

# Christ Church Shieldfield - The Circus Hub

## What do we want to do?

- Working in partnership with the Church and the adjoining primary school, to convert parts of the Church and adjoining halls into a dedicated circus training, participation and performance spaces whilst maintaining spaces for worship and activity for the church community.
- Work with the local community and the community of circus to create a regional centre of excellence for circus with special emphasis on young people.



## Who are we?

- We are the North East Circus Development Trust founded by circus practitioners Helen Averley and Steve Cousins who have already created a strong regional reputation as Let's Circus – “the Circus that runs away to join you”.
- NECDT is a company limited by guarantee registered as a Charity with a Board containing some leading arts managers, circus performers and qualified legal and financial advisers.
- NECDT has recently been funded by the Olympic Generation 2012 Legacy Fund (£100,000 towards a £300,000 project) to work in partnership with 5 local authorities to develop a series of local Youth Circuses across the North East before 2012.

## Why Circus?

- Contemporary or new circus; a sophisticated yet highly accessible art form which retains aspects of the traditional while integrating contemporary forms of urban and street art, dance, drama, physical theatre, cabaret and burlesque.
- A growth area in UK and Internationally with many working opportunities for trained performers in commercial shows throughout the world.
- A growth area as a participatory artform especially popular amongst young people who enjoy the thrill of calculated risk taking and the excitement of learning new skills.
- A physically challenging activity that encourages healthy lifestyle and social confidence.
- A priority area for development by the Arts Council (2010 year of Circus) and the focus of new strategies for training by HE and FE institutions.

## Why Christ Church?

- A sound, grade 2 listed building that needs a revitalised future.
- A location with excellent transport links to the region as well as the local community.
- Partnerships with the Church, School and Community
- Multiple spaces for conversion – provides for extended activity and a viable business plan.
- A site on which there is space for future expansion.
- A project that can be achieved for less than £2 million; a realistic fundraising target.





### What will it do?

- Work with schools both within the curriculum and after school clubs.
- Provide a specialist excellence youth circus.
- Provide opportunities for partnerships with Universities and Colleges.
- Provide rehearsal, training and development space for professional circus artists.
- Provide circus for the Community – for both young and old.
- Provide holiday circus activity programmes.
- Provide training programme for the corporate sector.
- Provide public classes and space for amateur participation.
- Outreach programmes for the region.

### How much will it cost?

- Further essential Architectural, Business and Fundraising planning in next 6 months - £45,000
- Development and start up revenue costs of £250,000 before opening.
- Capital funding for the refurbishment and fitting out of the building of around £1.5 million.
- Annual funding support of around £175,000 per annum from a wide range of partners

### Who are the likely partners?

Arts Council, Circus Space London, Dept Children Schools and Families, Business Link, Newcastle Diocese, GONE NE Health Initiatives, Universities and Colleges, City Council, Local area partnerships, education initiatives, Migrant initiatives

### What's the timetable?

- We aim to be fully operational by September 2012.
- In order to achieve this we need to be onsite with the building project with funding commitments in place by the end of 2011.
- To have development funds of £40,000 to £50,000 in place by May 2010
- To launch a full fundraising appeal with some core funders in place in the autumn of 2010.



### More information

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