



PRESS RELEASE

Tuesday, 5 September, 2017

Hull Mela returns as part of UK City of Culture celebrations

The tastes, sounds and vibrant colours of India will be showcased next weekend as part of a spectacular celebration at Hull City Hall.

[Hull Indian Mela](#), on Saturday 16 September, will see performances from exotic and authentic dancers, as well as mouth-wateringly tasty food served up by one of the city's hottest restaurants.

The event has been organised by Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Hindu Cultural Association.

Dr Navin Jaiveloo, one of the organisers, said: "This vibrant carnival will truly lift one's spirit. Talented artists will be coming from all over the country to join fantastic local artists for what will be a spectacular day and a special celebration.

"Hull Mela has been going on for eight years now but this year will be the biggest and most colourful one yet as we take part in this amazing City of Culture year. We would like the whole city to come together and celebrate the feeling of oneness in Indian culture."

Hull Indian Mela is part of [Hull UK City of Culture 2017's Creative Communities Programme](#).

Performances and workshops will run throughout the day alongside stalls selling crafts, jewellery and authentic Indian cuisine.

The event starts at 11am with energetic bhangra dancing in the main hall followed by singing and dancing on the main stage throughout the day.

As well as professional dancers, students from various schools in Hull and the East Riding will be participating in dance routines on the main stage.

In the main hall, there will be various stalls offering henna tattoos, jewellery, crafts and food.

Tapasya restaurant will be providing delicious and authentic Indian food from all over the country.

There will also be yoga, meditation, turban tying and cooking workshops, as well as Bollywood dancing and dhol drummers.

The grand finale of the day, finishing at 7pm, will see a fireworks display outside Hull City Hall.

Tickets cost £4 and £2 for 3-12 year olds.

Entrance is free for children under the age of three.

Tickets are available from Hull City Hall, 01482 300 300.

There will also be tickets available on the door, subject to availability.

Martin Green, Director of Hull 2017, said: "We are delighted to be able to support Hull and East Riding of Yorkshire Hindu Cultural Association with the Hull Mela in this City of Culture year. It's a wonderful opportunity to experience the sights, sounds and tastes of Indian culture in the heart of city."

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Hull Indian Mela 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

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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/>