Heritage Lottery Fund’s response to Cultural Education in England by Darren Henley

28/02/2012

We fully endorse the engagement of children and young people with heritage, not only in the areas covered by the Cultural Education Review, but across all the sectors we support and throughout the UK.

Cultural learning is at the heart of all the projects we support. We encourage all the organisations we fund to work hard to provide opportunities for everyone in the UK to learn about heritage. We warmly support the vision of Darren Henley that all children and young people, including those likely to face disadvantage, should benefit from receiving a wide-ranging, adventurous and creative cultural education. We believe that the heritage sector can continue to make an important contribution to a broad cultural education for children and young people and welcome the recognition in the Review of the role our sector has to play. The Heritage Lottery Fund is committed to maximising the engagement of children and young people with heritage as we work towards our next strategic plan in 2013, not least through our increased commitment to our Young Roots programme.

We are looking forward to greater collaboration between the Lottery distributors involved in cultural education and to working closely together as the new Cultural Education Partnership Group to help ensure the heritage sector is well placed to deliver the most effective cultural education in England. We will draw on our 17 years of experience as a Lottery funder of high quality heritage education to help inform the way forward.

We welcome the Review’s specific focus on quality and partnerships. With other NDPBs we will explore what further role we can play in developing new local relationships and in facilitating the exchange of best practice between heritage organisations, teachers and the creative industries to achieve enhanced benefits for children and young people.