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TRUST TO HELP CITY'S CULTURE CLUB GROW

Baltic Triangle hub to develop

ARTISTS could soon get more help to set up in Liverpool's new "creative quarter".

Proposals are being drawn up for a new development trust to encourage more creative businesses into the Baltic Triangle.

The area has already become the home of a number of arts organisations including Liverpool Biennial, the A Foundation, New Picket, Arena Art and Design, and **Novas's** Contemporary Urban Cultural Centre.

Bosses behind Elevator Studios also have plans for a warehouse on Parliament Street which would offer creative workspace to dozens of people.

Now consultants hired by Liverpool Vision and Merseyside ACME (Arts, Culture and Media Enterprise) are looking at whether a Creative Industries Trust should be established to manage the area.

Vision planning director Jenny Douglas said: "Creative people are increasingly being attracted to work and to take part in the scene.

"We want to look at how a body, like a development trust, could assist the emerging creative cluster – a body that works in the creative industries' interests and meets their needs.

"It's important decisions made are en-

By CATHERINE JONES
Culture Reporter

dorsed by the creative sector and they have ownership of the emerging plans."

Vision says a study has revealed there is a demand for more creative space.

Kevin McManus, director of Merseyside ACME, said: "The creative industries sector has been prioritised as central to the continued economic renaissance of the region."

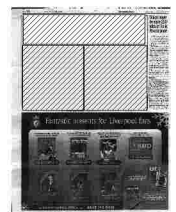
The trust would be responsible for delivering and managing buildings in the Baltic Triangle – which stretches from Wapping to Parliament Street, Park Road and St James Street – that will be available to existing and new creative businesses.

Over the years many artists and creative organisations have found themselves priced out of traditional areas such as the Rope Walks.

Phil Heyes, of the New Picket, said: "There are similar districts in other parts of the world.

"When Elvis Costello played here he came with an American guy who said it was like the meatpacking district of New York where warehouses were transformed into a cultural district."

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