

SITE GALLERY

Press Release Monday 28 November 2016

Sheffield's Site Gallery awarded £750,000 by Arts Council England

Site Gallery has been awarded £750,000 by Arts Council England for their place-making project 'City of Ideas'.

'City of Ideas' will create new and accessible public art commissions animating existing spaces in the city centre. It will also create opportunities for young people, artists, the digital sector and public to work together over the next three years.

Paul Houghton, Head of Grant Thornton, Sheffield and Board Member of Sheffield City Region LEP:

"This is truly excellent news for Sheffield. We're a city which has a beating heart of creativity, coupled with some great examples of collaborative cross-sector activity. However, it is its ambition that has won us this Ambition for Excellence funding - which means it is so much more than being about the money. A #vibrantSheffield is a city sharing knowledge and connections - that's what 'City Of Ideas' is about, and this programme could be game changing!"

Laura Sillars, Artistic Director Site Gallery:

'City of Ideas embraces the power of art to connect people and to shine a light on this extraordinary creative and energetic city. We're working with an incredible team of passionate, brilliant people to make this urban realm project take shape who are all over the moon at today's news.'

The investment from ACE reflects the cultural strength and cross sector links in the city, between arts, business and education recently evidenced by the Great Exhibition of North bid, Art Sheffield and the current Sheffield Culture Consortium's Year of Making.

Councillor Mary Lea, cabinet member for culture, sport and leisure at Sheffield City Council, said: "This funding is great news for both Site Gallery and the arts in Sheffield as a whole.

"We are a city with a thriving cultural scene and additional public arts and events, such as those that this investment will pay for, will enable us to build upon this reputation even further."

The project connects to the multi-million pound investment in Sheffield City Council's Knowledge Gateway Project – an urban regeneration project within the Cultural Industries Quarter that includes millions of pounds of investment in public realm and capital projects in the area.

'City of Ideas' is being led by Site Gallery, in partnership with Sheffield City Council, British Council, Yorkshire Artspace, Showroom Workstation, Forced Entertainment, Artworks Sheffield, Eclipse Theatre, Sheffield Doc/Fest and Sheffield Hallam University. The team will work closely with Sheffield Culture Consortium, with additional funding from Paul Hamlyn Foundation and Sheffield City Region LEP.

Activity will begin in January 2017 with the first year's programme to be announced in the coming weeks.

Ends

About Site Gallery:

Led by Co-Directors Laura Sillars and Judith Harry, Site Gallery is an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation with revenue funding from Sheffield City Council.

Over the last few years it has presented solo-projects by artists including established artists such as Mike Kelley (USA), Jeremy Deller (UK), Sophie Calle (Fr) and UK firsts with Eva and Franco Mattes (It) and Pilvi Takala (FN). The Paul Hamlyn Foundation funded Society of Explorers runs throughout the year supporting young people in the city to make unique connections with artists and gain new skills and learning. In 2015, Site Gallery presented its new commissioned work in over 40 cities in 20 countries including Sydney, Beijing, Thessaloniki and Basel.

Currently exhibiting *Trade Routes*, an exhibition documenting the production and maiden voyage of a canoe built by the Manor Makers.

For further information, images or to arrange an interview please contact:

Kirsty Young

sitegallery.org

e: kirsty.young@sitegallery.org

t: 0114 281 2077

Image Credit:

Microsoft Infinity Room, Universal Everything in collaboration with Roundhouse