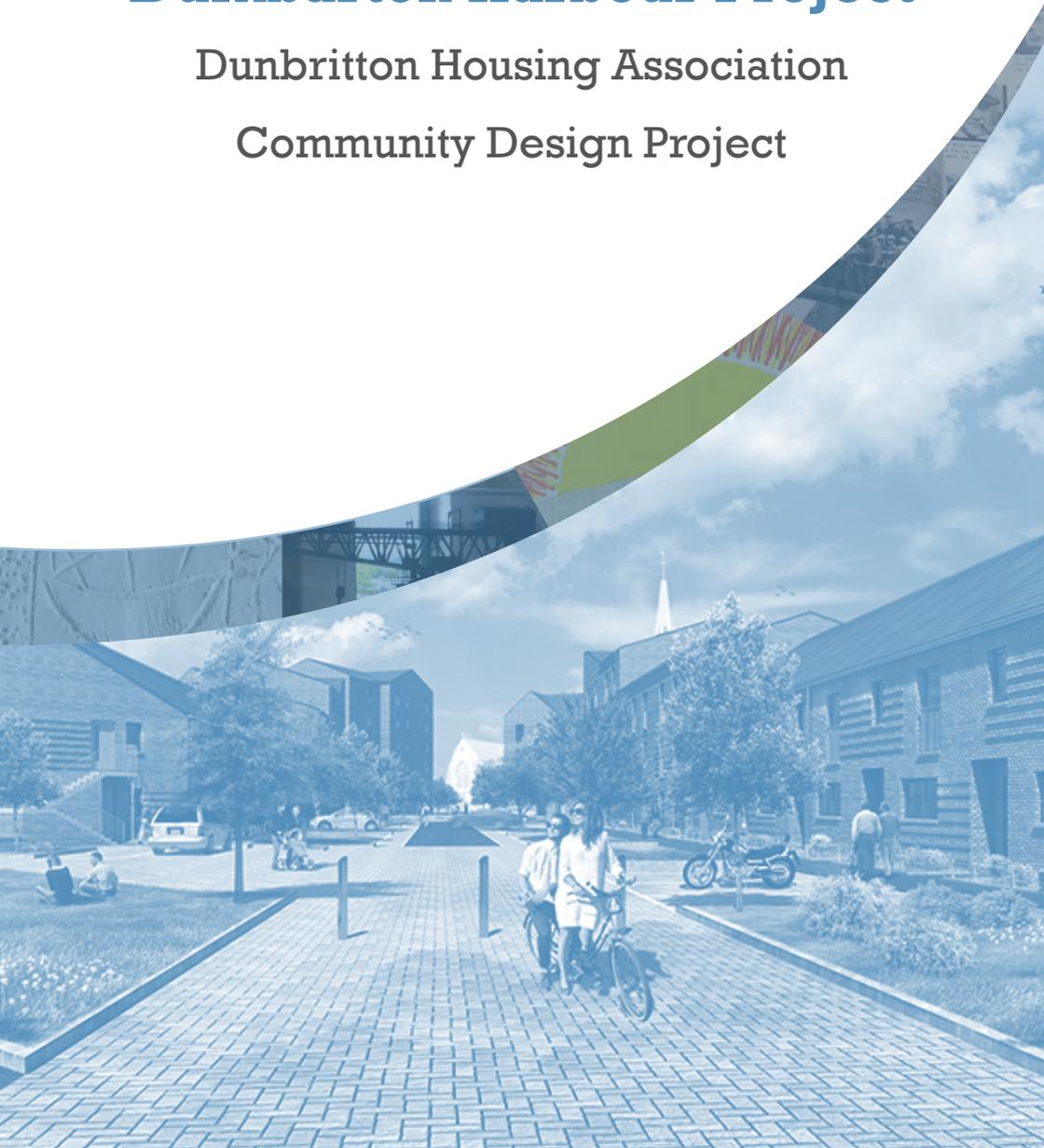


# Dumbarton Harbour Project

Dunbritton Housing Association

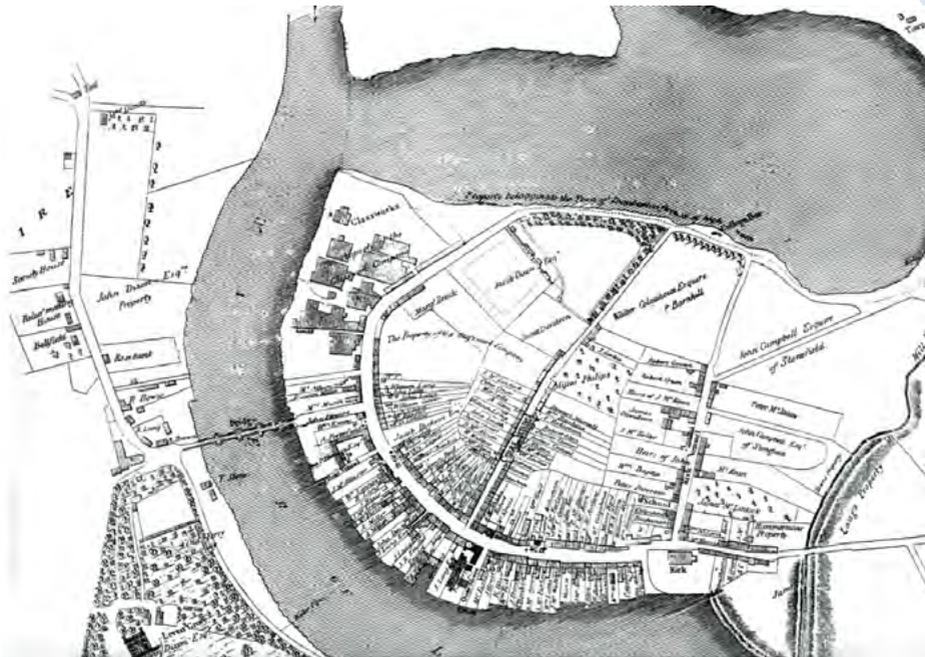
Community Design Project



## Community Engagement Process & Participants

### Research & Development:

The starting point for the research and development was the context of the rich history of the area around Dumbarton Harbour. In addition to online research, a visit to Dumbarton Heritage Centre with Jo Sherrington, the local history librarian was very helpful in terms of collecting older maps, photos and paintings from different periods.



The site of Dumbarton Harbour, was home to a number of local industries over the years, including the glassworks, shipbuilding and whisky.

At the time, there was an exhibition of artefacts from the Glassworks, one of the earliest industries in the area. The significance to the area as a ship yard was also really interesting as the basin of the yard can be seen very clearly on walk around the

development. The whisky bond which recently dominated the Dumbarton skyline, was pulled down in 2017 to accommodate the new development. The architects have referenced the main tower in their design of the housing development, with the use of the red brick and the overall aesthetic.



On the same trip, David Wilson, a local historian, shared his second edition copy of *Dumbarton Parish Church in History* and drew my attention to the kirkyard, which sits next to the site. The church also has a memorial window for one of James McMillan sons, who died at the Battle of Loos. Another important local son is Robert Napier and his family have a crypt within the kirk yard at Dumbarton Parish.

### Resource Packs

Resource packs were compiled using elements of local history, while also introducing different art making techniques and considerations. An example of this is talking about stain glass at the church as well as the glass works, with its own techniques and processes. The idea of the figure head in ship building was introduced as a way to explore sculpture and 3D art making and we also looked at designs from all over the world for street furniture and gateways. The packs also include other artworks by the commissioned artist Alan Potter, to show case the range of work he has done and demonstrate what is possible with a little bit of imagination. The packs were accompanied by a power point and a short film, which provide the historical context but also look at contemporary artworks for inspiration.

## Schools Engagement - Paving Slabs & Door Plaques

The packs included a handout for the pupils they were asked to draw or make their ideas in relation to the design brief which was to create the following:

- 7 paving slabs
- 114 door plaques
- 4 benches
- 1 sculptural gateway



We engaged with three primary schools: Knoxland Primary, Braehead Primary and St Patrick's Primary. We worked inside Knoxland Primary just prior to the Covid 19 lockdown in 2020, and over the summer made plans to adapt the workshops for the other two schools to contribute their ideas as well. This led to us sending out packs of clay and modelling tools as well as a School Design Pack. As the teachers were delivering the project, we had an online CPD session to talk about the pack and to demonstrate using the materials. The schools submitted their work, see images below:



## Young Leaders, Workin4U

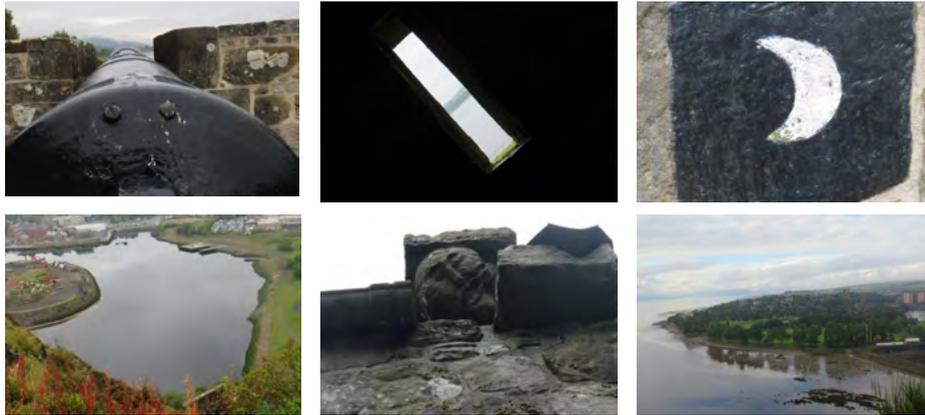
### Field Trips & Photo Essays

Towards the end of the summer, we approached the youth work team from WDC, who got recruited a small group of young people from the local area to engage with the project. We met on zoom to discuss what we were going to do and part of the research with them consisted of organising two field trips. The first of these was to the Dumbarton Maritime Museum, which is also home to the Denny tank. We were given a tour from the manager who explained the history of the area going way back and particular how ship building had transformed the Clyde, and the legacy of that. They each took photos of objects they found interesting, which formed part of the visual based research.



## Trip to Dumbarton Castle

The trip to Dumbarton Castle offered another opportunity to think about the history of Dumbarton, but also the geography of the area, with a really good views from the top of Dumbarton Rock both out to the Clyde but also down into Dumbarton and the site of housing development. We also had a tour guide who shared his knowledge of the Castle and its history both ancient and modern. Again, the young people took photos of elements that interested them in the architecture and the landscape.



## Community Group Meet Up

While our original plan had included more face-to-face workshops, we did have an opportunity to meet online with a number of local representatives for a group discussion. This included: Jade West, Skylark Project; Erin Dyer; Skylark Project; Lottie Barker Cliff Top Arts; Jim from Dumbarton Castle, Heritage & Film Club; Isabel Walker, community member. This was a lively and interesting discussion with a group who fed back on the work we had done so far and this was helpful in terms of getting feed-back.

## Site visit with Alan Potter

The location of the gateway was an important decision as it needed to be placed in such a way to maximise the view to the castle.

All in all, there is a real sense of the heritage of the area being embedded into the design which will be great for both visitors coming to learn about the local history but also of great benefit to people in the local community.



