

ANNUAL **REVIEW** 2018:2019



493 performances

142,377 tickets sold

11,439 new customers

23,141 community participations



ANNUAL REVIEW 2018:2019 WELCOME

We are a committed team at Horsecross Arts, and there are some wonderful examples of teamwork in this year's Annual Review!

We continued to collaborate with Scotland's orchestras and The Gannochy Trust to introduce classical music to schoolchildren from across Perth and Kinross.

Working with primary schools, secondary schools and local organisations our Creative Learning team brought the arts to a huge range of people in the community and in our venues.

Our WW1 trilogy in co-production with the National Theatre of Scotland culminated in the moving and much-acclaimed *The 306: Dusk* in Perth Theatre. We also co-produced delightful children's show *Prince Charming*. Our associate artists did great work, and venues across Scotland welcomed our touring production of *Lost at Sea* by Morna Young.

Along with our audiences, we watched with a lump in our throats as a brilliant group of musicians gathered to perform the unique and powerful *No Man's Land* to commemorate the Great War.

Our conference and catering teams served up a range of successful events, from our first wedding in Perth Theatre to seated dinners for hundreds of people in Perth Concert Hall. We curated contemporary art across a variety of mediums including *Flipstones*, the first solo show by Perth poet Jim Mackintosh pairing poems with art.

As a charity, we could not do what we do without our partners and funders. We are grateful to Perth & Kinross Council, The Gannochy Trust, Creative Scotland and all the trusts, foundations and individuals who generously support us. We were delighted to welcome new and returning sponsors to cheer on our young performers and support other activities.

The whole Horsecross Arts team continues to work together, and with others, to deliver outstanding experiences for audiences, businesses and community members.

Please read on to discover more about our achievements over the last year.



Magnus Linklater CBE
Chair, Horsecross Arts

Our Vision

To inspire, entertain, surprise and delight

To be ambitious for ourselves and our communities

To help Perth flourish economically, culturally and socially

To develop and support the next generation of artists

To develop and support our staff

Our Mission

To create a buzz in all our venues situated at the heart of Perth's cultural life and beyond with our performances, events, tours and transfers

Our Values

Make it happen

Aim high

Work collectively

Work smarter

1,200 primary school children attended classical concerts in Perth Concert Hall

“ a beautifully lit presentation that looked and, even more importantly, sounded superb in the acoustic of the Perth hall ”

The Herald
on Scottish Ensemble

“ this exclusive Scottish performance was a real coup for the Perth hall ”

The Herald on Salome

“ a master of the art of colour, variety and texture ... with a particular affinity, exemplary technique, fluidity and lightness of touch ”

The Courier
on Peter Donohoe,
Perth Piano Sundays

“ a double Christmas present ... the prolonged enthusiastic applause of the packed venue audience brought Consort, John Butt and soloists out for numerous curtain calls ”

Perthshire Advertiser
on Dunedin Consort

Collaboration, collaboration, collaboration ...

2018-19 was all about the teamwork as we continued our collaboration with the Scottish Chamber Orchestra (SCO) and the Royal Scottish National Orchestra (RSNO) to take classical music to young people across Perth and Kinross.

With welcome support from The Gannochy Trust, we delivered two large-scale Creative Learning projects. Perth Concert Hall foyer teemed with excitement as primary school children joined the SCO to make some musical noise for *Sir Scallywag and the Golden Underpants*. Saxophonist Amy Dickson braved the Scottish winter to tour *Take a Breath* to local primary schools, introducing classical music and breathing exercises with a focus on mental health. 1200 primary school children came to performances in Perth Concert Hall as a result of these two projects.

In June the RSNO joined the concerto prizewinning soloists from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland for a concert in Perth Concert Hall. The three Scottish orchestras brought soloists and conductors of the highest international standard to Perth Concert Hall as part of the unique Perth Concert Series. In addition to these six core concerts, audiences enjoyed a visit by the Russian State Symphony Orchestra and hugely popular RSNO Christmas Concert *The Snowman*, as well as the sparkling Viennese New Year Gala Concert from SCO.

The Lunchtime Concerts series went from strength to strength with excellent attendances and six broadcasts from BBC Radio 3 who regard Perth Concert Hall as an important strategic partner. The series included visits from the Hebrides Ensemble, Scottish Ensemble, Maxwell String Quartet and flautist Adam Walker.

Horsecross Arts has developed a particularly close relationship with the world-class Dunedin Consort who performed Bach's *Art of Fugue* in September and Handel's *Messiah* in December.

The sixth season of Perth Piano Sundays once again brought some of the world's finest pianists to Perth Concert Hall including Viktoria Postnikova, Richard Goode, Steven Osborne and Jeremy Denk. The series also included a complete cycle of Mozart's Piano Sonatas performed by Peter Donohoe.

Scottish Opera's Highlights Tour visited Perth Theatre in the autumn for a dynamic and colourful show in the Joan Knight Studio. Russian State Opera used the pit and stage of Perth Concert Hall to their maximum potential for a performance of Bizet's *Carmen*. The highlight of the opera provision, and perhaps the classical highlight of the year, was a visit by the acclaimed Opera North with Richard Strauss's *Salome* conducted by Richard Armstrong.



“ That a festival with the huge reputation of Southern Fried exists in Scotland outside of either of the country’s two biggest cities is testament to just how much the four-day event has nailed what it does so perfectly ”

The Courier

“ Southern Fried continues to occupy its position as the best Americana and roots music festival in Scotland and perhaps the best of its kind in the UK...all adding up to four days of joyous music concentrated within the centre of one of Scotland’s most beautiful cities ”

Americana UK

“ occasionally you stop being a musician and are simply just another human in the room. And for me, that’s how it was last night with No Man’s Land, a performance marking the 100 years since the end of WWI. It wasn’t just a ‘show’. Something ancient and powerful happened last night ”

No Man’s Land
Karine Polwart

“ One of the best events I’ve ever seen. Wonderful, thought provoking night. Well done Horsecross - another first-class night in Perth ”

No Man’s Land
audience member

Sell-outs, Scottish exclusives and Southern Fried magic

Another busy musical year featured headline Perth Concert Hall shows from artists including Mike + The Mechanics, Marti Pellow, 10cc, First Aid Kit, The Osmonds and The Proclaimers along with Ricky Ross in Perth Theatre. Highlights were very well-attended shows from two guitar icons playing their only Scottish dates in Perth; the virtuoso Australian entertainer Tommy Emmanuel and legendary English songwriter Richard Thompson. Gary Barlow's sold-out concert in April was technically one of the biggest productions ever staged in Perth Concert Hall. The show went down a storm with the capacity crowd and the venue and staff were highly praised by the visiting team.

The Monday Night Thing continued with spring and autumn seasons in its new home in the Joan Knight Studio in Perth Theatre. Especially memorable Monday evenings included Mary Coughlan, and a theatrical presentation from singer-songwriter Kathryn Joseph. Standout nights in the Celtic Sessions series were a wonderful fiddle double-bill in Perth Concert Hall with Duncan Chisholm and Martin Hayes and a great house for Blazin' Fiddles with their special guest, Capercaillie vocalist Karen Matheson. The year ended with Perthshire musicians Ross Ainslie and Ali Hutton headlining a Celtic Sessions show in Perth Concert Hall with Horsecross Arts' own Celtic big band Gordon Duncan Experience.

Celtic Sessions concert *No Man's Land* in Perth Concert Hall on Sunday 11 November

commemorated 100 years since the end of WW1. This deeply emotional performance moved everyone present, onstage and off as the torrent of positive comments attested. The phenomenal band from Perth Concert Hall's *Made In Perthshire* tenth anniversary show reconvened with an international line-up of singers – Karine Polwart, Blue Rose Code, Kris Drever, Declan O'Rourke, Raghu Dixit and ESKA.

2018's Southern Fried was the best-selling yet, with all four Perth Concert Hall headline shows performing well above expectations and both afternoon shows in Perth Theatre sold-out. The quality of performances across the weekend was exceptional with highlights being Rodney Crowell, dancing Canadian fiddler Gordie McKeeman and his band, and Blue Rose Code performing with Southern Fried Voices community choir. Gretchen Peters' closing show with the Southern Fried String Quartet led to a Celtic Connections gig and a run of UK tour dates with the quartet.

Russell Brand's sell-out Perth Concert Hall show kicked off a strong year of comedy in early April followed by good houses for Jason Manford, Sarah Millican, Stewart Francis, Ed Byrne and Joe Lycett (another sell-out). There were well-attended performances in the theatre for Fred MacAulay, Daniel Sloss, Jimeoin and Bruce Fummey.



Photo: ESKA performing at *No Man's Land*, credit Carol Graham

498 free theatre tickets for young people through the Stage Seats initiative

CREATIVE LEARNING

“ thank you for the wonderful past few years, I've loved being at PYT. I'm so grateful for the skills you and my other tutors and creative assistants taught me ”

Perth Youth Theatre participant

“ we are very lucky to have such a fab creative learning hub with committed tutors and amazing performance spaces ”

Parent

“ I thought it was great! So creative and funny, but I was so impressed with how confident all the kids were and how much they were obviously enjoying doing it ”

Perth Youth Theatre Juniors Showcase audience member

Sing, dance, act, learn

Creative Learning is what makes us tick and we were delighted to involve hundreds of young people and grown-ups in a huge range of activities over the year.

No sooner had we settled into our new home in Perth Theatre, than we were taking the fun to the people across the area and welcoming them into our venues, with support from The Gannochy Trust.

Over 850 young people from 25 primary schools took part in the Schools Set Design Challenge and the Amy Dickson *Take a Breath* initiative. Primary school pupils got into the panto spirit with our *Snow White and the Seven Dames* workshops.

Every Perth and Kinross secondary school got involved with projects and workshops linked to the theatre programme. Pupils visited Perth Theatre for technical skills development training from industry professionals and theatre companies. We look forward to developing this further with drama teachers during 2019-20.

Our weekly Join In classes for young people increased in numbers with several Perth Youth Theatre classes reaching capacity. We added two additional classes to meet this demand. More than 90 young people attended our Rural Perth Youth Theatre in Alyth, Kinross and Kirkmichael every week.

Thanks to our dedicated Creative Learning spaces in Perth Theatre, Join In members have been able to get up close and personal to various visiting shows. Participants have taken trips to theatre productions, had masterclasses with industry professionals and enjoyed a range of performance opportunities. Over 50 Join In members showcased their work at Interchange, Scotland's biennial

training event for those who use drama and theatre in their work with young people, hosted at Perth Theatre in partnership with Youth Theatre Arts Scotland.

The Join In adults programme continues to offer singing, dance and music. Alongside the core programme of Horsecross Voices, Blow and Blast workshops, Carse Voices and Leven Voices, there was another sold out series of Keeeeeep Dancing workshops.

We continue to provide opportunities for young people and adults who may not otherwise get involved in the arts. Perth Autism Youth Theatre in partnership with Perth Autism Support (PAS) continues to flourish with over 90 workshops delivered last year for young people aged 5-18 years. Perth Theatre now offers weekly Let's Dance classes for young people with learning or physical disabilities. These free classes are now at full capacity with a regular group of attendees. Over the last year, the team also completed a dance project in Fairview Primary School for children and young people with complex additional support needs.

Following the success of the singing project for adults with long term health conditions, delivered in partnership with Tayside Healthcare Arts Trust, we have launched a regular choir. This provides adults an opportunity to develop skills as well as offering a space for social interaction and inclusion.

“ an excellent evening's theatre ”

Sunday National on *Gaslight*

“ looks and sounds stunning ... a beautiful and hugely professional piece of theatre ”

The Scotsman on *Miss Julie*

“ a joyful Christmas treat, bright, witty, goodhearted and full of fun ”

The Scotsman on *Snow White and the Seven Dames*

“ honours the dead who have previously lain nameless in a way that lingers long after the music's final note has sounded ”

The Herald on *The 306: Dusk*

THEATRE



Something old, something new ...

Since reopening in November 2017, Perth Theatre has welcomed the world back into its beautifully restored auditorium, new Joan Knight Studio, rehearsal rooms and public spaces.

Following a successful reopening season, the team took *A Six Inch Layer of Topsoil and the Fact it Rains* on tour. Written by Kieran Hurley, this verbatim show, created from interviews with local farmers was well received by audiences in rural venues across the area.

The autumn season kicked off with the final part of the Perth Theatre, National Theatre of Scotland and 14-18 NOW's *The 306 trilogy*. *The 306: Dusk* transformed the Perth Theatre stage into a French forest where a young soldier, pregnant schoolteacher and war veteran's ghosts collide, all searching for hope and peace. The production was admired by audiences and critics alike with five-star reviews in *The Herald* and *The Stage*.

Following the success of the reopening pantomime, the same creative team delivered *Snow White and the Seven Dames*. Audiences of all ages booed, hissed and cheered the most successful Perth panto to date.

The spring season opened with The Cross Trust Young Director Award recipient Shilpa T-Hyland's production of passionate drama *Miss Julie* in the Joan Knight Studio, then Tron Theatre and Studio at the Edinburgh Festival Theatre. Kai Fischer's murky staging of Patrick Hamilton's *Gaslight* included a striking performance by Esme Bayley, with Meg Fraser elevating the stage as famous detective Rough. Ian Brown returned to Scotland to direct the world premiere of fishing drama *Lost at Sea*. The much talked about and critically acclaimed

production embarked on a national tour, then netted awards for Best Director and Best Ensemble at the Critics' Awards for theatre in Scotland (CATS).

Shows for kids and families included *The Polar Bears Go Up!* for under 5s which ran in the Joan Knight Studio alongside pantomime. Perth Theatre and Little Angel Theatre's co-production of *Prince Charming* delighted and charmed children of 6 years and above.

Visiting shows, the National Theatre of Scotland's award-winning musical *Glasgow Girls* and Bristol Old Vic and the Lyceum's co-production of *Touching the Void* packed out the auditorium engaging new audience members including local walking and climbing groups.

In May Perth Theatre supported House of Mirth's *Marie*, a dark and funny story about Mary Queen of Scots ... sort of, on its well-received tour to Perthshire venues.

Our Associate Artists scheme saw hand-picked theatre-makers generate and deliver work within the theatre and around the area. Greg Sinclair and Clare Duffy worked closely with the Creative Learning team and primary and secondary schools to research and develop *Animals* and *The Big Data Show*. *Animals* went on to receive Creative Scotland Open Project Funding (CS OPF) and toured Scotland following a premiere in Perth Theatre. *The Big Data Show* is currently lined up to do the same in spring 2020.

CONTEMPORARY ART

7 group exhibitions

6 solo exhibitions

20 new artists' commissions/
acquisitions

151 Scottish and international
artists exhibited

“ in a world which turns ever-faster and life becomes more frenetic, we could all do with a little bit of Madelon Hooykaas in our lives ”

The Courier on Madelon Hooykaas

“ Ross Hogg's first institutional solo exhibition at Threshold artspace, Perth is key in his trajectory as an exhibiting artist and illustrative of his commitment to his practice as an animation filmmaker ”

Jenny Brownrigg
Glasgow School of Art

“ New Order, Other Spaces is an otherworldly exhibition...Jo Longhurst documents moments of suspension, capturing bodies in mid-flight, and fragmenting their gravity-defying feats of physicality ”

Lucy Weir
Edinburgh College of Art

If walls could talk ...

If the walls of our Threshold artspaces in Perth Concert Hall and Perth Theatre could talk, they would tell an exciting story! Throughout the year, they have showcased the work of local and international artists in a wide-ranging series of mediums with themes encompassing dance, gymnastics, AIDS, poetry and fishing. Several exhibitions worked closely alongside, or were incorporated within, our cultural programme.

Inspired by dance and choreography, *11 Million Reasons to Dance* featured moving image works and limited edition prints from the Horsecross Arts collection. It also included the first solo presentation in Scotland by photographer Sean Goldthorpe and culminated with a screen dance commission and acquisition of Janis Claxton's *Pop-up Duets (Fragments of Love)* as part of Perth Dance Festival.

The first solo exhibition in the UK by the acclaimed Dutch pioneer of video art Madelon Hooykaas, *Virtual Walls|Real Walls* featured major new commissions, acquisitions, live performative drawing and a new issue of our Read More Journal for Critical Writing.

Royal College of Art graduate Jo Longhurst's *New Order, Other Spaces* launched at Kelvin Hall, Glasgow as part of Festival 2018 – the cultural programme accompanying the European Sports Championships. The Threshold artspace exhibition featured newly commissioned and acquired works, two performance interventions by elite gymnasts, and a sportsmanship and art symposium.

Artist Theresa Pickles undertook a residency at Perthshire Rugby Football Club resulting in pop-up exhibition *150* to mark their 150th anniversary. This marked a distinct strand in the growing museum collection of contemporary art exploring sportsmanship and archives.

Creative Industries students at Perth College, University of Highlands and Islands created a series of works in response to the global AIDS pandemic and the widespread HIV stigma in *Let's End It* in Perth Theatre's Threshold artspace.

Perth poet Jim Mackintosh paired poems with art in his first solo show *Flipstones*. The exhibition culminated in a new live dance, spoken word and electronica commission *Silver Alchemy* as part of Perth Dance Festival.

Primary school pupils bonded with local senior citizens over the sharing of post-war dance hall memories in *Are Ye Dancin?* The exhibition was the outcome of a series of dance, drama, music and art workshops involving 10 senior partners and 30 young people.

Perth Theatre production *Lost at Sea* was accompanied by *Fish-Work*, the first solo photography exhibition in Scotland by US artist and fisherman Corey Arnold. The accompanying limited-edition photographic print on aluminium sold out. Limited-edition prints were also created for theatre production *Gaslight* with image by Mihaela Bodlovic as part of the Collect + Support initiative.

BAFTA-award winning Scottish artist and filmmaker Ross Hogg's first solo show opened in March with the launch of new commission and acquisition *4:3* which went on to win the Vimeo Staff Pick Award at the Vienna Shorts Festival.

CONFERENCE AND EVENTS

11,667 conference delegates

131 meetings

38 awards ceremonies,
functions and trade fairs

“ thank you so much to you and your staff at the concert hall for all the help with our conference on Saturday. It was a great success and everyone, once again, thinks Perth Concert Hall is a fabulous venue! ”

SWI September 2018

“ we were quite delighted with how the Theatre was looking on the day, it was a superb venue, and we're very happy to have chosen it for our wedding ”

Jenny & Mike, Wedding Oct 2018

The complete package

The winning combination of location, facilities, technical expertise and close client relationships makes our venues hard to beat for conferences and events.

The team works hard to offer organisations the complete package to tailor-make a range of events including conferences, meetings, exhibitions, prize-givings, dinners, parties, weddings and awards ceremonies.

Perth Theatre's new spaces were a valuable addition to our portfolio this year. The Joan Knight Studio received particularly good feedback from customers including the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, The Gannochy Trust, Federation of Scottish Theatres, Perth & Kinross Council and Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.

New clients included Children's Hospices Across Scotland, Scottish Economics Society, NHS (AphA Scotland), Young Scot, Scottish Thoracic Society, Care Inspectorate, Scotland China Network and Keep Scotland Beautiful.

Repeat business continued strongly with returning customers including Sport Scotland's Young Ambassadors' conference, Environmental Systems Research Institute, Youth Philanthropy Initiative, Peter Vardy and British and International Golf Greenkeepers' Association.

The Frisson Foundation returned with the Glee Challenge, a competition for primary school choirs from across Scotland. A hugely popular event held at Perth Concert Hall, it included three days of regional heats, the regional final and the national final.

In January BOSS Cheer & Dance brought participants from across Scotland to Perth Concert Hall for two days of cheerleading competitions.

Perth Theatre's Joan Knight Studio was the venue of choice in May for BBC Question Time with live broadcast on BBC1 and the Beechgrove Garden Question Time, which was broadcast on BBC2 Scotland. It was an honour to host Scotland's annual theatre awards, the CATS, in the Perth Theatre auditorium in the first year of opening.

20 international music promoters came to Perth to meet local musicians in three-day showcase event The Visit, and MG Alba Scots Trad Music Awards came back after a break of almost 10 years with their prestigious event broadcast live on BBC Alba.

The catering team was exceptional this year with the first successful wedding at the theatre, followed by the prestigious Scottish Apprenticeship Awards, an all-vegetarian dinner and lunch for the Climate Challenge Fund conference and St Johnstone FC Hall of Fame dinner in Perth Concert Hall.

Good food and drinks are all part of the entertainment offering and turnover for Horsecross Trading Ltd, the catering arm of the organisation, is now nudging the magic £1m mark.

Both staff and customers have been fabulous at moving between venues. When conferences close Perth Concert Hall's Glassrooms Café for a day many patrons make the trip to the Theatre Café and vice versa.

As well as pre-show meals, the team worked closely with the conference and events team to cater a range of challenging events, all delivered to much applause.

“ We were delighted to support Horsecross Arts. They made the process of drafting up the agreement incredibly straightforward and were very flexible. This was the first time we had offered support to an organisation like this, and we hope to have a long-standing relationship with Horsecross Arts ”

Drygate Brewing Co, sponsor

603 young people involved in arts activities as a result of sponsorships



“ I am very impressed with all the work our theatre is doing with the community ”

Supporter

“ I am very proud that the trust is able to help with such an effective project ”

Funder

Securing support

Throughout 2018-19, the Development team has continued to help raise the profile of Horsecross Arts' varied artistic and creative learning programmes and to secure support from a variety of sources.

We are grateful to our core partners Perth & Kinross Council, Creative Scotland and The Gannochy Trust for providing vital financial assistance to support our vision. Applications to trusts, foundations and funds for project funding have further enhanced our capacity to engage people of all ages and abilities, with different backgrounds and from diverse communities in enriching experiences and creative learning activities. Projects supported this year include Celtic youth big band the Gordon Duncan Experience, the ground-breaking Perth Autism Youth Theatre, sensory packs for audience members with autism, youth singing ensemble Glee and its Gaelic counterpart Glè, regular dance sessions for children and adults with physical and learning disabilities Let's Dance, and our annual celebration of dance Perth Dance Festival.

Another focus over the last 12 months has been our engagement with individual supporters, with a view to encouraging ongoing commitment and investment. Donations have steadily increased, and supporters have enjoyed exclusive opportunities to get closer to our work at Perth Concert Hall and Perth Theatre: dining on-stage at the concert hall, meeting acclaimed pianist Peter Donohoe, joining us to celebrate the launch of the Joan Knight Studio, sitting in on a rehearsal of *The 306: Dusk* and visiting Perth Theatre's wardrobe to find out more about the design and costume-making process for *Gaslight*.

Local, national and international companies have demonstrated their confidence in our ability to deliver exciting bespoke sponsorship packages. This year we received several unsolicited enquiries, indicating that the groundwork laid in previous years is paying off and that word is getting out about our strong reputation for collaborative creative partnerships with businesses. Our newly designed Introduction to Sponsorship helps us provide information to interested parties more quickly and efficiently. We welcomed two new sponsors on board and all renewing sponsors increased the level of their sponsorship, indicating their satisfaction with the quality of service they receive.

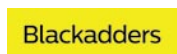


A big thank you to our supporters

Principal Funders



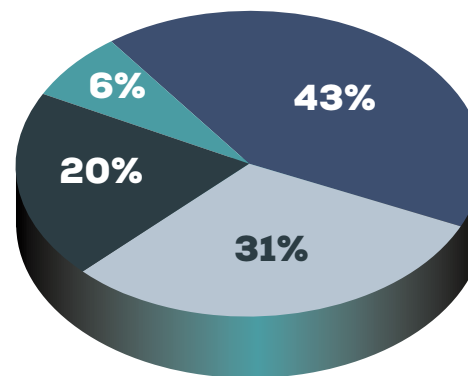
Sponsors



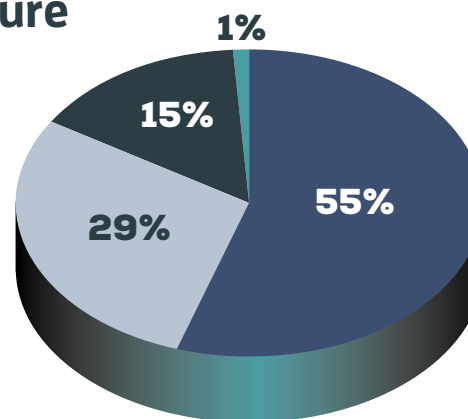
Trusts

- Northwood Charitable Trust
- Jimmie Cairncross Charitable Trust
- Walter Craig Charitable Trust
- The Guildry Incorporation of Perth
- Tasgadh
- The Ellis Campbell Foundation
- The William Syson Charitable Foundation
- Alexander Moncur Trust
- Gordon Fraser Charitable Trust
- Gaelic Language Promotion Trust
- The Binks Trust
- Perth and Kinross Council Community Investment Fund

Income

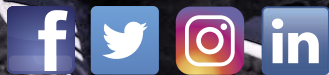


Expenditure





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