

Trustees' Annual Report

2023-2024

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 2024.

Reference and administrative information

Charity name:

Dundee Civic Trust (SCIO)

Charity number:

SC001399

Address (Treasurer):

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

Current trustees:

Donald Gordon	(Chairman)
Brian Smith	(Treasurer)
Hugh Macrae	(Secretary)
Nick Day	
Barbara Illsley	
Fionn Stevenson	
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 ten times per year. The Trustees are responsible for the strategic direction, governance and management of the Trust. 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 normally 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 natural, historic, artistic, cultural and social amenities and features of the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to interest, educate and inspire civic pride in the local community; and, in furtherance of this:**
- **to encourage the maintenance of high standards of architecture and town planning in the City of Dundee and its neighbourhood in order to ensure the protection or improvement of the local environment.**

Our activities and achievements in 2023-2024

It is not often that any organisation has the privilege of celebrating an anniversary, let alone a fiftieth one. At the start of the year under review, in February 2023, Dundee Civic Trust was fifty years old, and for your Board and members, it was a time to reflect backwards, looking at past events and achievements. It was also a time to reflect forward, considering the direction in which your Trust is moving, and where we might be placed in another ten or twenty years.

But primarily, it was a time to pat ourselves on the back, celebrate and mark this significant year, which started in February when we had the pleasure, at the invitation of the Lord Provost, of attending a Civic reception for our members and guests.

In the same month the Trust received a letter from one of our local MPs, Chris Law, who had tabled an Early Day Motion in the House of Commons, congratulating Dundee Civic Trust on achieving its anniversary. We were delighted and honoured by this, for us, most unusual and generous act. The terms of the letter are reproduced in Newsflash 59 (April 2023).

Dinner

In May the Board hosted a dinner at the Woodlands Hotel where a large gathering of members and friends enjoyed good food and company, and were entertained by former chairman Jack Searle, who spoke warmly and authoritatively about the years from the founding of DCT to the present day. The full text is reproduced on DCT's website.

Lecture

July saw a Celebrity Lecture given by Professor Ric Russell, of Nicoll Russell studios, on the enthralling subject of "Dundee - an evolving cityscape".

DCT Awards

Prof Russell's firm also featured prominently in the 50 Anniversary Awards by the Trust, given at a ceremony in the City Chambers to that architectural practice, and an Award also to Dundee City Council, in recognition of their consistent contribution to the city's built environment. Special Awards were also presented for three buildings which for various reasons had not been given awards after they were completed. They were Upper Dens Mill Housing (1987) for the conversion of former mill buildings in Victoria Road into residential accommodation by Hillcrest, Gowrie and Servite Housing Associations; Dundee Contemporary Arts (1999) for the conversion of a former garage in the Nethergate into a contemporary arts and exhibition centre - architect Richard Murphy; and The Overgate Centre (2000) following the demolition of the old 1968 centre and the construction of the new Overgate shopping complex by Bovis Lend Lease - architects Keppies.

A DCT Award for 2023 went to the Bella Centre. Commendations were given to the Discovery Dome Gallery and to the Ellengowan Housing Development. For the first time we gave Conservation Awards jointly, with Dundee Historic Environment Trust, to the Flour Mill, as well as a Commendation to Harecraig House, and Special Mention to Blair's Court and Jon Frullani Architects' Office.

Student Awards

Our fourth annual Student Awards for winning projects were presented in the summer to Lucy Taylor, and runner up Brendan Kerrisk, both fourth year students in Architecture at Duncan of Jordanstone College of Art and Design.

Planning matters

The Trust's Planning Group, under the excellent chairmanship of Nick Day, met regularly. Nick has now retired as chair of that Group after leading it very successfully for several years and has been succeeded by Fionn Stevenson. The Group continued to examine and to comment upon significant building developments which were the subject of planning applications. Members of the Group engaged in productive discussions with developers and planners. Two of the largest applications were comprehensively responded to: The Eden Project; and, completed and lodged just after the year end, a mammoth and largely critical response to the planning application in principle for a football stadium and associated works at Camperdown Park.

Publications

The 72 page Anniversary issue of our journal **CIVICDUNDEE** was published during the year with 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 production team are pleased with the favourable response from members and other readers.

The regular and high quality **NEWSFLASH** is published digitally and sent by email where possible to all members. 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 many aspects of the Trust's work are reported there. We are particularly concerned with Buildings at Risk in the City, and a regular series 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 our programme of **EVENTS** which despite one weather cancellation in October(rescheduled for May 2024) have been well received. They are open to the general public as well as to members with refreshments sponsored by McNicoll & Cairnie.

20th April 2023

Bridgescapes

Bruce Keith

13th July 2023

50th Anniversary Lecture-Dundee-An Evolving Landscape

Ric Russell

16th November 2023

V&A Dundee-The Story so Far

Leonie Bell

7th December 2023

An Inspection of the Ballachulish Bridge

Ken Peebles

13th January 2024

What makes Good Housing today?

Fionn Stevenson

15th February 2024

A Hacklemakers Tale

Roderick Stewart

21st March 2024

DCA-looking back at 25 years and forward to the Next

Beth Bate & Jacquie Roberts

18th April 2024 AGM

Milestones

Bruce Keith

16th May 2024 (rescheduled from October 2023)

Dundee University-future developments and aspirations

Jim McGeorge & Rose Jenkin

Annual General Meeting

The AGM for 2024 will take place on 18 April.

Financial review of 2023-2024

As at 31 January 2024, our total funds amounted to £10,016 as against £11,902 in 2022-2023. This figure represents the balances of our Bank of Scotland and Scottish Widows accounts, along with equipment valued at £315.

Income from membership subscriptions remained the Trust's principal source of revenue. This rose from £2209 in 2022-2023 to £2934 in 2023-2024. Overall income for the year was up by £2422 and expenditure increased by £2682. As a result the accounts record a total deficit of £1886 compared to a deficit of £1626 for year ending 31 January 2023.

The General Fund of £4380 remains the principal area of financial activity, whilst the Reserve Funds of Lifetime and Foundation Membership of £5340 are sufficient to address any unforeseen financial commitments. These funds are unrestricted whilst the Photo Project Fund of £296 is restricted to that project.

In January 2024 our membership stood at 228, of whom 66 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-McNicoll & Cairnie; Nicoll 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
1st April 2024

Appendices to Trustees' Annual Report 2023-2024

- Treasurer's report to be presented at next Annual General Meeting.
- Accounts for the year ended 31 January 2024, including Statement of Financial Activities.
- Independent Examiner's Report for the year ended 31 January 2024.

Chairman: Donald Gordon, St. Bride's Cottage, South Kingsmie, Broughty Ferry, Dundee DD25 3BA t: 01382 350990 e: doualdgordon@gmail.com

Secretary: Hugh Macrae, Birrock, 456 Perth Road, Dundee DD2 1NG t: 01382 566314 e: hughmacrae114@btinternet.com

Dundee Civic Trust is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation, established in 1973
For more information about Dundee Civic Trust visit our website at www.dundeecivictrust.co.uk

