



A Part of the Community

You could imagine that cows and urban regeneration are seldom mentioned in the same sentence, but Out of the Blue, Capital City Partnership and the OneCity Trust are all involved in challenging that assumption by being part of CowParade Edinburgh this summer'

Out of the Blue (OOTB) has been co-ordinating the development of five 'Community Cows' with Arts South Edinburgh, Craigmillar Community Arts, North Edinburgh Arts Centre, Pilmeny Youth Project, and WHALE Arts Agency to ensure young people from across the city are able to take an active part in CowParade Edinburgh.

Our five Community Cows will join up with the 100+ other Edinburgh cows created by painters, sculptors and designers to create an 'urban pasture' in the city forming a trail which is freely accessible to the public from the 15 May to the 23 July 2006.

Taking a lead from CowParade Manchester, where fifteen community cows were developed for their 2004 parade, Capital City Partnership and OOTB are using the project to engage young excluded people in the participatory process of working with an artist to contribute to a high profile city wide project, with international recognition.

By taking ownership of the project the young people will embrace new ideas and skills, raise their confidence, connect with local arts facilities, forge links with other groups across the city, and be seen to be making a positive contribution to their community, particularly as their final product will be auctioned to raise funds going back to the OneCity Trust. The Trust, in turn, will grant funds to other organisations or projects specifically working at grassroots level to promote inclusion, with an emphasis on supporting initiatives that encourage participation and demonstrate potential for future self-sustainability.

In Leith, OOTB is already staging a series of workshops with a group of young people from the Pilmeny Youth Group working with community artist Zoe Dudziak to design a cow. The group plan to work with spray paint and stencils to decorate the cow themed around the local Dalmeny Street Park. The Leith cow is the latest phase of wider OOTB community arts project Park Life, aimed at regenerating the local park.

Community artist Zoe Dudziak commented, "I am delighted to have the opportunity to give some young people from Leith their first experience of working on a major art project. CowParade is a fantastic idea that I hope will capture their imagination and encourage them to participate in art on a regular basis."

For more information about the Community Cows, which are also supported by the Edinburgh Community Safety Partnership's Local Initiative Fund, the city's East and South Local Development Funds, the Evening News and Radio Forth, please contact hugo@outoftheblue.org or katewimpres@capitalcitypartnership.org.

