



Liverpool
Arts
Regeneration
Consortium

the Bluecoat.

FACT

Liverpool Biennial

Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse

National Museums Liverpool

Royal Liverpool Philharmonic

Tate Liverpool

Unity Theatre

The LARC Partnership

Eight of the leading cultural institutions in Liverpool have established a unique collaboration to ensure that cultural organisations play a significant role in the regeneration of the Liverpool City Region, and in establishing Liverpool as a world class creative city. Since its inception several years ago, LARC (Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium) has grown in size and strength as it has risen to the opportunities and challenges presented by Liverpool's status as European Capital of Culture for 2008.

LARC includes:

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Together with the wide range of smaller cultural organisations and other major venues in Liverpool, we represent a cultural infrastructure that is unequalled in any of the major English regional cities.

The Vision

The eight LARC partners share a fundamental belief in the power of art and culture to change lives far beyond the confines of galleries, museums, theatres and concert halls. We believe that regeneration will be achieved through releasing the creativity and aspirations of the people of the Liverpool City Region. We aim to harness the power of the arts and culture to inspire, engage and involve the people of the region, in order to create a confident, prosperous and healthy city that is open to ideas, globally connected and constantly learning.

Maintaining a world class cultural sector is fundamental to this vision and to the ultimate success of Liverpool as a major international city. So too is Liverpool's thriving cultural life, and LARC will work to ensure that this artistic vitality gains the highest possible profile both in the UK and internationally.

The cultural sector will rise to these opportunities by taking ownership of its own future, based on a range and depth of partnerships that will enable it to grow and flourish. If the cultural sector is strong, well networked and confident in expressing its public value, it will be in a better position to hold its own in a changing economic and political climate.

LARC will build on the spirit of collaboration that has developed amongst this group of eight organisations and will work with key allies such as Liverpool City Council and other local authorities in the city region. It will also work with other cultural organisations, and with partners including regeneration agencies, health trusts, schools, colleges and universities, the housing sector, tourism organisations and other key bodies.

Aims

In order to increase the role of the cultural sector in civic leadership, LARC aims to:

- ▶ Influence policy and decision making in the Liverpool city region, in order to establish a clear understanding of the role that cultural organisations can play in social and economic renewal
- ▶ Research new opportunities for regeneration through arts and culture, working in partnership with key agencies and with the community and voluntary sectors
- ▶ Enable people to develop the skills needed to lead, administer and sustain the future development of the cultural sector in the Liverpool City Region
- ▶ Contribute to regeneration programmes in parts of Liverpool that are still experiencing many challenges and high levels of deprivation
- ▶ Work with tourism and other agencies to give both visitors and local people the best possible experience when they take part in the cultural life of the city
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of cultural organisations and gain new investment for arts and culture to deliver these aims
- ▶ Become an international model for embedding the arts and cultural sectors in the heart of the regeneration of an entire city region
- ▶ Achieve a significant national and international media profile for the city
- ▶ Provide a major educational resource for the people of the city region

Programme

The LARC partners have worked closely with the Liverpool Culture Company, delivering many of the key elements of the Liverpool 08 programme and ensuring that cultural organisations in the city play their full part not only in the year, but also in planning a sustainable and creative legacy. The success of the year to date, in terms of audiences, media coverage and critical reception has demonstrated the strength and vitality of Liverpool's cultural offer.

LARC has secured funding for a number of pioneering programmes which enable us to achieve our goals, and realise the true strengths of organisations working collectively. These programmes have secured wide-ranging financial support, with over £6 million in new resources flowing into the city region. By collaborating in this way, we aim to demonstrate that critical mass can deliver an impact far beyond that which any one of the individual partners could realise alone.

Liverpool Thrive

Arts Council England has invested £1.34 million in LARC from its organisational development scheme, Thrive! The Liverpool Thrive programme will develop the LARC partnership, and deliver a series of programmes aimed at increasing the role of the cultural sector in civic leadership, and addressing social and economic renewal. This programme began in spring 2007 and will run until December 2010. It is managed by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic.

Find Your Talent

LARC is leading one of ten national pathfinders to deliver the Government's Find Your Talent scheme, which aims to give every child and young person access to five hours of culture every week. Find Your Talent will work in partnership with Liverpool, St Helen's and Knowsley Councils and Creative Partnerships Merseyside, running until August 2011. It is supported by both the Department for Children, Schools and Families and Schools (DCSF) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The total budget is £4 million, including £2.4 million from central government, with the balance from local partnership support. It is managed by National Museums Liverpool.

Creative Apprenticeships

LARC is running a national pilot for the Government's Creative Apprenticeships scheme. This aims to diversify the range of people who enter employment in the cultural sector by offering opportunities to young people who have not had access to degree level education. Ten young people have been placed as apprentices across the LARC partnership. This project is supported by the Paul Hamlyn Foundation,

the Working Neighbourhood Fund, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and the Learning and Skills Council. Nationally, Creative Apprenticeships is led by Creative Cultural Skills, supported by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS). The Liverpool Creative Apprenticeships programme is led by Tate Liverpool.

Audience Development

LARC is currently running a year long programme of audience development on Merseyside, aiming to build on the audiences attracted during Liverpool 2008, and to provide strategic support to the cultural sector. This programme is supported by Arts Council England North West, and is led by the Unity Theatre.

Cultural Leadership

LARC received support in 2007 from the Cultural Leadership Programme, for training and coaching for its own Chief Executives, and to deliver a bespoke Common Purpose programme for emerging leaders both from LARC partners and other cultural organisations. LARC intends to secure funding to repeat the training for emerging leaders. This project is led by the Bluecoat.

Other initiatives

LARC is working closely with Liverpool Culture Campus, a partnership between the University of Liverpool, Liverpool Hope University, Liverpool John Moores University and a number of cultural organisations. Culture Campus aims to create an environment for learning, research, participation and expression in contemporary culture.

LARC is also linked to Visual Arts in Liverpool, a project which aims to secure international recognition of Liverpool's place within a global network of visual arts thinking and practice.

LARC Structure

LARC operates through a series of regular meetings of different groups of staff, including Chief Executives and Artistic Directors and the Heads of Marketing, Education and Participation. LARC is not a constituted body, and intends to remain as a consortium rather than creating a separate LARC brand or institution. Projects are managed by one partner taking a lead role, and acting as the accountable body on behalf of the consortium.



For more information on LARC:

Belinda Kidd, LARC Thrive Programme Director

Tel: 0151 210 2904

Email: Belinda.kidd@liverpoolphil.com

www.larc.uk.com

