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The Art of Devolution: Culture and the North

14 June 2016

Old Granada Studios, Manchester

The Art of Devolution: Culture and the North

This half-day conference on cultural place-making looks at the implications of devolution, rebalancing and the Northern Powerhouse for the arts and cultural ecologies of the North.

The conference also launches a public policy and research exchange network.

The network will explore the implications of devolution for the arts, creative and heritage sectors across the North and examine how the continuing importance of arts and culture to health, social care and wellbeing, social justice, community participation, cultural democracy and economic development is recognised in changing policy structures, new partnerships and investment.

This event is organised by Cultural Engagement in the School of Arts, Languages and Cultures and the Faculty of Humanities at The University of Manchester. It is part of a programme of DevoManc activities led by Policy@Manchester and Cities@Manchester and forms a key strategic part of the Faculty's social responsibility agenda.

Further information:

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Abigail.gilmore@manchester.ac.uk

www.cities.manchester.ac.uk/impact-and-engagement/devo-manc-hub

blog.policy.manchester.ac.uk/category/devo

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#DevoCulture

Running order

12.00 - 13.00	Registration and networking lunch
13.00	Welcome <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fiona Gasper, Executive Director, Manchester International Festival
13.15 - 13.35	Keynote – The future for Manchester's arts and culture: the challenges for cultural partners and partnerships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maria Balshaw, Director of the Whitworth, The University of Manchester and Manchester City Galleries; Director for Culture, Manchester City Council
13.45 - 14.45	Panel 1 – How best to invest in Northern arts and culture followed by Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> James Thompson, Professor of Applied and Social Theatre and Associate Vice President for Social Responsibility, The University of Manchester (Chair) Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England Dinah Caine, Chair, Creative Skillset Sara Hilton, Head of Heritage Lottery Fund, North West Caroline Julian, Deputy Director, Policy and Strategy, ResPublica
14.45 - 15.15	Refreshment break
15.15 - 15.45	Case study presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Esme Ward presenting 'Not so Grim up North' Simon Ruding presenting 'Theatre in Prisons and Probation (TiPP)' Jenny Hughes presenting 'Poor Theatres'
15.45 - 16.45	Panel 2 – Hearing from the wondrous places of the North – devo deals and plans for culture followed by Q&A <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Francesca Gains, Head of Politics, The University of Manchester (Chair) Beatriz Garcia, Head of Research, Institute of Cultural Capital, University of Liverpool Patricia Stead, Chair, What Next? Newcastle Gateshead Martin Green, CEO and Director, Hull UK City of Culture 2017 Annie O'Neill, Museum and Gallery Development Manager, Gallery Oldham, Greater Manchester
16.45	Closing remarks and performance by Manchester Left Writers
17.00 - 18.00	Beer and cheese networking reception

Speakers

Fiona Gasper MBE

Executive Director,
Manchester International
Festival

www.mif.co.uk



Appointed to the role of Executive Director of Manchester International Festival in March 2016, Fiona Gasper was previously Executive Director for the Royal Exchange Theatre in Manchester from 2010 to 2016. During her time there helped lead the Theatre in a bold new direction, focusing on new work and opportunities for emerging theatre practitioners and artists.

Previous roles have included Executive Producer of Liverpool's 2008 European Capital of Culture programme (2004-2009) and Executive Director for Contact, Manchester. Fiona has worked in the cultural sector around the UK for the past 30 years in a range of full time roles and as a freelance producer and consultant. Organisations she has been involved with cover all arts forms, scales and types and include West Yorkshire Playhouse, Contact Theatre, English National Opera, Youth Music, Manchester City Council, LARC, RSC, Walk the Plank, GMMAZ, More Music, Whalley Range All Stars, CAN, Watford Palace Theatre and Nottingham Playhouse.

Fiona is a board member for: XTRAX (producers and enablers of innovative outdoor work from UK and international artists.), and IF Milton Keynes (a biannual multi-arts festival of extraordinary events in unusual places and public spaces).

Fiona was awarded an MBE for services to the arts in June 2009.

Dr Maria Balshaw CBE

Director of the Whitworth,
The University of Manchester
and Manchester City Galleries
Director of Culture, Manchester
City Council



www.whitworth.manchester.ac.uk

Maria Balshaw is Director of the Whitworth, part of The University of Manchester, and the Manchester City Galleries.

As Director of these two major institutions, holding internationally important collections of fine and decorative art of more than 80,000 objects, she is responsible for the artistic and strategic vision for each gallery. An academic by training she has worked as a Director within the cultural sector for the past 10 years. Alongside her role as Director of Manchester City Galleries and the Whitworth Maria has recently taken on the role of Director of Culture for Manchester City Council. In April 2014 the Secretary of State for Culture, Media & Sport appointed Maria as a board member of Arts Council England. The appointment is for a term of 4 years, from April 2014 to March 2018.

Maria was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours for services to the arts in June 2015.

Professor James Thompson

Associate Vice President
for Social Responsibility and
Professor of Applied and Social
Theatre, The University of Manchester



[www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/
social-responsibility](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/discover/social-responsibility)

James Thompson is Associate Vice President for Social Responsibility and Professor of Applied and Social Theatre at the University of Manchester. He leads the University's social responsibility goal which includes how the university orientates its research, teaching/learning, community engagement, and processes to making a positive social, environmental and cultural impact on society. He is also the Founder and Co-Director of *In Place of War* – a project researching and developing arts programs in war and disaster zones. He has developed and run theatre projects in Africa and South Asia (principally DR Congo and Sri Lanka). He has written widely on theatre applied to conflict, peacebuilding, and reconciliation and his most recent books are *Performance Affects: Applied Theatre and the End of Effect* (2009) and *Humanitarian Performance: from Disaster Tragedies to Spectacles of War* (2014).

Darren Henley

Chief Executive,
Arts Council England

www.artscouncil.org.uk



Darren Henley has been Chief Executive of Arts Council England since April 2015. He previously spent twenty-five years working in radio, leading Classic FM for fifteen years, first as Managing Editor and then as Managing Director. He was appointed an OBE in 2013 for services to music.

Darren has chaired or sat on a range of government advisory boards in the area of cultural education. His two independent government reviews into music education (2011) and cultural education (2012) resulted in the creation of England's first National Plan for Music Education, new networks of Music Education Hubs and Heritage Schools, the Museums and Schools programme, the BFI Film Academy and the National Youth Dance Company.

He is the author or co-author of twenty-nine books, including *The Virtuous Circle: Why Creativity and Cultural Education Count* which argues that everyone has the right to an excellent cultural education.

Speakers

Dinah Caine CBE

Chair, Creative Skillset

www.creativeskillset.org

Dinah Caine is currently the Chair of Creative Skillset after twenty three years as its Chief Executive. She is a member of the Creative Industries Council (CIC) and chairs the sub-group on Education and Skills. She sits on the Board of the Federation for Industry Sector Skills & Standards and is a member of the Skills Commission.

Dinah served as a Commissioner on the Warwick Commission inquiry into the Future of Cultural Value. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Television Society for her outstanding contribution to the Television Industry in 2002.

Dinah was awarded the OBE for her services to the Media Industries in the Queen's Golden Jubilee Honours List in 2002, and was awarded the CBE for her services to the Creative Industries in the Queen's Birthday Honours List in 2013.



Sara Hilton

Head of Heritage Lottery Fund,
North West

www.hlf.org.uk

Sara Hilton joined the Heritage Lottery Fund in January 2008 after a wide-ranging career which included television production, museum and exhibition design and project management.

Prior to the HLF, Sara worked at National Museums Liverpool as Director of Projects, where she was responsible for the delivery of visitor-led developments across NML's eight venues. She managed the fit out of the £45m Into the Future project which included a major redevelopment of World Museum Liverpool and new galleries at the Walker Art Gallery. She also oversaw the successful completion of the International Slavery Museum.

Sara is one of the founder members of the Capital Projects Network, sharing best practise across the sector. She lectures on museum management, interpretation, exhibition design and project management.

Sara is leaving HLF in September 2016 to work as an independent consultant.



Caroline Julian

Deputy Director,
Policy and Strategy, ResPublica

www.respublica.org.uk

Caroline Julian is Deputy Director, Policy and Strategy at ResPublica. Since joining the organisation shortly after the 2010 General Election, Caroline has led ResPublica's activity on energy, housing and planning, faith and the constitution, and public service reform, and has written and spoken widely on these topics, both in the UK and abroad.

Caroline co-authored the ResPublica 2015 report, *A Community Right to Beauty: Giving communities the power to shape, enhance and create beautiful places*, which was described as "seminal" by Rt Hon Oliver Letwin MP and attracted significant support from across the environmental, development, architectural, heritage and community sectors.



Professor Francesca Gains

Head of Politics,
The University of Manchester

[www.manchester.ac.uk/
research/Francesca.gains](http://www.manchester.ac.uk/research/Francesca.gains)

Francesca Gains is a Professor of Public Policy. Before becoming an academic she worked in local government & the probation service. Francesca has worked on a number of government funded research projects including a five year evaluation of constitutional reform in English local government, the introduction of health scrutiny for the Centre for Public Scrutiny, research for the Standards Board for England, the Lyons Inquiry into Local Government and the Roberts Commission on the Role of Councillors. Her current research examines new arrangements to support Police and Crime Commissioners. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences.



Speakers

Dr Beatriz Garcia

Head of Research,
Institute of Cultural Capital,
University of Liverpool

www.iccliverpool.ac.uk

www.beatrizgarcia.net



Beatriz has been at the forefront of debates around the rhetoric and impact of culture-led city regeneration interventions since 1999. Major research include a review of all available evidence on the first three decades of the European Capital of Culture programme (ECoC); the pioneering Impacts 08 programme, a longitudinal 10-year study on the socio-economic and cultural impacts of Liverpool 2008 ECoC; the first nation-wide legacy assessment of a Cultural Olympiad, focusing on the London 2012 Olympic Games; and the first comprehensive study of the 20-year legacy of bidding and hosting an ECoC, focusing on Glasgow 1990. Beatriz is a member of the IOC Culture & Olympic Heritage Commission and has been funded by Research Councils UK, British Academy, Arts Council England, English Heritage, European Parliament, European Commission and International Olympic Committee (IOC). In 2016, Beatriz has been granted academic observer status to study the first IOC-led Cultural Action Plan during the Rio 2016 Games and assess its capacity to drive transnational cultural leadership.

Patricia Stead

Chair, What Next?
Newcastle Gateshead
Creative Producer, Dance City

[www.whatnextculture.co.uk/
chapters/newcastle-gateshead](http://www.whatnextculture.co.uk/chapters/newcastle-gateshead)

www.dancecity.co.uk



Patricia Stead is currently Creative Producer for Dance City, the national dance agency based in Newcastle. She is course leader for Dance Management on the BA (Hons) Dance Professional Practice delivered in partnership with Gateshead College and Chair of What Next? Newcastle Gateshead.

Patricia previously held both regional and national Director positions at Arts Council England, leading Planning and Performance Management, Stakeholder Partnerships and External Relations.

Other positions include 10 years as Head of Culture in Hammersmith and Fulham, Regional Director for Artswork South, the youth arts development agency and Festival Manager and contemporary dance programmer for Mayfest (Glasgow's International Festival).

A graduate of Glasgow University with a Master of Arts Degree, Patricia started her career as an Arts Officer managing a contemporary visual arts and crafts centre in West Australia. She later spent 18 months working in PR, press and producing within the contemporary dance sector in Paris.

Martin Green

CEO & Director,
Hull UK City of Culture 2017

www.hull2017.co.uk



Prior to taking up his latest post as Chief Executive of Hull's Culture Company, Martin Green masterminded some of Britain's significant artistic events including the opening of The 02; the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic torch relays, the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Opening and Closing Ceremonies and the Opening Ceremony of the 2014 Tour de France Grand Départ in Leeds. Such success has earned Martin an international reputation. As Director of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 Martin is planning 365 days of transformative culture as Hull hosts the nations cultural quadrennial. Martin is an inaugural member of the Circle of Cultural Fellows at King's College London and sits on the Board of The Space, the digital commissioning and development organisation, founded by the BBC and Arts Council England.

Annie O'Neill

Arts & Heritage Manager,
Gallery Oldham
(Oldham Council),
Greater Manchester

www.galleryoldham.org.uk



Annie O'Neill has worked within the cultural sector for 20 years, working with local authorities, arts organisations, museums and galleries. A Senior Manager with Oldham Council, where she has worked for the last thirteen years, Annie is currently responsible for Gallery Oldham, heritage services, local studies & archives, arts development and Oldham Theatre Workshop.

As Chair of Greater Manchester Strategic Arts Network 2006-8 and 2010-11,

Annie was an advocate for arts development and cross-boundary working locally, regionally and nationally and remains an active member of Greater Manchester Arts and the Greater Manchester Museums Group.

She completed the Clore Fellowship Programme 2008-9 where she was 'England's Northwest Fellow' sponsored by North West Development Agency.

Case studies

Not so Grim up North

Not So Grim Up North (2015-2018) is a research project funded by Arts Council England. Researchers at University College London are working with The Whitworth, Manchester Museum and Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums to investigate the health and wellbeing impacts of museum activities for people living with dementia, stroke survivors, and mental health and addiction recovery service-users, in partnership with the NHS and third sector organisations in Greater Manchester and Tyne & Wear.

Indeed it's not grim up north: there is a vibrant arts and cultural scene, and we are interested in how this can contribute to the health and wellbeing of people in these regions. The research is based on a mixed-methods approach: we will collect qualitative data through interviews and quantitative data to measure change in relation to specific health and wellbeing outcomes.

Further information:
www.healthandculture.org.uk/not-so-grim-up-north

Contact: Dr Nuala Morse, Research Associate,
nuala.morse@manchester.ac.uk

TIPP

TIPP is a creative arts organisation that specialises in developing and delivering arts projects in Criminal Justice settings. They work closely with a range of associate and partner arts organisations, artists and agencies to design and develop programmes, projects and training opportunities.

Originally born out of The University of Manchester's Drama Department in 1992, TIPP has gained a considerable reputation for developing and delivering a broad range of high

quality participatory arts projects with vulnerable, marginalised and at risk groups. TIPP is an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and is the only arts organisation in England to have been awarded ArtsMark status in recognition of the high quality arts and cultural education they provide in youth justice settings.

Simon Ruding has been Director of TIPP since 1999. Previously he was Director of the internationally renowned Geese Theatre Company (UK).

Further information:
www.tipp.org.uk

Contact: Simon Ruding, Director,
simon@tipp.org.uk

Poor Theatres

A critical examination of theatre, performance and economic precarity.

This research explores the relationship between theatre, performance and poverty. It takes a historical perspective, and it also engages with contemporary theatre practitioners who are working with economically precarious communities. A website has been developed which provides a platform for learning more about theatre projects that are embedded in social welfare or economic development initiatives, and theatre practice that deals with issues of economic security or economic justice.

Further information:
www.manchester.ac.uk/poortheatres

Contact: Dr Jenny Hughes,
Senior Lecturer in Drama,
jenny.hughes@manchester.ac.uk

 [@jennyhughes99](https://twitter.com/@jennyhughes99)

Performance

Manchester Left Writers

Founded in 2014 Manchester Left Writers (MLW) have published political broadsides, a set of poem-conversations, and many articles in journals. In May 2015 they organised a Launchpad exhibition, The Powerhouse Liberation Movement, at Castlefield Gallery, Manchester, which included live performances and a booklet, A Thin Vale. MLW's first live multimedia presentation was part of Manchester Literature Festival in 2015 when, in collaboration with the North West Film Archive, MLW performed poems with archive films in unique re-edited form. MLW performances feature a core group of writers: Bob Dickinson, Steve Hanson, Natalie Bradbury and David Wilkinson.

Further information:
manchesterleftwriters.wordpress.com

Contact: Bob Dickinson,
bob.dickinson@bbc.co.uk

 [@MancLeftWriters](https://twitter.com/@MancLeftWriters)

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