**WOMEN OF THE WORLD FESTIVAL, HULL**

**HULL UK CITY OF CULTURE 2017**

**BACKGROUND**

**Women of the World Festivals**

The Women of the World Festival was created by Jude Kelly, Artistic Director of the Southbank Centre in 2010. Since then WOW has grown into a global movement and now takes place in 33 countries on 5 continents.

**WOW Hull, 10 – 12 March 2017**

In March 2017 Hull will become the latest city to host a WOW festival.Through talks, music, debate, comedy and performance, WOW Hull celebrates International Women’s Day and asks the questions why is true gender equality taking so long to achieve and what do we need to do to bring about real and lasting change? After all, isn’t an equal society a better place for everyone?

Over the course of October & November 2016, the WOW HULL team led Thinkin sessions across the city, bringing together local people to share ideas, suggestions and speakers. These sessions influence the shape of the topics, issues and debates. The sessions also developed the WOW Hull Manifesto and celebrated the Hull Trailblazers, a roster of women from Hull, past and present, achieving and leading with exception in their field, but often without recognition.

**International Women's Day**
International Women's Day is marked on 8 March each year and is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The day also marks a call to action for achieveing the UN’s Sustainable Devlopment Goal 5 “Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls”

**Hull Trailblazers**See Hull 2017 report detailing women of Hull from the past and the present.

**HULL2017**

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 is a 365 day programme of cultural events and creativity inspired by the city and told to the world. Hull secured the title of UK City of Culture 2017 in November 2013. It is only the second city to hold the title and the first in England.

Divided into four seasons, this nationally significant event draws on the distinctive spirit of the city and the artists, writers, directors, musicians, revolutionaries and thinkers that have made such a significant contribution to the development of art and ideas.

The Culture Company was set up to deliver the Hull 2017 programme and is an independent organisation with charitable status with over 60 partners supporting the project, including our host city council,  public bodies, lottery distributors, trusts and foundations and local and national businesses. 68 per cent of the funding is dedicated to public facing activities, including the widest range of cultural events in every corner of the city, with a further 11 per cent for legacy and contingency. More than £5 million is being invested in volunteering, learning and community engagement. £1.6 million is being invested to ensure a legacy after 2017. This includes capacity building, such as supporting existing events so they can grow, staging curtain-raiser events, developing future programming for after 2017 and building a new platform to support a unified ticketing system for the city.

Hull 2017’s International Partners are: Aarhus, Denmark, which is European Capital of Culture 2017; Reykjavik, Iceland; Rotterdam, The Netherlands; and Freetown, Sierra Leone (twinned with Hull). These relationships are reflected in a number of events throughout the year.

Jan 2017.