

Birmingham's Big Ideas

A festival of imaginary events dreamed up by the people of Birmingham for Birmingham City of Culture 2013

Bring your vision to the city's Big Blank Canvas:
www.canvasbirmingham.com



BIRMINGHAM - CANDIDATE CITY

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Birmingham
big city culture



We'd like to thank all those of you who have submitted ideas to the www.canvasbirmingham.com website so far. All of the ideas in this fantasy festival have been influenced by your submissions, but we would particularly like to thank the following contributors whose specific ideas are featured in this brochure:

Headbanger's Ballet:

based on an idea by Ashley Goodall

Made in Birmingham Museum:

based on an idea by Nigel Cripps

Culture Bash:

based on ideas from a consultation with young people

Reservoir Thrills:

based on an idea by Dan Tournay

The Jewellery Quarter

Treasure Hunt:

based on an idea by Fierce

Big Urban Art Park:

based on an idea by Daniel Carey

Aurora Brumealis:

based on the Night Glow idea by Chris Gibson

Spaghetti Sculpture:

based on ideas from a consultation with young people

A Moving Performance:

based on ideas from a consultation with young people

Take Me Higher:

based on an idea by Jon Bounds

So what's the Big Idea?

As part of Birmingham's bid to be named the UK's first City of Culture, we wanted to hear ideas from you - the people of the city - for what you wanted to see happen as part of the programme for Birmingham City of Culture 2013.

The Birmingham Cultural Partnership worked together with Fierce (organisers of the annual Fierce festival of performance) to launch the Big Blank Canvas website www.canvasbirmingham.com to capture your ideas.

Fierce and the Birmingham Cultural Partnership firmly believe that Birmingham is an exciting and creative city filled with inventive, culturally engaged citizens. We wanted the site to not only examine the existing cultural activity in the city but also to canvas opinion about what people really wanted to see happen in Birmingham in 2013.

You didn't let us down. Your ideas - hundreds of them, and counting - have poured in, and given the bid team lots of inspiration about how to use the city as a canvas for culture. With Birmingham's landscape as an iconic backdrop, your ingenuity and creativity has created possibilities for a year of wonderful, jaw-dropping art, entertainment and cultural celebration.

So as a taster we would like to unveil today - Birmingham's Big Ideas.

We took a number of your inspired suggestions and put them together in a "fantasy festival" as a glimpse of what Birmingham might host in 2013. You've given us celebrations of our diverse cultures, food and drink filled feasts, homages to our manufacturing history and you even evoked a magical nightscape for the town centre.

Birmingham is still in the bidding process for City of Culture 2013, and is one of the final four shortlisted cities along with Derry, Norwich and Sheffield. Now we want to hear from even more of Birmingham's people, so please visit the website and help us develop these ideas further, or return the postcard on the back of this brochure and tell us what you'd like to see. Of course, we can't guarantee that all of these imagined events will take place. However, whether we are named UK City of Culture 2013 or not, we hope that this brochure inspires you to look at Birmingham again. The city, as re-imagined by you, the people who live, work and play here, has never been more exciting.

Birmingham Hippodrome THEATRE

Headbanger's Ballet

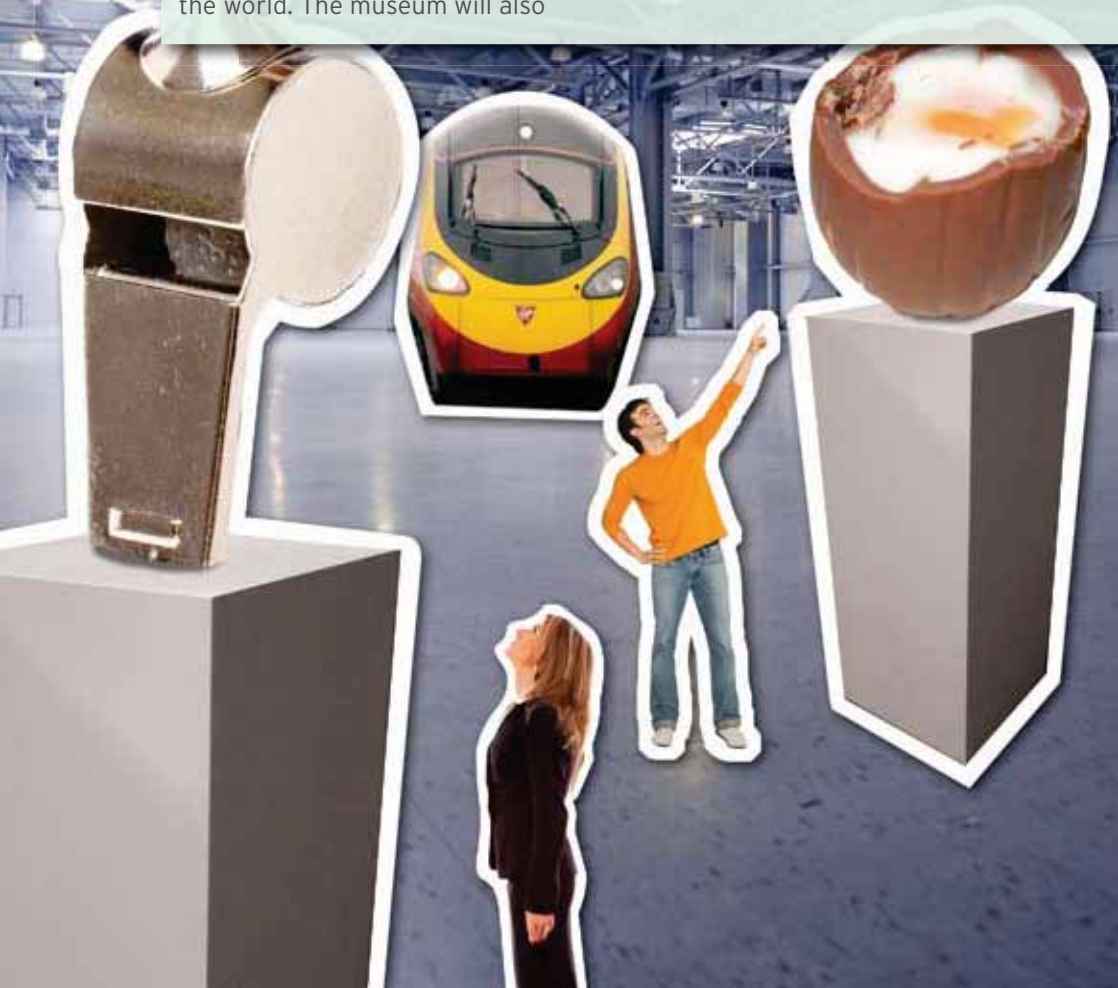
Headbanger's Ballet swaps tutus for tight leather for this unconventional tribute to the birthplace of heavy metal. Set in 1970s Birmingham, when local lads like Black Sabbath and Led Zeppelin were strutting their stuff across the world stage, Headbanger's Ballet features all the anthems from the era of long guitar solos and even longer poodle perms, played by a band comprised of surprise names from heavy metal's heyday. Combined with choreography as exciting, excessive and sometimes as downright daft as the music that inspired it, Headbanger's Ballet will have you pulling pirouettes in the moshpit.



Made in Birmingham Museum

From the mighty Spitfire or Pendolino train to the revolutionary celluloid film or even the humble Crème Egg, the city's signature products will be displayed in the Made In Birmingham Museum. On the site of the old Metro Cammel factory, the temporary museum will showcase iconic products from the industrial revolution to the modern age and cement Birmingham's reputation as the workshop of the world. The museum will also

host special performances in the spirit of Brummie innovations like lawn tennis, and pieces like Elgar's 'Dream of Gerontius', which premiered at the Town Hall in 1900. It will include work inspired by Birmingham artists such as Tolkein, Tony Hancock and Duran Duran, amongst many other famous locals, whose imaginations have embroidered the rich artistic tapestry of the city.





Culture Bash

A celebration of the West Midlands' cultural diversity, Culture Bash will be a whirlwind tour for your dancing feet. From Sparkbrook's Balti Triangle to Sutton Park, the Culture Bash events will be bringing communities together to eat, drink and dance. Different communities will add their own ingredients to the events in celebration of the city's unique cultural cocktail. The neighbourhood roads of Birmingham

will be transformed with a series of street parties, where you can boogie to everything from bhangra to ceilidh music, and each event will be fuelled by a kaleidoscope of cuisine cooked up along the way. Like all the best parties though, it's the people that make it what it is, so bring whatever talent you can - even if it's only a smile - to make sure Culture Bash goes with a bang.

Reservoir Thrills

Immortalized in the famous statue on Ladywood Middleway, Charles Blondin crossed Edgbaston Reservoir on a tightrope on 6 September 1873. Now Birmingham's Big Ideas marks the event's 140th anniversary by presenting world-class high-wire artists who will follow in the Frenchman's footsteps as they re-enact his phenomenal feat. A performance as tense as the tightrope itself, anyone inspired by what they see can take steps towards their first high-wire act at the circus skills workshops around the reservoir held before and after the event.





The Jewellery Quarter Treasure Hunt

After Terry Herbert hit the headlines following his unearthing of Anglo-Saxon gold in a Staffordshire field, the so-called 'Staffordshire hoard' has captured the imagination of people in Birmingham and beyond. Discover it for yourself as you solve a series of clues to guide you to the venue where the glittering hoard is exhibited. Intrepid treasure-hunters will follow an

elaborate path through Birmingham's hidden gem: the beautiful and unique Jewellery Quarter. On the way, you will find cobbled streets, encounter contemporary jewellers and see artisan skills up close. Solve the clues and you will uncover a glittering exhibition of hoard gold in this Birmingham's Big Ideas "fantasy" event.



Big Urban Art Park

Birmingham truly goes green as vast tracts of derelict land and empty car-parking spaces will be grassed over to create unusual exhibition spaces where people can relax, reflect and look at art. Birmingham's Big Ideas will present a series of architectural interventions, sculptures by renowned

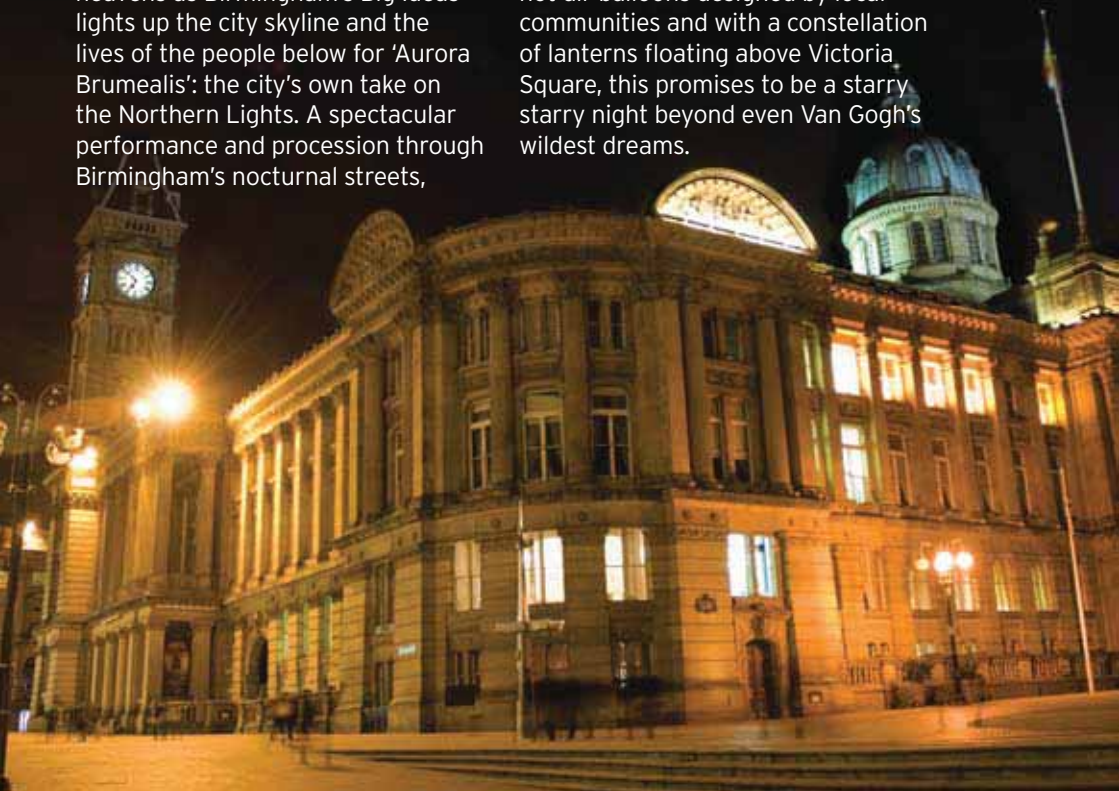
and emerging local talent and temporary displays of visual art and photography. Inspired by San Francisco's PARK(ing) Day, we ask you, the people of Birmingham, to join us and join the revolution, as the city's unused spaces are reclaimed for the public and transformed by art.



Aurora Brumealis

A galaxy of colour will paint the heavens as Birmingham's Big Ideas lights up the city skyline and the lives of the people below for 'Aurora Brumealis': the city's own take on the Northern Lights. A spectacular performance and procession through Birmingham's nocturnal streets,

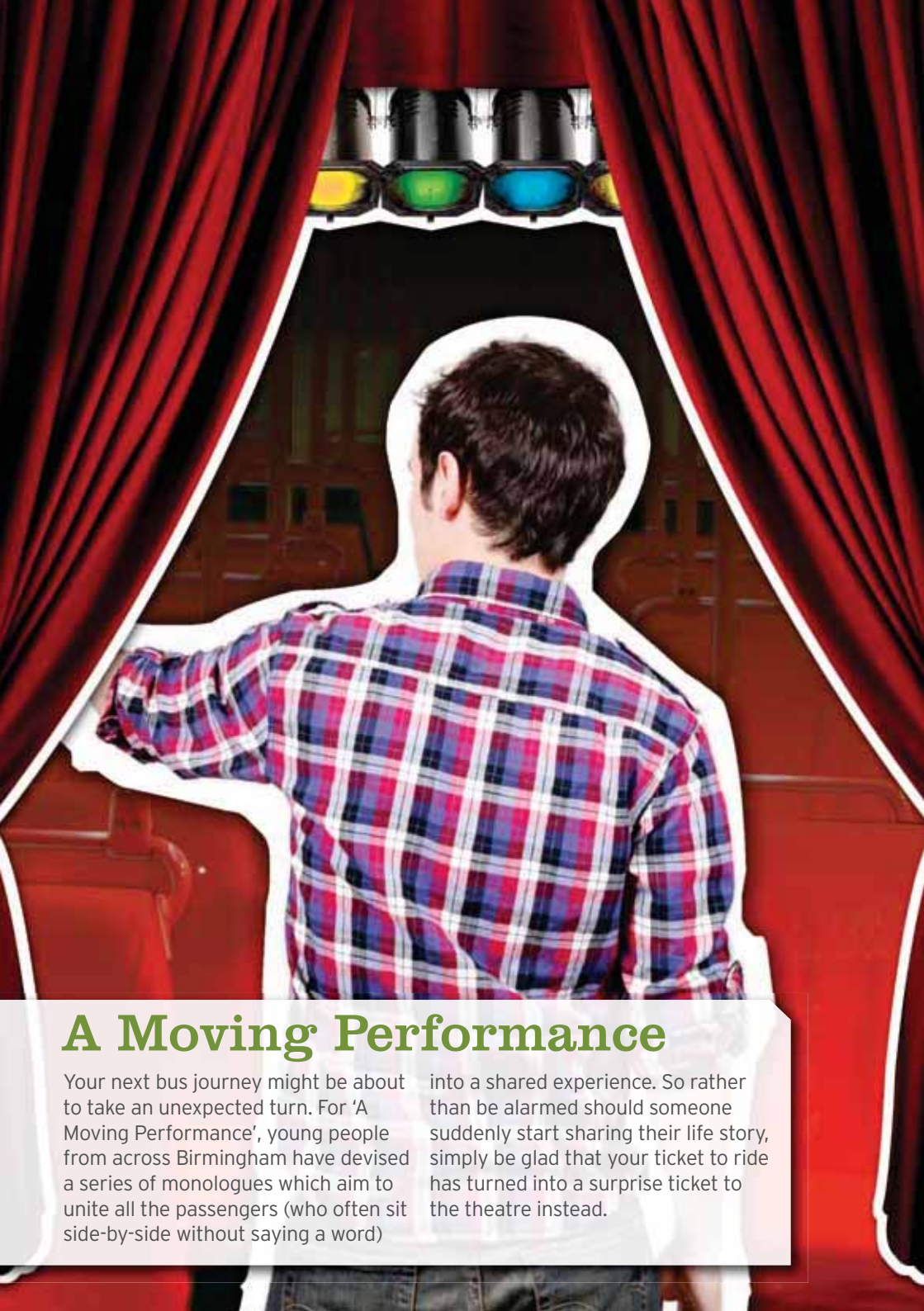
featuring tethered illuminated hot-air balloons designed by local communities and with a constellation of lanterns floating above Victoria Square, this promises to be a starry starry night beyond even Van Gogh's wildest dreams.



An aerial photograph of a complex, multi-level highway interchange in Birmingham, UK. The roads are grey and filled with cars and trucks. A large, silver, metallic fork is superimposed on the left side of the image, with its tines pointing towards the bottom right, framing the highway. The background shows green trees and a body of water on the left side.

Spaghetti Sculpture

Cold, moist pasta might not sound the most inspiring of artistic mediums but it can be moulded into fantastical shapes before it dries. So, in order to unravel the symbolism of one of Birmingham's most famous (or infamous) architectural icons, Birmingham's Big Ideas are launching a competition for people to construct their own monument to Spaghetti Junction from actual spaghetti. Reflecting the interchange's place in the heart of both the national road network and Birmingham's population, the winning model will be made into a permanent metallic sculpture, which will be unveiled at a city centre ceremony as a towering tribute to the artisan spirit of the UK's most famous motor hub.



A Moving Performance

Your next bus journey might be about to take an unexpected turn. For 'A Moving Performance', young people from across Birmingham have devised a series of monologues which aim to unite all the passengers (who often sit side-by-side without saying a word)

into a shared experience. So rather than be alarmed should someone suddenly start sharing their life story, simply be glad that your ticket to ride has turned into a surprise ticket to the theatre instead.

Take Me Higher

Cliff Richard's 1973 film 'Take Me High' sees him living on a barge in Gas Street Basin, gazing from the penthouse offices in Alpha Tower, wheeling and dealing in the Council House and opening a spectacular restaurant alongside the city's famous canal system. Set during one week, it's a view of swinging '70s Birmingham in glorious technicolour. Now you can see it unfold in real-time as actors will re-create the film scene-for-scene in the original locations over seven days. You can catch 'Cliff' driving into town down the Aston Expressway in his Mini Clubman, see him asleep on his narrowboat and party at the spectacular opening of The Brumburger.



**Brochure conceived
and created by Fierce**
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Cultural Partnership and
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Cut out and post



Join the big conversation!

Tell us your ideas:

Keep me informed - I want to join a mailing list
for news about Big City Culture

Name and Address.....

.....

I am a Birmingham resident

I am an artist

I am from a community group and can
organise an event

Your comments:

UK City of Culture Bid
Birmingham Museum and Art Gallery
FREEPOST MID 18246
Birmingham
B3 3DH

Join the big conversation!

Visit the Big Blank Canvas at
www.canvasbirmingham.com

The website is always moving forward, tell us your thoughts and help us develop the ideas.

Connecting Everyone to Culture



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