

## **North Edinburgh Arts receives £0.5 million from the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Funds, reaching 75% of its fundraising target for the capital development**

Following a site visit on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March the Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance, Tom Arthur, MSP, announced North Edinburgh Arts has been awarded £0.5m for our part of the MacMillan Hub partnership project with the City of Edinburgh Council. This award takes NEA up to 75% of our fundraising target for the capital programme, which is supported by over 96% of our local residents, keeping NEA at the centre of a creative, connected, inspired and inspiring community.

This £500,000 of Regeneration Capital Grant Funds will be added to funds already secured for the build from Foundation Scotland, The Garfield Weston Trust, The William Syson Trust, The Robertson Trust, and The Binks Foundation amongst other donors. Reaching three quarters of our target gives a real boost to our Board, team, participants, visitors, and volunteers alike.

The refurbished, redesigned and expanded venue will be a welcome space for all promoting the highest quality culture, arts and work 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 we had outgrown our current building. To meet the needs of current and future generations of North Edinburgh residents it needed to be redeveloped. As part of the new MacMillan Hub the NEA capital programme will:

- Increase the footprint of NEA 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
- Be a fully owned community asset

The support for NEA was announced alongside support for two other projects, The Leith Community Croft and West Shore Studios.

### **Lesley Hinds, NEA Chair said:**

'North Edinburgh Arts is a multi-award winning project with strong community support and we are delighted to receive this award from the Scottish Government. This means NEA has reached 75% of its funding target and looks forward to the completion of the MacMillan Hub project within the year. NEA is a key Community Asset with the NEA building, land and garden now in community ownership, allowing for the expansion of our work for and with local residents. This is essential, now more than ever, given the recovery from the pandemic and the cost of living crisis.'

### **Tom Arthur, Minister for Community Wealth and Public Finance said:**

'I congratulate these projects on making progress and supporting jobs, investment and wider opportunities. Regeneration of Scotland's more disadvantaged communities is a key Scottish Government priority to help transform the economy. This extra Scottish Government funding will help deliver fairer and more prosperous local districts.'