

Leeds City Council

arts@leeds bulletin Issue 2

Dec 2008

Hello and welcome to the second edition of the **arts@leeds** newsletter!

The newsletter will be published quarterly to bring you news about the Arts & Regeneration Unit, our funded clients and other useful information from Leeds City Council and beyond.

In this edition we will update you about the Arts & Regeneration Unit's forthcoming activities and provide you with information, opportunities and key dates with the aim of supporting your organisations, opening up communication and sharing knowledge. More information about the Arts & Regeneration Unit is at www.leeds.gov.uk/arts

Deadline: The next **arts@leeds** bulletin will be published in March 2009. To submit items for the Collaboration Section, email mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk by 27th Feb 2009.

1. Arts & Regeneration update

1.1 The deadline for **arts@leeds** funding applications is **January 16th 2009**. Application forms and guidelines are available to download from www.leeds.gov.uk/arts We have made some changes to the application forms, most importantly that as from next year all applicants will be required to submit an Equality and Diversity policy to be eligible for **arts@leeds** funding, and organisations working with children or vulnerable adults must submit their policies for the protection of these groups.

Further information from Mags McLeary mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk 0113 395 0678

1.2 Holocaust Memorial Day

On Sunday 1st February 2009 at 2pm, Leeds Town Hall will host its annual Holocaust Memorial Day Commemorative Event. This year's theme is 'Stand Up To Hatred'. Holocaust Memorial Day (HMD) is the international day of remembrance for the victims of the Holocaust and of other genocides.

The HMD Civic Commemorative Event is hosted by the Lord Mayor of Leeds with spoken tributes from Dr Steven Smith, Holocaust Centre Director and various community and faith groups. The Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah will work with young people from Roundhay School Technology College to perform a short piece inspired by the story of Ruby Bridges and her parents' courage to stand up to hatred. Artwork contributed by local schools will feature at the event, along with live music.

For more information, please contact Tanja Geier Thomson on 0113 247 5948 or tanja.thomson@leeds.gov.uk

1.3 Culture Bazaar

Culture Bazaar is back on Sunday 15th March, 11-5pm at The Carriageworks theatre. This free family event celebrates the diversity of the Leeds South Asian community through art. As well as a showcase of performances, which will be the result of workshops in local community centres, there will be workshops on the day, food tasting and an exhibition to celebrate everyday life in the South Asian community. Culture Bazaar is delivered in partnership with South Asian Arts UK (SAA-uk), the Arts and Regeneration Unit and Renaissance Yorkshire. For more information please contact Tanja Geier Thomson on 0113 247 5948 or

tanja.thomson@leeds.gov.uk

1.4 Youth Music Mentoring Scheme

The Arts and Regeneration Unit will continue to work with local partners to deliver a Youth Music funded scheme for young people, aiming to improve opportunities for young people in challenging circumstances through music-based mentoring. Programme objectives include the delivery of high quality music based mentoring provision as well as to provide high quality music making experiences.

For more information please contact Tanja Geier Thomson on 0113 247 5948 or tanja.thomson@leeds.gov.uk

1.5 Bright Young Things 2009

The annual musical showcase for Leeds based bands or solo artists aged 25 or under will be re-launched in January 2009. BYT will offer more educational opportunities and will target talented musicians who have not yet had the opportunity to shine.

For more information please contact Tanja Geier Thomson on 0113 247 5948 or tanja.thomson@leeds.gov.uk or visit www.leeds.gov.uk/byt from January 2009.

1.6 Breeze International Youth Festival (BIYF)

2009 Festival dates announced: Monday 22 June - Friday 3 July

Planning has already started for this year's festival and we are really excited here at Breeze Headquarters! The festival gives young people a chance to celebrate their city and marks their gateway to the summer. By giving them a chance to try a new artform in Art, Film, Dance, Music and Drama it develops their skills and aspirations. Leeds is also proud to host over 150 International Guests during the festival period which enriches our culture and opportunities.

Keep updated at: <http://www.breezeleeds.org/iyf.ikml>

1.7 breezereads

A project set up by Breeze International Youth Festival and Leeds Youth Libraries in response to the National Year of Reading 2008, breezereads has hosted some fantastic author signings and workshops. Recently we have had sell out events for Michael Morpurgo, Darren Shan and supported the Thought Bubble's Comic Festival.

We have also introduced breezereads' very own category for the Leeds Book Awards, aimed at 14-16yr olds. Log on to: <http://www.breezeleeds.org/breezereads.ikml>

1.8 Crime and Punishment

Since September, Crime and Punishment has been a key partner in an innovative learning programme with the White Rose Learning Centre and the Grand Theatre.

For 10 weeks, Year 6 pupils from Ingram Road Primary School have been taking part in an after school project named "Hidden Leeds" and have visited Leeds Town Hall and the Grand Theatre. The project ended with a fantastic presentation evening, where the children were able to display their knowledge through the use of Powerpoint and in a performance featuring some of the people from the Town Hall and Grand Theatre's past and present.

For more information about Crime and Punishment, please contact jane.zanzottera@leeds.gov.uk

For more information about the developing learning and interpretation programme at the Grand Theatre please contact Rachel Moyise, Heritage Learning Officer rachel.moyise@leedsgrandtheatre.com or 0113 245 6014

2. Collaboration section

2.1 Board development planning – arts@leeds support

Does your organisation struggle to find new board members? Do you find it difficult to retain board members? Are you looking for help with board induction? If any of these issues apply to your organisation, please get in touch with the Arts Development team as we would like to offer an opportunity for information sharing and support. Contact Mags McLeary with your suggestions and comments on 0113 395 0678 or mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk

2.2 National Association of Local Government Arts Officers (nalgao) meeting in Leeds

The next regional nalgao meeting will be held at the Carriageworks theatre in Leeds on Thursday 5th March. If you've ever wanted to find out more about local government arts policy, or to discover what local authority arts officers actually do, now is your chance! This is not an open meeting, but arts officers from the region have agreed to invite an artist/arts organisation to attend to hear about and contribute to the issues under discussion. Please send your expression of interest to Mags McLeary mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk

2.3 I Love West Leeds Festival – call for proposals

Organised by Interplay the previous four year's festivals have seen West Leeds brought to life with amongst other things...outdoor projections, new writing commissions, drive-in movies, inflatable pigs and 2500 pairs of underpants. One of the regular features of the festival is Shedopolis, 15 garden sheds animated by 15 different artists. Previous sheds have included a tea shed, jungle shed, hotel shed and Buddhist temple shed. This is a call for shed proposals for 2009. If you have an idea for a shed you would like to be considered please contact Festival Director Jane Earnshaw festival@interplayleeds.co.uk

2.4 Interplay seeks artists to work in an advisory capacity and as Board Members.

Interplay is currently looking for individuals with an artistic background who can bring new skills, new knowledge, practical support and new energy into the organisation. A wide range of artistic experience is sought to act as a regular 'sounding board' to the Artistic Director (meetings approximately four times a year). The meetings will be both strategic and look at specific projects and there will be an emphasis on new technology and its potential within the organisation.

Artistic representation on the Board is also key to Interplay's future direction and the Company seeks individuals with artistic experience who would be interested in participating in informed strategic discussion and helping to guide the vision for the future.

To find out more contact Steve Byrne (Artistic Director) or Dawn Fuller (Manager) at Interplay, Armley Ridge Road, Armley, Leeds LS12 3LE or telephone 0113 263 8556, email info@interplayleeds.co.uk or visit the website at www.interplayleeds.co.uk

3. Leeds City Council update

3.1 Find Your Talent: Update

Find Your Talent implementation has been delayed slightly due to the issuing of the budgets. However, we have not been inactive. Following the initial meeting of the arts partners, we have been working to deliver one of their requirements - an electronic platform for networking, sharing information about activities and feeding the young people's website Breezeleeds. A number of people have helped advise in more detail on what is wanted and a first build of the platform has been delivered and was demonstrated at the second arts partners meeting on 4th December. Following this, further work will be done on the platform to build in suggestions, ideas and observations made at the meeting. The aim is to go live in the New Year with phase 1. There will then be an opportunity to develop the platform further over the life of the project. Details about how to register below.

Work has also started on Breezeleeds itself giving it a major upgrade. All 103,000 Breezecard holders will receive a calendar after Christmas which celebrates the Arts and Culture throughout the year. It signposts young people to Breezeleeds where a section is being created for each artform. Obviously we will be in touch for information for the section related to your artform.

Interviews are at last taking place for the four key FYT posts and once the team has been assembled we will let you know. Finally we have begun exploring the needs of Looked After Children to develop a programme focussed on them. This will build on the exciting work that is happening with the young finalists of Leeds Has Talent. Where a coaching scheme has begun a number of people have volunteered to help these talented self-motivated young people develop their talent.

Further information from Catherine Blanshard catherine.blanshard@leeds.gov.uk or Paul Kaiserman paul.kaiserman@educationleeds.co.uk

Find Your Talent: Electronic Professional Platform

A web-based networking and event planning tool has been developed for all professionals delivering projects and events in Leeds. It allows organisations to communicate more effectively, find partners and practitioners to work with, and offers a date clash diary for event planning. It is twinned with the Breeze website to allow information to be publicised through Breeze for young people to access events and activities suitable for them, however the platform is available to all no matter of the target audience.

It is important all organisations and people add their information to the database to be found by others and to gain access to the password protected site. To register go to <http://management.breezeleeds.org/register> - **please note the website will be live from 19th December.**

Further information about the electronic platform from Rosie Wilks rosie.wilks@leeds.gov.uk or 0113 224 3945

3.2 **fuseleeds** is about discovering new music, whether that's jazz, world, classical, electronica or the many points in between and will happen from 25 April - 2 May 2009 at a variety of venues throughout the city. With several new festival commissions and eight days and nights of performances, fuseleeds09 will present some of the most intriguing and rewarding live experiences in new music.

Further information from Gail Cooke gail.cooke@leeds.gov.uk or 0113 247 8332 or see the website at www.fuseleeds.com

3.3 The Council's Inner South Area Committee has approved £42,000 for **I Love South Leeds Festival 2009** and are currently looking for organisations / individuals to run festival activities aimed at young people. For further details, contact Sarah May on 0113 395 1306 sarah.may@leeds.gov.uk

3.4 Grants to help with Business Rates

Any organisation that occupies a property, or part of a property, in their own right is likely to be liable to pay Business Rates. There are a number of reliefs available which can substantially reduce their liability. These include **Discretionary Rate Relief**, **Charitable Rate Relief** and **Small Business Rate Relief**.

For more information contact: The Business Rates Section, Revenues Service, P O Box 60, 2 Great George Street, Leeds LS2 8JR 0113 247 6983 business.rates@leeds.gov.uk

3.5 Volunteer artists and / or poets from Leeds wanted to represent the city and the UK in an international project in the lead-up to the 2010 World Cup in South Africa

“Dialogue among Civilisations” forms the basis for a new initiative by Art for Humanity, an organisation which is based at Durban University of Technology in Leeds’ partner city of Durban in South Africa. The aim is to inspire the viewer with ‘moral ownership’ - through engaging with the creative works, for the public to internalise the values espoused by the art and poetry. These values include creativity, freedom of expression, human rights, excellence, dignity, pride, inspiration, reflection, cultural heritage as well as respect for individual rights and independence.

The ultimate objective is to elicit and challenge the South African public’s views on xenophobia, racism, refugees and foreign visitors in and to South Africa.

The art and poetry resulting from the project will be exhibited in public spaces throughout South Africa in the form of billboards, banners, exhibitions and posters. It will also be used in schools in Leeds which are partnered with schools in Durban, as a resource to reinforce the international dimension to the curriculum and cross-cultural dialogue and exchange.

A small fee is payable to volunteer artists or poets contributing to the project to cover their material expenses.

If you are a Leeds based artist or volunteer interested in producing work for this exciting international project, you should contact Jan Jordaan from Durban University of Technology’s Fine Art Department, email janj@dut.ac.za by **Tuesday 6 January**.

For further information on the project, please contact Karen Murgatroyd in Leeds City Council’s International Relations Office on 0113 247 4345 or karen.murgatroyd@leeds.gov.uk

4. Featured organisation: Leeds Arts Partnership

Each newsletter we will highlight the work of one cultural organisation in Leeds.

Leeds Arts Partnership was set up by the Leeds Initiative – the city’s local strategic partnership - in 2000. It meets quarterly to exchange information about issues of importance and interest to the sector, and to act as an advocate on issues affecting people working in the arts in Leeds to policymakers, to Leeds City Council and to a range of institutions in the city across the public, private and voluntary sectors.

The Arts Partnership assisted with the establishment of Leeds Cultural Partnership in 2002 – the city’s strategy group for taking forward and championing the city’s cultural aims and ambitions. The Arts Partnership steered and championed the creative industries baseline research for the city carried out in 2003 and again in 2005. More recently, its members assisted with early bid development for the City Council’s Find Your Talent national pathfinder project. Leeds Arts has members serving on the City Council’s Public Art Advisory Group and the Leeds 2012 Cultural Task Group.

New applications to join the Arts Partnership are welcomed. Quarterly meeting dates have been organised for 2009. Interested individuals and organisations are invited to submit their contact details, briefly stating their reasons for wishing to join the Partnership. Our priority is to recruit members with skills, experience, influence and knowledge and a willingness to use those skills for the benefit of the sector.

Further information from Dinah Clark 0113 395 0099 dinah.clark@leeds.gov.uk or see the website www.leedsinitiative.org.uk

The **arts@leeds** newsletter will feature a regular update from the Leeds Arts Partnership.

5. Useful information

5.1 Council email policy

After not receiving emails that one of our funded organisations sent us, we enquired with the Leeds City Council IT team why that may be. We were told that it is a council policy not to deliver emails with a reference to YouTube and Facebook in the signature of the sender. So, if you have those words (and possibly also Myspace) in your email signature, please delete them when emailing the Council to ensure messages aren’t stopped by the spam blocker.

Arts & Regeneration team @ December 08:

Jon Price, Principal Arts Officer jon.price@leeds.gov.uk 0113 224 3624

Mags McLeary, Senior Arts Development Officer mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk 0113 395 0678

Jen Rhodes (formerly Hahn), Arts Development Officer jennifer.rhodes@leeds.gov.uk 0113 247 6419
Tanja Thomson, Senior Arts Project Officer tanja.thomson@leeds.gov.uk 0113 247 5948
James Hill, Senior Arts Project Officer james.hill@leeds.gov.uk 0113 247 8234
Charlene Morgan, Assistant Arts & Regeneration Officer charlene.morgan@leeds.gov.uk 0113 247 6457
Jane Zanzottera (formerly Scroggie), Heritage Learning Officer (Crime & Punishment)
jane.zanzottera@leeds.gov.uk 0113 395 2309
Helen Robinson, Arts & Communications Officer helen.robinson@leeds.gov.uk 0113 395 2816
Ann Wishart, Senior Breeze Officer ann.wishart@leeds.gov.uk 0113 247 8049
Vicki Smith, Breeze Officer victoria.smith@leeds.gov.uk 0113 224 3523

Feedback/unsubscribe: please let us know what you think of the newsletter or if you'd prefer not to receive it. Send your comments to mags.mcleary@leeds.gov.uk

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