

**PRESS RELEASE**

28 November 2019

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Queen's Hall Arts, Hexham awarded £206,550 Arts Council  
Funding for Opening Doors Project**

Queen's Hall Arts has been awarded £206,550 Small Capital funding for their 'Opening Doors' project, which will improve access to performing, participation and circulation spaces within Queen's Hall Arts Centre.

Opening Doors is an exciting 2 year project which will create a new Studio Theatre within the Queen's Hall.

*QHA Artistic Director Katy Taylor said 'The space will provide a flexible performance and workshop space which will allow us to present small scale theatre, children's performance, music and workshops.*

*The funding for Arts Council England will also ensure that all our performance spaces and backstage areas are accessible and welcoming.*

*We will be improving the existing changing rooms and re-configure the current Green Room to increase its size and convert it to a multi-use space and fully equipped studio with more experimental and updated digital facilities to extend our range of performance, visual arts and learning and engagement activities and include improved access / facilities for audiences and participants with disabilities. So that we can achieve this ambitious plan we will be fundraising £60,000 over the next 2 years with the help of local businesses and our loyal customers.'*

The Arts Council's capital funding is giving organisations the right buildings and equipment to be able to produce and present great work. These new and improved buildings are bringing benefits to artists, audiences and to the communities where they're located. The Arts Council's capital programme supports organisations to develop resilience and to become more sustainable businesses

Andrew Harvey, Chair of the Board of Trustees at Queen's Hall Arts said *"We are delighted at the news that Arts Council England will support the development of our Studio space and backstage area with such a valuable capital injection. The need for extra capacity reflects the growing audiences at the Queen's Hall. At the same time improvements in accessibility are vital for both audiences and performers. This result reflects the commitment of our staff team and is great news for Hexham."*

**For more information regarding QHA, please contact Katy Taylor, CEO and Artistic Director,**  
Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Hexham.

T: 01434 652477

W: [www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)

E: [katy.taylor@queenshall.co.uk](mailto:katy.taylor@queenshall.co.uk)

**Queen's Hall Arts Centre, Beaumont Street, Hexham, NE46 3LS.**

**Box Office (Open 10.00am – 5.00pm Mon to Fri, 10.00am – 4.00pm Sat)**

**T: 01434 652477**

E: [boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@queenshall.co.uk)

**Online booking at [www.queenshall.co.uk](http://www.queenshall.co.uk)**

### **Notes to Editors**

**Arts Council England** is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. We support a range of activities across the arts, museums and libraries – from theatre to visual art, reading to dance, music to literature, and crafts to collections. Great art and culture inspires us, brings us together and teaches us about ourselves and the world around us. In short, it makes life better. Between 2018 and 2022, we will invest £1.45 billion of public money from government and an estimated £860 million from the National

Lottery to help create these experiences for as many people as possible across the country.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

### **About Queen's Hall Arts**

- Based in the heart of Hexham, Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is a registered charity and multipurpose arts centre. We develop and deliver a vibrant arts programme offering a wide range of shows, exhibitions, concerts and special events, support professional and aspiring artists, provide opportunities for our community to take part in the arts and offer a valuable creative resource to our local area. Through the arts we make life better, having positive impacts on our community and the individuals who live and work within it.
  
- Queen's Hall Arts (QHA) is the company that manages the Queen's Hall Arts Centre venue within the Queen's Hall, Hexham.
  
- The Queen's Hall building is a magnificent early Victorian building which faces Hexham Abbey (dating from 647AD). From its christening as an arts centre in 1983 until the hand over to the charitable organisation, Queens Hall Arts, in 2001 the building was under local authority control.
  
- Queen's Hall Arts Centre boasts a 350-seat theatre and two galleries managed by Queen's Hall Arts. Queen's Hall has established itself as a strong base for an extensive range of artistic activity, attracting the best international and national artists from music, drama, dance and national touring comedy to non professional shows put on by local community groups.
  
- In addition to activity in the building, QHA delivers an extensive outreach programme bringing workshops and performances to communities throughout Northumberland.

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