

28 June 2017

## Arts Council England confirms increased funding for Attenborough Arts Centre

- Grant of £828,000 announced to support University of Leicester arts centre
- Attenborough Arts Centre receives the second largest funding increase in England

More images available to download [here](#):



Sir Nicholas Serota, Chair Arts Council England, visit to Attenborough Arts Centre's Gallery with artists Robert Thacker (left) and Diane E Hall (right).

The University of Leicester's Attenborough Arts Centre is delighted to be selected by Arts Council England for a further four years of funding from 2018-2022, becoming the organisation with the second largest funding increase in England.

The grant of £828,000 over four years, conditional to further negotiations, will enable Attenborough Arts Centre to continue developing its innovative programme of performance and creative learning, providing access to the arts for all in Leicester. The funding will also support the delivery of the arts centre's exhibitions programme

in the new £1.5 million gallery, opened in late 2015, one of the largest contemporary art spaces in the region dedicated to the display of contemporary art, and a major new asset for Leicester.

Professor Paul Boyle, President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Leicester said: "The University of Leicester is committed to making a vital difference to the city and county and we are truly proud of the achievements of the Attenborough Arts Centre. The centre has a proven track record in delivering the ambitions of the late Richard Attenborough in providing *great art for everyone*. This is achieved in a wonderful building with a truly inclusive and innovative approach that reaches out to staff, students and the wider community in Leicester. I am therefore delighted to hear that Arts Council England also recognises the wonderful work that the centre does and has seen it fit to increase its funding to us over the next four years.

"This is greatly appreciated as we recognise the difficult decisions that the Arts Council has had to take in its funding agreements so we are especially grateful. We can now look forward to delivering more and better art in collaboration with the Arts Council in the years to come."

Peter Knott, Area Director, Arts Council England said: "Attenborough Arts provides dance, music, visual and performing arts in the heart of Leicester and we're delighted to be increasing our investment in their work over the next four years. It'll be great to see our funding help Attenborough Arts to engage with children and young people and also commission new work by disabled artists, which will be toured and shared across the country, for everyone to enjoy."

Michaela Butter, Director of Attenborough Arts Centre, University of Leicester said: "We are absolutely thrilled that Arts Council England recognise the valuable work that we do and have decided to increase their investment on us. The funding we receive from ACE is essential in helping us to support and increase access for artists and audiences to great art. On behalf of the University of Leicester I'd like to thank ACE for their continued financial support and confidence in our organisation. The majority of the support from ACE is invested in supporting artists from a wide range of backgrounds and goes to make art inclusive for as many people as possible. We look forward to delivering more art to more people."

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#### **Notes to Editors:**

Further details are available from Patricia Bennett at email [pb263@le.ac.uk](mailto:pb263@le.ac.uk), tel (0116) 223 1542. [www.attenborougharts.com](http://www.attenborougharts.com)

#### **About Attenborough Arts Centre**

The University of Leicester's Attenborough Arts Centre prides itself on being accessible and inclusive. With over 20 years of experience, the programme offers courses and workshops, contemporary art, performance and live art, theatre and comedy, live music and jazz, dance, activities for children and families, and more. It is proud to champion emerging talent and disability-led performance companies, supporting those starting their careers. Its outstanding access and inclusive work has been recognised, through multiple awards and grants from Arts Council England,

British Council, BBC Children in Need, Leicester Shire Promotions and Paul Hamlyn Foundation. Its audience has grown to 109,000 people over the last year.

Attenborough Arts Centre is part of the University of Leicester's Division of External Relations. Its new exhibition programme will significantly contribute to the University's corporate social responsibility, wider public engagement and strategic research goals. It will specifically explore issues of human identity and inter-cultural interactions, promote inter-discipline, attract high-calibre collaborators, and encourage new imaginative approaches that culminate in exhibition projects.

### **About Arts Council England**

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)**