

Fishmarket

A Letter from the Chairman of the Board, Christine Midgley

Hi there,

You may have read in the press, heard on the radio or seen on Facebook that the Fishmarket building is to be demolished and be replaced by a new bus interchange. Obviously we are really sad to lose the wonderful gallery space that was the result of such huge effort and commitment from a number of dedicated people in Northampton, but we are determined to approach this as an opportunity to establish the gallery in a permanent home, where we can open every day, and all year. We want the Nook café to be with us, wherever we find a new home, and we want to grow and build the educational links which Sally has been making with local schools. We want to make the Gallery the best possible contemporary art space it can possibly be.

We have established the gallery as a high quality exhibition space fully supported by the Arts Council, who continue to advise and help us. We have a very special curator, in Catherine Hemelryk, and she has already achieved national recognition for some of the exhibitions and is quickly establishing an international reputation for the Fishmarket.

We are working hard to identify another building in Northampton, and there are two or three that are under serious consideration at the moment. Northampton Borough Council, and in particular in the person of Councillor Tim Hadland, have declared their support for the Fishmarket to be established in another town centre building. Northamptonshire County Council, through Sue Grace, Graham Callister, Councillors Andre Gonzalez de Savage and Heather Smith have offered continued support. Professor Nick Petford, Vice Chancellor, and Paul Middleton, Executive Dean of the School of the Arts at the University of Northampton have both offered their support, which this year for the first time included financial support.

We are submitting the next bid to Arts Council England to fund the programme from March 2012, and were invited to include a bid for a feasibility study of the building options which will form our alternatives. We are preparing an offsite programme including collaborations with Northampton Museum and Gallery, Royal & Derngate, and in locations across Northampton.

We have had lots of supportive messages from friends, colleagues, artists, musicians, photographers, traders and those who just love the Fishmarket. We need your help too.

We would like to invite all those people who have enjoyed visiting, been involved in events, exhibited work, rolled their sleeves up to help, been tenants as artists or shop owners, or otherwise care about the Fishmarket, to send us messages of support.

Please let us know you support the Fishmarket.

Please do this by e mail, find us on Facebook, or by post.

Thank you for your support.

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