



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 26 September, 2017

Culture spreads its wings in Hull Paragon Station

A huge flock of more than 100 mosaic birds are set to take flight in Hull Paragon Station.

The incredible artwork is the product of a six-month project that has seen 26 artists join dozens of residents from Hull, the East Riding and Lincolnshire to create this stunning installation.

The installation, **Fly to Freedom**, launches tomorrow (Wednesday, September 27) at the Hull train station where it will stay for the next year.

Mosaic Artist and Project Co-ordinator Corinne Fueillatre said: "Mosaics are made up of many parts like Hull's population and so we as artists invited people of different age, gender, religion and abilities to attend a series of workshops to mosaic a bird. As a group of Northern artists, and as a resident of Hull myself, we are really proud to have the opportunity to be part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and work with the community including children with disabilities, adults with hearing impairments, families and the general public."

"Mosaic is a very accessible art form, thus the perfect medium to enable people to explore their creative side, and communities from various backgrounds to work together and alongside artists to create artwork.

The mosaic artists behind the project are from the British Association for Modern Mosaic (BAMM).

BAMM artists invited community groups to participate in the project by holding workshops in Hull Reform Synagogue, Hull and East Yorkshire Centre of the Deaf, Wansbeck Primary School, Artlink and Marist Hall. The rich and diverse community of Hull is reflected in the mosaics.

Fly to Freedom is part of Hull UK City of Culture 2017's Creative Communities Programme.

Corinne said: "We love mosaics and want to share and grow this ancient art form as widely as possible. Many participants have gone on to create more mosaics since their involvement."

"Of the 123 birds created, 49 were produced by 26 artists, 23 from Yorkshire, and 74 by residents from Hull, the East Riding and Lincolnshire. We even had a mosaic artist from Denmark contact us and mosaic a bird linking us with Aarhus in Denmark, the European Capital of Culture 2017."

Corinne thanked TransPeninne Express for allowing the artwork to be displayed in Hull Paragon Station.

David Hatfield, Station Manager for TransPennine Express said: "We are committed to supporting our local communities and I'm thrilled that the station has been chosen to host this exhibition.

“Hull Paragon is the main arrival point for lots of those visiting the city for the UK City of Culture 2017 and I know that the birds will help create a positive first impression for customers.”

The year-long installation will be launched tomorrow, Wednesday September 27.

From 4pm-7pm the public will have the chance to meet the artists and participants.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: “Paragon Station is the point of entry for many of the thousands of people visiting Hull this year for City of Culture and this delightful art installation adds to the warm welcome they can expect whilst here.

“It's just the latest piece of art backed by Hull 2017 to be installed at the station and joins another Creative Communities project, the fantastic replica of Amy Johnson’s Gipsy Moth, and Claire Barber's Look Up installation The Train Track and the Basket.”

ENDS

For more information, please contact:
Michael Berriman on Michael.berriman@hull2017.co.uk or 07711 439329

NOTES TO EDITORS

Fly to Freedom is one of 60 new projects to receive funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which is being delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 is being invested in the programme, which was set up to celebrate, nurture and support local talent and develop opportunities for emerging artists.

In addition to cash from Hull 2017 and the Big Lottery Fund, the projects will receive staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme is also being supported by Hull and East Riding Charitable Trust.

The projects - which range from photography exhibitions to music and food festivals and choral and orchestral concerts to audio-visual installations - will see local artists, community groups, cultural and other organisations in the city working with local people of all ages to create new artistic work, events, installations and other activity throughout 2017.

For a full list of projects visit: <https://www.hull2017.co.uk/discover/article/sixty-community-projects-inspire-creativity-across-hull-2/>

About Hull UK City of Culture

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status. It has raised £32 million, with over 60 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, lottery distributors, trusts and foundations and local and national

businesses. Key contributions are coming from: **Host City** - Hull City Council; **Principal Partners** - Arts Council England, BBC, Big Lottery Fund, East Riding of Yorkshire Council, Heritage Lottery Fund, KCOM, KWL, Spirit of 2012, Yorkshire Water and the University of Hull; **Major Partners** - Associated British Ports, Arco, BP, the British Council, British Film Institute, Green Port Hull, Hull Clinical Commissioning Group, MKM Building Supplies, P&O Ferries, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Sewell Group, Siemens, Smith & Nephew and Wykeland Group.

68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017's International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk

Follow us on **Twitter** @2017Hull **Instagram** @2017hull **Facebook** HullCityofCulture

About Big Lottery Fund

- The Big Lottery Fund is the largest funder of community activity in the UK. It puts people in the lead to improve their lives and communities, often through small, local projects.
- It is responsible for giving out 40% of the money raised by National Lottery players for good causes. Every year it invests over £650 million and awards around 12,000 grants across the UK for health, education, environment and charitable purposes.
- Since June 2004 it has awarded over £8 billion to projects that change the lives of millions of people. Since the National Lottery began in 1994, £34 billion has been raised and more than 450,000 grants awarded.

About Hull & East Riding Charitable Trust

The Hollingbery Family founded the business in 1933 with the first Comet superstore opened in Hull in 1968. The business was subsequently sold to Kingfisher and in 1985 the charity was established with the defined purpose of donating funds to help and support charities, both national and local, and other deserving causes, provided that direct benefit was forthcoming for people who live in Hull or the East Riding of Yorkshire.

For more information, including on how to apply for funds, see <http://hullandeastridingtrust.org.uk/>