20 January 2016

**press release**

**New touring network for outer London boroughs supported by Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is awardinga consortium of outer London arts venues **£598,228** for theirproposal ‘Circulate’ – an outdoor arts touring network for areas of low engagement, the funding body announced today (20 January).

‘Circulate’ is a consortium of Outer London venues in four areas: Watermans Arts Centre in Hounslow, the Albany in Deptford, Millfield Theatre in Enfield and Stratford Circus Arts Centre in Newham.

In partnership with the Independent Street Arts Network and Mayor of London, the project’s aim is to establish an Outer London Ring for outdoor arts touring, providing high quality outdoor art to local communities in Outer London boroughs.

Joyce Wilson, London Area Director, Arts Council England, said: “London’s successes in this round of our Strategic Touring Programme show an incredible drive to connect with those members of society in the hardest to reach corners, whether that’s on our doorstep in London or further afield.

Watermans’ proposal for an Outer London touring network offers an exciting potential future model for arts engagement in our outer boroughs. Circulate will connect artists and audiences through brand new outdoor art created by and for communities, generating real investment in arts and culture from currently under-engaged audiences.”

Jan Lennox, Director at Watermans, said: “Watermans and the Circulate consortium are hugely excited to receive this investment from Arts Council England.  It will allow Circulate to take high quality Outdoor Arts to North, South, East and West London, especially to communities that don't usually engage with the Arts.  We look forward to working with partners to tour this programme to all corners of Outer London where most 'real Londoners' live.”

The Mayor of London Boris Johnson said: 'I am delighted with the success of Circulate, which has entertained thousands of Londoners living in outer London boroughs. This new funding means it will be able to continue supporting creativity and bringing pleasure to even more people. In supporting outdoor arts, we are building on the cultural legacy of London 2012 and taking forward our ambition to reinvigorate high streets and town centres across the capital.'

The funding was awarded today in the latest round of the Arts Council’s Strategic Touring Programme. The funding programme aims to give people better access to quality work in a range of venues to reach more people across the country, targeting places with low levels of art engagement and those that rely on touring for arts and culture. It welcomes applications for a wide range of high-quality work on tour including, in particular, mid-scale theatre, inbound international work, and more work by and for people from diverse backgrounds.

Other successful projects in London were:

Battersea Arts Centre, who received £1,242,633 for their Collaborative Touring Network (CTN), a collective of eight independent producing teams supported by Battersea Arts Centre. The network was first awarded Strategic Touring Funding in 2013, and began as a partnership between six producing teams and Battersea Arts Centre. In this new round of funding, the network will expand to reach more areas of England. Over three years, CTN will use bi-annual festivals of high-quality theatre to catalyse cultural regeneration in eight towns and cities across England with low levels of engagement.

Greenwich+Docklands International Festival, who received £1,200,000 for Global Streets: New Horizons for International Outdoor Arts. Building on the successful ‘Global Streets’ pilot in 2015, this is a three year touring programme of audience development through international outdoor arts. High quality productions from leading international companies will tour to 10 venues across the country, connecting the productions to the diverse demography of each location.

You can see the full list of successful applicants and awards [here](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/strategic-touring-programme/successful-applicants/).

Information about the programme and application deadlines for future rounds can be found [here](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/funding/apply-funding/apply-for-funding/strategic-touring-programme/).

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Notes to editors

**Arts Council England** champions, develops and invests in artistic and cultural experiences that enrich people’s lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to digital art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2015 and 2018, we plan to invest £1.1 billion of public money from government and an estimated £700 million from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country. [www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk/)

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