

November 2009

Matthew Rooke and Anne McReynolds appointed as Trustees of The Theatres Trust

Margaret Hodge, the Minister for Culture, announced today that Matthew Rooke has been appointed as a Trustee of The Theatres Trust and Anne McReynolds has been appointed as Northern Ireland Trustee of The Theatres Trust. Their terms of appointment will run from 16th November 2009 to 15th November 2012.

Biographical notes

Matthew Rooke:

Currently, he is Co Founder and Director of Scottish Cultural Enterprise Ltd, an independent management consultancy, focusing on project management and implementation practice, working with a wide range of National, Regional and Local Governmental Agencies as well as DPBs and other bodies involved in the Cultural sector (1998 to date). Prior to this, he was a professional bass player and composer before joining the Arts Council England as Music Officer (1987 to 1989). In 1991, he joined the Scottish Arts Council as Music and then Group Director with responsibility for the design and delivery of annual multi-million pound Government public funding programmes in Scotland in respect of the Performing Arts. He is a Director of Arthouse UK group which rescues and restores Category A listed buildings for use as cultural centres. He has undertaken no party political activity during the past five years.

Anne McReynolds:

Currently, she is Chief Executive of the Metropolitan Arts Centre (MAC) in Belfast, where she is responsible for all aspects of detailed business planning, human resources, legal, licensing, information systems and governance issues and artistic development in partnership with Northern Ireland's arts producers (2009 to date). Prior to this, she worked as Development Officer for Belfast Community Circus before joining the Old Museum Arts Centre as Director, where she was responsible for artistic visioning, financial control and building management (1991 to 2006). In 2006, she became Project Director responsible for delivering The MAC, Belfast's new arts centre. This project involved her in liaising with NI's performing and visual arts sector, the appointment, through an international open design competition, of the Integrated Design Team to design the building, and fundraising for the capital costs of The MAC. She is a Trustee of Community Foundation for Northern Ireland (2008 to date). She has undertaken no party political activity during the past five years.

Background

Established by The Theatres Trust Act 1976, The Trust's primary object is 'to promote the better protection of theatres for the benefit of the nation'. It has the powers to acquire or hold any theatre or land required for the benefit of any theatre, contribute to the acquisition of any theatre or land, and maintain or assist in the maintenance of any theatre. The Trust has a UK wide remit to provide leadership in the planning and protection of theatres with a focus on safeguarding theatre use, or the potential for theatre use. An important part of its work is to provide advice on theatres as a statutory consultee on planning applications and as an expert on architecturally significant and listed theatre buildings. Local authorities are required to consult the Trust on planning applications affecting land on which there is a theatre.

Theatres Trust Trustees do not receive remuneration but travelling expenses, incurred by Trustees in the performance of their duties, are reimbursed.

These appointments were made in accordance with the OCPA Code of Practice. Appointments are made on merit and political activity plays no part in the selection process.