

Press Release

**North Edinburgh Arts receives £2million from Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund for the MacMillan Hub in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council**

North Edinburgh Arts was today awarded £2million as part of the MacMillan Hub partnership project with the City of Edinburgh Council, joining regeneration projects in some of Scotland's more disadvantaged and rural communities to share more than £25 million of funding. The Scottish Government Regeneration Capital Grant Fund will support 22 locally developed place-based projects that tackle inequalities and promote sustainable and inclusive economic recovery from the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.



NEA will build on their recent Community Asset Transfer, and the support of over 96% of the local community, keeping NEA at the centre of a creative, connected, inspired and inspiring community. The new neighbourhood hub will promote culture, learning, work and well-being, and be at the heart of the community.

All involved are excited about the possibilities this upgraded and expanded facility will bring. Our plans include a refurbished, redesigned and expanded venue promoting the highest quality culture, arts and meeting space. In addition, our venue will link, on site, to the City of Edinburgh Council's new Library, new Learning and Skills Hub, new Early Years Centre and social housing.

NEA is a well-loved and well-used venue but has outgrown its current building. To meet the needs of current and future generations it needs to redevelop as part of the new MacMillan Hub and will:

- Increase the footprint by 380m<sup>2</sup> , adding two floors of studio and work space

- Extend the café to look into MacMillan Square, and offer enhanced community facilities

- Provide bespoke workshop space for the Community Shed

Reduce the carbon footprint through better insulation, lighting and environmental design and construction

Become a fully owned community asset

Lesley Hinds, NEA Chair said:

*'North Edinburgh Arts is a multi-award winning project with strong community support and we are thrilled to be awarded funding from the Scottish Government. This funding means NEA can move forward with the MacMillan Hub project, in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, to provide much needed space and services for the local area.'*

*NEA recently finalised a Community Asset Transfer which brings the NEA building, land and garden into community ownership and allows for the expansion of our work, essential now more than ever, as we recover from the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic. We now look forward to securing the additional resources needed to build on this important award. I want to give my thanks to the NEA Board, staff, officers at the City of Edinburgh Council, Richard Murphy Architects and, most importantly, the community of North Edinburgh for their continued support.'*

Kate Wimpress, NEA Director added:

*'This has been the hardest of years for many of our neighbours, participants and team but there has also been ingenious adaptations, new collaborations, and strengthened community connections. This award makes real our plans for a first class facility for the future. 2022 will see the start of our ambitious build programme, in partnership with the City of Edinburgh Council, making sure NEA is fit for purpose, fit for the community, and fit for North Edinburgh's next generation.'*

For full details of the project see [www.northedinburgharts.co.uk/development](http://www.northedinburgharts.co.uk/development)

For a summary of North Edinburgh Arts activities across 2021 see <https://mailchi.mp/f3c50ce177ed/festivenewsletter2021>