

NO BOUNDARIES

Monday 9 December 2013

First wave of speakers announced for No Boundaries conference as delegate passes go on sale

*RSA Chair **Vikki Heywood**, Bigga Fish CEO **Nii Sackey**, National 9/11 Memorial & Museum Director **Alice M. Greenwald**, Library of Birmingham Director **Brian Gambles**, National Arts Strategies president **Russell Willis Taylor**, poet **Luke Wright**, Google's **Abigail Posner** and, back from the dead, visionary architect **Cedric Price** amongst first speakers to be announced for No Boundaries.*

The first wave of speakers announced includes RSA chair Vikki Heywood, Bigga Fish CEO Nii Sackey, poet Luke Wright, 9/11 Memorial and Museum director Alice M. Greenwald, Birmingham Library director Brian Gambles, National Arts Strategies President Russell Willis Taylor, Google's strategist Abigail Posner, and, back from the dead, visionary architect Cedric Price, who will present a unique PechaKucha presentation, courtesy of digital specialists xHumed, who adapt ideas from revolutionary thinkers in history to modern day topics.

In addition to the talks programme, No Boundaries will also present a range of playful interventions, including an evening with musician, artist and creator, Fred Deakin, a sweet-smelling perfume workshop from Odette Toilette and an inspiration exchange from contemporary performance artists Third Angel.

Watershed Director Dick Penny says, "Watershed are very pleased to be working with Arts Council England, British Council and a brilliant consortium of partner organisations to produce the next State of the Arts event. No Boundaries will live-link debate in York and Bristol for a two day adventure. Our objective is to frame a debate that places Arts and Culture in the context of society as a whole, and it is great to have such a wide variety of speakers from different backgrounds to provoke delegates' imaginations. Our invitation is to join a lively debate where we collectively explore our opportunities and our responsibilities."

Arts Council England Chief Executive Alan Davey says: "Arts and culture offer us inspirational ways of seeing the world; of making the impossible a reality. The State of the Arts events bring together industry thought-leaders to encourage the kind of innovative thinking that can help develop new ideas and respond to external pressures facing the arts sector. No Boundaries, the next in this diverse series of events, will be no exception, providing a rich programme of activity to stimulate open and creative debate."

British Council Director Arts, Graham Sheffield CBE, says, "The British Council is pleased to be working with our partners to create No Boundaries. We believe the

creative industries and cultural organisations from the UK and around the world have a great capacity to develop and learn from each other. By bringing together a diverse range of voices from within and outside the arts, we hope to inspire new ways of thinking and working together.”

No Boundaries is produced by Watershed, Pilot Theatre, Festival of Ideas, Spike Island, Bristol Old Vic, Bristol City Council, York City Council, University of Bristol and University of the West of England.

Please visit the following links for a full list of contributors and programme updates:
<http://nb2014.org> | [@nbd2014](https://twitter.com/nbd2014) | [#nbd2014](https://hashtage.com/nbd2014)

- ENDS -

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NOTES TO EDITORS

No Boundaries

No Boundaries is supported by Arts Council England and the British Council as part of their commitment to convene and strengthen cultural organisations in the UK and internationally. By sharing provocative ideas from a diverse range of sources, new models, methods and collaborations will grow to shape the future of the arts. No Boundaries is a State of the Arts event. State of the Arts has evolved from the Arts Council's single annual conference to become a series of diverse activities encouraging thought leadership in the arts and cultural sector and providing platforms to develop new ideas and respond to the political, social and economic developments in the outside world.

<http://nb2014.org>

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 2010 and 2015, we will invest £1.9 billion of public money from government and an estimated £1.1 billion from the National Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

www.artscouncil.org.uk

British Council

The British Council creates international opportunities for the people of the UK and other countries and builds trust between them worldwide. We are a Royal Charter charity, established as the UK's international organisation for educational opportunities and cultural

relations. Our 7000 staff in over 100 countries work with thousands of professionals and policy makers and millions of young people every year through English, arts, education and society programmes. We earn over 75% of our annual turnover of nearly £700 million from services which customers pay for, education and development contracts we bid for and from partnerships. A UK Government grant provides the remaining 25%. We match every £1 of core public funding with over £3 earned in pursuit of our charitable purpose.

<http://www.britishcouncil.org/arts>

Bristol Festival of Ideas

Bristol Festival of Ideas aims to stimulate the minds and passions of the people of Bristol with an inspiring, year-round programme of discussion and debate. The festival, established in 2005, covers a wide range of topics and welcomes, among others, scientists, artists, politicians, journalists, historians, novelists and commentators on all subjects. It is part of the work of Bristol Cultural Development Partnership – Arts Council England, Bristol City Council and Business West

www.ideasfestival.co.uk

Bristol Old Vic

Bristol Old Vic is the longest continuously running theatre in the UK. Its mission is to create pioneering twenty-first century theatre in partnership with the people of Bristol; inspired by the history and magical design of the most beautiful playhouse in the country.

www.bristololdvic.org.uk

Pilot Theatre

Pilot Theatre is the National touring company based in York, who have been running the annual Arts / Tech conference 'Shift Happens' for 6 years now. They ran TEDxYork and 'Stronger Together' for ACE in 2011. They are pioneers in livestreaming webcasts for arts events and organisations. They have attended TED in the USA since 2007

www.pilot-theatre.com

Spike Island

Spike Island is an international centre for the development of contemporary art and design. It is a place where artists and the public can meet, enabling audiences to engage with artists' research and production. Within the 80,000 square foot building, Spike Island offers visitors a year-round programme of exhibitions, events and activities in the central gallery spaces, as well as providing working space for artists, designers and creative businesses.

www.spikeisland.org.uk

University of Bristol

The University of Bristol is world-leading institution, regularly in the top 30 world rankings. It attracts the brightest minds from across the globe who all add to the intellectual vibrancy of the city. The University plays a key role in the cultural and creative activities of the city and is involved in and supports many of the city's cultural and creative events.

www.bris.ac.uk

University of the West of England

With more than 2,000 students in the department of Creative Industries studying a range of disciplines from fine art, illustration, filmmaking and journalism, photography, animation and graphic design - the University of the West of England, is committed to inspiring the next generation of creative talent. UWE, Bristol works in partnership with the region's world class arts and cultural organisations to deliver an ambitious programme of research, practice and

professional higher education

www.uwe.ac.uk

Watershed

Watershed works across the Cultural and Creative Industries as a catalyst and connector, innovating at the intersection of society, arts and technology. Watershed is part of the Bristol cultural eco system that is ambitious, unorthodox, defiantly independent, and passionate about the city we are proud to call home.

www.watershed.co.uk