

Great art for everyone



West Midlands edition: April 2009 Opportunities



Young people from the West Midlands perform Big Dance at the launch of Open Weekend 2008.

Register for the London 2012 Open Weekend

You don't have to wait until 2012 to be part of the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Registration for the London 2012 Open Weekend 2009 has opened and we would like to invite you to register your event.

Last year over 700,000 people enjoyed the first London 2012 Open Weekend; this year we hope it will be bigger and better. Between 24 – 26 July 2009, the weekend will feature events all over the UK inspired by London 2012, enabling people – young or old – to join in.

London 2012 want organisations and venues across the UK to really open up, challenge themselves to do something different, something exciting. We want the public to take this opportunity to join in and try something new.

All events will need to complete an online [registration form](#), but we are appealing to cultural and creative organisations with events or ideas that could form part of the weekend to also drop us a brief email outlining their plans to culturalolympiadwm@artscouncil.org.uk.

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Grant award logo

The Arts Council has a new grant award logo. It is for all regularly funded organisations to use.

If you are one of our regularly funded organisations we need you to use it on all your information, publicity and marketing materials.

To download the logo and for guidelines on where and how to use it, please click [here](#).



Illustration by Simon Peplow

Awards for all

New look Awards for All is now live. Awards for All, the Lottery grants scheme funding small, local community-based projects has relaunched

Email your creative/cultural plans and ideas to culturalolympiadwm@artscouncil.org.uk and for more information about the London 2012 Open Weekend and other opportunities from Arts Council England, West Midlands please click [here](#).

Sustain



There's a lot of history, you just don't see it, Kate Lynch 2009
Digital image, tea stain, ink, recycled paper

Sustain - Arts Council support during the economic downturn

The Arts Council has announced Sustain, a programme of support for arts organisations to ensure the continued success story of the arts through the recession.

Sustain is a £40 million, open application fund which will provide extra support for organisations under pressure as a result of recession. Sustain is not a fund for failing organisations, or to replace funding withdrawn from other public bodies, but a way that we can sustain artistic excellence in the context of the economic downturn.

Sustain is a fixed-term two year programme (09/10 and 10/11) designed to address short term needs (such as cash flow) and long-term sustainability. They will be one-off awards to cover two years (2009-2011).

In addition there will be additional support for individual artists and smaller arts organisations through Grants for the arts. We are increasing our Grants for the arts budget from £52 to £54 million in 2009/10 and to £56 million in 2010/11.

We will also provide support through the Town Centres Initiative, setting aside £500,000 of our lottery income as a fund to which artists can apply for grants to help them carry out artistic activities in

with changes to the application process and the website.

Awards for All, England offers grants of between £300 and £10,000 for projects that improve communities, and the lives of people within them. It is for voluntary and community groups, schools and health organisations, parish and town councils.

www.awardsforall.org.uk

empty shops made available to them through the scheme. We are talking to government departments involved to determine the best way for the scheme to be administered, and so that we ensure the quality of the art that is funded, and will update you when plans for this programme are clearer.

More detail about these measures and our wider actions to support the arts during the recession are all outlined on our website at www.artscouncil.org.uk/actiononrecession .

Effect of the April 09 budget on Arts Council funding

Last week the Chancellor announced a cut to the DCMS budget for 2010/11 of £20 million. The Arts Council's share of that is £4 million. In implementing these cuts we will not reduce our planned investment in the arts organisations we fund on a regular basis. Instead we will reconsider our existing and planned new projects and look to find savings there.

Own Art



Silver Rings by Natalie Jane Harris
Photograph: Kevin Clifford

Arts Council England's [Own Art](#) scheme is designed to make it easy and affordable for everyone to buy original, high quality

contemporary art and craft. Customers can borrow up to £2,000, or as little as £100, to be paid back in equal instalments over a period of 10 months - interest free.

The scheme is available through selected galleries across England specialising in the sale of contemporary art and craft. Membership of the scheme is also open to art colleges and universities and to other appropriate establishments such as artist co-operatives and studio groups.

The application period to become a member of the scheme is now open. The closing date for the receipt of completed applications is 22 May 2009.

To apply for membership of the Own Art scheme please visit our website or email ownart@artscouncil.org.uk and ask for an application pack. Copies of the Guidelines and Criteria for membership and full terms and conditions for the operation of the scheme (Scheme Rules) can be obtained from our website at www.artscouncil.org.uk/ownart

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Arts Council England, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ
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