



MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Out of the Blue Appeals for Studio Space as New Street Evictions Loom

Edinburgh arts organisation seeks replacement building in bid to avert cultural diaspora from capital

Out of the Blue (OOTB) is urgently appealing for a building to relocate up to 50 artists facing immediate eviction from the New Street studio complex. Without affordable replacement studio space, the eviction threatens to spark a culture-flight from Edinburgh as the artists are forced to move to other cities.

Since 1996, the OOTB New Street complex has provided affordable production space for artists working in all mediums from painting and drawing through music to theatre and dance. Low cost creative production space underpins Edinburgh's cultural vitality and contributes significantly to the city's economy through tourism. There is already mounting demand for creative space in Edinburgh which now threatens to spiral out of control following these evictions.

New Street-based artist Joanne Richardson says, "I have been offered a studio in Glasgow but I don't have much choice in Edinburgh. Edinburgh is becoming an unwelcoming place for artists and many may be forced to go to other cities as Edinburgh seems to favour commerce over culture."

OOTB is seeking a six month-minimum lease for any disused, difficult-to-let buildings over 2,000 square feet available immediately. Buildings earmarked for development are particularly suitable as Out of the Blue can take over the rates liability, boost security and smooth the planning process by promoting the partnership. Opportunities for longer term partnerships would be welcomed.

OOTB has an established track record in generating studio space for Edinburgh's cultural community with minimal resources. As well as creating a vibrant cultural hub from a disused bus garage at New Street, OOTB set up arts venue The OOTB Tramworks on a short term lease at the old tram depot on Shrub Place during this year's festival. OOTB is currently making a permanent contribution to the city's cultural life with the purchase and planned transformation of an ex-army drill hall in Dalmeny Street into a multi-arts creative hub.

If you wish to work with OOTB to help solve the mounting studio crisis then please call Rob Hoon on (0131) 555-7101 or email rob@outoftheblue.org.uk.

Contact: *For interviews with affected artists, photographs and further information please contact Hugo Fluendy/Dana MacLeod at Out of the Blue (0131) 555-7102, hugo@outoftheblue.org.uk / dana@outoftheblue.org.uk*

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*