



The Watershed
01484 843030

22 Bridge St Slaithwaite
info@thewatershed.org.uk

Huddersfield HD7 5JN
www.thewatershed.org.uk

Press release

30th March 2011

NPO Arts Council Funding for Watershed Arts Practice, Slaithwaite

Watershed Arts Practice has successfully bid to become one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations.

It has been awarded a 37% increase in funding over three years to £63,037 in 2014/15. This corrects an historical anomaly, recognises the great value the organisation offers and will enable it to achieve its ambitions.

Watershed Arts Practice is a unique company that acts as an umbrella for the work of three arts organisations: Satellite Arts; Impossible Theatre and Shabang Theatre Adventures, only two of which were previously funded. The practice also manages The Watershed – a regionally significant arts facility in Slaithwaite that hosts participatory arts workshops; residencies; training courses and family arts events.

The funding will sustain and develop its programme of participatory arts in the community projects with multi-generational and mixed cultural groups with an emphasis on adults and children with learning difference and young people.

The Watershed Arts Practice Board of Directors said "We are delighted with this outcome for the future of The Watershed and its position in the development of participatory arts for West Yorkshire."

Impossible Theatre

Satellite Arts

Shabang! Theatre Adventures

A WAP spokesperson added “We also recognise that there have been significant cuts in arts funding and that support for many organisations has been withdrawn. It’s sad that the rich mix of Kirklees based arts groups seem to have been particularly hard hit in these cuts and we regret that the Arts Council has been put in this position due to Government policies. We hope that Watershed can offer support to any local artists and organisations that find themselves casualties of these cuts.”

“We believe that the arts are not dispensable tinsel that can be discarded in these difficult times, but are in fact the golden thread that can help individuals and communities sustain and grow in many ways.”

--- Ends ---

Notes to Editors:

Arts Funding Facts

- A comparatively small smattering of state money – in all, about £1bn – has been enough seed corn to grow a giant beanstalk of an industry.
- In the decade to 2007, 2m new jobs and £16.6bn in exports were generated by the creative industries that also opened doors to reach and support non-traditional audiences.
- Britain's creative industries are now the second largest sector after finance.
- The Creative Partnerships scheme brought musicians, writers and artists into schools, focusing on areas where children were least likely to sample the arts. Though research proved how this increased children's educational success, it was abolished in culture secretary Jeremy Hunt's first cuts.
- With nearly 15% gouged from a comparatively small budget of £350m (which is vital to the sector) the Arts Council will be taking the rap for decisions it is forced to make.
- The Arts Council administration costs are less than most organisations at 6.5%, but they still face having to half their administration costs in order to make up a total cut of 29%.



Supported by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Impossible Theatre

Satellite Arts

Shabang! Theatre Adventures