

“ Our mission is to raise the status of Carnival Arts and we have chosen to do this by taking the art form into the mainstream... ”

PAUL ANDERSON

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UKCCA



Having battled for a unique space to celebrate the traditions and creativity of the highest art forms out there, it's an amazing feeling to see the UK Centre for Carnival Arts quite literally take shape before our very eyes. With the doors opening in early 2009 and a grand carnival spectacular in May 2009, the sector has a lot to be proud of.

➤ Ten years ago virtually no one could have imagined that one of the most under funded and under valued art forms could spark cultural regeneration and renaissance. No one could have predicted how a world wide heritage of traditional creativity and celebration would galvanise multiple partners and bring together some of the most vibrant and diverse communities in the UK in a landmark £7.5 million state of the art building in Luton. Yes, we did say Luton, a widely accessible place with strong carnival traditions serving one of the most diverse audiences in the country but most importantly, the place where, on your behalf, we will position UK carnival arts and artists on a world wide stage.

Our mission is to raise the status of Carnival Arts and we have chosen to do this by taking the art form into the mainstream - into education, into regeneration, into business, into archives into communities. This does not mean to sell out carnival, but simply to maximise the same benefits other art forms enjoy and have enjoyed for many years.

To achieve recognition of carnival's contribution we have told the many stories of our rich and culturally diverse carnival community and extracted how carnival can complement local and regional agenda's contributing to:

- **Neighbourhood renewal /regeneration**
- **Tourism Development**
- **Arts in Education**
- **Business Development**
- **Community Cohesion**

The UKCCA has learnt to adapt to the

complex languages of funding regimes and bodies and present Carnival's arts within each of these confidently, accurately and extremely professionally.

I believe we have made strong and convincing arguments not just to uphold these agendas but also supporting the important developmental needs of our rich and vibrant sector by helping to raise carnival artist's abilities to meet new challenges and opportunities. Helping Carnival to thrive and not just survive is so central to realising our vision for carnival arts.

Getting a landmark dedicated building to this stage has required vast amounts of toil, sweat and tears and generous amounts of single mindedness and perhaps more importantly unwavering belief. As I look back after the last six years I am very encouraged by how far we've come, but I know as a sector there is still a long way to go.

Carnival Arts must now take centre stage if it wants access to new opportunities like the Olympics and it must strengthen its ability to deliver across exciting new agendas. This is so central to our vision I have made it my role to bridge the divide between new opportunities and carnival arts and continue to work tirelessly to fight not just for our building needs but for carnival as a sector.

We invite you to hear the Mas, see the music and feel the energy - its carnival coming down de road at a place near you... see you there.

Paul Anderson
Executive Director - UK Centre for Carnival Arts.

Find out more and join the UKCCA carnival community at www.carnivalarts.org.uk