

27 October 2006

The long nights may be drawing in but the NCA is wide awake and asking for your input this week. Read on to find out how to contribute your thoughts to the EU and how to get your images seen on the front cover of *nca news*!

- Local government research and white paper
- NCA in the press
- EU culture consultation
- Cover image for *nca news*

Local government research and white paper

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has published a report of the findings of research into opinions about local government. The research focussed on perceptions of and engagement with local government and considered public satisfaction with local services. The findings were generally negative. A new white paper from the DCLG focuses on tailoring local government to local needs and empowering communities to be fully involved in local government.

The report and white paper prompt the question of whether the arts are perceived as a core local government service. With local government funding a vital source of income for many arts practitioners and organisations across the UK, yet local authority spending on the arts decreasing, the arts sector must state its case ever more persuasively at a local level and seek new ways of engaging with local government. There is also a clear need for a more open dialogue with the public – with the arts sector demonstrating how it can address core local concerns such as building community cohesion, providing activities for young people and reducing antisocial behaviour.

The report is available on this link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503989>

The White Paper is available on this link:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/index.asp?id=1503999>

The NCA in the press

This week the NCA featured in Norman Lebrecht article considering the changes afoot at Arts Council England central office.

Click on [NCA in the Media](#) to read the full article.

EU culture consultation

The European Union is preparing for a *Communication on Culture* in 2007, considering cultural diversity, identity and dialogue, and addressing the economic and social role of creativity in Europe. Stakeholders are invited to submit their opinions via an online

form. The NCA will be responding to the consultation: please send your thoughts to campaigns@artscampaign.org.uk by next Wednesday, 1 November. Members are also encouraged to submit their own responses to the consultation. The deadline is 5 November. Information is available at: http://ec.europa.eu/culture/eac/communication/comm_en.html

Cover image for *nca news* and the NCA image Bank

Firstly, our thanks to all those who have submitted images to the NCA image bank so far. Please do keep your contributions coming.

Planning for the Winter 2006-07 edition of *nca news* is now well under way with a focus on the arts in the regions, looking at the issues for and accomplishments of the arts sector in every corner of the UK. We are looking for an appropriate image for the front cover of the magazine. An acknowledgement and credit for the front cover image is given on the contents page of the magazine. Ideally we would like images that incorporate maps, or mapping or iconic art associated with different localities across the country.

To be considered for the front cover images must:

- Be free for the use of the NCA in publications and online (free of any permissions or restrictions that would prevent this)
- Include appropriate credits for featured artists and photographers
- Be at least 216mm wide x 303mm deep (portrait format)
- Be at least 300dpi
- Be in jpeg, tiff, pdf or bmp format

Please send any images to: nca@artscampaign.org.uk alternatively, very large files can be sent on CD marked *nca news* cover to our address as below.

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If you have received this email but are not a member please visit [our website](#) to find out [why people join](#) and [the benefits of membership](#).

The NCA is the UK's only independent lobbying organisation representing all the arts. It provides a voice for the arts world in all its diversity. It seeks to safeguard, promote and develop the arts and win public and political recognition for the importance of the arts as a key element in our national culture.

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