

# AHA-MK Annual Report 2015 – 2016

AHA-MK is a forum of organisations that work together to promote, represent and develop arts and heritage. Through our work we champion the rich heritage and creative future of Milton Keynes.



## AHA-MK:

- Promotes Milton Keynes' unique cultural identity to local, regional and national audiences
- Represents members' needs to businesses, stakeholders and strategic bodies
- Provides an inspiring development programme for members, staff and volunteers
- Encourages and facilitates collaboration by spearheading projects that achieve joint aims

## During 2015-2016 our members achieved



**£4** of External Funding For Every **£1** of Funding Secured Within Milton Keynes

## Achievements 2015 – 2016:

- Completed delivery of Great War MK, funded by £100K Heritage Lottery grant and with support from MK Council and MK Community Foundation, including a wide range of collaborative activities and events and an outstanding finale at The Venue. See images of activities and events and our final film [greatwarmk.wordpress.com](http://greatwarmk.wordpress.com), and the final report [aha-mk.org/resources](http://aha-mk.org/resources).
- Delivered second stage of Arts Council-funded project to support audience development for six AHA-MK members. This project enabled participating organisations to identify new groups to work with, new ways of communicating, and ensures they have key information to prove their value to funders. Final report available via [aha-mk.org/resources](http://aha-mk.org/resources).





- Commissioned by Artwork to develop a Cultural Education Partnership for Milton Keynes, which aims to bring together all partners working with children and young people in Milton Keynes. The aim is to create joined up initiatives that use culture and creativity to help and support young people in the city to live healthier, happier lives. For more information see: [aha-mk.org/resources/mkcep](http://aha-mk.org/resources/mkcep).
- Received a grant of £9,500 from the Rothschild Foundation to support AHA-MK's core work in developing the capacity and ambition of Milton Keynes' cultural sector.
- Secured signatures of 45 chairs and chief executives of Milton Keynes businesses in support of Milton Keynes bidding for European Capital of Culture in 2023, resulting in unanimous support by MK Council.
- Advocated on behalf of members, e.g. by commenting on Plan MK and on the Business Neighbourhood Development Plan for Central Milton Keynes.
- Represented members and the cultural sector at South East Midlands Local Enterprise Partnership (SEMLEP) meetings and European Capital of Culture Steering Group Meetings.
- Delivered four Forum sessions, which bring our members together to network and exchange ideas, as well as hearing from nationally and internationally renowned speakers. Topics included creative apprenticeships, sustainable cultural leadership, and preparing to bid for European Capital of Culture, with guest speakers including Catarina Loriggio, Creative Programmer for London 2012, and Tony Durcan, President of the European New Towns Platform.
- Held first AGM following charity registration, with Liz Gifford, MK cabinet member for culture, as guest speaker (first report to Charity Commission not due until autumn 2016 AGM).



Images – page 1, left to right: 'Initiate' dancing at For the Fallen, For the Fallen flags, Manny Ademolu singing at MK Gallery.  
 Page 2, left to right: MK Gallery workshop, Festive Road's Tank and Westbury Arts Centre's 'For the Fallen' event at MK Rose.  
 All part of Great War MK led by AHA-MK.