

## Arts and Regeneration Annual Report 10-11

The Arts and Regeneration team champions culture through supporting artistic excellence, generating partnership working and providing participatory cultural opportunities for the people of Leeds.

**- April 2010** arts@leeds distributed over £2.5m of grant aid to 73 organisations delivering cultural projects in Leeds.

**- June 2010 Breeze International Youth Festival** 25th – 28th June. BIYF aims to help young people attend, participate in and contribute to creative activity in Leeds and beyond, through encouraging and celebrating achievement.

Over 200 young people aged 13-19 from 27 different groups performed to almost 3,000 audience members at 4 venues as part of our 4 performance platforms over 9 days. We also held 1 film screening and offered free entry for the festival weekend for Breezecard holders to 9 museums and art galleries in Leeds. 36 young people took their Bronze Arts Award, we collected 331 audience and performer feedback forms and now have 110 friends on our BIYF Facebook page. There were 25,000 hits to the Breeze website during the month of June.



*'Enthusiastic and engaging performance'*

**Lights, Camera, Showcase!** was a display of local talent entirely produced, staged and promoted by 17 year 10 pupils at **Rodillian High School**. They arranged for 6 groups to perform to a capacity audience of over 80 people.

Our huge outdoor stage **BIYF LIVE! on Briggate** hosted 6 hours of music and dance, with 8 groups to an audience throughout the day of over 2,000 people.

**BIYF LIVE! at the Carriageworks** showcased 5 groups that had each created a new piece specifically for the festival. Throughout the festival, BIYF hosted **Infozones** to signpost young people to year round arts activities in Leeds.

**- Oct 2010 Light Night** 8th Oct. Light Night aims to deliver an annual multi-artform festival across multiple venues happening on one evening in Leeds city centre, growing new audiences and increasing access to culture, as well as supporting artists and arts organisations to collaborate and show new work. Light Night 2010 consisted of 117 events, involving 1,015 artists, in 52 indoor venues and 26 other sites.



Across the city, the events recorded **combined visits of 155,000** people. According to visitor feedback most people visited around 8 events which means that there were **19,000 people** out for the event.

**Light Night activities included...**100 cardboard gramophones lining Thornton's Arcade and a giant cardboard stork in the Tiled Hall, 1000 glowing origami cranes in the old prison corridors below Leeds Town Hall, a huge glowing ram created by artists from Pyramid of Arts, the work of all the major arts organisations alongside the work of students and individuals, emerging artists and Northern Art Prize shortlistees

Historic buildings like the Corn Exchange and Kirkgate Markets were used for the first time, as well as the use of several vacant shop units, knitted hats and scarves on statues throughout the city, student films projected on the Parkinson Building and much, much more.

*'Relaxed, non-judgemental artistic atmosphere in the city centre'*

**- Nov 2010** arts@leeds met **24 arts organisations** at arts@leeds funding surgeries and seminars

**- Jan 2011 Youth Music Voices** 8th Jan **120 young people** auditioned for the national Cultural Olympiad youth choir at Leeds Town Hall

**- Jan 2011** arts@leeds received and processed **81 applications** for grant aid worth over £2.5m

**- Jan 2011 Holocaust Memorial Day** 30th Jan HMD is a national event to remember victims and those whose lives have been changed beyond recognition by the Holocaust, Nazi persecution and subsequent genocides in other countries.



2011's HMD included of a performance by 12 young people from the Carriageworks Theatre Academy, working with Theatre Company Blah Blah Blah, based on the story of survivor Eugene Black. Music was especially written for the event by Curtis Johns from the David Young Community Academy. There were speeches from the Lord Mayor and keynote speaker Mike Love from Together 4 Peace, contributions from survivors Eugene Black and Rudi Leavor.

Makor Youth Group gave a description of their trip to prison camps in Poland and Quarry Mount Primary School provided a visual art installation based on the work of artist Felix Nussbaum. Over 400 people attended the event.

*'Gets better every year, keep up the good work, involvement of children essential.'*

**- Feb 2011 Youth Music Voices** 20th Feb 75 young people attended second stage auditions for the Cultural Olympiad youth choir at Leeds Town Hall.

**- Mar 2011 Leeds Town Hall exhibitions** The aim of the exhibitions was to showcase the Town Hall as a contemporary art space and increase the number of people who come and use the building. The Postcard Project was designed as a participatory arts project which could involve people of all ages and backgrounds, culminating in an exhibition in the Town Hall.



The Postcard Project was put on display alongside 'Prepare to Cheer', a commission by artist Amelia Crouch, and 'Inside Out', a series of photographs by David Lindsay. 40 people from 4 community groups took part in workshops with a visual artist and a poet. Over 200 postcards have been returned so far and have been recorded on Flickr. 80 people attended the exhibition launch on 10th March; postcards have been filled out by people aged from 4-85.

## **Year-round work:**

**- Youth Music Mentoring 2010-11** Arts and Regeneration was part of Youth Music's two year national programme for Youth Music Mentors. During this period, the team worked with local organisations Cloth Cat Studios, Hunslet Club, Lifeforce and Old Chapel Studios working with hard to reach and NEET young people aged 11 - 20 across Leeds. The project offered the opportunity for 57 young people to participate in the scheme which delivered mentoring through music. The participants attended over 600 mentoring sessions and all performed at one of the 4 showcasing events. The legacy from the project included Solid Starz, from the 2011 Lifeforce cohort, performing at Breeze International Youth Festival 2011 on Briggate.

**- Art In Unusual Spaces 2010-11** Art In Unusual Spaces was inaugurated as a partnership project between the Arts and Regeneration team, property owners, curators and artists in Leeds between December 2009 and December 2010. In that period it was funded by the remainder of an Arts Council Grant and contributions from a DCLG grant to tidy up vacant high street properties, administered by the City Centre Leeds team. All space was provided, for free, as in-kind support by the project, by property owners across the city centre.

In that period of time AIUS held 53 events, showcasing the work of 521 artists. Audience numbers (estimated, but based on footfall figures from City Centre Leeds and property owners) were around 170,000. Across the 12 month period, there were approximately 1,500 days exhibition time provided for free, for Leeds artists. At the end of the funding period, Art In Unusual Spaces was set up as an

independent Community Interest Company which continues to provide and explore new spaces for events in the city.

**- Town Hall tours**

Public tours of Leeds Town Hall, 4 per month with approximately 25 attendees per tour, plus additional tours from groups on request.

**- Partnerships/other work**

Leeds Canvas

Supported 2 interns from Leeds Art College Summer 2010

Supported Future Jobs worker Jan-July 2011

Investigating potential new spaces for events and projects including Holbeck Arches

Development of new grant scheme to support Cultural Olympiad events in 2012

**4 newsletters** per year to a mailing list of over **500 people**; **1,500** A&R Twitter followers, **950** Light Night Twitter followers and **200** BIYF facebook followers.