

HISTORIC CINEMA REDEVELOPMENT TO BEGIN THIS SPRING FOLLOWING CAPITAL KICKSTART AWARD

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Work on the Hyde Park Picture House's transformational redevelopment project is set to begin this April, thanks to a successful £285,600 Capital Kickstart Fund award from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the government's Culture Recovery Fund.

Combining vital restoration work with the creation of new accessible facilities, the cinema's Picture House Project had been on pause for the past 10 months due to the pandemic but will now proceed as planned, with completion expected in May 2022.

The multi-million-pound scheme will safeguard the cinema's nationally significant heritage, including repair and conservation of its unique gas-lamps, iconic Burmantofts tiled façade, original terrazzo flooring and Grade II listed exterior lamppost. The introduction of a new ramped entrance, accessible toilets, an expanded foyer and new 52 seat basement screen also means the cinema's capacity and accessibility will be greatly improved.

Designed by award-winning architects Page\Park and engineering specialists Buro Happold, the project will take 13 months to complete and is being delivered by Triton Construction, with support from Gardiner & Theobald and Avison Young. During this time the Picture House will continue to screen films in venues across Leeds as part of its On the Road off-site film programme, which began last year but is currently on hold until restrictions ease.

Established to support capital projects which have been negatively affected by Covid-19, the Capital Kickstart Fund is administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, and forms part of the government's wider £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund.

News of this funding follows a £2.3million National Lottery Heritage Fund grant, awarded to the Picture House Project 2018, as well as crucial support from Leeds City Council, the Garfield Weston Foundation, the British Film Institute and others. Later this year the Picture House plans to launch a new community fundraising campaign, asking audiences to help raise the final amount required to complete the project.

Wendy Cook, Head of Cinema at the Hyde Park Picture House, said:

"After a challenging period of prolonged uncertainty, we're over the moon that work on The Picture House Project is finally about to begin. Not only will this project revitalise and safeguard a building that so many of us love, but it will allow the cinema to become a more inclusive venue, welcoming new audiences thanks to an expanded film programme, huge improvements to accessibility and new community-focused activity for visitors young and old."

Mark Johnston, Lead Architect at Page\Park, said:

"Since we began working with the cinema in 2016, we've come to learn why this little Edwardian Picture House is cherished by so many in Leeds and beyond. As architects who specialise in the conservation and refurbishment of heritage buildings, our aim, every step of the way, is to preserve the cinema's important history and character whilst sensitively introducing new elements which allow the building to work for audiences in the 21st century. We're really thrilled to be part of the next chapter in this cinema's long and remarkable journey."

Chris Blythe, CEO of Leeds Heritage Theatres, said:

"These past 12 months have been extraordinarily difficult for all three of our heritage venues, but they've also shown us why plans to invest in our collective future are needed now more than ever. Thanks to the continued support of the National Lottery Heritage Fund and the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, I'm confident that the cinema will not only come out of this pandemic stronger and more resilient, but also able to support its audiences and wonderful community like never before."

Councillor Judith Blake, Leader of Leeds City Council, said:

"As a city and as a society, responding to Covid-19 has required flexibility and inventiveness to an extent we didn't realise was possible twelve months ago. While we still have a great deal of work ahead to keep managing the immediate and life changing pressures of this crisis, part of our recovery must also be about ensuring our plans, our hopes and our aspirations for the future are also realised. It's with this view to the future that we're proud to be supporting The Picture House Project and we're excited that this invaluable support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund brings more national investment in the cultural and heritage infrastructure in our city."

Oliver Dowden MP, Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport, said:

"From restoring Georgian lidos and Roman baths to saving local screens and synagogues, our Culture Recovery Fund is helping to save the places people can't wait to get back to, when it is safe to do so. All over the country, this funding is protecting the venues that have shaped our history and make us proud of our communities, whilst safeguarding the livelihoods of the people that work in them."

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For further enquiries including to arrange interviews, contact: Ollie Jenkins, Marketing & Communications Manager, Hyde Park Picture House:

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More information about the upcoming redevelopment, including proposed plans, videos, a project timeline and more, can be found at: www.thepicturehouseproject.com

Images: Downloadable images for use by press are available via: bit.ly/3aukLzq

Social: Twitter & Instagram: @HydeParkPH. For posts relating to the project, you can use #PictureHouseProject

Notes to Editor

The Hyde Park Picture House first opened in 1914 and is one of the UK's oldest cinemas. Beginning its life shortly before the outbreak of the First World War, it gained popularity by screening patriotic dramas and newsreels to boost morale during the conflict. The Grade II listed Picture House has continued to adapt and thrive in the decades since, and now screens the very best independent and classic films from around the world, as well as special live events.

On the Road is the Picture House's off-site programme of screenings and events, held in venues across Leeds. Launched in February last year, the cinema held a number of screenings at Leeds University Union, the Brudenell Social Club and the City Varieties Music Hall. On the Road will resume later in 2021, once local and national restrictions are eased.

More details about the cinema, including its current online activity such as Hyde Park Picks and Hiding in Plain Sight can be found via its website: hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk

Leeds Heritage Theatres is the parent company of the Hyde Park Picture House (charity no. 500408). As well as the Picture House, Leeds Heritage Theatres also operates the Leeds Grand Theatre and the City Varieties Music Hall. Formally known as Leeds Grand Theatre & Opera House Ltd, the company changed its name last year. leedsheritagetheatres.com

The Picture House Project is the name of the cinema's upcoming redevelopment scheme. The project began in 2014, following the cinema's centenary, to establish ways in which the cinema's accessibility, capacity and financial security could be improved. Following a feasibility study commissioned by the Friends of Hyde Park Picture House, the cinema made a successful application to the National Lottery Heritage Fund. After a two-year development period, the Heritage Fund confirmed its £2.3million grant for the scheme, to support both capital works, as well as an extensive activity programme, aimed at celebrating and promoting film and cinema heritage in the region.

The Picture House Project team consists of architects Page\Park, engineers Buro Happold, quantity surveyors Gardiner & Theobald and project managers Avison Young. The works will be delivered by Triton Construction.

Works were due to begin on the scheme in Spring 2020, but the project was paused as a result of Covid-19. Works are now scheduled to begin April 2021, with a planned reopening date of May 2022.

Substantial match-funding for the scheme has also come from Leeds City Council and the Garfield Weston Foundation. Additional funding for the project has also come from the British Film Institute, The Gwyneth Forrester Trust, The Pilgrim Trust, the Co-op Local Community Fund and the Friends of Hyde Park Picture House.

The project is continuing to welcome match-funding contributions and will be embarking on a crowd-funding campaign later this year. Individuals or businesses who are interested in sponsorship opportunities are welcome to contact Head of Cinema, Wendy Cook, via: wendy@hydeparkpicturehouse.co.uk.

Page\Park is an award-winning architectural practice undertaking work across the UK from their studios in Glasgow and Leeds. The Employee-Owned practice prides itself in providing responsive solutions rooted in the needs and experience of local people and communities. pagepark.co.uk

The National Lottery Heritage Fund invests money to help people across the UK explore, enjoy and protect the heritage they care about - from the archaeology under foot to the historic parks and buildings that help articulate our history, from precious memories and collections to rare wildlife. heritagefund.org.uk

Ros Kerslake, Chief Executive, National Lottery Heritage Fund, said:

"These are all ongoing major refurbishment and restoration projects, funded by us, which have been threatened by the pandemic. From the oldest surviving outdoor swimming baths to a Victorian pier, and from a much-loved park to an historic abbey, these are all places that will enrich hundreds of lives when they reopen. We are delighted this extra funding from the Culture Recovery Fund will ensure that these exciting projects will go ahead. The National Lottery Heritage Fund, along with the BFI, Historic England and Arts Council England, are currently assessing applications for the remaining £400 million in funding from the Culture Recovery Fund, which was held back to allow the Government to support organisations through the Spring and Summer."

The Capital Kickstart Fund is a part of the government's wider £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund, aimed at supporting pre-existing capital projects which are experiencing a funding shortfall due to either Covid-19 related increased costs, fundraising underperformance and/or an extended completion date.

Part of the fund was allocated to supporting heritage projects and is being administered by the National Lottery Heritage Fund, alongside the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport. The full list of the National Lottery Heritage Fund awards is:

- Museum of Oxford Hidden Histories, £240,000
- Bevis Marks Synagogue Heritage Foundation, £497,000
- North Yorkshire Moors Historic Railway Trust, £296,000
- The Royal Pavilion Estate, Brighton, £1,000,000
- Tavistock Guildhall Gateway Centre, £130,900
- Geffrye Museum Trust, £692,000
- Bath Abbey, £534,000
- Tunbridge Wells Cultural & Learning Hub, £675,000
- The Archway Centre: Roman Baths Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre, £359,600
- Swanage Pier Regeneration Project, £469,800
- Cleveland Pools Trust, £290,000
- Lincoln Cathedral, £973,600
- Chester Farm, £719,700
- Wicksteed Park, £302,700
- Black Country Living Museum, £3,740,000
- The Whitaker, £179,900
- The Globe, Stockton-on-Tees, £774,000
- The Common Room of the Great North, £228,000
- Beamish Museum, £975,500
- Carlisle Cathedral, £250,000
- Thackray Museum, £174,600
- The Hyde Park Picture House, £285,600