

Press Release

8 June 2006

CULTURAL WORLD UNITES TO LAUNCH FUTURE VISION

Today, leading organisations from across the cultural sector joined together for the first time to publish a vision for the future and a plan of action. In a joint document, *Values and Vision: The Contribution of Culture*, the organisations call for a new settlement with government so that Britain can maintain its position as a world-class culture.

As the government prepares to create the conditions that will define the cultural landscape for the next 10 years, the arts, museum, library and archive sectors have taken the initiative. The organisations, led by Arts Council England, the National Museum Directors' Conference and the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, set out their values and core principles, and demonstrate the contribution that the cultural sector has made to life in Britain in the past 10 years – in order to ensure that it can make a similar contribution in the next.

Lord Stevenson and leading figures from the cultural world including Tony Hall (Executive Director, Royal Opera House), Nicholas Hytner (Artistic Director, National Theatre), Judy Kelly (Artistic Director, South Bank Centre & Chair of Arts, Culture and Education, London 2012), Nicholas Serota (Director, Tate) and Virginia Tandy (Director, Manchester City Galleries, Museums, Libraries and Archives Council and Vice-President, Museums Association) laid out the new agenda that will place culture at the centre of government policy making.

This is the first time that the cultural sector has come together in this way to set out its joint values and vision. The document celebrates the sector's achievements over the last decade but acknowledges that there is still a great deal more to be done to fully realise its contribution to public life.

In return, the cultural sector is seeking a commitment from government that it values the contribution culture makes to learning and education, creativity and economic vitality, social regeneration, health and community cohesion.

The London Olympic and Paralympic Games present an exceptional opportunity to celebrate the health and vigour of Britain's cultural sector, and the sector will be key to delivering a lasting legacy for the Games. To ensure the success of the Games and beyond, it is essential that there must be sustained support for the cultural sector and recognition of the value of investment in culture.

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