EPISODE NOTES – Beyond the gift shop: Making Glasgow Women’s Library

These episode notes are designed to develop teaching and learning activities for a range of levels and courses. These are just suggestions; please do adapt for your own purposes.

Podcast information:
An international centre of design, V&A Dundee presents the brilliance of Scottish creativity and the best of design from around the world.

Our podcast shares highlights from our public programme, along with stories from our collections and insights from creative practitioners – join us to explore design from unexpected perspectives.

Episode Information:
This episode is a live event recording of Beyond the gift shop: Making Glasgow Women’s Library - a talk from Dr Adele Patrick which took place at V&A Dundee in March 2020.

In this talk Dr Adele Patrick, a co-founder of Glasgow Women’s Library, explores how design has powered one of Scotland’s most trailblazing cultural resources. Adele charts the impact of design ‘beyond the gift shop’ in the making of the Library over three decades.

Speaker Biography:
Dr Adele Patrick has been developing innovative, participatory cultural projects rooted in equalities for over 25 years. A co-founder of Glasgow Women’s Library, Adele has had a leadership role in forging this influential, change making organisation.

Trained as a designer at Glasgow School of Art and continually collaborating with artists and creatives, Adele received the Engage Scholarship for Excellence in Gallery Education in 2016. A rare example of a design trained museum leader with a lifelong commitment to enterprise and innovation, Adele was nominated Scotswoman of the Year in 2016.

About Glasgow Women’s Library (GWL):
Glasgow Women’s Library is the only Accredited Museum in the UK dedicated to women’s lives, histories and achievements. Through a lending library, archive collections and innovative programmes of public events and learning opportunities Glasgow Women’s Library supports thousands of women across Scotland every year to improve their lives.

Glasgow Women’s Library holds a collection of historical and contemporary artifacts and archive materials that celebrate the lives, histories and achievements of women – now recognised as a collection of national significance. From Suffragette memorabilia and 1930s dress making patterns to rare 1970s Scottish Women’s Liberation newsletters.
Grown from a small grassroots project in 1991 into a pioneering women’s social enterprise – Glasgow Women’s Library was created by, for and about women in Scotland.

Questions to Guide Listening:
- What prompted the inception of GWL?
- What does artist-led mean? What does this look like at GWL?
- How does GWL use design to challenge themselves and keep developing?
- What are some of GWL’s core values?
- How does design support GWL’s mission/aims?
- How has the physical GWL building been changed through design?
- In what way are designers and artists important to GWL?

Learning Outcomes:
- To deepen understanding of design practice in our everyday lives.
- To consider different creative careers and professional routes within the creative industries.
- To explore and understand ways of working and designing collaboratively.
- To explore how artists and designers can share practice from different perspectives.
- To explore how artists and designers can present their practice and engage with audiences.
- To explore how organisations can take a design led approach to improve their reach

Connections to Curriculum:
Glasgow Women’s Library talk would be useful for pupils studying Art & Design, History and Modern Studies, allowing them to learn more about the library, it’s collection and the importance of women’s history in Scotland.

- By studying groups in past societies who experienced inequality, I can explain the reasons for the inequality and evaluate how groups or individuals addressed it. **SOC 4-04a**
- I can explain why a group I have identified might experience inequality and can suggest ways in which this inequality might be addressed. **SOC 3-16**

Resources, Reading and Links:
- The Glasgow Women’s Library [Archive Collection](#) is an online searchable collection broadly comprised of three elements: donated archives, the [Lesbian Archive](#) (formerly the LAIC), and Glasgow Women’s Library’s own archives.
- Glasgow Women’s Library also has a [Museum Collection](#), featuring a range of objects. This is also searchable online.
The GWL’s lending library features books from pioneering artists, explorers and political activists to fiction and poetry from Scotland and all around the world – and it is free to join.

Libby Brooks article ‘Glasgow Women’s Library: a treasure trove that shows how far feminism has come’, published in the Guardian.

An audio described introduction to Glasgow Women's Library and it’s building is available online.

This Dezeen article explores how Collective Architecture redeveloped the sandstone building in Bridgeton to create a permanent home for Glasgow Women's Library.

Explore the Glasgow Women’s Library building and collection on Google Arts and Culture.

Read about Adele Patrick’s experience on the Clore Fellowship, and reflections on her work with the Glasgow Women’s Library on the GWL Blog.