

Manchester Week 16 – 20 March 2009

SPEAKERS

Roger O Keeffe

In the European Commission's Directorate-General for Education and Culture, Roger O'Keeffe is Head of Sector responsible for the coordination and implementation of the European Year of Creativity and Innovation 2009.

He has been working on European cooperation in the field of education and training in the Commission since 1993, and was a member of the team which organised the European Year of Lifelong Learning in 1996. He was subsequently responsible for relations with international organisations in the field of education and training.

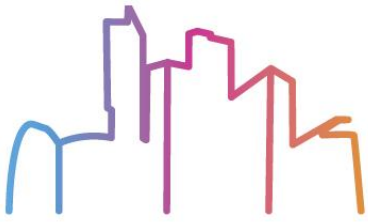
He previously dealt with European regional policy and structural funds, both in the European Commission, which he joined in 1989, and in the Irish Department of Finance, where he had already been dealing with the European structural funds from a national perspective.

Lyn Barbour

Lyn Barbour is Head of Cultural Strategy, Manchester City Council. In this role she is responsible for developing an approach to cultural investment which will both support the city's economic development and contribute to community cohesion. The role encompasses arts, sports, heritage, creative industries and tourism. Lyn was previously Director of the Creative Industries Development Service, an innovative project supporting creative businesses and individuals through networking, peer support and marketing. Previous experience includes public, private and voluntary sector roles in the arts and creative industries in Manchester and London. She has a BA Hons in Comparative Literature from the University of Essex and an MSc in Anthropology from the London School of Economics. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of the Arts.

Jeremy Davies

Jeremy Davies is a highly experience promoter, producer and project manager having promoted over 3000 events over the last 20 years including large scale festivals, site specific events and programmes of activity developed and promoted in partnership with community organisations. More recently he has instigated and managed a major European Regional Development Fund creative industries project in Oldham leading to the opening of a new music venue, the creation of a new recording studio and development of new record labels and community music organisations. Jeremy recently managed a successful Contemporary Music Network Tour with New York based Hypnotic Brass Ensemble and set up the 7 Songs festival in Oldham and Saddleworth. As well as producing Aftershock International, Jeremy is working with The Durham International Brass Festival and Oldham MBC.



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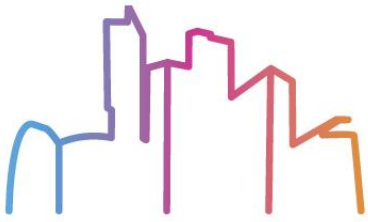
Debra Farman-King

Debra King worked as the joint Creative Producer of the Commonwealth Games Arts Programme- Cultureshock where she produced an international cultural programme of over two hundred events during a four month period across the performing and visual/public arts, multi media, site specific, literature and film, presenting a wide range of work looking at contemporary understandings of the Commonwealth and the connections between the arts and sport. For two years Debra worked for the Australia Council for the arts representing and marketing Australian contemporary arts across the UK. At the same time she has worked as a consultant and Creative Producer for a wide range of organisations nationally and internationally. Debra is currently co-producing the Aftershock International project and is Director of The Greater Manchester Youth Music Action Zone.

Dave Carter

Dave Carter is Head of the Manchester Digital Development Agency (MDDA) at Manchester City Council. MDDA focuses on how digital technologies can support economic regeneration and social inclusion. The ONE-Manchester Partnership takes the lead within the Digital Challenge 10 (DC10) network on the Next Generation Connectivity workstream. Dave was one of the founder members and the first President of the Telecities network (part of Eurocities) and is currently involved in a range of EU funded projects including through the Interreg, Seventh Framework (FP7) and Intelligent Energy Europe (IEE) Programmes.

He was European Project Coordinator of the IntelCities Project, in partnership with the University of Salford, Nokia, Cisco, Telecities/Eurocities and 20 other European Cities. In 1999 he was seconded for two years to Government Office for the North West (GONW) where he was responsible for ICT/New Media issues in relation to the implementation of the new European Structural Funds Objective 2 programme for North West England for 2000-2006. His involvement in previous EU programmes includes the European Digital Cities project and the INFOCITIES project supported through the EU's TEN-Telecom programme 1996-98.



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FEATURED PROJECTS

Aftershock International

Aftershock International that provides opportunities for young emerging artists from Manchester and the north west to work with a range of partners internationally. These include our new partners in Genoa and Marseille as part of the Culture 2000 programme and also a potential partner in India for December 2009.

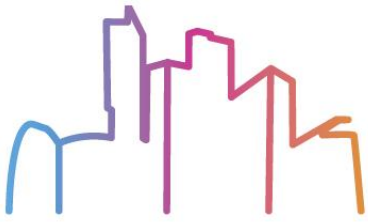
Aftershock will be a culturally diverse translational professional development programme for emerging musicians from the UK and Europe artistically directed by multi-award winning UK based musician, composer, producer Nitin Sawhney.

Nitin Sawhney has released 7 studio albums and scored over 40 films. He is producer, songwriter, DJ, multi-instrumentalist, composer and cultural pioneer. He scores music for theatre and dance and has collaborated with a huge range of artists from Cirque De Soleil to Sir Paul McCartney. This years BBC Proms featured a retrospective of his work at The Royal Albert Hall. Nitin and the Aftershock producers have worked many emerging artists projects, including, most recently, a London wide project for the re-opening of London's Southbank. They have also run projects in Australia, Germany and for the Cultureshock Commonwealth Games Arts Festival.

Through a series of intense music workshop programmes lead by award winning Barcelona based flamenco fusion artists Ojos de Brujos, highly regarded UK based singer songwriter/producer Fink and finally Nitin Sawhney, Aftershock International will provide a unique opportunity for emerging musicians from 3 European countries to collaborate together and to exchange creative ideas and business practices, produce and perform new work and create a long term sustainable network. Emerging film and multi-media artists from each country will create visuals that respond to themes and messages of each performance. It is intended that participants represent a range of different skills, experiences, opinions and perspectives and will join together to find a common voice and explore themes and new ideas.

Each workshop programme will result in a unique one hour performance that will feature the work created with accompanying visuals.

Alongside the creative work participants will receive business guidance and support from the Aftershock producers.



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The Sharp Project

The digital and creative industries are important to the UK economy. Two million people are employed in the sector; it contributes £60 Billion a year to the economy. Manchester has correctly identified that the creative sector is an opportunity to both drive economic benefit across a diverse population whilst increasing their skills of its citizens and to renew and reinforce its position as a global player in this sector.

The SHARP Project is about bringing together and enabling talented starters, young entrepreneurs and established professionals to develop and prototype their ideas by providing affordable flexible space with huge connectivity to the digital world.

At its centre is the former Sharp warehouse in East Manchester. The existing ¼ million sq. feet complex is being converted in to a new centre for digital content production that will provide affordable and flexible space with an easy in/easy out ethos.

The Project will facilitate local, regional, national and international networking and collaboration between tenants in the building, helping to nurture small businesses with an emphasis on the specialisms of animation, CGI and Visual Effects through a series of events such as Masterclasses, talks, workshops, exhibitions and screenings that will bring people together.

As well as a physical communal area inside the Sharp Factory, the Project will create virtual links with other international organisations and networks with creative and technological development programs (business and creative). It will also have strong links into Manchester's educational structures to help develop much needed skills in the digital animation and effects industry.

The Sharp building will be fully operational in Autumn 2009 although production is already underway on the site.