

PRESS RELEASE

MAJOR GRANT FOR NORTH HAMPSHIRE ARTS PROJECT TO CELEBRATE THE OLYMPICS

Basingstoke-based craft education charity, The Making, has just been awarded a £60,500 Arts Council Grant for the Arts for a project to celebrate the Olympics in North Hampshire.

Festival Makers has been devised by the Making to develop young artists, to promote a greater understanding of the talents and skills of diverse cultures and to encourage local people to celebrate the Olympics through participation in the arts. It is hoped that the project will develop into an annual North Hampshire World Arts Festival – a real celebration of all the area has to offer.

Over the next two years, The **Festival Makers** award scheme will select six contemporary craft makers through a national competition and provide them with artist residencies in schools in Basingstoke, Andover and Farnborough/Aldershot. The residencies will give them the opportunity to create large-scale public artworks inspired by one or more world cultures, for local festivals. Schoolchildren between the ages of five and eighteen will work with the makers and with musicians and dancers from their local communities to develop their own creative skills.

Margaret Benton, The Making's Director, said "My team and I are thrilled to have the funding to involve local communities in such a pioneering craft project. It will allow us to commission some of the most talented makers in the country to work with musicians and dancers from diverse cultures, and with young people and families from North Hampshire, to create inspiring artworks to celebrate the 2012 Olympics."

The Making's partners in this project are London's Central Saint Martins College of Art and Design, The Basingstoke Multicultural Forum and the local authorities in North Hampshire.

The **Festival Makers** project is supported by the National Lottery through Arts Council England.

As a pilot, The Making has already initiated a successful artist's residency in two Basingstoke schools with international weaver, Rezia Wahid, and is organising the borough's first World Arts Day in the Market Place, Basingstoke on 3 June 2010 from 10am to 4pm.

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Note to Editors FOLLOWS

Contact details

For further information about this programme, contact **Margaret Benton**, Director of The Making 01256 845569 /845679.

Grants for the Arts

THE MAKING®

Grants for the arts is Arts Council England's flagship open application programme that provides lottery funding to organisations and for national activities.

The Making is an award-winning arts charity based in Basingstoke that promotes high quality contemporary craft, art and design and inspires new audiences to engage in the art of making. It takes art to where people are, delivering popular and innovative events and participatory programmes for children, families and young people. For further information, visit www.themaking.org.uk

World Arts Day, Market Place, Basingstoke 1000-1630 on 3 June 2010.

A spectacular day of free world crafts, music and dance workshops for all the family, organised by The Making in partnership with The Basingstoke Multicultural Forum. Fairfield's Arts Centre, Kala the Arts and The Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery.

For further information, visit www.themaking.org.uk