

PRESS RELEASE

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Changing lives through arts,
enterprise & community support

Novas Contemporary Urban Centre - a new idea for the 21st Century

Novas Gallery in Southwark has been transformed. On 16th May 2007, the building at 73-81 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1 0NQ, will be re-launched as Novas' first **Contemporary Urban Centre**.

The **Novas Contemporary Urban Centre** is a new idea for the 21st Century. An Arts, Cultural and Social Enterprise, the Novas Contemporary Urban Centre reflects the themes of contemporary life in the urban environment, particularly from the point of view of marginalised and excluded communities. By celebrating, exploring and engaging with the vibrant yet latent talent of the dispossessed, Novas aims to break the cycle of poverty and exclusion.

The Novas Group will launch four centres in England in 2007 and 2008, in London Bridge Bankside (May 2007), Liverpool (October 2007), Dean Street in Soho (January 2008) and Camden Town (Autumn 2008).

Each of the Novas Contemporary Urban Centres will have its own identity reflecting the themes and issues of its location taking into account architectural, cultural and community heritage. All the Novas Contemporary Urban Centre's will contain Café's, Bars, Art Galleries, Retail Units, Training Units, Conference Facilities and Meeting Rooms. Performance Venues, Restaurants, Hotel, living accommodation, Gym and Cinema will also feature in certain schemes in London and Liverpool.

The aim over and above excellence in these areas is to create an employment and training infrastructure for marginalised communities, homeless and socially excluded people, artists, people from Black and Minority Ethnic community groups and the diverse local communities represented in the urban environment in the world today. Through the Contemporary Urban Centre the Novas Group will develop sustainable responses to discrimination and inequality and provide an infrastructure that will better enable people to contribute to and benefit from the wider employment and social opportunities.

The aim of the **Novas Contemporary Urban Centre** is to highlight the work and objectives of the **Novas Group** in tackling discrimination, social exclusion and poverty through working with local, regional and national organisations as well as with international partners. Thus the programmes will be keenly focussed on involvement and participation.

Novas Contemporary Urban Centre, London Bridge Bankside
73-81 Southwark Bridge Road
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NOTES TO EDITOR

Novas Group aims to change lives through arts, enterprise and community support.

The Group has developed a strong reputation for the delivery of quality housing and community-based services, and for new and innovative approaches to working with people who experience inequality, exclusion and discrimination.

More recently we are developing extensive work, learning, social enterprise and cultural services to support our core work and to match and stretch the diverse aspirations of the people we support.

Working across the country we respond to local need and also contribute to regional, national and European agendas by identifying and providing sustainable solutions.

As a group we develop innovative community empowerment strategies that integrate our services into the wider community. We are currently remodelling many of our large hostels to raise the living standards for people who are homeless, within buildings that will become a part of their local communities.

These projects will also offer learning, cultural and enterprise space for a wide range of individuals and communities who experience exclusion.

Increasingly we are developing tenancy support services in people's own homes, along with education outreach services, cultural development services in partnership with local arts facilities and communities, and developing our own enterprise and learning centres.