

City's key partners contribute to major new programme

Bristol: Ambitious City at the Architecture Centre, 24 April - 28 July 2013



Leading organisations that are shaping Bristol's future are collaborating on a major new exhibition, to be launched at the Architecture Centre on 30 April.

Network Rail, University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust and Bristol City Council are key partners in the exhibition, which has been curated by the Architecture Centre in consultation with the Mayor of Bristol and Bristol City Council's City Design Group.

A wide range of community groups, voluntary organisations and individuals have also contributed to *Bristol: Ambitious City*, which presents some of the city's most visionary ambitions at all levels. The exhibition has received additional support from a number of companies and organisations with Bristol connections.

Bristol: Ambitious City represents an opportunity for everyone interested in their environment to get involved and help shape their city. Mayor of Bristol George Ferguson said: "Ambition should not be measured by size or cost but by the benefit it brings to the lives of every citizen. I hope this exhibition sparks many more projects that help define Bristol as the city of ideas."

The exhibition features plans to improve the city's connectivity. Patrick Hallgate, Network Rail's Western route managing director, said: "Network Rail plans to make a significant

investment in Bristol Temple Meads to transform the railway station into a world-class ‘gateway’ for the Western region. We’re delighted to outline our vision to bring outstanding station facilities and train connectivity to Bristol by the end of the decade.”

Also featured are plans to improve the appearance of Bristol Royal Infirmary, once voted one of Bristol’s ugliest buildings. Says Andy Headdon, Strategic Development Programme Director for University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust: “We are proud to be part of Bristol and to work with arts consultants, Willis Newson, on integrated art programmes for a number of our hospitals. Most recently we launched an international design competition inviting artists and architects to submit ideas for improving the appearance of the facade of the BRI. Our aim was to generate innovative, ambitious and appropriate design proposals for improving the look and technical performance of the façade and to create new designs that will reflect the Trust’s reputation for clinical excellence, create a welcoming public face for the hospital and contribute to the public realm of this part of central Bristol.”

Jane Willis, Director of Willis Newson, added:

“As arts consultants specialising in health and wellbeing, our work uses the arts to unlock potential – in individuals, communities and environments. We are delighted to support this exhibition at the Architecture Centre which showcases the many varied and ambitious ways in which Bristol is seeking to unlock its own potential in order to support and improve the health and wellbeing of its communities. We are proud to be a part of such a creative, innovative and dynamic city. “

An important theme running through the exhibition is Bristol’s growing status as a green, creative and enterprising city. Stephen Hilton, Service Director, Economic, Green and Digital Futures at Bristol City Council commented: “Bristol has the ambition to be a top-20 European city. We are increasingly known for our green credentials, high tech businesses and a distinctive, creative culture. But it is as a truly Connected and Open city that we will flourish - learning from and sharing with other leading cities from around the world.”

The exhibition uses five themes to identify different areas of ambition for the city, with contributions from some of Bristol’s key partners:

1. Is Bristol an Enterprise City? Featuring: West of England Local Enterprise Partnership; Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone (featuring HCA and AHM); Bristol Pound; Knowle West Media Centre; Creative Common; The Bottle Yard

2. Is Bristol a Healthy City? Featuring: BRI Queen's Façade competition; Bristol Healthy City Group; Southmead Hospital (BDP); Friends of Troopers Hill; Bristol Green Capital Toolkit; Southville Community Development Association

3. Is Bristol a Connected City? Featuring: Plans for Bristol Temple Meads (Network Rail): Public Realm & Movement Framework, Bristol Legible City and Bristol Smart City (Bristol City Council); Hello Lampost (Pervasive Media Studio).

4. Is Bristol an Empowered City? Featuring: Neighbourhood Planning Schemes in Redcliffe, Lockleaze, Ambition Lawrence Weston, Old Market; Bristol Community Land trust (Stride Treglown); Ecomotive; Room 13; Cube Cinema; Playng Out.

5. Is Bristol a Destination City? Featuring: Exemplars for Bristol Arena (Populous and Wilkinson Eyre); Bristol Airport; Guildhall Hotel in Old City (Trevor Osborne Property Group); Bedminster Town Team – Mary Portas project; Arnolfini.

As well as showcasing new and futures projects the exhibition invites visitors to identify and comment on opportunities for improvement and future development in large-scale city map. Further projects will be featured in a rolling programme of 'pop in and pin up' exhibits, guest curated by community groups and featured organisations.

Bristol: Ambitious City has received additional support from sponsors AHMM, Alec French Architects, BDP, Bristol Airport, CODA Architects, the Homes & Communities Agency, Laing O'Rourke, Populous, Stride Treglown, Toshiba, Trevor Osborne Property Group, West of England Local Enterprise Partnership, Wilkinson Eyre and Willis Newson.