

March 2009

Arts Council England – East Midland Chair Reappointment

Barbara Follett, Minister for Culture, Creative Industries and Tourism, has re-appointed Francois Matarasso as Arts Council England East Midland Chair for a second term of four years from 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2013.

Biographical Details

Francois Matarasso is a writer and consultant with 30 years' experience in community arts development. He specialises in cultural policy, research into the impact of culture and organisational development. He has worked for international agencies, national and local governments, foundations and cultural organisations in more than 30 countries. He is an Honorary Professor at Gray's School of Art, Robert Gordon University; his work has been widely published and translated

Background

1. Arts Council England develops and promotes the arts across England, acting as an arms length body from the Government. DCMS recently announced an increase in funding for Arts Council England by 3.3% above inflation over the next three years, taking its total grant in aid to £467m in 2010-11. In addition, Arts Council England is expected to have £500m to distribute from the National Lottery between 2009 and 2012. This provides the bedrock of support for the arts in England.
2. The reappointments have been made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Reappointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process. Francois has not undertaken any political activity during the past five years.