

ArtReach

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Night of Festivals 2010

Celebrating the bicentenary of Latin American independence and the centenary of the Mexican Revolution

Summary

Night of Festivals is an ArtReach led project planned as an ongoing flagship programme to celebrate independence, freedom and the democratic spirit of 24 hour world culture through innovative 21st century arts.

In 2010 the project will be delivered as two Festival events:

- 15-18 September, Old Market Square, Nottingham
- 18-21 November, Trafalgar Square, London

Each Festival will comprise installations, digital art projections and sequences of live performance (primarily music). The Festivals will share artistic talent from a wide portfolio of Latin American countries (UK and Latin America based artists), and also provide a special platform for Mexico to celebrate the centenary of the Mexican Revolution.

Programme

The layout for each Festival will comprise project infrastructure and installations, providing ongoing stimulus and participation for local people and visitors from 6pm on the opening day and then from 10am through to 11pm each evening.

There will be full sequences of staged live activity from 7-10pm on the opening night and from 2-10pm on each Saturday. On other Festival days there will be informal, live, street performance and a stage sequence of 2hrs (timing dependent on location and day).



Infrastructure and installations will comprise (amongst others) the following (please note some installations are dependent upon specific funding being achieved):

Item	Artist	Description
PANI BP12 projector	Images from 16 different artists representing different Latin American countries	The PANI is capable of projecting onto building facades and the plan is to use Canada House (TS) and the Old Council House (Nottingham) for projections from dusk till evening shut down. Some artists have been identified but a Brief will be circulated in March to invite further proposals and ensure wide Latin American representation.
Nanoplex	Moving image work from various artists	The Nanoplex is a self-contained surround-sound cinema housed within a family caravan. This will be parked on the Square. The interior has been designed specifically to give audiences an immersive and intimate experience, with seating for up to 12 people. The Nanoplex will run a rolling programme, every 20 minutes, through the Festivals. Work shown will range from 4 to 12 minutes in duration and will be presented in 5.1 surround sound.
Roving food and drink installation	Invited caterers and volunteers	At designated times there will be a small group of Latin American "waiters" touring the Festival site with bite size free tasters of different Latin American cuisine and liquid refreshment.
Stage and LED screens	Various performers + still and moving image artists (as per PANI projection and Nanoplex)	The stage will have programmed live performance (see section on live performance below) Moving image and still work from various artists will be screened during the day (complementing the projection at night). The screens will be used to present appropriate visuals to accompany live performance.
Night of St John	Laura Belem (Brazil)	A lit flag and audio installation (with a specially created audio montage based on the artist's memories of the Night of Saint John Festival). The installation creates a "corridor" for audiences to promenade.



Messages from Mexico	Paulina del Paso (Mexico)	An installation throughout the space sharing recorded messages from Mexico.
Ekeko	Collaboration	A sculptural representation of the Andean god of abundance, particularly important in Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Bolivia and Argentina. It is intended to provide a means of audience participation through the opportunity to "write a wish" to Ekeko which will then be attached to the sculpture, leading to a growing weight of wishes over the Festival period.
The Followers	Ximena Garrido-Lecca (Peru)	<i>The Followers</i> is an installation reconstructing the appearance of the burial structure called <i>nichos</i> , decorated with idiosyncratic flair and typically found in the most deprived areas of Central and South American countries.
Public Order	Tercerunquinto (Mexico)	Wait and see!
The Life-like project	Herrera Gianino (Peru)	A participation project enabling people to have a mask portrait created that captures a moment in their lives, the moment of celebrating independence, an image of themselves.
Varal	Lourival Cuquinha (Brazil)	An installation that involves participation from ALL Latin American communities in London and Nottingham.
Converging Realities	Gina Badenoch and other artists (Mexico)	A sensory installation that invites small groups at a time to explore freedom and independence from the perspective of the visually impaired. This is a collaboration involving visually impaired artists in Mexico and the UK and visually impaired participants and volunteers.
Robotic video projectors		The technical team can programme the projectors to provide exquisite floor covering for the Squares, or alternatively this could be a further artist commission
Other installations	Discussions are still in progress to explore other potential installation initiatives	To be determined



There remains scope and flexibility for detailed planning and programming of bands/musicians for the live music elements of the Festivals, but the programme of performances will be structured as follows, with some specific performers already identified, suggested and recruited for each slot:

Nottingham (15-18 September)

Wed 15 September 7-10pm

Special opening live event sequence

Thurs and Friday 16/17 September

- Street music/performance
- Live music from two bands each day (artists to be confirmed)

Saturday 18 September 2-5pm and 7-10pm

- The afternoon performance (leading into dusk) will focus on procession and community participation with Mandinga Arts (Colombia), Gozart (Chile) and Paraiso School of Samba (Brazil) working with local community arts organisations. There will be a procession followed by a concluding site specific performance with finale music.
- The evening slot will include a special culminating Mexican celebration to highlight the forthcoming centenary of the Revolution.

London Trafalgar Square (18-21 November)

Thurs 18 November

Special opening live event sequence

Fri 19 Nov

- Street music/performance
- Live music from two bands (artists to be confirmed)

Saturday 20 November 2-5pm and 7-10pm

- Special Revolution centenary launch event following reception



Thereafter the afternoon performance will focus on procession and community participation leading into dusk, with Mandinga Arts (Colombia), Gozart (Chile) and Paraiso School of Samba (Brazil) working with local community arts organisations. There will be processional performance around the Northern Terrace with site specific performance including finale music.

- The evening slot will include a special culminating Mexican celebration to highlight the centenary of the Revolution. The programme will feature:

Sun 21 Nov

- Street music/performance
- Live music from two bands (artists to be confirmed) leading to conclusion

Budget and timescale

There are currently firm funding commitments from:

- Arts Council England
- Nottingham City Council
- Igniting Ambition (Cultural Olympiad through the Legacy Trust)
- Latin American Embassies
- Mexico Tourism Board
- One major sponsor

It is hoped to shortly confirm minimum funding required to enable contracting to commence and key personnel/artists to be confirmed. Thereafter there will be ongoing fundraising to fully maximise scope and ambition.

The project is led by David Hill as Artistic Director with curatorial support and advice from:

- Other members of the ArtReach team
- Key partners
- A Project Advisory Group

Ends

Contact for further information:

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