

Everton Library – THE JEWEL ON THE HILL wins Heritage Lottery Fund support

PLANS to secure millions of pounds for the restoration and reuse of the former Everton Library have taken a major step forward.

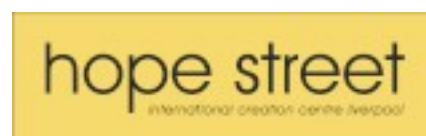
Heritage Works Buildings Preservation Trust (“Heritage Works”) in partnership with Hope Street Ltd and Liverpool City Council has received initial support* including £284,400 development funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for ***the Jewel on the Hill*** project, to help progress detailed plans towards the application for a full grant.

This funding will allow a development stage to run from July 2012 until Autumn 2013 when the full grant application will be submitted and other matched funding sought towards what will be a £5 million project. If all is successful the building will be fully back in use by Autumn 2016.

The Jewel on the Hill project is the acquisition, restoration, redevelopment and re-use of the Grade II listed former Everton Library. The vision is of a beautiful building in a historic location developed as a ‘creation centre’ serving Everton and beyond – a hub for creative enterprise and a resource for creative education. Within the project an activity programme over 5 years will engage local people and others in learning about the heritage of the library and the surrounding area, and also about the practical skills involved in restoration.

It is envisaged that the Liverpool Arts organisation Hope Street Ltd will manage the restored building working with other local stakeholders to deliver an inclusive arts and heritage programme. This will include the launch of a reminiscence youth theatre, inter-generational arts projects, oral history projects. All of this will be in addition to its core activity of developing artists and art forms.

Everton Library is situated on St Domingo Road, at one of the highest points in the city, and is a local landmark with views over the city centre, North Liverpool, the river and the sea. ***The Jewel on the Hill*** project is an important part of the wider regeneration activity that will take place in Everton Park and the surrounding neighbourhoods over the coming years, aiming to create a vibrant new district by redesigning the park as a visitor attraction and by providing quality new housing development.



Heritage Works Chairman, John Glester said, “We are delighted with the support of the Heritage Lottery Fund in helping us move towards securing a positive and productive use for Everton Library. *The Jewel on the Hill* vision is the culmination of 5 years work with local stakeholder groups and can restore the present sad and derelict building to an integral part of community life whilst preserving an important part of Everton’s heritage”.

Hope Street Limited’s Director, Peter Ward said, “This is excellent news for Liverpool and particularly for the continuing regeneration of the north of the city. In recent years we have been working across the north of the city and have begun to develop some exciting projects with local residents, schools and community groups. This award will assist us in strengthening our links with the local communities and especially supporting the brilliant work being done by Liverpool City Council alongside the fantastic groups, schools and organisations based in and around Everton”.

Sara Hilton, Head of HLF North West, said: “We at the Heritage Lottery Fund are delighted to be giving our initial support for this exciting and ambitious project that will transform Everton Library. Bringing this fantastic piece of Everton’s heritage back to life for the local community to use and enjoy and giving it a new sustainable use will be a real boost to the area and feed into wider regeneration plans. We are looking forward to working with the Heritage Works and its partners and seeing these plans progress.”

Councillor Maria McEvoy , Liverpool City Council’s Heritage Champion said: “This is a fantastic, innovative scheme which will not only bring back into use this beautiful and historic building, but also engage the local community in finding out more about the heritage of the area where they live. This is an exciting time for the Everton Park area, with lots of regeneration planned, and it’s wonderful that – with investment from the Heritage Lottery Fund - this much-loved local landmark will be able to play its part.”

For further information, images and interviews, please contact:

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Notes to editors

About the Heritage Lottery Fund (“HFL”)

Using money raised through the National Lottery HLF sustains and transforms a wide range of heritage for present and future generations to take part in, learn from and enjoy. From museums, parks and historic places to archaeology, natural environment and cultural traditions, it invests in every part of our diverse heritage. HLF has supported over 30,000 projects, allocating £4.9billion across the UK.

HLF Funding

The Jewel on the Hill* project has received **Initial support, which means it has obtained a **first-round pass** from HLF and the award of funding towards the development of the scheme. A first-round pass means the project meets HLF criteria for funding and HLF believes the project has potential to deliver high-quality benefits and value for Lottery money. The application was in competition with other supportable projects, so a first-round pass is an endorsement of outline proposals. Having been awarded a first-round pass, the project now has up to two years to submit fully developed proposals to compete for a firm award. On occasion, an applicant with a first-round pass will also be awarded development funding towards the development of their scheme.

Website: www.hlf.org.uk

Everton Library in a wider Liverpool context

Liverpool City Council, Liverpool Vision, Liverpool Primary Care Trust, Liverpool Biennial, the Friends of Everton Park and other community groups are working together to transform Everton Park and its surrounding neighbourhoods into a great place to live, work and visit. It is part of a comprehensive regeneration programme for North Liverpool, which includes the £150m Project Jennifer scheme around Great Homer Street with developer St Modwen, which will create 1,000 jobs, new homes and community, leisure and retail facilities; and the new Notre Dame Catholic College which will house a health centre and indoor market.

Everton Library situated at the top edge of Everton Park, overlooks the park and the city. The area will be a focus of regeneration activity over the coming years, aiming to create a vibrant new Everton Park district by redesigning the park as a visitor attraction, to make the most of its stunning views and proximity to the city centre, and by providing quality new housing development. The rich heritage of the area and the restoration and reuse of the library building are important elements of the overall proposals.

About Heritage Works Buildings Preservation Trust

Heritage Works is a registered charity the objects of which are:

- to preserve and conserve the historical, architectural and constructional heritage that may exist in buildings of particular beauty or historical, architectural or constructional interest particularly, but not exclusively, those buildings whose preservation will contribute to the regeneration of their locality; and
- to advance the education of the public in the techniques and practice of building preservation and conservation

It was founded in 1995 to rescue buildings at risk in the Ancoats area of Manchester. In 2006, the Trust completed the restoration of two significant buildings as part of the regeneration of Ancoats with the aid of grants of over £14m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Northwest Regional Development Agency.

In January 2007, with the consent of the Charity Commission and the support of English Heritage the Trust was renamed and extended its geographical remit to England and Wales, although its focus is on schemes that contribute to local regeneration initiatives within the North West.

Website www.heritageworks.co.uk

About Hope Street

Hope Street Limited is funded by Culture Liverpool and is a National Portfolio Organisation of Arts Council England. It is a registered charity and is currently based in Arrad Street in the city centre. Launched in 1988 it has a long track record of launching the careers of individual artists, encouraging the development of small-scale theatre companies and initiating and developing festivals.

Its community engagement programmes have been developed in partnership with agencies including Liverpool Children's Services, the NSPCC, Merseyside Police, Culture Liverpool and the Primary Care Trusts.

Strategically, it is unique in providing the bridge between the Liverpool Arts Regeneration Consortium (LARC) and the Creative Organisations of Liverpool (COoL), which it founded in 2007 and leads.

The projects delivered by Hope Street in 2010/11 culminated in 13 new and original productions or commissions, performed 114 times to just under 190,000 people. 295 workshops were provided in formal educational settings for 1,423 people less than 19 years of age. 118 workshops were delivered for just under 800 people in the community. And a further 309 workshops and professional training sessions were provided for 487 artists and members of the community. Employment was provided for 114 freelance artists. A total of 1,568 employment days being provided during the year.

Website: www.hope-street.org

