. Our mission is to improve life for everyone in Sunderland through culture.

In March 2018 working with partner organisations through Sunderland Cultural Partnership, we launched the Twenty Four Seven programme; an ambitious seven year £60m project running to 2024. Twenty Four Seven has been built from the excitement, drive and imagination of people from communities, sectors and organisations across the city who contributed to the UK City of Culture 2021 bid. It will deliver much of what was in our bid; using arts and culture to deliver 5 step changes in the city; improved profile and reputation of the city; more vibrant creative economy; raised outlook and aspiration of young people; improved health and wellbeing; and a more socially cohesive city.



“The University of Sunderland is proud to be a founding partner of Sunderland Culture, and we’re delighted how quickly the organisation has become part of the fabric of the city.

“Its first year could have been one of quiet foundation building, but Sunderland Culture has delivered major exhibitions at National Glass Centre and the new NGCA gallery space as well as unforgettable events across the city such as 1418 Now and Danny Boyle’s unforgettable Pages of the Sea as part of Sunderland’s Armistice commemorations.

“Such an impressive start points to a bright and exciting future for the organisation and the city.”

Sir David Bell, Vice Chancellor at the University of Sunderland

“We’ve seen more investment in arts and culture in Sunderland announced in the last 18 months than the previous 18 years. This is in large part testament to the commitment and vision of the partnership that founded Sunderland Culture and is evidence that Sunderland is now seen within the arts sector as a place that can deliver, a city known for artistic endeavour and ambition.

“Following the award-winning redevelopment of The Fire Station, the MAC Trust’s next project is the £8m development of The Auditorium, a 450-seat venue at the heart of the MAC Quarter. This prestigious new venue will become a major asset for Sunderland Culture, and we’re very much looking forward to seeing it rise from the ground over the next few months.”

Paul Callaghan, CBE, DL, Chair of Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust

“Sunderland’s cultural sector has maintained the impressive momentum built during our bid to be UK City of Culture.

“We may not have won the title, but with drive, ambition and energy, we are becoming a city of culture anyway. We’re delivering major events, exhibitions and performances for the enjoyment of Wearsiders and the broader north east all of which is raising our profile nationally and internationally.

“Sunderland Culture is an innovative, partnership approach to transforming a city’s relationship to arts and culture, and it’s an approach that is working – and being watched closely by other towns and cities. I am proud of Sunderland City Council’s role in its foundation.”

Councillor John Kelly, Portfolio holder for Communities and Culture at Sunderland City Council

CHAIRMAN’S WELCOME



“The Sunderland model has been highlighted nationally as an example of transformative culture-led regeneration.”

The ambition of Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and MAC Trust in setting up the company was to transform the reach, visibility and impact of Sunderland’s cultural scene. Our first year has certainly set the bar high – twelve unforgettable months of breath-taking events and hundreds of exciting activities right across the city.

But it has also led us to realise we are only at the start of what is possible.

From Pages of the Sea at Roker, the Danny Boyle-inspired commemoration of the Armistice, to a cultural village at Hetton Carnival, to memorable exhibitions, such as Young Glass at National Glass Centre and Naval Heroes at Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens, our inaugural year has been packed with artistic highlights.

We’ve had major solo shows by Fiona Crisp, Dan Holdsworth and Kelly Richardson at Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, and Ranbir Kaur at the Museum.

Our Wonderlooper event brought 1,000 people together to mark the opening of the spectacular new Northern Spire bridge; while our innovative arts programme helped the city celebrate the visit of the Tall Ships Races last summer.

More recently, Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens was chosen to be one of only twelve venues across the country to host Leonardo Da Vinci: A Life in Drawing, a prestigious series of exhibitions to mark the 500th anniversary of the death of the Italian Renaissance master.

Our work has reached almost two million people.

However, our first year has been about more than delivering excellent arts. Our mission is to improve life for everyone in Sunderland through culture. And to achieve this, we’ve set ourselves three ambitions:

1. Ensure an excellent, diverse artistic and heritage offer
2. Encourage everyone to get involved
3. Secure a revitalised, joined-up and accessible cultural infrastructure

Our brilliant first-year programme has certainly helped us with aims one and two – but we’ve also been busy with our third ambition.

We’ve been laying the foundations needed for sustainable growth. We’ve established our Sunderland Culture team and worked with our founding partners Sunderland City Council, University of Sunderland and MAC Trust to develop an innovative, joined-up cultural infrastructure – including the opening of a new exhibition gallery and collection space at NGCA and a new pop-up gallery at Mackie’s Corner in the city centre (thanks to the generosity of the Kirtley family who own the Hutchinson Buildings).

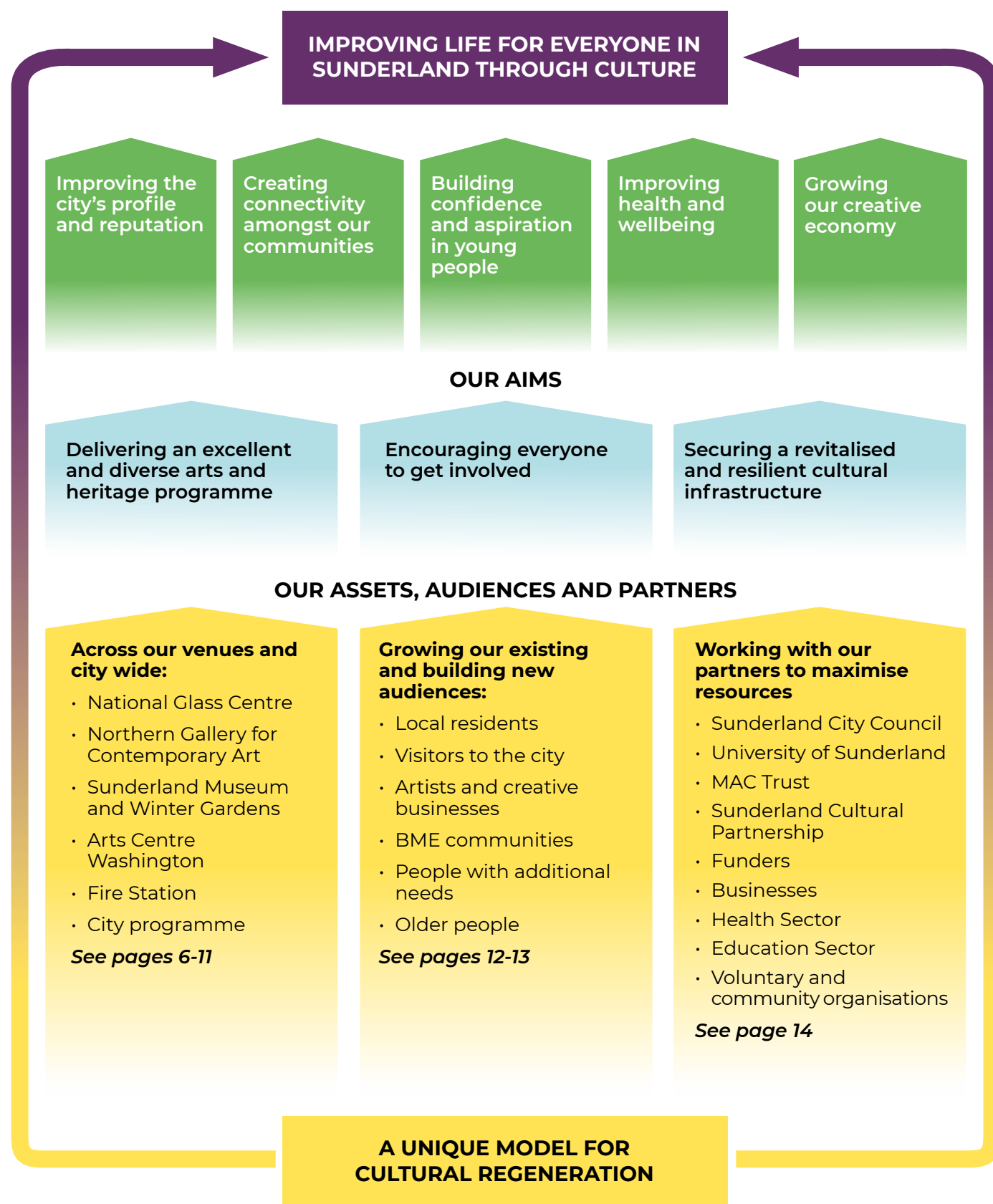
In doing so, the Sunderland model has been highlighted nationally as an example of transformative culture-led regeneration.

My thanks to our brilliant team and board and to our amazing supporters who include Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We are also hugely grateful for the help of all the volunteers who have given their time and energy during this amazing year. Our first year of operations has been extraordinary. The year to come is already shaping up to be equally memorable.

Graeme Thompson

Graeme Thompson

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION



THE YEAR IN FIGURES

**2.026
MILLION
TOTAL VISITORS**
*to our venues and
city programme*

**16,728
SCHOOL
VISITORS**

52,659 *participants*

484
**EXHIBITIONS,
PERFORMANCES
AND EVENTS**

547
VOLUNTEERS

244,703
**WEBSITE
VISITS**

1,547
**ARTS AWARDS
DELIVERED**

69,645
**SOCIAL MEDIA
FOLLOWERS**

£5m
**RAISED IN GRANTS
AND AWARDS**



*Continuous Topography
by Dan Holdsworth at
Northern Gallery for
Contemporary Art*

7
exhibitions

NORTHERN GALLERY FOR CONTEMPORARY ART

In March 2018, Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art reopened after a large, industrial space within National Glass Centre at University of Sunderland was converted into a flexible, state-of-the-art gallery.

The gallery opened with Material Sight, a new exhibition by photographer and installation artist Fiona Crisp, whose work is held by several national collections of contemporary art, including Tate, the British Council, Arts Council England and Government Art Collection.

The themes woven through the gallery's programme this year have been recognising the contribution of women artists and regionally-based artists who are working internationally.

Main gallery exhibitions have included:

- John Kippin (Romanitas)
- Dan Holdsworth (Continuous Topography and Spatial Objects)

- Canadian-born Kelly Richardson (Pillars of Dawn)
- The Collections Gallery exhibited work by local artists, including photographer Craig Ames (Kill Zones) and Giles Bailey (The Islanders).

Last year also marked the onset of a new programme of research and publications working with publishers, curators and leading academics across the UK and internationally, placing the gallery at the forefront of new thinking about photography, video, and digital imaging.

Achieving a permanent legacy has also been an important focus, with the gallery leading on the acquisition of entire bodies of work by established artists which will be toured, loaned and exhibited globally, creating a new collection of contemporary art for Sunderland.

66
artworks
collected

3 new
exhibitions
toured to

5 venues

625
school visitors

3 new
publications



*Young Glass, one of
the most successful
exhibitions of the past
year at National Glass
Centre*

NATIONAL GLASS CENTRE

One of National Glass Centre's most successful projects of the past year was Young Glass, which showcased work by the finest young, international artists from 30 nations working in glass. This exhibition is held every ten years when work from artists under the age of 35 is selected by a panel of international experts. More than 320 artists applied to be included and just over 50 were chosen, including Erin Dickson and Evelyn Cromwell, both recent graduates of the University of Sunderland's Glass and Ceramic courses based within National Glass Centre.

Other National Glass Centre highlights have included:

- Vessels of Memory, an exhibition of glass ships in bottles by Dr Ayako Tani in our Balcony Gallery
- Forgiveness, an exhibition presenting new work by Carrie Fertig commissioned as part of the commemorations of the 100 year anniversary of the Armistice



*Young people watch glass
blowing in action*

- Material Journeys by artist and University of Sunderland lecturer Inge Panneels
- Enfolded Surface by Sun Ju Lee, who undertook a residency offered jointly by National Glass Centre and Northern Print as part of the International Print Biennale held in 2016.

224,276
visitors

5,848
school visitors

638
participants

984
Arts Awards

1,155
glass baubles
blown

16
exhibitions

SUNDERLAND MUSEUM AND WINTER GARDENS

This year saw the arrival of one of the most anticipated exhibitions ever to be held in Sunderland – Leonardo Da Vinci: A Life in Drawing.

The exhibition, held in Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens' main gallery, attracted huge numbers of visitors – more than 33,000. Sunderland was one of only twelve UK venues chosen by the Royal Collection Trust to simultaneously host the exhibition, which featured a total of 144 of Da Vinci's drawings and marked the 500th anniversary of the Italian master's death. A programme of events and activities complemented the exhibition.

Other Museum highlights over the last year include:

- BP Portrait Award 2017 - This prestigious portrait exhibition returned to Sunderland from the National Portrait Gallery.



- Naval Heroes - This exhibition of Britain's naval heroes included an iconic portrait of Admiral Lord Nelson, on loan from the National Portrait Gallery, to celebrate the arrival of the Tall Ships Races to the city.
- Julie Cope's Grand Tour: The Story of a Life by Grayson Perry - This Crafts Council touring exhibition featured two large-scale tapestries by the Turner Prize winning artist.
- Life in Colour: Ranbir Kaur - Ranbir Kaur is a textile and rangoli artist who has developed an international profile through her work with communities across the world. This exhibition brought together a wide range of exquisite pieces of work made across her 35-year career.



L to R:
Ranbir Kaur: *Life in Colour*, a retrospective of the artist's work

Students at Leonardo da Vinci: *A Life in Drawing*

Grayson Perry's Julie Cope tapestries, with Exhibitions, Collections and Archives Manager Jo Cunningham

401,915
visitors

33,405
visitors to
Leonardo
exhibition

12,418
school visitors

7,382
participants

103
exhibitions,
performances
and events

ARTS CENTRE WASHINGTON



A welcoming artistic and community hub, Arts Centre Washington delivered a mixed programme of performance, exhibitions and participation over the past year, including more than 100 public performances of theatre, music, dance and comedy.

The theatre programme combined new writing such as Rhum and Clay's Testosterone and Paines Plough's Pop Music, with fresh adaptations of classics like War of the Worlds by The Pantaloons and Austen's Women by Dyad productions.

THE FIRE STATION

The Fire Station is an arts hub, meeting space and popular bar/bistro, developed by the MAC Trust thanks to a £2.4m grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund and was officially opened in February 2018 by the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge. Work begins on the new Auditorium in 2019.

The Fire Station hosts regional dance agency Dance City and respected theatre company Live Theatre.

Dance City delivers more than 20 different dance classes in its Sunderland studio, including ballet, tap, jazz and aerial. The studio also hosts a number of artist residencies - the first in 2018 was Robby Graham and his company Southpaw Dance.

Live Theatre uses its studio as a base from which to deliver its Live Tales schools writing programme to schools in Sunderland and the surrounding area.



The centre also staged and supported work from educational, community and amateur theatre groups, including Sunfest, the week-long takeover by drama students from the University of Sunderland's Drama department.

Some of the highlights of the visual arts programme include the Youth Arts Exhibition: Bright Lights, where this year three young curators selected the work to be included in the exhibition. Washington Camera Club celebrated their 50th anniversary with an exhibition at the centre as well as hosting a talk from renowned photographer Joe Cornish.



L to R:
Deputy Mayoress Coun Dianne Snowdon, young curator Isabella Cameron, Sunderland Culture's Rachel Hamer, Posy Jowett, from Arts Centre Washington, Deputy Mayor Coun David Snowdon and young curator Georgia Donkin
Arts Centre Washington

168,664
visitors

249
volunteer days

41,130
participants

149
exhibitions,
performances
and events

How the new auditorium will look

The Fire Station

CITYWIDE PROGRAMME

Sunderland Culture's vision is to deliver great art across the whole city – not just in our venues.

Events such as The Tall Ships Races and Pages of the Sea have helped us achieve this over the last twelve months, as well as our Great Place programme – a 3 year initiative funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England to put great art into the heart of communities.



The Tall Ships Races 2018

The visit of The Tall Ships Races in July 2018 was enjoyed by more than 1.2 million visitors, bringing millions of pounds into the city.

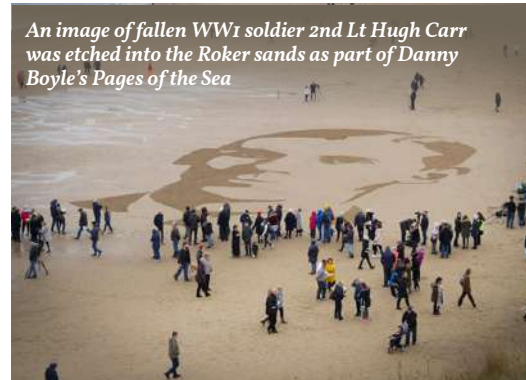
The city's cultural partners came together to deliver a cultural programme as part of the events to accompany the arrival of more than 50 tall ships to the city for the four-day event.

Hundreds of artists took part in a programme of over 200 street theatre, dance and circus performances; featuring UK artists such as Southpaw Dance and disability-led Extraordinary Bodies alongside international performers from Denmark, Netherlands, Finland, Norway and USA.

The high point of the programme was the spectacular large-scale finale "Portolan" by Cirque Bijou, which saw a high-wire walk from the banks of the River Wear to Wearmouth Bridge. Watched by over 10,000 people, the event also included a large volunteer choir, local dancers and a wonderful pyrotechnic waterfall from the bridge.

200
events and
performances
1,200
children
performed
1,000
Arts Awards
delivered
350
volunteers
120
participants

10,000+
visitors to
Roker Beach
120
volunteers
788
participants
at community
engagement
activities



Pages of the Sea

Sunderland was chosen by 1418 Now as one of 30 locations nationwide to host Danny Boyle's commemoration of the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day.

Sunderland Culture delivered Pages of the Sea on Roker Beach, produced the Teesside event and supported the Northumberland coast event.

Pages of the Sea featured the creation of a large-scale portrait of First World War casualty 2nd Lieutenant Hugh Carr etched into the sand on Roker Beach, which was gently washed away on the tide.

Members of the public made their own personal acts of commemoration by stencilling soldier silhouettes into the sand, and listened on headsets to a recording of a specially-commissioned poem, The Wound In Time, written by Poet Laureate Carol Ann Duffy, and read by local community voices.



Wonderlooper

Our Great Place programme is working with community partners across Sunderland.

Highlights this year have included Wonderlooper, an interactive installation delivered by artist Di Mainstone to mark the opening of The Northern Spire. The event was held on the new bridge and involved creating kaleidoscopes from cast-off pieces of plastic used to encase the bridge's huge steel cables.



Great Place Village at Hetton Carnival

Our Great Place Village was a major part of last year's Hetton Carnival at Hetton Lyons Country Park. Our mini festival, aimed at improving health and wellbeing through culture, was full of free workshops, performances and demonstrations.

Other projects we're delivering with communities in the Coalfields area include an allotment and foodbank initiative in partnership with Hetton New Dawn and a young carers programme in Houghton with Sunderland Carers.

1,052
participants
20
volunteer
wonder
wardens
5
community
group partners



L to R: artists Lyn Kileen and Padma Rao of Sangini worked with Sunderland Culture's Laura Brewis to open an exhibition to mark International Women's Day at Mackie's Corner

Mackie's Corner

We've been working with our partners including Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Business Improvement District and Tyne and Wear Building Preservation Trust to bring added vibrancy to Sunderland city centre – and improving its cultural infrastructure by supporting programmes in four out-of-use historic buildings.

The spaces are all within Sunderland's Heritage Action Zone: Mackie's Corner and Mackie's Workshop with property developers Henry and Alex Kirtley, The Athenaeum led by Breeze Creatives and 170-175 High Street West, led by Pop Recs with Tyne and Wear Buildings Preservation Trust.

Mackie's Corner reopened in time for The Tall Ships Races in July 2018.



The mesmeric dance performance, Contagion, part of Sunderland Stages, performed in St Gabriel's Church Hall

Sunderland Stages

Our cross-city performance programme, Sunderland Stages, delivered a series of performances at venues such as The Peacock, The Royalty Theatre, St Gabriel's Church Hall and Pop Recs, was also instrumental in ensuring our delivery was truly citywide.

20
Creative SME's
supported
100
artists
supported
£100,000
leveraged
for creative
businesses
with our
support

98%
of visitors felt
happier for
visiting

20
performances
4
locations

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Our ambition is to improve life for everyone in Sunderland through culture, and we are working hard to ensure existing audiences can experience more of our programme and encourage new audiences to discover what's on offer. We know that in order to achieve this there are some communities and groups where we need to focus our attention.

Some of this year's highlights include:

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

- Team 21 is our cultural leadership project for young people aged 13-18, giving them a voice to shape our programme. It has engaged 413 young people since it began during our UK City of Culture 2021 bid. In 2018 they were nominated for a Journal Culture Award for youth achievement.
- We have been working with groups of young carers at National Glass Centre and through our Great Place Unleash programme in the Coalfields to build confidence and improve mental health and wellbeing.
- Leonardo da Vinci: A Life in Drawing exhibition was accompanied by an innovative programme of visits, trails, assemblies, workshops, relaxed visits and activities for young people inspired by the exhibition.
- Arts Centre Washington's youth theatre group was commissioned to write and perform a new play 'The Secret Earl of Biddick', performed during the The Tall Ships cultural programme.



Pupils from Usworth Primary School perform on Roker Beach as part of a mini culture festival

SCHOOLS



Bamboozle Theatre Company with Class 4 from Columbia Grange School as part of Uncover Wearside

- DesignLab Nation in partnership with V&A Museum saw eighteen students from Year 10 at Castle View Enterprise Academy expand their creative skills through workshops at National Glass Centre.
- Through our Great Place Uncover programme we are working in close partnership with Biddick Academy, Columbia Grange Primary and Usworth Colliery Primary in Washington exploring creativity in the curriculum to inform the development of our wider city offer for schools.
- Arts Centre Washington worked with children from Barmston School and well-known artists on Washington 'Art Zine'. The workshops also provided children with transport and free healthy meals during holiday time.
- Our venues continue to offer a comprehensive programme for schools. From National Glass Centre and Sunderland Museum's comprehensive cross-curricular offer, to Art Centre Washington's innovative Art Zine programme, we have engaged over 21,700 school children through our ongoing offer this year.

OLDER PEOPLE



Part of the Creative Age group at Arts Centre Washington

- Through our Great Place Unleash programme we are working with local partners, communities and groups on projects which celebrate food, creativity, health and community in the Coalfields.
- In 2018 we began working with Hetton New Dawn on a creative allotment project. The fresh produce at the allotment will support their food bank and soup kitchen.
- Our Creative Age groups with Equal Arts at Arts Centre Washington and National Glass Centre are specially designed for people living with the early stages of dementia and their carers.

BME COMMUNITIES

- Our Great Place Unify programme aims to tackle issues around social cohesion, with cultural projects that link disconnected communities and support them to develop their creative leadership skills.
- Our 'Who Would you Like to Meet?' project in partnership with Helix Arts, commissioned six groups to collaborate with other groups they hadn't met before to create a performance for sharing in summer 2019.
- We're continuing to build on solid relationships with culturally diverse networks such as the BME Network, Young Asian Voices, Friends of the Drop In and International Community Organisation of Sunderland and Sangini.
- This year's Chinese New year celebration attracted 1590 visitors to Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens.



The Duchess of Cambridge shares a joke with members of Young Asian Voices at the official opening of The Fire Station. Picture courtesy of Sunderland Echo.

PEOPLE WITH ADDITIONAL NEEDS AND/OR AUTISM



Extraordinary Bodies at the Tall Ships Races

- In December 2018 we commissioned an audit of our venues and programme, working with autistic and disabled groups and their carers, to identify barriers to participation and measures which can support inclusion.
- During The Tall Ships Cultural Programme we brought a ground-breaking new outdoor show by a pioneering UK circus company. Extraordinary Bodies is made up of exceptional disabled and non-disabled artists, working together to making radical, bold and joyous performance, accessible to everybody and involving disabled members of the local community.
- As part of our Uncover programme and through our partnership with Columbia Grange School in the Uncover programme, we delivered exciting and accessible experiences for young people with Autism Spectrum Disorder and Severe Learning Disabilities. These were delivered with Bamboozle Theatre at Arts Centre Washington, Bare Toed Dance Company, and Continued Professional Development for teachers with renowned theatre director Tim Webb, formerly of Oily Cart. We will apply this learning to our ongoing offer.

WORKING WITH PARTNERS TO REVITALISE OUR CULTURAL INFRASTRUCTURE

As well as an amazing programme of high-profile arts and culture across the city, Sunderland Culture has been doing lots behind the scenes to bring new resources, funds and opportunities to the city and the wider region.

We have been very successful at bringing new funds to expand out work and deliver our ambitious plans over the next few years:

- £1.2 million grant from the Great Place Scheme (funded by National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England) to establish Sunderland Culture and deliver our citywide programme over three years. One of just twelve grant awards made from the fund in the UK.
- £2 million grant from Arts Council England as part of its National Portfolio of funded organisations to deliver our programme across the venues
- £750,000 grant from Arts Council England's Ambition for Excellence Fund to deliver Glass Exchange, a three year programme of major commissions for new works in glass.
- £550,000 grant from Arts Council Collection National Partners Programme, one of only three nationally, and the opportunity to bring this amazing collection to the city.
- Over £250,000 in smaller grants, donations and sponsorships including from 14-18NOW, Sunderland City Council, Sir James Knott Trust, Sunderland BID and NEXUS.

That's nearly £5million of new money for arts and culture activity in Sunderland generated in our first year of activity!

Just as significantly, we have put in place a new single ticketing and customer relationship management system across all of our venues linked to a brand new website. This means that people are able to buy tickets for any of our events and activities in all of our venues, all in one place. It also means that we can give visitors and local residents information tailored to them and show them the breadth of arts opportunities that exist here.

We have also been supporting our partners in some significant improvements to the city's cultural venues:

- We have worked with Sunderland City Council on their impressive improvements to Sunderland Museum and Winter Gardens. The new entrance area and shop has been an instant hit with visitors and will be followed soon by a fantastic new learning and activity space funded by Sunderland City Council and the DCMS/Wolfson Museum and Galleries Improvement Fund.
- We have supported University of Sunderland in the creation of the new Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art at National Glass Centre. A new space for contemporary art in the city funded by the University, Sunderland City Council and Arts Council England.
- We continue to work with the Sunderland MAC Trust on the plans for a new Auditorium in the heart of the city at the Fire Station.

We continue to be ambitious for what can be achieved in Sunderland. During the past year we have built strong partnerships with artists, businesses and communities that have led to many new spaces across the city for creativity. These have been in empty shops, outdoors and even in a shed! We will be continuing our plans to try and find a new home for Little Inventors (a globally successful project started in Sunderland) and also to secure new longer term work spaces and skills development opportunities for artists and creative businesses.

It has been an amazing first year delivering a breath-taking programme of arts alongside building a sustainable infrastructure through Sunderland Culture and continuing the momentum and goodwill generated through our City of Culture campaign. We look forward to another great year of success and creating more opportunities to improve the lives of people in Sunderland and the north east.

A special thanks to our three founding partners for helping us to realise a vision for world-class culture for everyone in Sunderland.



LOOKING FORWARD TO 2019 AND BEYOND

Hopefully, this review has given you an insight into our busy year of delivering a richly diverse arts programme while at the same time building Sunderland's cultural infrastructure.

Looking ahead, as well as continuing to work with our partners and stakeholders to roll out a brilliant programme, there are some significant events and projects we're planning for the coming months and years which we are particularly looking forward to.

First of all, we celebrate the 21st birthday of National Glass Centre, with University of Sunderland, in June 2019 with a major exhibition opening in April and a city-wide programme including exhibitions in the Museum and Arts Centre Washington to mark Sunderland's place as a global leader in creative excellence.

Work will begin this year on the Fire Station Auditorium, which will open in Sunderland's growing cultural quarter in 2020. This new venue will allow us to have and produce an eagerly awaited dynamic programme of music, theatre, dance and comedy.

National Glass Centre and Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art will deliver Glass Exchange, bringing five major contemporary visual artists to Sunderland to create five new works of art in glass, creating an exhibition trail stretching between Sunderland and Durham.

We are thrilled that Sunderland Culture will be an Arts Council Collection National Partner from 2019 to 2022. The museum will become the North East home for this inspiring and extensive collection of contemporary art which spans from 1948 to present day.

And 2021 will mark 50 years of Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art in Sunderland when we will curate a city-wide celebration of the last 50 years of exceptional contemporary art in the city.



*Rebecca Ball, Sunderland Culture's Creative Director
Keith Merrin, Sunderland Culture's Chief Executive*

Rebecca Ball, Creative Director

Keith Merrin, Chief Executive



THANK YOU TO OUR FOUNDING PARTNERS FOR THEIR VISION AND SUPPORT IN ESTABLISHING SUNDERLAND CULTURE



**University of
Sunderland**



We are hugely grateful to all funders, partners and supporters for their generosity, help and collaboration during our first year. Thank you for your support, it enables everyone who lives, works or visits Sunderland to experience and enjoy world-class art and culture.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

There are lots of ways you can help more people experience great art and culture, by making a donation, leaving a legacy, sponsoring an activity or volunteering your time.

For more information on how to make an incredible difference, please visit

www.sunderlandculture.org.uk/about-us/support-us

1418 Now
Arts Council England
Community Foundation serving Tyne and Wear and
Northumberland
Culture Bridge North East
Equal Arts
Gentoo Group Ltd
Hays Travel Foundation
National Heritage Lottery Fund
NEXUS
Sir James Knott Trust
Sunderland Business Improvement District
The Cultural Spring
Together for Children
Victoria and Albert Museum

Our front and back cover pictures are taken from Portolan, the fantastic Tall Ships Races event over the River Wear. Front cover picture courtesy of North News and Pictures