



Dundee Civic Trust
'Encouraging the Best'



Trustees' Annual Report

2022-2023

The Trustees have pleasure in presenting their Report, together with the financial statements and the Independent Examiner's Report, for the year ending 31 January 2023.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

Charity number:

SC001399

Address (Treasurer):

Brian Smith, 9 South Tay Street, Dundee, DD1 1NU

Trustees:

Donald Gordon	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Hugh Macrae	(Secretary)
Nick Day	
Barbara Illsley	
Roderick Stewart	
Bill Lynch	
Ken Peebles	
Stephen Brand	
Libby Simpson	

Our structure, governance and management

Dundee Civic Trust was founded on 6 February 1973. As in other towns and cities, the creation of a civic society was a citizens' response to the rapid (and not always favourable) changes then taking place in the urban environment.

Having previously assumed charitable status, the Trust was converted to a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) in January 2014.

Our governing document as a SCIO, the constitution, was formally approved by the membership at the Annual General Meeting of 20 March 2014.

The Board of Trustees forms the executive committee, which meets about ten times per year. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance and management of the Trust, as well as undertaking many of its activities. We have no paid staff and all work to further the Trust's aims is undertaken on a voluntary basis.

Service on the Board is open to any member of the Trust who is legally permitted to act as a charity trustee. The Board must contain a minimum of seven and a maximum of eleven trustees, who are elected at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) in March. The Board may, however, appoint a member to serve as a trustee at any time should a vacancy exist.

Our aims

The charitable purposes of Dundee Civic Trust are to:

- preserve and promote the physical amenities and features of the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood, that are natural, historic, artistic, cultural and social, in order to interest, educate and inspire civic pride in our local community.
- encourage the maintenance of high standards of architecture and town planning in the City and its neighbourhood in order to ensure the protection and improvement of the local environment.

Our activities and achievements in 2022-2023

Following the unprecedented difficulties that afflicted everyone in the past two years, it has been an immense relief to be able to return to a version of normality, with Board meetings, consultations and events able to resume in person, though occasionally with the useful option of meeting virtually by Zoom. Among these groups, the Trust's planning group continues to meet, and to examine planning applications for developments, commenting on those of significance which may affect the built environment of the City. A number of pre-application consultation meetings were held with developers, and comments made by Trust's representatives are sometimes adopted by them. We meet regularly with senior figures from Dundee City Council, as well as other tourist and community organisations such as Dundee Institute of Architects, Unicorn Preservation Society, V&A Dundee, University of Dundee, and Dundee Heritage Trust. Other activities include:

Publications

The annual issue of our journal *City Scene* was published during the year, and a copy sent to local politicians, and to leaders in the business and educational sectors. All members of DCT receive a copy, and it is also available for purchase. The response from members and other readers has been favourable. The journal will be renamed *CivicDundee* from 2023, boosting its connection to the City.

The regular and high quality *Newsflash* is published digitally and sent by email where possible to all members as well as to other persons and organisations. It contains items of current interest and comment on matters which affect our built environment. The Trust's *website* is regularly and efficiently maintained, and most aspects of the Trust's work are reported there. We are particularly concerned with Buildings at Risk in the City, and a regular commentary is published online, highlighting some of the most prominent examples of buildings, large or small, which are particularly at risk from neglect or inactivity.

Events Programme

An important part of the educational work of the Trust is the Events programme which, following the pandemic and lockdown, have been well received. They are open to the general public as well as to members, and are well attended. Events are listed here:

19th May 2022

The Creation of Water's Edge

Chris van der Kuyl

20th October 2022

Over the Garden Wall

Kevin Frediani

17th November 2022

A Menace in the Archives

David Powell

15th December 2022

Forty Years of Public Art

John Gray

19th January 2023

Garden to Eden

Iain Flett

16th February 2023

Meanwhile at Eden Project, Dundee

Caishlan Sweeney

16th March 2023 (following the AGM)

Passivhaus: Design in a Climate Emergency

Kirsty Maguire

Looking ahead;

20th April 2023

Bridgescapes

Bruce Keith

Student Awards

In June 2022, the third Dundee University Student Awards prizes, sponsored by the Trust, were given to two joint winners, Martyna Przybolewska and Freddie Walkden, each receiving £200, and runner-up, Yavor Nedelchev who received £100. The winners' subject matter was rewilding education, and addressing the needs of the unhoused. The chairman commented at the time: "with this high level of imagination and competence the quality of our future built environment may be assured".

Government and City Council Consultations

The Trust has worked during the year and beyond, on Consultation documents that have been issued for response. This includes the Council's ongoing *City Centre Strategic Investment Plan*, and the Scottish Government's *National Planning Framework 4*, and the snappily titled *Strategic Transport*

Projects Review 2, both of which continue to involve board and planning group members in formulating and communicating the Trust's policy on these strategic matters.

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2023 will take place on 16 March.

50th Anniversary

The Board's plans to celebrate our 50th Anniversary this year include:

- * A Civic Reception on 28th February
- * A Dinner for members and guests in April/May
- * An Anniversary Lecture by Professor Ric Russell in July
- * Building & Conservation Awards from 2019-2023 in September
- * CivicDundee celebrating 50 years of our Building Awards in October.

Financial review of 2022-2023

As at 31 January 2023, our total funds amounted to £11,902 as against £13,528 in 2021-2022. This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £371.

Income from membership subscriptions remained the Trust's principal source of revenue. This rose slightly from £2129 in 2021-2022 to £2209 in 2022-2023. Overall income for the year was up by £27 and expenditure increased by £783. As a result, the accounts record a total deficit of £1626 compared to a deficit of £870 for year ending 31 January 2022.

The General Fund remains the principal area of financial activity, whilst the Reserve Funds of Lifetime and Foundation Membership are sufficient to address any unforeseen financial commitments.

In January 2023 our membership stood at 219, of whom 64 were life members.

The Trust's finances remain healthy and the Board is committed to regular monitoring of income and expenditure.

Services donated

The Board once again wishes to express its gratitude to Bird Simpson & Co, for independently examining the annual accounts free of charge.

Sponsorship

We remain grateful to the various local businesses and other organisations who lend their sponsorship to the Trust's web pages, CivicDundee, and Newsflash.

Blackadders-Caledonia Housing Association-Dundee & Angus College-Hillcrest Housing Association-McNicol & Cairnie-Nicol Russell Studios-Thorntons-West End Garage.

Looking ahead

The Board of Trustees will continue to advance the aims of the Trust by promoting participation in our programme of events. We will also seek to broaden our membership base and to encourage a diverse range of views regarding what is best for the local environment of Dundee.

Our members will continue to be kept informed through our regular Newsflash and CivicDundee.

We will continue to monitor and comment on the standard of new developments and regeneration proposals in the city and to recognise those which are worthy of award or commendation so that we may live up to our stated aim: **'encouraging the best'**.

This Report was approved by the Trustees and signed on their behalf by:

Donald Gordon
Chairman
20th February 2023

Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2022-2023

- **Treasurer's report to be presented at next Annual General Meeting.**
- **Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2023, including Statement of Financial Activities.**
- **Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2023.**