**Jaw Box** *- An Irish and Scottish colloquial phrase for sink, which arose from the use of a sink in communal drying greens. ‘Jaw’ is old scots for pour or splash and also refers to chatting*

Jaw Box is a community arts project which will bring together the women and families of Glasgow’s East End through a dramatic celebration of local history and social space.

The project takes its inspiration from *A Pageant of Great Women* by Cicely Hamilton, performed and toured in 1909. The play was radical due its politics and the sheer number of people involved since the cast was mostly recruited from the local female population.

**Activities**

The project will be centred at the Glasgow Women’s Library in Bridgeton, an area which has the most severe pockets of deprivation in Glasgow.

Activities will include a series of writing, drama, dance, creative and informative workshops culminating in a performance, directed and staged by local people, on Glasgow Green’s ‘drying green’ space: the ancient washing poles still stand and will be incorporated into the set and choreography.

A film documentary will also be made, interviewing the women involved and following the development of their performance.

Glasgow Women’s Library’s mission is to celebrate the lives and achievements of women, champion their historical, cultural and political contributions and act as a catalyst to eradicate the gender gap that contributes to widespread inequalities in Scotland. We do this through:

* Empowerment
* Addressing Inequalities
* Valuing All Women
* Learning and Development
* Diversity and Inclusivity
* Openness and Respect

The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland is distinctive in that we cover all the three performing arts disciplines of dance, music and drama within one institution but, in addition, integrate the elements of production and screen. Our mission is to create a crucible for artistic innovation and creativity in performance and production through:

* Transformative learning experiences from early years to old age
* National strategies and initiatives for widening access to life-long learning in and through the performing arts
* National and international partnerships that increase the profile of Scotland’s performance arts
* Excellence in teaching, research and outreach work

There are over 50 scripted roles in the play, and we anticipate in the region of 500 women will be involved in the project, with a further and much wider group of women and families benefitting positively from the project in terms of the audience for the digital legacy of the project.

For the women involved in the project the outcomes will be:

* Increased confidence and self-esteem
* Increased awareness of and exercising of the right to vote which is particularly relevant given the Scottish vote on Independence September 2014.
* Better support networks for women are isolated and vulnerable
* Better engagement (for GWL and RCS) with women in the community who are harder to reach
* Increased literacy levels
* Increased aspirations and engagement around performing arts and creative activities and agencies in Glasgow, and the development of new pathways for people to become involved in play writing, drama, dance, music and theatre.
* Increased opportunities for employment due to skills development and record of achievement

For the wider public, benefits will include increased awareness of

* Significant historical landmarks such as the fight for women’s suffrage and the anniversary of World War I
* Social problems in areas of Glasgow, and the barriers to participation in the arts

These outcomes will be measured by:

* The number of women participating in the project which will detail retention, increased engagement, new audiences, increased utilisation of GWL, returning numbers to GWL after the project, and positive destinations for participants
* Audience levels (DVD distribution of documentary; web site hits; audience number at final performance)
* Both RCS and GWL are experienced in collating project surveys and participant feedback. Feedback will be collected via different mediums: questionnaire form, online feedback, suggestion ‘wall’ and video (via the documentary process).