

STUDENTS TO CREATE SAND ART SPECTACULAR

Pupils from two secondary schools in Liverpool are set to create two incredible large-scale sand drawings on Crosby beach. The drawings, created in collaboration with professional sand drawing artists 'Sand in your Eye' are in celebration of the city's 'On The Waterfront' FREE weekend events in the summer.

Appearing consecutively on May 20 and 21, one drawing will be themed around the landmark Picasso: Peace and Freedom exhibition at TATE Liverpool from which many of the waterfront events and activities will be drawing their inspiration. The other will be a dynamic dance-themed drawing to celebrate the international dance spectacular during the second weekend.

The creation of the sand drawing will be filmed and made into a 3 minute time lapse short and will feature on media screens and web sites across the region on the build up to and during the Waterfront Weekend celebrations. The short films will promote the city as a tourist destination, artistic hub and a place to participate and engage with culture.

Holly Lodge Girls College and Calderstones School have been chosen to participate in the task. Jackie Ley Director of Arts College at Holly Lodge Girls' College said: "This is a great opportunity for our students and we are delighted and privileged that they get to work with a world renowned artist on such an exciting project. Being the only Specialist Visual Arts School in Liverpool this project has allowed the students to learn a new medium of art."

The sand drawings are a pre-cursor to the giant sand sculpture that will be created by Sand in your Eye at the Pier Head during the first On The Waterfront weekend at the world-famous Albert Dock, and will be based on Picasso's a dove of peace.

The UK sand sculpture company are an internationally renowned. Their sculptures and drawings are amazing artistic creations that are all the more breathtaking because they are made of just sand and water. Past notable endeavours include a giant Charles Darwin at the National History Museum in London and a giant Gollum for the Hollywood Sand Sculpture Festival in Belgium.

Claire McColgan, Director of Culture Liverpool added: "The sand drawings really demonstrate what the Waterfront weekends are all about; artists of international standing creating a world-class spectacle that's very much a part of Liverpool. It's just a taste of the incredible FREE programme we've got lined up for visitors and residents that is likely to be unrivalled in the UK this year."

Liverpool's 'On the Waterfront' weekends of culture will be two of the biggest and most exciting FREE outdoor festivals in Europe this year. Erupting in July with a feast of family fun, the first weekend will be closely followed in August by the biggest free dance festival in the UK this year featuring the cream of European outdoor dance, including world-famous Argentinian dance troupe Voala in their only date outside London this summer.

Culture Liverpool, Liverpool City Council's culture service, with Walk The Plank as Creative Producer, have joined together once more to produce the outstanding programme of FREE live events, further cementing Liverpool's place as one of the top visitor destinations in Europe.

ENDS

- Free images of Liverpool's waterfront can be emailed on request
- For further information please contact Mike Doran at Liverpool City Council Newscentre on 0151 225 2227 or Chantal Barton on 0781 455 7487 email Chantal@signaturecollective.com

NOTES TO EDITORS:

- The sand drawing will take place on Crosby Beach, Merseyside, and will each take approximately one day to complete.

Picasso themed sand drawing: 20 May 2010.

Starting at approximately 10am

Dance themed sand drawing: 21 May.

Starting at approximately 10 am

- **Liverpool's On the Waterfront FREE Weekend of live events - details:**

16 to 18 July will be a show-stopping weekend of quirky live street theatre, visual spectaculars, Picasso-inspired performance and Pirate palavers, starting with 'A Wave At Picasso' which will reflect the world of the great artist in and on the **water**, using light, **fire, pyrotechnics**, soundscapes, music, projections, choreographed performance and a series of **floating** sculptural images.

The ambitious and spectacular dance weekend from **6 to 8 August** will showcase the very best of international outdoor dance and will be one biggest and best open air events in Europe this year. Music and strolling performances will build anticipation on Friday evening before the large-scale spectacular kicks off with world-famous Argentinian **aerial** company Voala.

- **'Culture Liverpool'** is Liverpool City Council's new Business Unit which funds and delivers culture and events in the city and manages international relations. Its aim is to help Liverpool build on the success of '08 by creating a dynamic programme that reflects the character and creativity of the city, placing citizens at its heart and inspiring all who participate and spectate. Liverpool's European Capital of Culture programme featured more than 7,000 events, 10,000 artists and over 60 world or European premieres. The year helped generate £800m boost to the regional economy, attracting 3.5million first time visitors to the city with most cultural attractions recording a 30% rise on 2007 attendances. For more information visit www.liverpool.gov.uk/culture
- **'Walk the Plank'** is a creative force of artists and event engineers who specialise in weaving together visual images, fire, fireworks and music to create outdoor performance and specially-commissioned events. The company works across a variety of scales, from intimate installations to large-scale theatre designed for thousands. Through touring performances and tailored site-specific commissions, their events connect people with places, and celebrate special occasions. The company worked on both the People's Opening and the Transition (Closing) for Liverpool's Capital of Culture celebrations, and has just been commissioned to create the Opening show for Turku 2011, European Capital of Culture in Finland. www.walktheplank.co.uk
- Between 2007 and 2013 the Northwest of England will receive a total of £521 million (dependent on exchange rate) from the European Regional Development Agency (NWDA), this

funding will enhance the competitiveness of the regions economy by supporting growth in employment and enterprise. Key targets for the NWOP include:

- Creating 26,700 net additional jobs by 2013
- Generating £1.17bn additional annual GVA by 2015
- Supporting a 25% reduction in addition CO2 emissions generated by the ERDF Programme

For further information please visit www.erdfnw.co.uk