14 October 2016

To whom it may concern,

We are writing to confirm Hull2017’s support for Assemble Fest, an arts and theatre festival held across Newland Avenue in Hull.

For the past four years, Assemble Fest has played a key role in supporting the development of emerging and established theatre companies and artists within Hull; it is a unique commissioning and producing offer to the companies, and one recognised by the cultural institutions within the city and connecting to the sector nationally through the mentoring programme. Many companies who began careers with Assemble Fest have gone on to become supported artists at Hull Truck Theatre or have had the opportunities to develop their commissioned Assemble Fest piece for future life outside the performances in Hull.

The festival is rooted in the Newland Avenue independent traders and growing in significance in its role coordinating within the community. The activity and performances along the street are programmed with vision, with a growing offer for family audiences. The festival team is developing and strengthening each year, and the focused hard work is delivering a growing and developing audience. Notably the audience for last year saw many performances sold out as well as an animated street through the festival period, when the festival coincided with three other large music festivals in Hull, showing the impressive loyalty of Assemble Fest’s audiences.

Hull City of Culture 2017 have supported Assemble Fest on their successful 2016 festival and are excited to be working with them again in what will be an ambitious year for Assemble Fest. The in-house production; *Our Street Our Stage*, has been awarded £14,000 in funding via the Creative Communities programme and we will continue to support the core festival activity through grant funding of £10,000 as well as marketing & comms support access to the Hull2017 volunteers on the day.

If you would like to further discuss the festival, please feel free to contact me through the details below.

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