



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PHOTOCALL: 3PM WEDNESDAY 21ST DECEMBER

Out of the Blue Plans Skip-Based Press Conference
to Mark Passing of New Street Studios

Art on the Scrap Heap: End of an Era as Time Called on Ten Years of Cutting Edge Culture

Out of the Blue is to hold a press conference from a skip on Wednesday December 21 at 3pm outside the New Street studios. Some 50 artists are losing their workplaces at the old bus depot which has been earmarked for demolition. The unusual event is designed to draw attention to the acute shortage of studio space in Edinburgh.

The move comes on the same day as council chiefs vote on the proposed demolition.

The building has been an invaluable resource for Edinburgh's grassroots artistic community since it was first leased over ten years ago by Out of the Blue. The diverse mix of artists, writers, designers, filmmakers and musicians fostered thousands of different cultural projects year round. The gallery space staged hundreds of critically acclaimed exhibitions from now prominent artists such as Chad McCail. Many of the studios also house small creative businesses.

It was also the birthplace of left-field nightclub The Bongo Club which spawned such innovative musical collaborations as McFalls Chamber and Aberfeldy. Out of the Blue's New Street studios attracted tens of thousands of visitors over the years and injected a colourful vibrancy to what otherwise would have been a lifeless backwater in the heart of Edinburgh. As yet, there is no provision for a replacement.

"As an instance of making the arts more accessible and relevant, of social inclusion, and of building links between different communities... (out of the blue) could hardly be bettered...if Edinburgh wants to preserve the health of its cultural economy, and sustain an indigenous year round bedrock of artistic activity and experimentation rather than simply shipping it in each August, it cannot afford to keep letting commercial imperatives strangle local creativity at its grass-roots" Sue Wilson, *The Independent*.

Join us for drinks, press conference and photocall at 3pm Wednesday December 21 at 6-14 New Street to mark the passing of a much-loved cultural institution.

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Note to editors: Out of the Blue Arts and Education Trust (charity number SCO22812) supports and promotes cultural ventures. It has an established track record as a vital catalyst for creativity in Edinburgh and beyond. Out of the Blue gratefully acknowledges the support of the Scottish Arts Council, City of Edinburgh Council, Fresh Futures, Capital City Partnership, Social Investment Scotland, Scottish Enterprise Edinburgh & Lothian, Triodos Bank and Ikea. For more details please visit www.outoftheblue.org.uk