



# END OF AN ERA .....

## ALMOST

After just over 25 years of providing services to the arts, courtesy of all our amazing volunteers both past and current, Business in the Arts:North West will be ceasing to trade at the end of March. Sadly grant cuts and other pressures on our income streams have finally got the better of us and the Board have reluctantly decided that the organisation simply isn't viable going forward.

For those of you who are currently involved in projects, fear not, I will continue to be your point of contact until the project is complete. I am also planning to continue to match Board Bank volunteers who are already on our books for as long as I can and, if there are willing volunteers, to continue to do a small number of mentoring projects and Quick Fixes. I will also be continuing with some governance work. We will circulate new contact details as soon as they are available.

By the time the end of March arrives, BIA:NW will have arranged almost 1,500 matches between the arts and business volunteers and the value of these interventions will have reached close to £20 million. This success would never have been possible without the hundreds of volunteers who have put themselves forward to support the cultural sector through our programmes. BIA:NW could not have achieved anything without you - thank you.

It has been brilliant hearing all the stories from the arts about the difference even a Quick Fix has made for an organisation and how much benefit has been gained from the skills provided by the board members we have matched. And then there's mentoring, the programme which always received the best feedback of all.

Of course, it has never been just a one way street. Apart from the enjoyment and stimulation of volunteering in the creative sector, many people have reported on the skills development they have gained and the new contacts and friends they have made.

I would also like to acknowledge the support we have received from many local authorities in the region, especially Cheshire East, Chester and West Cheshire, Lancashire and Liverpool - without your support we could not have carried on for as long as we have.

Business support has also been crucial to BIA:NW and thanks should go to all the companies who have supported us during our quarter of a century history.

Last, but certainly not least, thanks to the Board (past and present members) and all the staff who have worked for BIA:NW over the years for all their support and hard work. For me, it's certainly been hugely rewarding - and fun!

Vivienne Tyler  
Manager

Business in the Arts: North West

## The Programmes - Here are the latest matches:

### BETTER BOARD BANK - New matches bring the total to 516.

Feelgood Theatre Productions - Beverley Hulme, Beverley Hulme Associates  
Oldham Coliseum - Anne Goldsmith, retired  
Portraits of Recovery - Anne Goldsmith, retired  
DanceSyndrome - Lindsay O'Dea, NHS Blackpool Clinical Commissioning Group  
NWFed - Rachel Mulhearn, Rachel Mulhearn Associates Ltd  
Start in Salford - Shirah Bamber, Preston City Council  
Sefton Park Palm House - John Carden, Twelfth Man Management Consultancy Ltd  
Burnley Youth Theatre - Clare Cosgrove, retired

### MENTORING - New matches bring the total to 173.

Nancy Hopkins, Museum of Science and Industry - Bernadette Lyons, Platinum Leaf Ltd  
Archana Shastri, Milapfest - Diane Brown, BFG Associates  
Emma Foxall, Arts Council of England - Catrina Hewitson, Vibrant

### SKILLS BANK - The number of projects confirmed to date is 564.

Lytham Amateur Operatic Society - Christopher Bisco, consultant - general management  
Dare Projects - Ashley Taylor, consultant - planning

### QUICK FIXES – 185 completed to date.

Action Transport Theatre - Gary Jones, Weightmans LLP - legal, organisational structures  
Unity Theatre - Jon Keeble, DWF LLP - HR  
Visual Arts Cheshire Ltd - Graeme Dixon, DWF LLP - legal, landlord & tenant  
Liverpool Irish Festival - Jon Keeble, DWF LLP - HR  
Straightforward Theatre - Jonathan Gillow, Hill Dickinson LLP – legal, organisational structures

**The monetary value of support provided through BIA:NW's volunteering programmes now amounts to over £19.1 million.**

## FAIR FUNDING?

The latest instalment of the work by GPS Culture was published earlier in February. This is the fourth report analysing the differences between the amounts of arts funding awarded to organisations in London compared with the English regions and suggesting ways to redress the balance. All the reports make sobering reading for those in the provinces. All four reports can be found at [www.gpsculture.co.uk](http://www.gpsculture.co.uk).

## ABOUT BIA:NW

Business in the Arts:North West (BIA:NW) brings business skills to the arts in ways that are beneficial to both business and the arts.

The **Better Board Bank** matches people interested in joining boards with arts organisations seeking their particular skills.

The **Skills Bank** matches the expertise of managers with cultural organisations in need of specific skills. General management experience and specialist skills such as marketing, business planning and HR are often in demand.

**Mentoring** provides support for arts managers who want to develop their own management potential.

**Quick Fixes** provide rapid responses to queries in areas such as the law and HR and also help with organisational structures.

## Thanks to our Funders and Supporters

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Business in the Arts:North West 305 Queens Dock Business Centre Norfolk Street LIVERPOOL L1 0BG  
Tel: 0151-709 8780 Fax: 0151-707 0758 Email: [all@businessinthearts.co.uk](mailto:all@businessinthearts.co.uk)  
Company limited by guarantee no 2508104 Registered charity no 1046901

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