

5.1 HERITAGE LOTTERY FUND

The Northern Case For Capital has been developed in discussion with North of England Museums Service and North West Museums Service, in preparation for lottery bids which may span both Heritage and Arts Funds. Northern Arts is also working with individual museums and the County Museum Services on the delivery of the programme for Visual Arts UK. There are more than 100 museums in the region, most of which are controlled by Local Authorities or by independent educational institutions. The North of England and North West Museum Services have surveyed the likely levels of demand on Lottery Funding from the National Heritage Fund. In many cases, an application may well be directed towards the Heritage Lottery Fund, to preserve an historic building for contemporary arts use.

Northern Arts and the Museums Services will encourage bids from galleries and museum to improve storage and display facilities for collections. They will also seek to ensure the highest possible attention to curatorial and conservation standards. The Museum and Gallery Commission and the Area Museum Services can act as sources of specialist advice in this field.

Examples include the Bowes Museum, and the proposals to create a new gallery with a substantial reinterpretation of the history of exploration at the Captain Cook Museum in Middlesbrough. Bede's World in Jarrow is building a new visitor and interpretation centre which will use the visual and craft traditions of the North East to display both historic and contemporary arts, crafts and artefacts, in a dramatic new building next to St Peter's Church. Abbott Hall in Kendal wishes to capitalise on its Museum of Lakeland Life, as well as using Lottery funds to expand and house its considerable collection of landscape paintings and drawings. The Dock Museum in Barrow is poised for further development which will include temporary exhibition space as well as permanent displays.

In Hartlepool, the new Northern outpost of the Imperial War Museum, if approved by the Government, will be the first national Museum or Gallery to be established in the North of England.

Northern Arts will work closely with the Area Museum Services to encourage museums and galleries to improve their display facilities and collections.

5.2 SPORTS COUNCIL

The Regional Sports Council has identified more than 250 likely bids for National Lottery Funds through the Sports Council. The outcome of the sports and arts surveys has been discussed by Northern Arts and the Regional Sports Council. With a very few exceptions, there is little direct overlap between the two lists of projects. There are, however, points of common interest relating to Local Authority and voluntary funding, to commissioning artists and to the potential for multi-purpose venues in the more isolated parts of the region.

Local Authority expenditure on sports and recreation, both capital and revenue, has fallen since 1990/91. There is less funding available and projects which require substantial maintenance may in future be under threat. In many cases, it will be the same Local Authority budgets covering both the arts and sports, which will be put under pressure as a result of Lottery based initiatives in these fields of activity.

The Northern region has few acknowledged centres of sporting excellence. However, some of these have begun to develop their own interests in the arts and entertainment. Gateshead International Stadium has been the venue for the Heineken Music Festival, and other major concerts. St James Park Newcastle, home of Newcastle United FC, will open the European Championships in 1996 with banners from countries across Europe, as part of Visual Arts UK.

Durham's ambitious Millennium Park at Chester-le-Street provides the home for the new County Cricket Ground. This is the first full size cricket ground capable of hosting test matches to be laid out for 100 years. It sits alongside new sports and recreational buildings and forms the centre-piece of this magnificent riverside park. Artists and craftspeople such as Colin Rose and Sally Mathews have already been commissioned as part of the planning and design of this five year project. Northern Arts will promote the involvement of artists and craftspeople across the range of new building and refurbishment projects in the region, with a particular focus on Lottery funded projects. The site would be well positioned to attract future arts capital investment.

Northern Arts will encourage local organisations to consider joint applications for arts and sports centres in villages and small towns. Examples of such projects include Leisure and Community Centres in towns like Ashington, Kendal and Spennymoor which will be seeking arts Lottery funds to improve seating, lighting and performance related facilities. At Ashington Leisure Centre, equipment would help cut down hire costs of seating and lighting. Spennymoor Leisure Centre is looking at a similar programme of improvement. Kendal Leisure Centre requires more seating capacity to meet audience demand for its concert programme.

Northern Arts will encourage local organisations to consider working together to develop applications for joint use arts and sports centres in villages and small towns.

5.3 MILLENNIUM COMMISSION

As far as potential Millennium projects is concerned the picture remains unclear. Northern Arts is aware of a number of projects in Newcastle, County Durham, Sunderland, South Shields, Teesside, Northumberland and Cumbria which could form the basis of successful Millennium bids. A number of these have the potential to enhance arts provision or include arts commissions as part of their delivery.

In Newcastle, Tyne and Wear Museums is devising the Oracle Project as a major Millennium Commission Bid for the City. Oracle is a new kind of museum, exploring the worlds of the arts, science and ideas through an innovative mix of techniques from live performances to virtual reality. One of the aims of the Oracle Project is that it will act as a gateway to the wider network of opportunities, facilities and activities in the region for leisure, learning and training.

The Teesside Development Corporation has plans for a £120 million multi-purpose space age building which would house an indoor arena, an indoor watersports lake and expand the University College Stockton. On the other side of the river the Borough has outlined plans for a development which would include a National Drawing Centre.

Northumberland County have plans for a centre of Christianity in Cramlington building on the North of England's contribution to the development of Christianity from the Lindisfarne Gospels to Bede.

Other projects in South Shields, County Durham, Newcastle and Sunderland have an arts element as part of broader Millennium proposals.

Northern Arts will be giving consideration to how the Millennium Commission's stated interest in bursaries can be used to benefit artists and in particular young artists in transferring skills across the Millennium. Proposals will be developed for endowing a series of regional artists bursaries across the next century.

The actual celebration of the Millennium is also the subject of further consideration in a region known for hosting a good party.

It is unclear how the Millennium Commission's intention to support medium and smaller scale projects will impact on the arts through multi-purpose buildings such as village halls and community centres.

5.4 THE NATIONAL CHARITIES BOARD

The National Charities Board will be of importance to smaller, more local, community and amateur based organisations which meet the Charities Board's own objectives.

Northern Arts will ask the Charities Board to recognise the role of the charitable arts sector, in meeting its own objectives.



PROMOTING THE ARTS IN THE NORTH – VISUAL ARTS UK – A WORKING MODEL

6.1 VISUAL ARTS UK – CAPITAL INITIATIVES

The Case For Capital covers all of the forms of artistic activity and practice in the North of England. Visual Arts UK provides a role model for a strategic approach to capital development at a regional level. The success of the region in winning this bid was largely due to the way in which planning for capital investment, designing the infrastructure, and developing the artistic programme were linked. It was devised before the details of the National Lottery were known. Good fortune and good planning in equal measures now allow the Lottery to play its part in this important programme.

Northern Arts and its partners – Local Authorities, public sector development, regional bodies, and the private sector – and its colleagues in museums management and tourism development are in full preparation for Visual Arts UK. This will be yet another demonstration that the region can produce substantial artistic and financial return on modest investment by public bodies.

The Arts Council's seed core grant of £300,000 has triggered a programme to attract revenue support of nearly £10 million; related capital investment will approach £60 million. This funding will be secured from a mixture of Local Authority, urban regeneration and European Regional Development Funds. Lottery funds from the Arts Council and the National Heritage Fund will be vitally important in leveraging these capital resources.

Capital projects which were catalysed by Visual Arts UK and which will be completed before 1996 include:

- **The Gymnasium at Berwick** – A new gallery and bookshop established in collaboration with English Heritage, Berwick District Council and Northumberland County Council.
- **Captain Cook Museum in Middlesbrough** – A new temporary exhibition gallery, one of the few galleries in the region with National Indemnity (allowing loans from major national and international collections).
- **The Customs House at Mill Dam** – A new arts centre with gallery space in South Shields.
- **The Dorman Museum in Middlesbrough** – Extension of the gallery space in Middlesbrough's main Museum.



- **The Arts Centre in Sunderland** – An arts complex in the centre of Sunderland housing new galleries for the Northern Centre for Contemporary Art.
- **Hartlepool's Christchurch Gallery** – Replacing the Gray Art Gallery and part of Hartlepool's ambitious cultural development programme.
- **Barrow's Dock Museum and Temporary Exhibition Gallery** – One of the most exciting new spaces for the presentation of the Visual Arts in the region.
- **Print Gallery on the Fish Quay** – A print workshop on the Fish Quay in North Shields.
- **Alnwick Playhouse** – A new shopfront gallery for the theatre.
- **Southern Extension of the Laing** – A new and more accessible entrance allowing for the improved exhibition of the permanent collection.
- **Refurbishment of the Bowes Museum** – A major rewiring and refurbishment programme.

Projects which are already in development for completion during 1996, 1997 and 1998 include:

- **The Baltic Flour Mill** – The Baltic will be the largest contemporary visual arts gallery in the UK outside of London, working at the leading edge of contemporary practice. This will be a project of European dimension, bringing the best international artists and exhibitions to the North. The project will convert a building occupying a dominant riverside site to provide more than 3000 sq metres of exhibition space. Gateshead MBC is providing substantial support for this initiative, and intends to offer state of the art access for the general public and those with disabilities.
- **The National Glass Centre** – This development by the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation, with capital funding from Europe, will be revenue funded by Sunderland City Council, Sunderland University, and Cornings (the manufacturers of Pyrex based in Sunderland). It will include a temporary exhibition space, a permanent exhibition/collection, an academic research centre, a number of craft studios and a major glass factory producing high quality coloured glass for use by artists and designers. The Crafts Council see it as the first of a series of national centres of craft excellence in different media. Capital funding for the project is largely in place.
- **The Imperial War Museum** – The Imperial War Museum has a number of outposts throughout the country. This proposed new development with the



Teesside Development Corporation in Hartlepool will include a major purpose built temporary exhibition area for the Visual Arts. This exhibition area will house exhibitions drawn from the Imperial War Museum's collection of 20th century British and European Art, amongst the finest collections in the UK. The building has been designed by Norman Foster and the contractors have been appointed, subject to Government approval of funding for the scheme.

■ **Northern Extension to the Laing Art Gallery** – Newcastle's City Centre art gallery has ambitious plans for a Northern extension which would enable it to host international touring exhibitions which would otherwise not be seen outside London or Paris. The Laing proposes to double the size of the existing galleries, and to tackle the difficulties and opportunities presented by its location. Access to the Gallery is badly affected by neighbouring commercial developments. These development plans would reaffirm the Laing's central importance to the visual arts in the region, and would make it far more accessible to City Centre visitors. A feasibility study has already been completed.

■ **Dorman Museum** – A further major extension of Middlesbrough's main museum to significantly enhance exhibition and other facilities. A feasibility study is also proposed for a National Drawing Centre for Cleveland.

6.2 LOCAL GALLERIES

Visual Arts UK also focuses attention on municipal and independent galleries of smaller scale across the region. Some of these have already begun the task of improvement and extension to their buildings and are now looking to complete this process. Hartlepool Art Gallery, funded by City Challenge, wishes to complete its conversion with a modest grant from the National Lottery. At the local level, galleries such as the Maltings in Berwick and community and leisure centres such as the Cheviot Centre at Wooler, near Berwick-upon-Tweed, will increase the amount of exhibition space away from the major urban centres.

6.3 PUBLIC ART

Public and private agencies in the Northern region have an extraordinary track record in commissioning artists to place their work in public places. This is reflected in projects such as the C2C Sculpture Trail and Grizedale Forest Sculpture Park. Local authorities such as Gateshead and Middlesbrough, both winners in consecutive years of the National Arts Collection Fund Awards, have developed inspired public art programmes. The work of artists like Andy Goldsworthy, Sally Mathews and Richard Deacon set a high standard.

Independent agencies such as Northern Freeform, Pedalling Art, Cleveland Arts, Sustrans, and the Cumbria Groundwork Trust are actively developing major



public art programmes. Public authorities like Sunderland City Council, Gateshead, Northumberland County Council and the Tyne and Wear Development Corporation are also leaders in commissioning works of art. Northern Arts intends to make a strategic intervention by establishing a public art fund for the region, and will seek the active engagement of the Arts Council and its regional partners to do this. The Region will also seek support for a number of gateway sculptures such as the proposed "Angel" by Antony Gormley in Gateshead.

6.4 WORKSPACE AND FACILITIES FOR ARTISTS

Artists and support agencies are determined to increase the number of studio and work spaces which are available in the North. Some of these are integral to larger schemes, for example the small business units in the Sunderland Glass Centre. Other schemes, like the Northern Print Studios will provide specialist print making facilities. In Carlisle, the West Walls Studios project is planning to develop new studios and exhibition space. Grizedale, winner of the Prudential Award for the Visual Arts, has plans to purchase high quality residential accommodation to house artists resident in the Forest Sculpture Park.

A number of commercial development schemes also offer the prospect of accommodation for artists' workspace. The Genesis project in Consett proposes to build working and living accommodation for artists and craftspeople, in some cases literally over the shop. This will be part of a much larger development offering a range of commercial leisure activities on a 100 acre site.

In Newcastle and Sunderland, the presence of Universities and Colleges offering arts, design and craft courses with an international reputation provides a strong base for a growing number of artists who wish to live and work in the North. There is a continuing demand for good workspace particularly from artists at a formative stage in their careers, before they have established themselves in the market.

It will be important to consolidate this by providing workspaces in urban areas. Northern Arts will need to identify project champions and sponsors such as Artists' Agency in Sunderland to support this growing community of artists and craftspeople.

Northern Arts is to commission research into the needs for artists' workspaces and has plans to bring together artists, planners and economic development officers for a seminar to progress this issue.

PROMOTING THE ARTS IN THE NORTH

7.1 VENUES FOR LIVE PERFORMERS

The public in the Northern region is badly served by existing theatres and auditoria. There is both demand and demonstrable need for better, larger and more accessible venues to meet the current needs of performers and audiences.

Currently there are only four venues in the region which can hold an audience of more than 1,400. The Sands Centre, in Carlisle includes a multi-purpose hall, holds up to 1,406 people and the Sunderland Empire holds a maximum audience of 2,000. Newcastle's City Hall and Whitley Bay's Ice Rink are the other large scale venues.

The Theatre Royal in Newcastle, the Tyne Theatre and Opera House, Darlington's Civic Theatre, Whitley Bay Playhouse and the Billingham Forum complete the list of professionally managed purpose-built venues of between 500 and 1200 seats which currently have the physical programming and marketing capacity to present music, theatre and dance.

Northern Sinfonia, acknowledged as one of Europe's leading Chamber Orchestras, can only find places to perform offering reasonable acoustics, and modest access and comfort for audiences, in buildings as diverse as Newcastle's City Hall, Town Halls in Middlesbrough and Hartlepool, a church in Stockton on Tees, leisure centres in Carlisle and Kendal, and Durham Cathedral.

Music, theatre and dance companies – both those resident in the North, and the major and smaller national touring companies – are endlessly inventive in their search for and development of venues. However, the current pattern of provision offers an inadequate mix of theatres, arts centres, churches, colleges and leisure centres, although a number of small and medium scale arts centres, such as The Customs House in South Shields, and Bishop Auckland Town Hall have opened in the last two years.

Despite its climate, the region has a track record of outdoor festivals, theatre, and music events with over one million people attending such events in 1994. The Stockton International Riverside Festival, Middlesbrough Mela, Billingham's Folklore Festival and theatre productions such as those in Saltburn's Valley Gardens have demonstrated that outdoor work can access new audiences and provide a quality artistic experience. Northern Arts will identify ways to use the Lottery to develop festival sites and outdoor spaces.

Temporary spaces, tents and touring structures have also played an important part in the region's arts provision. Research into the potential of a theatre without walls has already been mooted. The Royal Exchange's tent structure has provided a useful vehicle for taking their work to towns without dedicated arts venues. The European Arts Festival's tent was a huge success in the region and identifying an

appropriate sponsor organisation to develop a similar temporary festival structure for cross artform work and festivals will be a move warmly welcomed by the region's promoters.

7.2 MAJOR VENUES

■ **Concert Hall and Regional Music Centre** – Two years of planning and development work for the proposed Concert Hall in the North East has now been completed. Its location is still the subject of considerable discussion and ultimately it will depend on the political vision and backing of Newcastle or other Local Authorities. The Concert Hall will enable Northern Sinfonia to exploit its high reputation, and present itself in the company of its national and international peers.

The proposed Regional Music Centre would headline the status of the region and its capital city as important cultural and commercial players in Europe. It will act as a catalyst for the training and professional development of musicians. The Northern Music Conservatoire will offer training for classical and contemporary musicians. Folkworks, the nationally acclaimed agency for the study and celebration of traditional forms of music, song and dance, will also be based within this complex.

The facilities will include two auditoria – for 1600 and 200 seats – and a music library, the administrative base for Northern Sinfonia, and possible conference and entertainment areas.

■ **National Dance Centre** – Based on the creative energy and drive of Dance City, this 9000 square metre building will incorporate eight dance studios, a dance preview theatre seating 300 people, a health suite and office space. Dance City has put Newcastle on the national and international dance map. Its proposed studio spaces will house nearly 150 classes per week, three times the number they currently run in their two temporary buildings. Dance City will run HND and degree courses in dance with Newcastle College.

The new studio facilities and dance theatre means that international companies will continue to come to the region. Dance companies will be provided with high quality rehearsal bases. The Centre will link with projects throughout the region, and proposes as part of its development plan to establish an outreach centre at the Customs House in South Shields. Its relationship to other facilities such as the Tyne Theatre and Opera House and the proposed Regional Music Centre will be important in the delivery of all three projects creating a critical mass for performing arts training in the City and a strategic approach to venue requirements in the City.

■ **Theatre Royal, Newcastle and Sunderland Empire** – The Theatre Royal in Newcastle has just completed a major programme of improvements, and is one

of Britain's most highly regarded regional venues for theatre, dance, and music. The Sunderland Empire, a wonderful 2,000 seat turn of the century theatre owned by Sunderland City Council, has been undergoing a steady programme of renovation to its technical and off stage areas.

Both of these important theatres are looking at ways of acquiring the commercial properties around their buildings, giving them better access and opening up important sources of income from additional bars, catering, bookshops and other rental income.

The success of such Lottery applications will in part depend on evidence of the highest quality in marketing, management, education and access programmes. These will be closely scrutinised by the Arts Council, Northern Arts and independent assessors.

7.3 MEDIUM SCALE PRODUCING AND PRESENTING THEATRES

A number of regional theatres have identified proposals to improve and expand their facilities. There are plans for new theatres put forward by commercial operators, independent trusts and Local Authorities. Schools and colleges are opportunistically seeking funds to build theatres both for their own educational purposes and also as places of entertainment for the wider community.

There are also dozens of buildings which were built in the first half of the century which are shadows of their former selves – theatres, cinemas, variety halls, and assembly rooms: many of these have their own local champions who want to turn the lights back on.

The quality of thought and preparation which goes into the business planning and programming of new theatre proposals will be paramount. No investment with new plans should be considered without examining how the proposal will relate to its competitors. On both sides of the Pennines the audience size is restricted. It is affected seasonally by tourists. Access to motorway and trunk roads is crucial to extending the geographical area from which people will be prepared to travel. All of these issues will need careful consideration.

■ **Newcastle Playhouse** – Northern Stage Company, based at the Newcastle Playhouse, is growing in reputation under its new management and director, with a regular international theatre season, and its commitment to new work. The venue hosts the RSC season, middle scale dance promotions, and a vibrant programme of festivals including the Newcastle Dance Festival, and the annual Jazz Festival. It has put forward a development plan to rebuild the Playhouse and the Gulbenkian Studio Theatre into a 650 seat theatre space on the edge of the Campus of the University of Newcastle. This will take the form of a European Arts Centre, positioning the venue as a major receiving house and production base for International work. It aims to be part of a National and European network of venues building on previous collaborations with the likes of the Tramway and Nottingham Playhouse.

■ **Teesside** – The picture on Teesside would be complex if it were just a matter of the Billingham Forum and Darlington Civic Theatre's response to the possible emergence of a major commercially managed performance space in Stockton. Teesside Development Corporation is hoping to attract a commercial arts and leisure complex with a 2000 seat auditorium in Stockton on Tees.

In addition to this, there are plans for a new 450 seat theatre in Middlesbrough, and the refurbishment of Middlesbrough Little Theatre. Important structural repairs are needed at Darlington Civic Theatre. There are proposals for works to the Darlington Arts Centre, and discussion around the longer term needs for a new arts complex in the town. Langbaugh has plans to rebuild a former school as the Coatham Memorial Hall with a 250 seat auditorium.

The Dovecot Arts Centre has a firm proposal to build a new arts centre on its existing site in a partnership with Stockton City Challenge who are purchasing an adjacent cinema to provide the necessary land. Given the Dovecot's strong artistic record in theatre, music and film the proposed development, which will be subject to a detailed feasibility study, has the potential to provide a vibrant centre for production, promotion and participation in the performing arts.

■ **New Theatres in Cumbria** – In Cumbria, New Century Theatre has advanced plans to build a new theatre at Keswick, finally enabling it to pension off the Blue Box trailer which has housed it for the last forty years. There is an opportunity to share the support of a resident theatre company with Carlisle, playing the winter season around Keswick's summer in a new 400 seat theatre, the subject of a feasibility study examining options linked to Cumbria College or the Sands Centre. A study on a proposed major commercial theatre development in Penrith has suggested that it would not be feasible given the plans for both Carlisle and Keswick.

7.4 CENTRES FOR THE ARTS IN TOWNS AND VILLAGES

Northern Arts will take a cautious approach in advising on investment in old assembly rooms, music halls and palladia in small towns and villages. Case by case, arguments for the preservation of particular buildings outside the major urban centres will need to be formulated, so that buildings with potential for future creative uses are preserved and not lost. However, it will not encourage building or re-building for building's sake.

Supporters and funders of buildings such as the Millom Palladium and the Carnegie Theatre in Workington face a difficult task in balancing their affection for a local landmark, their desire to revive an apparently under-utilised resource, and local aspirations for a centre for community arts and leisure activities. No rule of thumb exists which can say which of these should be funded or not. Every assessment will take into account the way in which applicants have considered the impact of new arts facilities covering their catchment areas.

However, the Lottery distributors (Arts, Heritage and Millennium) may wish to consider whether some of these buildings might be preserved for their future potential rather than their current use. The alternative – not to fund – may well deprive future generations of a number of interesting buildings for local use. In some cases, however, neglect or demolition might be the best course of action, where the costs of refurbishment would far outweigh the benefits and opportunities presented by new buildings, designed for the next century.

Northern Arts will encourage arts organisations to consider carefully whether their interests would be best secured by new buildings for the arts or refurbishing existing facilities and plant.

7.5 THE WRITTEN WORD AND THE MOVING IMAGE

The North is widely recognised as one of the most creative areas in Europe for literary activity. Bloodaxe Books is the most prolific and adventurous publisher of poetry in the country. There are a number of highly productive and individualistic small publishers, such as Panurge, Writing Women and Iron.

The North East saw the development during the 1980's and early 1990's of a distinctive group of film-making companies such as Amber Films and A19 productions, which enjoyed the support of Channel 4 and the independent regional television companies. During this period, a number of smaller, independent film exhibition venues have been completed in arts centres such as The Brewery, Kendal, the Berwick Maltings and the Alnwick Playhouse. Independent commercial exhibition has had a more problematic time, faced with intense pressure from multiplex developments which has led to the closure of a number of traditional commercial city centre cinemas. However, there are still areas of the region such as Hartlepool (population 100,000) without any public cinema.

The Northern Screen Commission has recently been established to promote the region's film locations. Examples of recent productions for the domestic and international film and television market include "Finney" and "Seaforth", the latter filmed in Saltburn.

The development of capital infrastructure to support writers, publishers, film-makers and their audiences is currently focused on a small number of projects. There will be opportunities for existing small publishing houses to re-equip and improve their facilities for the benefit of regional writers. For film and video-makers, North East Media Training Centre is proposing to establish its European Media School on a site close to the Tyne. This will house an ERDF funded media training course, intended to attract film and video-makers on a European basis. Film and video-makers also require studio and workshop facilities and will be eligible for Lottery funding for these.

The following capital projects have been proposed:

■ **Regional Literature Centre** – Northern Arts, in partnership with publishers, educationalists and broadcasters, has promoted the work of regional writers through its Literature Audience Development programme. The interest in this has led the Board to propose research into a Literature Agency for the North, to pave the way for a Regional Literature Centre. This project would act as a place of celebration and encouragement of contemporary literary practice for the region as a whole.

■ **Dove Cottage and the Wordsworth Trust** – The Wordsworth Trust attracts nearly 100,000 visitors a year from the United Kingdom, Europe and further afield. Nearly a quarter of its visitors come from the United States and Japan; this includes cultural tourists, students, scholars, and other lovers of literature. The Wordsworth Trust is seeking to deal with the growing demand by developing its visitor centre by adding a small auditorium for poetry and literature readings. It is also proposing to develop its Poetry Centre and Library to enable it to celebrate contemporary as well as historical poetry.

■ **Regional Film Theatre and Other Cinemas** – The Tyneside Cinema, the Regional Film Theatre for the North East, is proposing substantial improvements to the second auditorium, which will enable this important venue to offer better access and viewing conditions to its audiences. A number of arts centre developments include film exhibition and are likely to seek funding to update and improve access. A number of smaller, independent cinemas may also seek Lottery funding. Although some of these are commercial rather than charitable, community or public enterprises, their importance to small or isolated communities may well argue for contributions from Lottery and other public funds towards their capital needs.

7.6 DIGITAL MEDIA

Northern Arts has commissioned a study to identify partners, funds and possible locations for a Digital Agency and workshop for the North of England. It is looking forward to the establishment of an independent agency to offer training, professional development support and an artists production resource.

The Agency would work with other organisations to establish residencies for artists from different disciplines – sound, animation, photography, dance, etc, who wish to work with digital media or computer based tools, and would commission and make available to the public work produced through this new medium.

In the meantime a number of organisations including Newcastle College, Gateshead MBC and Sunderland University are seeking to extend and expand their digital equipment and facilities.

A COMMITMENT TO ACTION

National Lottery funds will bring many hundreds of millions of pounds of capital investment into arts, heritage, sports and other cultural projects each year across the UK. Northern Arts will argue vigorously that Lottery funds in the North should be spent within a coherent strategy that delivers long term benefit to the region and its population.

In the case of the arts, the Arts Council has stated that it will be looking to support projects which open the arts up to the widest possible range of spectators, audiences and participants.

National Lottery funds for the arts will be used to:

- Benefit the public, giving maximum access to disabled people.
- Strengthen the financial stability of arts organisations.
- Attract funding from other partners.
- Design, build and convert buildings of quality.
- Present high quality arts programmes.
- Relate to local, regional and national plans for the arts.
- Involve artists, craftspeople and film and video makers in designing, decorating and celebrating Lottery funded projects.
- Promote the arts to the widest possible public by education, outreach and marketing.

There are many important things which the National Lottery might help bring to the **North of England** over the next five years. These include:

- Disabled access for the public, artists and arts workers in all new and refurbished arts facilities.
- Customer friendly facilities; more comfort, safety and enjoyment for audiences in theatres, cinemas, arts centres and for visitors to galleries.
- More arts facilities closer to urban and rural centres of population; shorter travel times to arts facilities.

- Artists and architects working together to provide well designed and crafted new buildings and imaginative conversions, enabling more people to enjoy and take part in the arts.
- Training facilities for young people in dance, music and the moving image; recording studios with digital technology and dark rooms.
- Support for amateur artists and voluntary arts organisations by providing funds for equipment and instrument banks for amateur drama societies, brass bands, choirs and orchestras.
- Arts organisations better equipped to support themselves through increased ticket sales and other earned income.
- Sites for International Festivals in Theatre, Dance, Street Theatre, Mime, Literature and the Visual Arts.
- Strategic sculptures in public places in places such as Darlington, Stockton, Kielder Forest, Sunderland, Whitehaven, Gateshead and Durham.
- Artists' studios, rehearsal rooms and music studios – properly equipped and managed.
- Better quality places for artists, technicians, support staff and managers to work.

The arts, artists and audiences will be at the heart of the North of England's priorities in planning for the best distribution and use of arts Lottery funds.

Northern Arts and its partners welcome the Arts Council's approach to the assessment of Lottery applications. The region will encourage feasibility studies, and research into the market for new and expanded activities. It wants projects of quality to succeed. It believes that projects both large and small can reach the highest standards of design, of artistic programme and of management. Northern Arts will provide Local Authorities and arts organisations with regular information and briefings on arts Lottery matters, and on the development and management of projects from brass bands to concert halls.

Northern Arts and its regional partners will encourage smaller projects to apply, in rural and urban areas throughout the region. These projects will be a priority for support, particularly where resources can be pooled between villages or shared by different groups for a wide range of activities. Northern Arts and its regional partners will work together to put forward strong and coherent Millennium projects with significant arts programmes, both at the largest and at the more local scale.

The public deserve the best of the arts. Northern Arts and its regional partners will strive to get it for them.

APPENDIX

NAME OF PROJECT	AREA	TYPE OF PROJECT
Billingham Forum	Cleveland	Theatre Refurbishment
Coatham Memorial Hall – Redcar	Cleveland	Arts Centre – New Facility
Dorman Museum – Middlesbrough	Cleveland	Gallery – Extension
Dovecot Arts Centre – Stockton	Cleveland	Arts Centre – Extension
Hartlepool Art Gallery	Cleveland	Gallery – New facility
Middlesbrough Central Pavillion	Cleveland	Arts Centre – New Facility
Middlesbrough Town Hall	Cleveland	Music Venue – Refurbishment
Abbot Hall – Kendal	Cumbria	Gallery – Refurbishment
Barrow Dock Museum	Cumbria	Gallery – Extension
Brewery Arts Centre – Kendal	Cumbria	Arts Centre – Extension
Carlisle Theatre	Cumbria	Theatre – New Facility
Carnegie Arts Centre – Workington	Cumbria	Arts Centre – Refurbishment
Dove Cottage Wordsworth Trust	Cumbria	Literature Centre
Fairfield Mills – Sedbergh	Cumbria	Artist Resource – Workspace
Forum 28 – Barrow	Cumbria	Theatre – Refurbishment
Grizedale Forest Sculpture	Cumbria	Artists Resource – Workspace
Millom Palladium	Cumbria	Theatre – Refurbishment
New Century Theatre- Keswick	Cumbria	Theatre – New Facility
Sea to Sea Sculpture Trail	Cumbria	Public Art – Across Region Trail
Welfare State International – Ulverston	Cumbria	Artists Resource – Training Centre
Amber/Side Gallery	Durham	Film – Photography
Crook Arts Resource	Durham	Community Resource Centre
Darlington Arts Centre	Durham	Arts Centre – Refurbishment
Darlington Arts Centre (New)	Durham	Arts Centre – New Facility
Darlington Civic Theatre	Durham	Theatre – Refurbishment
Durham Arts Complex	Durham	Arts Centre – New Facility
Genesis Project – Consett	Durham	Arts Centre – Dance, Music and Artists Studios
Lanchester Community Centre	Durham	Community Centre – Refurbishment
Seaham Arts Centre	Durham	Arts Centre – New Facility
Witham Hall – Barnard Castle	Durham	Gallery – Refurbishment
Consett Empire	Durham	Theatre – Refurbishment

Architecture Centre	Newcastle	Artists Resource – Architecture
Bruvers Fun Palace	Newcastle	Arts Centre – Venue and Resource Centre
Laing Art Gallery (Southern Ext)	Newcastle	Gallery – Extension
Laing Art Gallery (Northern Ext)	Newcastle	Gallery – Extension
Live Theatre	Newcastle	Theatre – Extension
Dance City – National Dance Agency	Newcastle	Dance Centre – Studios and Venue
Newcastle Playhouse	Newcastle	Theatre – Extension and Redevelopment
Northern Sinfonia Instrument Bank	Newcastle	Music – Equipment
Regional Music Centre	Newcastle	Music – New build – Concert Hall and Training Centre
Riverside Youth Arts Centre	Newcastle	Music – Refurbishment
Theatre Royal	Newcastle	Theatre – Extension
Tyne Theatre and Opera House	Newcastle	Theatre – Extension and Refurbishment
Tyneside Cinema	Newcastle	Film Venue – Refurbishment
Irish Cultural Centre	Newcastle	Music Venue – Extension
University of Northumbria Gallery	Newcastle	Gallery – Extension
John Marley Training Centre	Newcastle	Film – Media Training Centre Equipment
Newcastle Arts Centre	Newcastle	Arts Centre – Also Craft Shop and Studios

Alnwick Playhouse	Northumberland	Arts Centre – Extension
Ashington Leisure Centre	Northumberland	Theatre – Equipment
Seaforth Street – Blyth	Northumberland	Community – Resource Centre
Brinkburn Priory	Northumberland	Artists Resource – Training Centre
Cheviot Centre – Wooler	Northumberland	Community – Gallery
Craft of the Word	Northumberland	Literature Centre – New Facility
Hirst Welfare Building	Northumberland	Community – Refurbishment
Morpeth Town Hall	Northumberland	Arts Centre – Extension
Northumberland Theatre Company	Northumberland	Theatre – Equipment and Production Base

1

Phoenix Theatre – Blyth	Northumberland	Theatre – Refurbishment
Queens Hall Arts Centre – Hexham	Northumberland	Theatre – Extension and Refurbishment
Woodhorn Colliery Museum	Northumberland	Artists Resource – Workspaces

Baltic Flour Mill	Gateshead	Gallery – New Facility
The “Angel” Sculpture	Gateshead	Public Art – Landmark Sculpture
Shipley Art Gallery	Gateshead	Gallery – Extension
European Media School	Gateshead	Film – Training Centre

Cullercoats Gallery	North Tyneside	Gallery
Freeform Artists Workshops	North Tyneside	Artists Resource – Workspace
Freeform Public Art Fund	North Tyneside	Public Art
North Tyneside Public Art Programme	North Tyneside	Public Art
Northern Print Studio	North Tyneside	Artists Resource – Workspace
Whitley Bay Playhouse	North Tyneside	Theatre – Refurbishment

Customs House – South Shields	South Tyneside	Dance Centre – Extension
-------------------------------	----------------	--------------------------

Artists Agency Training Base	Sunderland	Artists Resource – Training Centre
Biddick School – Washington	Sunderland	Community – School Facility
Sunderland Art Gallery	Sunderland	Gallery – Equipment for New Facility
Sunderland Empire	Sunderland	Theatre – Refurbishment
Sunderland Glass Centre	Sunderland	Gallery – Crafts Gallery and Studios