

# background

## World Culture Summit to be held in NewcastleGateshead

Over the last ten years, the North East has taken a typically tenacious and distinctive approach to the development of the arts and culture, gaining a growing momentum. Cultural investment and achievement has played a key role in building the self-confidence and ambition of a region facing massive challenges in both economic and social terms. The region can now boast major new and emerging cultural institutions, an international reputation for public art, and internationally recognised artists and cultural facilities.

## World-class cultural facilities

In 1995, Tony Blair launched the *Case for Capital*, which set out to transform the opportunities for the people of the region to experience culture through a £200 million capital investment programme. The North East region has attracted the largest investment of any region outside London. Today, the region is set to be a showcase to the world. Not only has a whole new generation of arts spaces and opportunities to take part in the arts been created, but also an important change in perception has emerged. The arts are now viewed as a catalyst for change and an important partner in major regeneration initiatives.

## Regeneration

More than £1 billion is being invested to create a cutting edge, world-class arts, leisure, residential and business destination. Gateshead Council and its partners are overseeing five major projects - three funded by the National Lottery.

## The future

There is more to come. In the near future we will see the completion of major capital projects including – DanceCity, Northern Stage, Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, Waygood Artists Studios, Seven Stories, the Centre for Children’s Books, and Live Theatre. Later this year, The Sage Gateshead will open its doors with an eclectic and vibrant programme of music. The coming years will see £100 million invested in a programme of cultural events, which will benefit the whole region. A series of international cultural conferences are confirmed and the region is poised to celebrate culture on a world stage.



## **Timeline - major arts events 1990 to present**

### **1990**

Gateshead hosts National Garden Festival.

Gateshead wins Royal Town Planning Institute Jubilee Award for public art programme.

### **1991**

Amber Films produce *Dream On* and the film wins the Le Baule Film Festival special prize for its screenplay. This marks the start of establishing the region as a significant centre for feature film production.

Northern Arts' Chief Executive Peter Stark leads a bid to host Visual Arts UK.

Middlesbrough hosts the region's first Mela.

Tyneside Cinema undergoes a major refurbishment.

### **1992**

Northern Disability Arts Forum is launched on Tyneside.

Local arts development agencies set up in every local authority.

Peter Hewitt appointed as Chief Executive of Northern Arts.

### **1993**

Louise and Jane Wilson win the Barclays Young Artist Award for the photographs of dilapidated interiors.

*Bottle of Notes* is completed for Middlesbrough Town Centre.

Major commission *Big Waving Banner Work* by Bruce McLean is placed on the derelict Baltic Flour Mills.

Théâtre sans frontières wins a Spirit of the Fringe Award with its production of *Candide*.



#### **1994**

Folkworks' *Fiddles on Fire* tour gains major funding and is taken beyond the region to culminate in a concert in London.

Live Theatre re-opened after its £350,000 refurbishment.

RIBA opens a competition on behalf of Gateshead Council to find an architect to develop the Baltic Flour Mills into a contemporary art gallery.

#### **1995**

Tony Blair MP launches Northern Arts' *Case for Capital*, a strategy for bringing £200 million Arts Capital Lottery to the region.

The sculptor Antony Gormley is selected by Gateshead Council to build a work for its Eighton Lodge site. He proposes a 60 feet tall Angel for the site. Later in the year Gormley wins the Turner Prize.

Pat Barker wins the Booker Prize for *The Ghost Road*.

#### **1996**

Year of Visual Arts – over 3,000 visual arts events across the region.

*Living at Belsay* breathes new life into the Hall, by placing contemporary art works in a traditional Victorian country house setting.

Gateshead Council won £584,000 from the Arts Council Lottery to construct the *Angel of the North*.

David Mach's *Brick Train* made from 180,000 bricks was built on the outskirts of Darlington.

The Tyne and Wear Development Corporation won over £3.5 million from the Lottery to establish a public art programme on the banks of the Tyne and the Wear – *Art on the Riverside*.

#### **1997**

Andrew Dixon appointed as Chief Executive of Northern Arts.



Thomas Heatherwick wins the competition to build the first new public square in Newcastle for over a century – *The Blue Carpet*.

BALTIC is given £33.4 million Lottery grant.

The *Angel of North* lands next to the A1.

Over 40 Studios are opened to the public during the summer as part of the Northumberland Real Arts Tour.

*The Scar* by Amber Films about the impact of pit closures in Northumberland wins the Prix Europa in Berlin and is screened on BBC2.

### **1998**

Centre for the Children's Book opened its first exhibition, *Daft as a Bucket: Inside the World of Colin McNaughton* at the Discovery Museum in Newcastle.

Northumberland Theatre Company (NTC) celebrated its 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday with tours of *The Glass Slipper* and *Get up and tie your fingers*.

Radio 1 Sound City is held in Newcastle. 110 Live performances were held across Newcastle in the city's biggest music event.

David Almond's first work *Skellig* won the 1998 Whitbread Award.

### **1999**

*Taratantara*, the Anish Kapoor installation in BALTIC, attracted thousands of people to the site.

Northern Stage wins the Barclays Theatre Award for Special Achievement in Regional Theatre.

Northern Arts launches the Cultural Business Venture, supporting over 300 cultural businesses.

The *Art on the Riverside* project built on the region's reputation for innovative public art, with the completion of a number of landmark sculptures, including Mark Di Suvero's *Tyne Anew* and Juan Munos' *Conversation Piece*.

## **2000**

Lee Hall's *Cooking with Elvis* enjoyed critical acclaim and transferred to the West End with Frank Skinner in the lead role.

Ricky Tomlinson wins the Best Actor Award for his role in *Nasty Neighbours*, the locally produced film from Ipso Facto Films.

2,000,000 passengers on the Metro read short stories about being lost as part of the *Titled ticket texts*.

The Kielder Partnership's progressive art and architecture commissioning programme was recognised nationally at the annual Stirling Prize for Architecture when the architectural practice, Softroom, received the newly instituted Stephen Lawrence Award for its *Kielder Belvedere*.

CTC (Cleveland Theatre Company) based in Darlington was awarded the prestigious Barclays Theatre Award for the Best Play for Children of 2000.

*Sitooteries* at Belsay Hall built on the successful partnership with English Heritage, featuring art, architecture and design by artists such as Thomas Heatherwick and Julian Opie.

## **2001**

Through the Year of the Artist, Northern Arts supported the development of over 100 residencies.

Tees Valley and Durham/Sunderland were selected as pilot areas for the Creative Partnerships programme worth almost £5 million.

The Sage Gateshead begins on-site work and launched a high profile pre-opening programme, including international jazz musician, Winton Marsalis.

Two of the region's local authorities, Sunderland and Gateshead, were awarded Beacon Status for their work involving arts and culture in regeneration programmes.

The National Foundation for Youth Music made its largest ever single award to support CoMusica, a region-wide community music project.



Northern Rock Foundation announce the largest writers awards in the country.

**2002**

Stirling Prize winning Gateshead Millennium Bridge officially opened by Her Majesty The Queen.

BALTIC opens at midnight, attracting nearly one million visitors in its first year.

Live broadcast of Last Night of the Proms from Gateshead Quays, with Northern Sinfonia.

**2003**

The Sage Gateshead announces £6 million sponsorship deal with Sage plc – the largest ever single arts sponsorship deal.

Arts & Business and the Sponsors Club announces a record growth in private sector sponsorship in the region, with over £10 million invested – more than any region outside London.

NewcastleGateshead is voted in BBC poll as the ‘people’s choice’ for Capital of Culture 2008, but award is made to Liverpool.

Region commits to maintaining the momentum of the bid and Culture<sup>10</sup> is launched – a £100 million programme of cultural events over the next ten years.

**2004**

Work starts on-site for Middlesbrough Institute of Modern Art, DanceCity and Seven Stories, the Centre for Children’s Books.

*Fashion At Belsay* – with installations from some of the country’s most innovative fashion designers - attracts record-breaking visitors figures.

Announcement that The Sage Gateshead will host WOMEX – world music expo - in 2005.

Announcement that NewcastleGateshead will host World Summit on Arts and Culture 2006.