

PRESS RELEASE

14th November 2007

Novas supports Social Enterprise Day

As part of the Social Enterprise Day celebrations and activities on 15 November, Novas will welcome Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope to the Contemporary Urban Centre, London Bridge Bankside. The event will consist of a lunch buffet and tour of the exhibitions taking place at the CUC, followed by an evening of entertainment at the CUC's Café Arlington, where visitors can enjoy the live band and listen to artists speak about their work.

The events will feature as part of the official 'Make your Mark: Change Lives' campaign, for which the Social Enterprise Coalition will be running a full day of social enterprise activity.

Minister for the Third Sector Phil Hope will spend the day taking part in various activities at social enterprises around London. Young entrepreneurs, several journalists, beneficiaries of social enterprise and representatives from social enterprise agencies will accompany him.

As part of the tour they will visit the Novas Contemporary Urban Centre, London Bridge Bankside, where they will be provided with a buffet lunch and a tour of the current exhibitions. They will meet curators, artists and Novas customers, and the event will be followed by the evening entertainment in Café Arlington.

Maria Donoghue-Mills, Co-Group Chief Executive/Founder of Novas and Social Enterprise Ambassador, says

'Through a social enterprise approach we deliver strong positive social impacts that transforms the lives of over 5,000 people experiencing disadvantage each year, as well as engage the wider public directly in issues of social change.'

If you wish to attend the evening event at the Contemporary Urban Centre, London Bridge Bankside (73-81 Southwark bridge Road, London SE1 0NQ) the entertainment will be gin at 7.30, with a live band and a panel session with Novas' artists.

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NOTES TO EDITOR

Novas is at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through creating inclusive employment in social enterprises, providing flexible community based support services to vulnerable people and offering quality art and cultural programmes, which involve the wider community in understanding complex social issues.

Novas was established in 1998 and over the last three years the organisation has transformed itself from predominately a provider of large hostels for homeless people to be at the cutting edge of tackling social disadvantage through social enterprise, innovation and positive impact.

We aim to change lives through arts, enterprise and community support, developing opportunities for individuals and communities through community support, education, training, employment, art, culture and regeneration. We have developed a strong reputation for the delivery of quality community-based services, and for new and innovative approaches together with people who experience inequality, exclusion and discrimination.

We run a cutting edge designer clothes shop; contemporary urban centres offering integrated arts, performance, small business development and community activity; community support services working together with 6,000 people a year with customer input at every level; a translation and interpreting service utilising the skills of over 200 Black and Refugee people, and coffee shops offering fair trade and organic produce.

Our initiatives positively change the lives of people, including those experiencing homelessness, health issues, prejudice and isolation; and they all contribute to bringing communities together. All profits are reinvested back into Novas learning and development programmes for disadvantaged groups, and at least 50% of all jobs created are targeted for these groups.

We develop innovative community empowerment strategies that integrate our services and those that face deep exclusion to be at the centre of our communities, not on the margins. 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 through business, market space, cultural quarters, performance spaces, retail and restaurants. These projects will also offer learning, cultural and enterprise space for a wide range of individuals and communities who experience exclusion.

We have many case histories of how disadvantaged people have successfully turned their lives around, and are successfully contributing to their communities. We can also set up media interviews with them.