

THE MAKING®

PRESS RELEASE

EMBARGOED UNTIL 28 FEBRUARY 2006

Major grant from the Big Lottery Fund for Basingstoke's new arts education charity - The Making

Basingstoke Young Designers

The Making, the new regional arts charity based in Basingstoke, has today been awarded a £155k grant by the Big Lottery Fund to run *Street Art*, an ambitious three year art, craft and design programme for young people in the borough.

This major grant will enable the Making to appoint professional architects, artists and designers to work with 14 to 19 year olds in Basingstoke and Deane and provide them with creative opportunities to enhance the areas where they live.

Margaret Benton, Director of the Making, said that she and her team were delighted to receive the Big Lottery Fund grant. *'Our pilot education programme has already demonstrated the talent of young people in Basingstoke, and we are thrilled to have the means to allow many more young people to discover their creativity by working with leading artists and designers. It is up to the participants and their communities to determine their own projects - be it art-work, signage or imaginative building or landscape design proposals, but we expect the first project to be completed by the end of this year. The young people involved will have the option to acquire recognized qualifications through the programme, but our main wish is to give them the opportunity to work with talented artists and experience for themselves the pleasure of making things. You can follow the progress of **Street Art** by logging on to our website www.themaking.org.uk.'*

Councillor Paul Harvey, leader of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, who backed The Making's successful application to the Big Lottery Fund, said that *'The Making is a major asset to Basingstoke and Deane. This project provides a fantastic opportunity for young people in the borough to make a real contribution to their communities. It could also open for them doors to new skills, interests and, possibly, careers.'*

Street Art will encourage the participation of the local community and voluntary organisations such as the Millennium Volunteers, and will focus on urban and rural wards in the borough where there are few youth facilities. It starts this year in Buckskin, Norden and Winklebury. In 2007 it extends to Tadley and Whitchurch and in 2008-9 to Popley and South Ham. The post of youth arts coordinator to run the programme is currently being advertised on The Making's website and in the local and national press.

For further information, visit www.themaking.org.uk or contact Elaine Dutton at the Making on telephone number 01256 845 679 or email edutton@themaking.org.uk.



THE MAKING®

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Based in Basingstoke, **The Making** is a new organisation which promotes contemporary art, craft and design in the South East of England through lifelong learning, professional development and a dynamic programme of exhibitions that celebrates the ingenuity and diversity of the handmade. It promotes the value of making skills - the fusion of hand, eye and imagination - in a society which tends to rate theory more highly than practice. Its immediate aim is to develop a vibrant, artist-led family and community outreach programme throughout Hampshire and the South East to inspire and to encourage people of all ages and abilities to participate in the visual arts, crafts and design. The longer-term objective is to create an innovative world-class gallery in a landmark building in Basingstoke. The Making is supported by Arts Council England, Hampshire County Council, and Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council, along with leading figures in the crafts and visual arts.

Big Lottery Fund is the joint operating name of the New Opportunities Fund and the National Lottery Charities Board (which made grants under the name of the Community Fund). The Big Lottery Fund, launched on 1 June 2004, is distributing half of all National Lottery good cause funding across the UK.