



Strategy 2023-2028

Vision, Mission, & Values

Reviewed: July 2023

Forgan Arts Centre is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Charity number; SC008537.

Who we are

Forgan Arts Centre is an open and welcoming home for community driven and environmentally aware arts and learning. Situated in Newport-on-Tay, North East Fife, it provides a space for creatives from all walks of life (artists, makers, artist-educators, and members of the local community) to come together and develop creative skills. The programme of classes, workshops and socially engaged events are underpinned by a shared ethos that art can be transformative, create a sense of belonging and benefit wider culture and society.

Our Aims

Forgan Arts Centre will advance the arts and lifelong creative practice:

- We will provide the venue for the local community to engage in artistic pursuits, supporting traditional and contemporary approaches to craft and making. We will celebrate diverse and cross-generational learning.
- We will create a space where individuals (regardless of past experiences) can come together to cultivate their understanding of the arts through classes, workshops, residencies, and events.
- We will deliver a creative programme guided by long standing members alongside invited guest artists and makers.

Forgan Arts Centre will place the natural environment at the heart of its activities:

- We will make maximum use of our location between the river Tay and rural Fife. Our studio garden, allotments and surrounding environment will be used as a trigger to support artist-educators whose practice is concerned with art and ecology.
- We will honour the interplay between the natural, built, and social environment and the impact of this on the well-being of the communities we serve.
- We will work to enhance the accessibility of the natural environment and the links between arts-based activities and the world around us.
- We will create pathways for people to develop projects that explore art and the environment, and experiment with materials and biodiversity.

Forgan Arts Centre will provide a sense of place:

- We will cultivate a connected, compassionate creative community in North East Fife, providing a social space to support activities that enhance people's health, happiness, and well-being through place-making.
- We will provide a venue where we balance the safety of the known with the creative potential of the unpredictable and different – where experimentation meets tradition.

Forgan Arts Centre will be a sustainable organisation:

- We will manage the Centre through considered regulatory alignment and good governance that mirrors our organisational ethos.
- We will ensure that our organisation remains responsive to community needs, whilst also cultivating the growth and development of our membership, staff and board.
- We will achieve financial stability by developing funding streams and undertaking self-sufficiency initiatives to ensure the future provision of arts-based opportunities.

Sense Of Place

History and future of Forgan Arts Centre

Forgan Arts Centre was established in 1974 as a local community art centre providing craft classes, workshops, and children's art club. In 2021 through the support of Fife Council and local stakeholders, the art centre staff were given the opportunity to acquire the Leng Home in Newport-on-Tay through the successful bid to the Scottish Land Fund. Jen White was appointed as Forgan Art Centre Director and working closely with the trustees and membership, the art centre is developing a strong creative vision that includes the sympathetic renovation of the venue and its grounds that acknowledges the heritage, whilst also valuing the opportunities presented by the context: house, gardens, community allotments, gardeners cottage and local environment (nature trail, woodlands, and estuary location). The site itself is well known by the community as the historic home of Dr. William Leng, who continued the work of his father Sir John Leng, local philanthropist and champion of educational reform and learning through the arts and culture. It thus provides an invaluable, irreplaceable asset to the communities of Newport, Wormit, Tayport and North East Fife and offers a location for those visiting Tayside from further afield, who wish to engage with the local creative community.

With the support of stakeholders, we are extremely pleased to have appointed the award-winning architects: Nicoll Russel Studios to renovate the house. As a membership organisation we will continue to ensure that the context reflects the needs of our community and also will expand the understanding of art as a life-long practice, incorporating all aspects of community and rural practice and social events (including music, storytelling, traditional and contemporary craft, gardening and place-making).

Our vision is to sustain a uniquely open, welcoming space, to serve the needs of the community through creative practice, and directly enhance arts culture in all its forms.

Our mission: to draw people together, to provide arts-based learning and opportunities from early to advanced stages of practice. Through our empowering and transformative ambition, we will create a grassroots artistic ecology, which is a safe place to take risks, challenge assumptions, and meet other people with a shared interest in the arts. Core to this are our facilities and expertise, that offer classes, professional facilities, and studio based learning, alongside residencies and events programme.