



Heritage
Trust
Network

The Pyramid at Anderston, Glasgow

Formed in 2018, The Pyramid at Anderston SCIO is a community-led organisation that aims to 'Make Anderston Flourish'. It focuses on building community wealth and wellbeing via a range of support services, events and activities.



Photographs from the top left: Chair yoga; an exterior view of The Pyramid; a 'Weaving Our Stories Together' workshop; and The Pyramid Shop.

THE PYRAMID AT ANDERSTON

The Pyramid at Anderston is a symbol of community resilience as it offers a variety of services and facilities to locals. It also has a community shop which addresses issues of food insecurity in the area, and it has become an important addition to the local community.

THE BUILDING

Built in 1968, the B-listed building, with its iconic pyramid shape, sits in Anderston in Glasgow. With the major construction of the motorway through the city centre there was a redevelopment of the Anderston area which included the building of the Pyramid, opened as the Anderston Kelvingrove Parish Church. Like many post-war churches it had a more open plan design with multiple spaces intended for use by the community. Its imposing pyramidal structure and Brutalist concrete detailing have made it a focal point of the area. In 2019 the charity purchased the building from the Church of Scotland using a Scottish Land Fund grant. It has since operated as a hub for the local community, as well as providing office rental for tenants and spaces for hire.

THE PROJECT

The first phase of capital works has been completed, with the achieved aim of making the venue fully accessible for the first time and upgrading community spaces, including a high-spec professional kitchen and multi-use sports and community hall. The outcome is more spaces that can be used more of the time, providing vital spaces for the community but allowing for significant income generation potential. The Pyramid runs an inclusive and high quality programme of events and activities, aiming to meet the diverse needs of the community. These include wellbeing and physical activity, adult learning and English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), craft and social groups, holiday clubs, creche provision, film screenings,

performances, and more, as well as major community events such as its Winter Festival, Carnival, and Community Fun Day. Additionally, spaces are now available for hire, generating income from events, meetings, weddings and celebrations, conferences, and film production hires.

A service that quickly became essential to the community is The Pyramid Shop. Initially conceived as a zero-waste initiative, it soon became a means of addressing some of the issues faced by locals, namely access to good, affordable food. The area around The Pyramid is in the 15% highest deprived in Scotland and problems such as child poverty and mental health issues are also common. The shop directly addresses food poverty, but also hygiene poverty, and provides direct access to further sources of support and help. An unanticipated outcome is the opportunity to build social connections, with community members meeting up during opening times, also volunteering and supporting The Pyramid, and allowing The Pyramid to have regular and direct contact with community members.

The Shop partners with FareShare, Neighbourly, and a range of other businesses and suppliers to redistribute surplus food. Thanks to The Pyramid Community Kitchen, surplus food can also be transformed into ready meals, fresh soup, and more. An annual £3 membership provides over 400 people with access to a weekly £3 shop, with a value of £10–£20, comprising a selection of products such as fresh fruit

and veg, bakery, dried pulses and pasta, and frozen, chilled and ambient items. It also combats hygiene poverty, providing free period products, toiletries, household cleaning items, and often beauty products, thanks to a partnership with Beauty Banks.

CHALLENGES

Like many other organisations, the main challenges faced by The Pyramid are ever-increasing demand from the community and lack of funding. The shop has a waiting list, the Holiday Club for children is massively over-subscribed, and ESOL classes cannot meet demand.

Currently, the shop cannot accept more people on the waiting list and therefore not everyone in the community can access it. The shop is currently open on Thursdays 5–7pm and Fridays 11am–3pm and the need for the service can clearly be seen on these days with people queuing up and Pyramid staff carefully managing stock to ensure there is enough for all members.

THE FUTURE

The Pyramid at Anderston aims to continue to meet the needs of their local community, with ongoing consultation and assessment throughout. Fundraising for Phase 2 of capital redevelopment is underway, which will secure the future of the building, allowing it to generate income, provide more opportunities for local people, and secure the future of its services, ultimately bringing huge benefits to the community of Anderston.

For more information, visit: thepyramid.scot

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Text and photography by Marissa Trimble and The Pyramid at Anderston.

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