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## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Night of Festivals 2012 highlights Cultural Olympiad countdown**

ArtReach ([www.artreach.biz](http://www.artreach.biz)) is delivering its innovative, multi artform event, *Night of Festivals 2012* from 21-23 June in Old Market Square, Nottingham - the UK's largest open public square. The Festival with a live music stage, international carnival procession, big screen visuals, art installations and street theatre runs 11am – 11.30pm each day and will mark a key milestone in the Cultural Olympiad countdown, coming at the start of the *London 2012 Festival* and immediately before the Torch Relay reaches Nottingham.

ArtReach Director, David Hill, said "*Night of Festivals 2012* is a free access event for the whole community and has a clear and important purpose – it celebrates the values of freedom and independence through artistic innovation, relevant at all times, but particularly so in the period following the Arab spring". Details are available at [www.nightoffestivals.com](http://www.nightoffestivals.com).

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*Night of Festivals 2012* will involve artistic contributions from all over the world enabling the project to play a formal role in “welcoming the world” to the UK for the Cultural Olympiad. Friday 22 June will have a focus on international carnival, with the exceptional Mandinga Arts delivering its *Chimera* processional performance and Paraiso Samba providing a link ahead to Rio 2016 with a new Brazilian theme tune and spectacular samba costumes. Charles Beauchamp, Co-Artistic Director of Mandinga commented “It is a great thrill to be delivering *Chimera* with ArtReach in Nottingham. We look forward to working with local community participants and making this a spectacular and unforgettable occasion.”

*Night of Festivals* was devised by ArtReach and *Night of Festivals 2012* has secured funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, Igniting Ambition, The Legacy Trust and the Joyce Carr Doughty Trust. It is part-financed by The European Union. More details of the planned programme and the line up of international artists and performers will be announced shortly.

## **Ends**

### Notes to editors:

*Night of Festivals* has been developed as a concept and produced by ArtReach with Artistic Direction from David Hill. The first *Night of Festivals* event was delivered in September 2010 as part of the celebrations to mark the Bicentenary of Latin American independence from Spain. ArtReach particularly values its working partnerships with City Arts Nottingham, Nottingham Contemporary and the New Art Exchange.

ArtReach is a dynamic creative producer and experienced arts management consultant. It delivers festivals, performance commissions, public art, capital arts projects, strategic development and organisational development.

Mandinga Arts ([www.mandingaarts.co.uk](http://www.mandingaarts.co.uk)) has a ten year track record of delivering exceptional and extraordinary carnival processions and interventions for events such as Thames Festival and El Carnaval del Pueblo.

Paraiso Samba ([www.paraisosamba.co.uk](http://www.paraisosamba.co.uk)) is the foremost samba troupe outside of Rio and is based both in London and Rio de Janeiro throughout the year. Under the artistic

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leadership of Henrique de Silva, Paraiso Samba has delivered exceptional performances at a wide range of high profile events including Notting Hill Carnival, the Thames Festival and the Lord Mayor's Show.

**Night of Festivals 2012** is part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad in the East Midlands and is supported by **Igniting Ambition**. **Igniting Ambition** invests in projects and people that take the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games as their inspiration to create once-in-a-lifetime cultural opportunities for audiences and communities right here on our doorstep. **Igniting Ambition** is a programme for the East Midlands, funded by Legacy Trust UK, the European Regional Development Fund and the East Midlands Development Agency, with the support of Arts Council England and many others.

**Legacy Trust UK** is an independent charity set up to create a lasting cultural and sporting legacy from London 2012 in communities across the UK. The Trust is funded by a £40 million endowment from the Big Lottery Fund (£29m), Department for Culture Media and Sport (£6m) and Arts Council England (£5m), and is a Principal Funder of the Cultural Olympiad and London 2012 Festival. Please visit <http://www.legacytrustuk.org/>