

# Glasgow Canal Co-op

## OUR APPROACH

### 1. Introduction

The Glasgow Canal Co-op is a member led organisation which acts as facilitator and connector for a diverse range of members located by the Forth & Clyde Canal between Port Dundas and Firhill Basin. The canal area has a wealth of assets including a diverse mix of cultural producers, a unique heritage, a cluster of sports facilities and tranquil green spaces to enjoy. Our membership represents organisations operating in each of these assets.

We provide a platform for collaborative projects which support and benefit those living, working and visiting the canal area. The Co-op works within its finite resource and capacity to deliver a handful of projects each year which support members to engage in funded projects which work with and have impact on their respective communities.

There is a huge amount of activity taking place by the canal and many members have established and trusted working relationships with the local community. The Co-op's role is to support members in this rather than doing its own direct community engagement.

### 2. Vision

To unlock the potential of the canal to create a vibrant neighbourhood for people to live, work and visit.

### 3. Objectives

- To improve collaboration
- To utilise local skills and assets
- To connect with new audiences
- To develop new experiences for visitors

### 4. Why

- The Canal Co-op brings together key organisations around the canal to provide greater direction, a platform for knowledge sharing and accessing funding and to support further partnership working.
- The Canal Co-op leads on the delivery of softer interventions which support the physical regeneration that is taking place along the canal.

### 5. Themes

#### a. Placemaking

- We support projects which enhance the public realm, the natural and cultural heritage, the infrastructure and connectivity which make the canal a vibrant, welcoming and safe place.

#### b. Events & Activity

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- We aim to engage and give locals and visitors reasons to visit and engage with the canal.
- c. Skills Development & Capacity**
- We identify skills needs, development and the sharing of knowledge between member organisations. In doing so all members can have a greater reach, develop capacity, resilience and financial sustainability.
- d. Communication**
- We will support communication and collaboration between members and will raise the profile of the Canal Co-op and activities around the Canal.

## 6. Projects

- Each year we will plan for and deliver key collaborative projects which support our themes and the work of our members. Due to our limited resource we are only able to deliver a small number of projects each year. In 2020 we worked closely with our sports members, in 2021 there will be a greater focus on working with our members who operate in heritage and culture.

## 7. How we will Deliver Projects

- We will build on our existing processes to facilitate participation and engagement from members so they have an opportunity to vote on projects that the Canal Co-op decides to progress with and the funds we apply for.
- We will hold regular Board of Directors and Member meetings which will provide a platform for members to share knowledge, discuss activity and vote on decisions.
- We will formalise project groups to support the delivery of our key projects. Each group will have a member Chairperson who will report on progress to the wider membership and Directors.
- We will use digital functionality to support transparency and participation; sharing information important to members including minutes, live projects and financial reports, enabling members to register their interest and views remotely through voting and survey tools.