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Key projects revealed with 2012 cultural framework

Youth Music backs Olympiad with £9m

Youth Music is committing £9m to the Cultural Olympiad, the first arts organisation to support 2012 with an investment.

The cash will go as co-investment towards co-ordinating the contribution of young musicians from 2008 through to 2012, said Christina Coker (right), Youth Music's chief executive, "through worldwide singing, celebrating community music and nurturing high-achieving young musicians".

Projects will include Grass Roots, 2,000 community music making projects; United in Song, the largest ever "World in Song" Youth Choir and a Singing Challenge Week; and Ozones - Sky High Music, a collaboration of 400 of our most talented young musicians in creative music making, song writing and performance.

The announcement came as the



Cultural Olympics director, Bill Morris, announced the framework - but not the funding - of the Cultural Olympiad.

He said ten major projects were being created in partnership with the BBC, MLA, the UK Film Council and the Arts Councils of England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales (see panel below).

£1.1m to reveal British to Olympic audience

The Heritage Lottery Fund is putting £1.1m into an Olympic project to explore our museums' collections and show what it means to be British through exhibitions, events and educational activities.

Led by Tyne and Wear Museums, "Imagine a Nation" is a four year programme running up to 2012 and involving TWM, Tate Britain, Norfolk Museum and Archaeology Service and Sheffield Galleries & Museum Trust to include four touring exhibitions covering 500 years of British art.

Alec Coles, Director at TWM, said: "The aim of this project is to use museums' world class collections to engage a wide audience with their British heritage. It is fantastic that these four venues have been chosen to be a key part in exploring Britishness, especially in the run up to the 2012 London Olympics."

The ten major projects

- **Film and Video Nation:** a UK-wide, four-year festival including a young people's filmmaking competition and a mass social observation of life in the 21st century
- **International Exhibitions Programme:** International curators will work with communities in UK to re-discover and re-interpret existing collections
- **Artists Taking the Lead:** The creation of great art in unusual places - twelve artists' commissions in twelve contrasting public spaces
- **2012 Sounds!** exciting, participative music projects around the UK from 2008-2012, providing an unprecedented opportunity for young people to work alongside great musicians
- **International Shakespeare Festival:** using the inspiration of Shakespeare as the world's poet, a range of new creative collaborations
- **Live Sites:** a network of permanent and temporary giant screens, taking London 2012 into the very heart of the UK's towns and cities
- **Celebration of Disability Arts and Sports:** a one day festival during the Paralympic Games which will celebrate Paralympic sport alongside disability arts and include education opportunities for families and spectators
- **Olympic Carnival:** the bridge between the closing of the Olympic Games and the opening of the Paralympic Games in 2012
- **World Cultural Festival:** a celebration of the cultures of a the Olympic nations that will visit London to take part in the Olympics and Paralympics
- **World Festival of Youth Culture:** Exploring how young people can celebrate the games through art, music and fashion.



The Bard 1817 by John Martin will be part of the contributions by Tyne & Wear Museums