



## Fashion the Future Artist Brief

**Project name:** Fashion the Future

**Lead organisation:** Aberdeen Science Centre

**Dates:** March 2026 to August 2026

**Location:** Aberdeen Science Centre, 179 Constitution Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5TU

**Payment:** Up to £2,160 depending on experience (plus expenses allowance)

### Project summary:

Supported by the National Lottery through Creative Scotland, Aberdeen Science Centre (ASC) will work with five local creatives for *Fashion the Future*, a public engagement programme exploring the intersection of fashion and technology. The initiative aims to engage children and families with hands-on activities showcasing the work of textile artists, garment designers, and digital fashion creators.

Artists will design interactive experiences that highlight creative and artistic processes while encouraging participants to explore their own creativity. ASC will run a one-day Skills Academy to help creatives develop public engagement activities and give artists the opportunity to see their work from a new scientific perspective. With ongoing support from ASC, artists will refine their activities and deliver them during weekend sessions from July to August 2026.

The project will be supported by Robert Gordon University's (RGU) Gray's School of Art.

### Artistic and creative vision

The theme of the experiences is exploring the intersect between fashion and technology and the impact consumer choices have on the fashion industry. The types of art / creative work we're looking to explore range from traditional textile skills such as weaving and printing all the way to fashion in virtual reality and everything in between!

Experiences could be facilitated workshops, live demonstrations of creative processes, or interactive displays where participants can handle materials or learn about creative processes. Our vision is to support artists to create interactive learning experiences that combine art and design with science and technology. We want children and their families to learn how these disciplines are connected, and how they support each other. Artists will be able to share their creative processes, whilst using skills and knowledge gained from the skills academy, they will be able to explain the science and technology input behind it. From digital design, to scientific processes in colouring and dyes, to pattern and symmetry creation, we're excited to explore the wonderful intersect between fashion and science.

This project will provide the public greater opportunity to take part in activities and use equipment and resources that may otherwise be unavailable to them, more opportunity to try new things and understand whether they are interested in them, and increase confidence in engaging with creative arts. Participants also gain genuine experience, resulting in improved knowledge and skills which can be applied in a variety of settings in the future and may also improve employability and raise aspirations.

Artists will be invited to attend our Skills Academy public engagement training and activity development sessions at Aberdeen Science Centre in Spring 2026.

### **About Aberdeen Science Centre's Previous Experience**

Aberdeen Science Centre welcomes over 50,000 public visitors annually. Through our public engagement activities, we challenge understanding, encourage participants to explore, discover new skills, and test out ideas, enabling them to be curious and spark a passion for STEM. Our aim is to show everyone that STEM is part of everyday life, and that no matter what background you come from, everyone can learn new skills through STEM. Through this project, we aim to extend this experimentation with STEM into an experimentation with creativity.

The benefits experienced by the engineers in our recent public engagement project 'Enchanted Engineering' will be extended to artists through the Fashion the Future project. During the Enchanted Engineering project, engineers attended a Skills Academy session, developed activities based on their areas of expertise, and delivered them to family audiences and uniformed groups. The experience offered a chance to network with other engineers, view their work from a new perspective, provide children and adults with new skills and knowledge and inspire them to engage with the topics further.

Fashion the Future will offer a similar experience to the recruited creatives, who will be supported by ASC staff throughout the project and beyond to establish lasting and productive relationships within Aberdeen's creative community.

### **Target audience**

Fashion the Future will engage children and families of all backgrounds, mainly from Aberdeen City and Shire with school-aged children (5–12 years).

Visitors can join artist-led workshops (30–60 minutes in family groups or drop-in format), with final formats shaped during the Skills Academy. The visitor experience will be enriched with additional fashion-themed activities, including interactive displays, story sessions, and staff-led presentations developed by ASC and RGU.

Fashion the Future activities will run at weekends and during school holidays throughout July and August 2026, a total of 49 days. Across all Fashion the Future programme elements during this time, we anticipate engaging with around 9,000 children and adults. We plan to reach them through promoting the project on our website, social media channels, newsletters and local media outlets. We will employ RGU's networks of staff, students and creatives to encourage attendance by those working or studying fashion-related fields.

We also plan to widen access to Fashion the Future through providing 50 family admissions tickets to participants of our community engagement programme, typically from underserved and underserved audiences including living in areas of multiple deprivation, having additional support needs, or being from an ethnic minority.

### **Wider impact and benefits**

The outcomes we hope to achieve for children and adults participating in Fashion the Future are:

- Greater opportunity to engage with fashion and creative design.
- Increased awareness of the work being done in fashion-related arts in Aberdeen and North-East Scotland.

- Increased knowledge of the processes and technology driving the future fashion industry.
- Positive behaviour changes to make more sustainable consumer choices related to fashion.
- Increased social skills such as communication and teamwork.
- Increased skills and knowledge in fashion-related arts.
- Increased awareness of post-school opportunities in creative industries.
- Increased understanding of the links between STEM and the arts.

### **Environmental sustainability:**

Aberdeen Science Centre plays a key role in Aberdeen City's response to the climate emergency. We have unique access to an audience of young people and act as a trusted messenger to share key messages about our climate challenge and how we can all play our part in addressing it, particularly through the theme of Sustainable Fashion.

Sustainability will be a key element of materials displayed around the Centre's Exhibition Floor and presentations led by ASC staff as part of the wider Fashion the Future theme.

### **Your commitment:**

As a minimum, we require selected artists to commit to the following:

- March 2026 – attend one day Skills Academy at Aberdeen Science Centre
- April and May 2026 – Independent workshop / activity development
- June 2026 – Workshop/activity development and purchase of materials complete
- June 2026 - Trail workshop / activities with ASC staff
- July and August 2026 – Deliver your workshop / activities for 2 full days at Aberdeen Science Centre (dates to be mutually agreed).

### **Remuneration:**

Selected artists with 5+ yrs experience will be paid the Scottish Artist Union - Sessional Rates for 5 yrs + experience of £360 per day, for a total of 6 days, a total of £2,160. Artists with less experience will be paid the corresponding Sessional Rates. Artists can also claim up to £50 for artist per diems. A budget of £150 per artist will be available to purchase consumables and materials required for workshop delivery. Lunch will be provided at the Skills Academy.

Artist days breakdown:

1 day - Skills Academy (March)

3 days – Workshop / activity development (April, May, June)

2 days – Workshop / activity delivery (July, August)

### **How to apply:**

Send CV and cover letter, including any photos of example works to [recruitment@asc.scot](mailto:recruitment@asc.scot) or by post to: Recruitment, Aberdeen Science Centre, 179, Constitution Street, Aberdeen, AB24 5TU by **12pm Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2026**.