

Capturing Lives: Week 1 Introduction Video Transcript

Welcome to our 'Capturing Lives in Scotland's Communities' Project. We're excited to have you join us on this adventure!



Throughout the next six weeks we'll be creating art together to reflect our every day lives in the places where we live. We'll also be exploring some of the archives and museums of several different universities in Scotland to see how people in the past tried to reflect their own lives through art as inspiration for our art activities.

These are the five Universities involved in the project: University of Aberdeen, University of Edinburgh, University of Dundee, The Glasgow School of Art and the University of Stirling. We'll be learning more about them and their collections over the next six weeks.

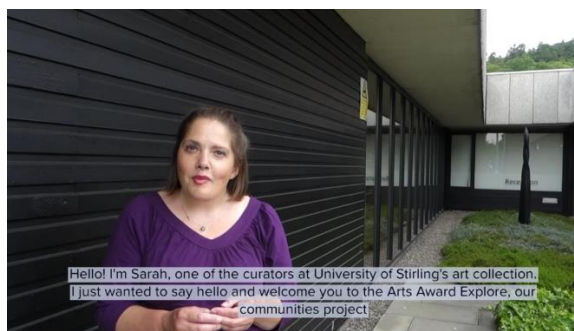
My name is Laura – I'm the Community Outreach Officer for the University of Edinburgh's Museums team.



Throughout this project you'll be hearing from several of my colleagues from our partner universities as well as some of our current students who will be passing on their expertise to you.

Sarah Bromage, Art Curator, University of Stirling:

Hello! I'm Sarah, one of the curators at University of Stirling's art collection. I just wanted to say hello and welcome you to the Arts Award Explore, our communities project.



I'm here at the Pathfoot Building which is normally home to the University's Art Collection, we're closed at the moment but I'm here on our beautiful campus. I hope over the next few weeks you learn a lot and enjoy exploring our collections and learning more about student life. I look forward to working with you and I hope to meet you all virtually soon.

Harriet Simms, Community Engagement Officer, The Glasgow School of Art



We'll also be working with Tamara Richardson, Public and Community Engagement Officer at Duncan of Jordanstone's College of Art and Design and Susan Curran, Acting Public Programme and Exhibitions Manager and the University of Aberdeen.

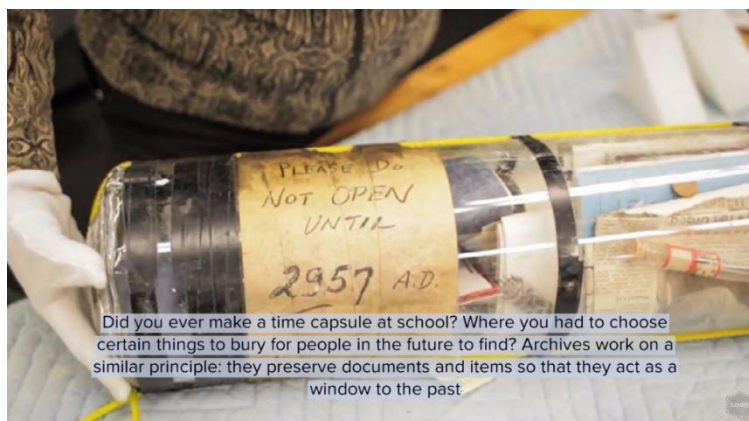
In this first video, I'm going to explain a bit about what this project is, what the Arts Award Explore is, and what you'll have to do to get it.

What is this project about?

The idea behind this project is to bring together young people from all over Scotland to explore and document your lives in 2020 through making art. Now is your chance to tell your story! By doing so, we'll learn more about the different communities in Scotland – how is life in the Orkney islands, for example, different from life in the Scottish Borders - but we'll also be creating an archive for the future.

What is an archive? Its a place where public records and historic documents are kept safe and looked after.

Did you ever make a time capsule at school? Where you had to choose certain things to bury for people in the future to find? Archives work on a similar principle: they preserve documents and items so that they act as a window to the past.



If you imagine someone 50 years from now looking at the art you create in this project, what would you want to convey to them?

We hope to create an exhibition of your work at the campuses of the Universities involved when it is safe to do so, so please don't throw anything away. In the meantime, we'll be creating an online exhibition!

We'll tell you more about how this online exhibition works in our first discussion session.



What is the Arts Award Explore?

It's a qualification designed to help young people develop arts and arts leadership skills. This is what your certificate will look like - quite nice!



What do I have to do to get the Arts Award Explore qualification?

The Award is broken down into 4 different sections:

Part A: Inspire

You need to complete two art activities and identify what you liked about doing them.

Part B: Explore

You need to research an artist and an arts organisation.

Part C: Create

You need to create an artwork and record some of the process of creating that artwork.

Part D: Present

You need to share your artwork with others and identify what you like about taking part in the project.

In order to gain the qualification, you need to show evidence of completing each part.

Don't worry too much about the criteria, we've designed the programme in such a way that you'll be sure to achieve them if you complete all the relevant activities. You'll find more information about the activities you have to complete to get the Arts Award in our participants guide which you can download below.

The most important thing is to keep EVIDENCE of all of your work, relating to the project, ideally online if possible so that we don't have to post things to the moderators. The easiest way to do this is to create a new folder on your computer/tablet and save all of your work relating to the Award there. If this will be difficult for you, let your mentor know.

What is the structure for the programme?

We've broken the programme down into 6 different sessions:

Session 1 (this one!): Introductions where we'll introduce the project and you'll introduce yourself to your discussion group and get to know them. You'll also complete your first task which is about spotting the art forms you encounter in your every day life and a drawing exercise to help introduce yourself to others.

In Session 2: Capturing Life through Photography, we'll look at some photographs from the archives of the various Universities involved in the project and show you how you can use photography to capture real life moments happening in your communities.

Session 3: Landscape Painting

In a slight change to the original schedule, we'll be looking at the genre of landscape painting in week 3: what are different ways of capturing a landscape through art? We'll think about creative and inventive ways we can make our own landscape paintings.

Session 4: History you can listen to

One way of recording information about people's lives is to record an interview with them. This is what is known as an oral history. We will listen to some oral histories of times gone by in Scotland and then learn how to take your own. Ask a friend or family member if they'll let you interview them.

Session 5: Public Art

We're going to think a bit about public art this week – what is public art? Does graffiti count as public art? What about street murals? Then we'll help you design some public art of your own.

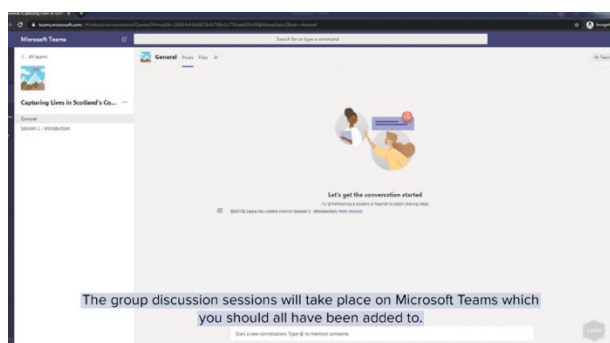
Session 6: Sharing your work

This week we'll be talking about both online and offline ways to share your work. What do you have to consider when you are exhibiting your work in an exhibition? What about an online exhibition? We'll introduce you to some of the digital literacy skills you need.

Each session consists of several videos introducing you to that weeks theme and the tasks that we're going to do this week. There'll be transcripts available of each video and instructions for tasks to download.

Each session also features topics to be discussed in a virtual meet up session with your discussion group – when you signed up to the project, we put you into a group with 6 or 7 others. This is your group for the whole project so we hope you'll get to know each other well.

Each discussion group will be led by one of our staff members and by one or more of our current students – they'll act as a mentor to the group for the duration of the programme and will facilitate the discussion groups. They're the ones you should go to in the first instance if you need help with any of your tasks.



The group discussion sessions will take place on Microsoft Teams which you should all have been added to. You can access Teams solely through the web, you don't need to download it but there is also a Microsoft Teams App. Teams is fairly easy to use but you can find some guidance on how to use it on our webpage.

Each discussion group will also have their own channel to use for discussions between their own group. In your group's channel, I want you to post your name age and where you're from so we can all start getting to know each other. Feel free to use this as a place to chat throughout the week ask each other for help.

That's all for this introduction. After you've introduced yourself in the Microsoft Team, watch the Week 1: Activities video to find out what you have to do for the first activity!

If you have any questions don't hesitate to get in touch with your mentor or email us: museums@ed.ac.uk. We're delighted to have you participating in this project with us and we hope you'll enjoy it!