

Nancy Ovens Award For Play



The Nancy Ovens Awards:

The Awards for Outdoor Play Space in Scotland

Nancy Ovens M.B.E. believed passionately in the importance of play for our children and young people and dedicated her energy and time throughout her life to achieve acknowledgement of this. The overarching principles of her work are encompassed in The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child:

Article 31 - the child's right to play and leisure

Article 12 - the child's right to express their views

Article 2 - the child's right to protection from all forms of discrimination

A Nancy Ovens Award for play recognises and encourages contributions made by individuals, community groups, local authorities and others to the provision of good quality play experiences in outdoor settings. Such a play experience will have a number of distinguishing factors, which are described below, and all contribute to the educational, social, economic, health and recreational life of a community.

Award Categories:

1. Award for Best Design of a Play Experience
2. Best Community Award for Play
3. Best Promotion of /for Outdoor Play Facilities
4. Outstanding Contribution to Play

How we will be judging in making the Awards:

Every play space should be designed as if unique, reflecting its geographical setting and community. The space will inspire and challenge children and young people by offering both simple and complex environments in which to play. Specifically, the Trustees will be looking for:

1. **Involvement by Children/Young People:**

Local communities need to be able to articulate their aspirations, needs and priorities, therefore:

- Children and young people must have been actively involved as equal partners with adults in the design of the play space.
- Their ongoing involvement in the management of the play space must be evidenced.

2. **The Physical Environment:**

The physical environment should be recognisable as a place to play and invite children to explore and

gain new and different experiences by being:

- Varied and interesting, making good use of the natural landscape and features.
- Physically challenging to allow an element of risk taking.
- A place that offers the opportunity to play with natural elements Le. water, sand etc.
- Space to play alone and with others.
- Stimulating to the senses through use of colours and shape, different textures and materials, use of sound and noise.
- A place with a sense of a "freedom to play" with limited and appropriate adult intervention.
- Accessible to all levels of ability.
- A place where adults can be seen and can see without intruding on the children's spaces.

3. **The Play Experience:**

Through play children and young people are able to develop a positive sense of self and gain life skills required in adulthood. There must, therefore, be the opportunity for a range of different play experiences:

- **Educative play** learning a new skill, learning about social interaction, learning through peers.
- **Creative play** awareness of new connections, transformation of information.
- **Social Play** social engagement and interaction between young people as well as inter generational

4. **Access to the Play Space:**

Every child, irrespective of gender, background, cultural or racial origin, or ability should have equal access to the play space and have been involved in the decision making process in the design, and delivery of the project.

Every adult involved will be able to recognise their role in enhancing the play experience of the children and young people.

How to Apply:

A simple application form is required to be completed and returned by **3 June 2008**.

Thereafter, further information may be requested from you if you are successful in reaching the short list stage.

The awards for 2008 will be made in Glasgow on the 6 September 2008.

For an application pack, please contact:

The Nancy Ovens Trust
C/o Morton Fraser (Scott Rae)
30/31 Queen Street
Edinburgh
EH21UX
Tel 0131 247 1078 / 0131 247 1003

For an informal chat about a proposed application, please contact George Johnston on 0131 554 2409.

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Application for Award

Please ensure that you have read the notes on how to apply

1 Note: applicant must be an authorised representative of the organisation to benefit from the award.

Name of organisation: _____

Address: _____

Applicant's title: _____ Name: _____

Post held in organisation: _____

Daytime Tel No:(_____) _____

Region: _____ Postcode: _____

Evening Tel No:(_____) _____

Website _____

Organisations Tel No:(_____) _____

e-mail: _____

2 How would you describe your organisation? Tick one box in each section.

a) Type

Voluntary Organisation

Statutory Service

Self Help Group

Other (please state) _____

Registered Charity

_____ Charity No

b) How long has your organisation existed? _____

Phase two of the application process will involve asking for more detailed information about your organisation – see attached notes on how to apply.

3 Please give a summary of your organisation's work in the space provided.

Information About Your Project

4 Please give us more details about the children who benefit from your play project?

a) How many individual children will benefit? _____

b) How old are the children? _____

5 a) Please give a summary of exactly how your play project developed?

b) What positive difference has it/will it achieve for the children?