



Creative Partnerships

exciting minds

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 27 June 2005

A Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford project

Local Children's Arts Project Wins National Award

Didsbury C of E Primary and St Philip's RC Primary in Salford have won a **prestigious national Roots & Wings Award**, which recognises children's exploration of their heritage. Pupils and teachers received their prize at a high profile party in London, co-hosted by TV presenter and Chair of the North West Cultural Consortium, **Loyd Grossman** and **Diane Abbot MP** and attended by Minister of Culture **David Lammy MP**.

They are one of only seven winners of a **Roots & Wings Award**, beating off competition from nearly fifty entries. The award is organised by Curiosity & Imagination, the national network for children and young people's hands-on learning. Pupils and teachers collected their award at the Roots & Wings ceremony in London on 15 June.

In the winning project - 'Africa & Islam: Signs & Symbols' - developed in partnership with **The Whitworth Art Gallery** in Manchester and **Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford**, six and seven years olds from Didsbury C of E Primary and St Philip's RC Primary created animated films based on African artefacts in the study rooms at The Whitworth Art Gallery and Manchester Museum.

Creative Partnerships works to give school children throughout England the opportunity to develop their potential, their ambition, their creativity and imagination through sustainable partnerships with creative and cultural organisations, businesses and individuals.

Pupils explored the meaning of the artefacts, working directly with curators before taking part in creative writing, music-making, drawing and animation workshops and creating the films. The films weaved images of the artefacts into imaginative stories which reflected the children's new understanding of African heritage and Islamic culture.

Roots & Wings is based on the belief that understanding our heritage is crucial to helping children develop a strong sense of identity and to deepen connections with their communities and the wider world.

TV Presenter Loyd Grossman said, *"These winners show that heritage and the arts have a vital role in the development of children. By creatively encouraging children to interact and examine their local heritage, the projects have achieved fantastic results and I congratulate them all."*

Nancy Barrett, Creative Director of Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford said, *"This award is a fantastic recognition of the imagination and creativity put into the project by staff and pupils. By working with their heritage they have learnt to value their past as well as develop remarkable creative skills."*





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For media enquiries relating to Creative Partnerships, Didsbury C of E Primary or St Philip's RC Primary please contact Rowan Atkins, Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford:

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For media enquiries, relating to Roots & Wings please contact:

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Notes to Editors:

'Heritage' is a broad term which includes places, objects and traditions that people value as a special legacy from the past: museum and gallery collections, countryside and parks, historic building and sites, non-tangible heritage such as oral history.

Curiosity & Imagination is the national network for practitioners dedicated to inspiring children's exploration of the world around them through hands-on activities. By fostering natural curiosity about the past and present, Curiosity & Imagination helps children to develop a strong sense of identity, deepen connections with their communities and the wider world, and take an active and imaginative role in shaping the future. Curiosity & Imagination is led by an alliance of 3 charities, Kids' Clubs Network, Demos and the Campaign for Learning.

Curiosity & Imagination is founded on a belief in the importance of:

- harnessing the power of playful, hands-on experience as a tool for learning
- empowering parents and carers to support their children's learning
- encouraging community ownership of the provision, giving children a central role in decision-making
- drawing in expertise from local partners across a range of sectors.

There are already 500 members of the Curiosity & Imagination network who are developing exciting learning opportunities for children in a range of sectors including childcare, heritage and arts, libraries, schools and play.

4Children is a child centred and family focused organisation dedicated to the care, education and personal development of children. 4Children aspires to ensure that all children, young people and families have access to a creative, safe and child focused environment, and activities.

For more information on 4Children visit our website www.4Children.org.uk for more information on childcare in your area call our helpline on 020 7512 2100.

Creative Partnerships

Creative Partnerships is the first joint creative education programme supported by the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Education and Skills and is managed by Arts Council England.

Creative Partnerships is currently working nationally in 25 areas and has been given financial investment to roll out to a further 11 areas by 2006.

Creative Partnerships recognises and builds on exciting and culturally relevant creative learning opportunities for young people. It has the support of both the creative and cultural sectors and is regarded as the blueprint for the ways in which our children can be educated to embrace the challenges of living and working in the 21st century.

www.creative-partnerships.com



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Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford

Between 2002 – 2004, Creative Partnerships Manchester Salford worked with over 500 teachers, 6,500 pupils and 150 artists on a range of programmes, with the aim of making creativity central to teaching and learning...

Schools and Cultural Sectors involved in the programme from 2002 – present:

Schools partners are: Barlow RC High School; Birchfields Primary School; Broadoak Primary School; Buile Hill High School; Canon Williamson High School; Crab Lane County Primary Schools; Didsbury CE Primary School; Ellenbrook Primary School; Langworthy Road Primary School; Light Oaks Infants School; Manchester Hospital Schools and Home Teaching Service; Medlock Primary School; Newall Green High School for the Arts; New Croft High School; Plant Hill High School; St Ambrose Barlow School; St Barnabas CE Primary School; St Mary's CE Primary School; St Mary's RC Primary School; St Peter's Catholic Primary School; St Peter's RC High School; St Philip's RC Primary School; Seedley Primary School; The Swinton High School; Wentworth High School; Westwood Park Primary School and Whalley Range 11-18 High School.

Cultural Sector partners: Artists & Education; Contact Theatre; Cornerhouse; Creative Industries Development Service, Greater Manchester Music Action Zone; The Lowry; Manchester Arts Education Initiative; Manchester Art Gallery; The Royal Exchange Theatre; Spearfish; Touchdown Dance; Walk The Plank, WFA Media and Cultural Centre.

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