



PRESS RELEASE

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Thousands of babies Born into a City of Culture

In 2017, the footprints of thousands of babies born at Hull Women's and Children's Hospital were printed onto a unique piece of artwork as part of Hull UK City of Culture's 2017 Creative Communities project *Born Into A City Of Culture*.

With each special delivery, the artwork grew and now families with babies born in 2017 are invited to come and celebrate this exciting year at a special event in the Guildhall.

To document the arrival of Hull's newest residents during what was a defining moment in the city's history, Hull and East Yorkshire Hospital NHS Trust captured the pitter patter of Hull's tiniest feet in a unique piece of artwork featuring the footprint of every new arrival.

The 12-month *Born Into A City of Culture* project was part of Hull 2017's Creative Communities Programme, delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017. It built up pictures of different trees through the seasons, with more than 5,000 footprints forming the leaves and local midwives' handprints acting as the supporting tree trunks.

Originally from Hull, Cherona Sylvester was due to give birth on 30 December 2017 in London, where she now lives with her husband. Her baby had other plans. While visiting her family in Hull for Christmas, Cherona went into labour on Christmas Eve and within a few hours baby Dillon was born in Hull UK City of Culture.

Cherona said: "Welcoming Dillon into the world on Christmas Eve in Hull was the best Christmas gift and a perfect way for us to end an incredible year. My nephew Walter was born in Hull in May and my mum was desperate for our baby's footprint to join his as part of the project, she got her wish!

"I'm delighted our daughter was born in Hull, especially during its year as the UK City of Culture. While I don't live here now, I'm proud of my home city and it feels really special to have been part of its wonderful year."

The artwork project was the brainchild of Sallie Ward, Community Midwifery Sister for Hull and East Yorkshire (HEY) Hospitals NHS Trust. The project involved hospital and community midwives, as well as midwifery assistants.

Sallie said: “The project has been a brilliant addition to what is already a moment of celebration, welcoming new babies into the world. What I loved about it was its inclusivity, it gave people who wouldn’t ordinarily see culture or art as ‘their thing’ be part of Hull’s brilliant year.

“Three of our midwives have their baby’s footprint along with her own handprint on the artwork, which is just so wonderful. The project has been brilliant and such a great experience to have been part of something so creative.”

Hull’s final 2017 baby was born at 2pm on New Year’s Eve, ending the year with 5,390 babies born in Hull during the city’s year of arts and culture.

The artwork was displayed in the main entrance to Hull and East Yorkshire Women and Children’s Hospital on the Hull Royal Infirmary site throughout the year.

At the event, there will be opportunities to purchase limited edition prints, canvases and postcards and there will be a photographer on-site to capture celebratory group photographs.

The celebration event runs from 9am to 3pm on Wednesday 24 January, and families are required to book a one hour slot. Families should limit ticket purchases to four per family and children aged under one do not require a ticket.

Tickets are available from www.hullboxoffice.com/events/born-into-a-city-of-culture-celebration-event.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

Born Into A City Of Culture is one of 60 new projects that received funding through the Hull 2017 Creative Communities Programme, which was delivered in partnership with the Big Lottery Fund, a Principal Partner of Hull 2017.

A total of £750,000 was 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 received staff support to build capacity in the arts sector, helping to create a legacy. The Creative Communities Programme was also 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 - saw 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

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull UK City of Culture 2017 programme, a nationally significant event drawing on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have contributed to the development of art and ideas. It is an independent organisation with charitable status.

It raised £32 million, with over 70 partners supporting the project, including public bodies, 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. The National Lottery has contributed more than £10m of this funding, making it the largest single funding body for Hull 2017.

The Culture Company is carrying on as a permanent national arts company based in the city. Building on the success of Hull 2017, Culture Company's core purpose will continue to be commissioning world-class arts programming aimed at residents and visitors and it will work strategically with partners inside the city and across the UK to cement Hull's reputation as a centre for culture and creativity.

Culture Company will also develop its role as an independent organisation specialising in culture and cities, which in addition to commissioning work, will offer unrivalled expertise, consultancy and advocacy, across the UK and internationally.

For information go to www.hull2017.co.uk or follow us on Twitter: [@2017Hull](https://twitter.com/2017Hull), Instagram [@2017hull](https://www.instagram.com/2017hull) and Facebook: [HullCityofCulture](https://www.facebook.com/HullCityofCulture).