

ARNOLFINI

Press Release: For immediate release

Arts Council England NPO Announcement

Following Arts Council England's National Portfolio funding announcement today, we are very pleased that the Arts Council has committed to sustaining its investment in Arnolfini for the next three years. We appreciate it has had to make some very difficult decisions about the allocation of funds across the country, but we are pleased to see the support for and investment in arts and culture in the south west, including many of our partners in Bristol. Although we have a reduction in funding, we welcome the continued support in a time of increasing pressure on, and competition for, public funding.

Bristol has long been seen as a pioneer in the arts and we are proud that Arnolfini's position at the heart of the city's cultural mix has been consistently recognised and supported by the Arts Council. As a major contributor to the city's artistic community for over 50 years, we are grateful to all our supporters over that time. We are, however, very conscious that we need to remain both compelling and competitive to continue to attract support from funding bodies and the public.

Our programme is constantly evaluated in order to respond to what the visiting public wishes to experience in the contemporary arts. In addition to Arts Council Funding, we aim to be a progressive organisation, with a robust business model that is not solely reliant on public funding to thrive. Arnolfini has been working hard to develop a greater proportion of its income from commercial activities to contribute to long term sustainability. We will continue to develop this model which includes café bar, shop, ticket sales and hiring our building for private events.

Led by our Chair of Trustees Peter Boyden and Interim Director Kate Brindley, a programme of renewal is already in place to take Arnolfini into the next stage of its development. This will ensure we are performing as efficiently as possible, using public money to maximum effect, while continuing to play a key role in the arts in the city. We are working closely with other arts organisations to maximise resources and offer the public an engaging and high quality arts programme.

Arnolfini's next exhibition, *The Promise*, opens on Saturday 19 July, and we already have an exciting programme planned for 2015 as part of the city's European Green Capital celebrations. The key event will be a major exhibition by the locally based and internationally renowned artist Richard Long. Pencilled in for July 2015, the exhibition represents a welcome return to Arnolfini for Richard, who showed work at the gallery five times between 1974 and 1990. He is the only artist to have been shortlisted for the Turner prize four times, winning the prize in 1989, and is considered to be among the most important artists of his generation.

ENDS

Notes for Editors

Arnolfini Interim Director Kate Brindley will be available and pleased to give further comment

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Arnolfini in Numbers 2013/14

- An average of 30,000 visitors attended each of Arnolfini's larger exhibitions, coming from Bristol, the wider UK and abroad.
- There were over 500,000 visits to Arnolfini
- Arnolfini's programme: 10 new exhibitions opened , plus the organisation hosted 49 performance events, staged 28 music performances, 53 separate films screenings, 46 poetry and literature events and 21 tours to the off-site Ballast Seed Garden artwork
- Arnolfini programmed 42 Learning and Participation events including monthly *We Are Family* events reaching 2000 families in the area.
- 5000 children in 23 schools were reached through the Primary Capital Programme and a further 2000 through group visits and workshops to Arnolfini.
- Young Arnolfini's activity and scope has grown, with individual members winning arts awards, producing exhibitions and delivering a series of zines and blogs.
- Arnolfini has delivered 48 one-to-one career advice sessions

About Arnolfini

Arnolfini is one of Europe's leading centres for the contemporary arts, presenting innovative, experimental work in the visual arts, performance, dance, film, music and events, accompanied by a programme of educational activities. Five exhibition spaces, a theatre/cinema auditorium, Reading Room and Light/Dark Studios are housed in the Grade II listed, fully accessible building. The converted warehouse also contains one of the country's best independent shops as well as a Café Bar serving the best in local and seasonal produce.

Sir Nicholas Serota, Director, Tate said "Arnolfini is one of a handful of the most significant contemporary cultural centres in Europe."

Regeneration:

Since 1975, Arnolfini has been based in Bush House, a six-storey grade II listed former warehouse in the city centre docks. The development is often credited with helping to regenerate Bristol's harbourside. One of the first examples in the UK of the arts used for encouraging inward investment and economic regeneration. Arnolfini's move to Narrow Quay proved a catalyst in attracting people and other businesses to what had become a neglected part of Bristol's old industrial dockside. The revitalised waterfront is now a focal point of Bristol's social, entertainment and cultural life with an estimated £600 million of investment.

Arnolfini is a registered charity, core funded by Arts Council England and in receipt of regular funding from Bristol City Council.

www.arnolfini.org.uk

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