Public Engagement aims to - (i) Engender a culture of curiosity, confidence and engagement with science in our communities and (ii) Embed a culture of Public Engagement in all our researchers.

Public Engagement Case Study (Art Science Collaboration)

Project Name - Animating Science - a pilot

Recipients - Dundee Contemporary Arts

Animating Science is an exciting pilot project under the banner of STEAMM (taking STEMM and adding A for arts). University of Dundee’s School of Life Sciences has partnered with DCA Learning as part of their public engagement programme, and with local primary schools to support teachers and pupils in the creation of new art/science collaborative projects.

Animating Science aims to develop stop motion animation skills with pupils and teachers (P7 - S3) and support them in creating animated films about Life Science concepts and processes. We are evaluating if this approach deepens pupils’ engagement and science understanding by making science learning more fun. Screening events will allow wider community members to see the results!

So far we have worked with young people both in and out of school. Topics covered include microbes, with a focus on biofilm formation, and the immune system in a variety of 2D and 3D media formats.

The project team includes:

DCA Learning Co-Ordinator and film maker, Andrew Low; Professional animator, Bruce Husband; Artist, Ian Tayac; DCA Head of Learning, Sarah Derrick; Academic Lead Professor Nicola Stanley-Wall; a team of scientists at the School of Life Sciences; and Schools Outreach Organiser, Erin Hardee

Future plans include the development of Continued Professional Learning sessions for teachers and an equipment library for school and club use.

“...my sincerest thanks for the work that you have done with our P7s. I have never seen them so motivated and engaged in a project. Some of the highest quality Inter Disciplinary Learning that I have ever witnessed.”

Laura Ferguson, Woodlands PS Carnoustie