



Culturing Connections

Culturing Connections November 2008

www.culturewm.org.uk

A Passion for Excellence

The majority of West Midland's Local Authorities and regional cultural agencies attended the event at Birmingham Hippodrome in October to discuss how the region should respond to the challenges and opportunities emerging from the new improvement strategy for Culture and Sport. The seminar was chaired by Olwen Dutton, Chief Executive at West Midlands LGA. Mick Elliott, Director of Culture at DCMS talked about the place of the Improvement Strategy alongside the case made in the recent McMaster report for the importance of creativity and measured risk taking in the cultural sector. Following the launch of the strategy by Martyn Allison from the IDeA, Andy Hancox, who heads up the region's Improvement and Efficiency Partnership, announced an allocation of resources in the regional improvement plan to support the Local Authority Culture and Sports sector in driving up standards.

Discussion groups identified three main areas of action where a regional approach could deliver real benefit for the sector. These were; Research and Intelligence - particularly to inform cultural contributions to LAAs, leadership development and delivering efficiencies. Phil Fellows at Sport England is now developing proposals for the development of improvement initiatives across the region. To share your ideas and for more information contact Phil at Phil.Fellows@sportengland.org

Funding Sporting Opportunities in your Community

Sport England is changing the way it distributes around £45m a year of National Lottery funding after a public consultation showed widespread support for proposals. Over 500 individuals and organisations took part in the consultation and more than 90% of them responded positively to the plans. The responses will help Sport England to develop the detail of the four new funding streams outlined in the consultation. These are; regular themed funding rounds that meet specific needs of community sport; a programme of sustainable investment in facilities; a small grants scheme; and an innovation fund to identify and pilot best practice in community sport. Sport England will be publishing full details of the application processes and award eligibility criteria for these new programmes at the start of 2009.

www.sportengland.org/public_lottery_consultation_findings_report.pdf

Our Place

Our Place is an online space for people who work in broadening access to heritage where you can network with peers, share and be inspired by project case studies, and discuss the challenges facing you today. It also contains news, resources and links – everything you need to know about engaging communities with heritage.

Further information from: www.ourplacenetwork.org.uk

Taking Part: Headline findings from the child survey 2007

The Taking Part survey collects data about engagement and non-engagement in culture, leisure and sport and includes a child interview for those households containing at least one child aged 11 to 15. In 2007, 2,454 interviews were conducted with children in this age group. Spending time with friends, watching television and listening to music were the three main activities children reported doing in their free time. Of all activities, spending time with friends, sports activities and playing computer games were given as the most enjoyable. Virtually all children had engaged in at least one form of cultural or sporting opportunity during the past 12 months.

www.info4local.gov.uk/documents/publications/988671

14 November, Birmingham: London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games- public sector seminar

RegenWM are running a morning seminar at Advantage West Midlands providing an overview of the West Midlands' plans for the London 2012 Games and, in particular, the elements the public sector needs to know. Speakers include Jim Johnson: Business Opportunities Manager for the 2012

Games, AWM, Paul Kaynes: Creative Programmer and Phil Gray: Managing Director, Commercial Doctor

http://www.regenwm.org/events/event_details.asp?eid=540

17 November, Birmingham. Living Well West Midlands first conference

Living Well West Midlands, a BIG Lottery funded initiative, will be holding its first Annual Conference at the Botanical Gardens in Birmingham on Monday 17 November. The conference will focus on emerging case studies from the first year of the portfolio and concentrate on the projects key themes; mental well-being, physical activity and healthy eating. The conference is open to regional leaders from the health sector including PCT's and local authorities and representatives from all of the 29 portfolio projects. Through roundtable discussions and workshops, guests will be invited to contribute their views and suggest priorities to be taken forward over the next 12 months.

www.livingwellwestmidlands.org

19 November, Wolverhampton: The Value Added by Urban Design to Development and Regeneration

This conference aims to hear the views of some key players in the development and regeneration industry, to have an informed debate and to try to pin down the economic, community-social, cultural and environmental value of good urban design. It takes place on 19 November at Wolverhampton Science Park. Speakers include Julia Ellis, Chief Executive MADE Architecture Centre and Nathan Cornish, Managing Director Urban Splash Midlands.

www.wmccce.org/event.php?id=Urban%20Design

12-13 November, Alton Towers: Institute of Sport and Recreation Management Conference 2008

This conference will explore how the culture of sport, recreation and health is developing in the UK. Attracting a high profile audience of strategic and operational managers from across the sector the conference and exhibition is being held at Alton Towers Resort, 12-13 November 2008. It is aimed at those who manage and develop sport. Leading industry suppliers will be present at the exhibition running in parallel with the conference throughout both days.

www.isrm.co.uk/news/conference.ht

10 December, Birmingham. Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) Awards 2008

The IFI is hosting an awards evening at the ICC in Birmingham, recognising the achievements of IFI Mark accredited facilities in developing inclusive physical activity for disabled people. Michael McGrath is the after dinner speaker, the only disabled person to have ever reached both the South and North poles.

For tickets call 0114 257 2060 or visit www.inclusivefitness.org/inclusive-fitness-initiative/inclusive-fitness-awards-2008/

12 November, London: Business in Sport and Leisure (BISL) Annual Conference

This year's BISL Conference takes place on 12 November 2008 at Lord's Cricket Ground. There are four main themes which cover key issues for the industry;- Is the Sport and Physical Activity Industry equipped to meet today's and Tomorrow's Health Targets? Britain and 2012: Being "Part of it" Today and Tomorrow. Keynote speakers include The Rt. Hon Andy Burnham MP, Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and Jennie Price, Chief Executive, Sport England

www.bisl.org/page/events/events

Six Book Challenge: launching now for 2009

The Six Book Challenge was launched in 2008 and encourages emergent readers to develop a reading habit through choosing, reading and expressing their views about books. It forms part of the Vital Link programme for libraries and literacy run by The Reading Agency. People are invited to read six books, and are supported by incentives and creative reading activity. The Reading Agency is offering new Six Book Challenge materials for 2009 which can be ordered through The Reading Agency's shop at www.readingagency.org.uk or www.sixbookchallenge.org.uk

Birmingham Means Everyone - BME

Audiences Central was commissioned by Arts Council England, West Midlands recently to undertake research into the attitudes and responses of Black and Minority Ethnic families around provision and access to arts and culture. Family groups attending Artsfest 2008 were interviewed as part of the research project called Birmingham Means Everyone. The interviews will be available as podcasts in order to share information about these communities, as well as being used to inform the production of a user-friendly toolkit.

Further information from: www.audiencescentral.co.uk

The World in One Region

The World in One Region is an Audiences Central research project commissioned by Arts Council England as part of the Maximise II audience development programme. The aim of the World in One Region project is to bring established and newly-settled minority ethnic communities to life, by breaking down existing communication barriers and dispelling myths. A journalist and photographer have been commissioned to explore a 'day in the life' of people in these communities who wanted to share their stories with us.

Further information from: www.theworldinoneregion.com

Big Picture Snaps Up Cultural Branding Award

Audiences Central, BBC West Midlands and Jessops received the Cultural Branding Award at the prestigious Arts and Business ceremony on 9 October for their inspiring partnership on The Big Picture arts project. Developed and delivered by Audiences Central for Arts Council England West Midlands, The Big Picture arts project aimed at attracting and sustaining new arts audiences from hard to reach areas/communities within the Midlands, by encouraging thousands of people to take, use, view and manipulate photographs.

www.audiencescentral.co.uk

Coventry Transport Museum awarded grant towards new gallery

Coventry Transport Museum is one of 31 museums and galleries in England who have received grants totalling £4 million from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Wolfson Foundation. The grants were announced in August and are intended to improve the quality of museum displays and enhance the experience for visitors. Coventry Transport Museum is already one of the most visited attractions in the Midlands welcoming over 330,000 visitors a year, and is designated as a collection of National importance. It is to receive £150,000 which it plans to use for developing its top floor galleries.

Further information: www.mlawestmidlands.org.uk/news/latestnews/index.asp?id=1542,141,47,725

Two West Midlands Parks Set For Transformation

Dartmouth Park in West Bromwich is set to be transformed thanks to a grant of £4.4million announced today by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) and Big Lottery Fund (BIG). Burslem Park in Stoke-on-Trent is also on track for a major transformation after securing a £142,000 lottery grant to back their regeneration plans. The 'Parks for People' programme has a two-stage application process. At Stage One, an organisation can apply for a development grant to contribute to the costs of developing the project for a Stage Two application. If a Stage One Pass is awarded, with or without development funding, it does not guarantee a full grant at Stage Two.

www.hlf.org.uk

Access to Nature

Access to Nature, which opened to applications in April 2008, celebrated its first grant award with a project based in the West Midlands. The successful project, which was awarded around 225,000 pounds, will encourage greater access to country parks and the wider countryside for those living in areas of high social, economic and environmental disadvantage within inner city Birmingham. There will be a specific focus on reaching younger people from Black and Ethnic Minority communities.

For further information and guidance please go to www.naturalengland.org.uk/accesstonature

Conjunction 08: Stoke-on-Trent's first Contemporary Arts Festival

Conjunction 08 is Stoke on Trent's first biennial contemporary arts festival. It opens on 8 November across the city and will run until 13 December. The festival will involve over 30 artists, including 25 new commissions by artists of international, national and regional significance. The theme is fantastic, found and false.

Further information from: www.conjunction.org.uk
