

It's all about legacy...



The biggest cultural organisation in Liverpool is National Museums Liverpool (NML). Indeed, it's the biggest cultural organisation in England, outside London. With eight museums and art galleries, some of them well over 100 years old, and attracting more than

2.5 million visitors a year (the equivalent of filling Anfield 60 times) we are part of the fabric of the city.

So, we were aware that our contribution to making 2008 a success was crucial – if NML had failed, Liverpool 2008 might have failed. But we didn't fail. As we all now know, 2008 was a roaring success, and we are proud of the key role NML played in that success.

In 2008 NML put local people at the top of our agenda. There was no charge for any of our exhibitions or activities, and Liverpoolians responded by attending in huge numbers. Our exhibition programme was probably our best ever, with *The Beat Goes On*, Ben Johnson's *Cityscape*, *Magical History Tour* and *Art in the Age of Steam* all breaking attendance records and attracting huge acclaim.

We opened a new gallery at the Maritime Museum – *Seized*. We reopened one of our most popular displays at World Museum, *Ancient Egypt*, which is bigger and better than ever. We created a new entrance and displays at the Lady Lever Art Gallery to showcase the fantastic art collections there.

Everywhere we looked there was action and change. This is important because 2008 can only be adjudged a real success if Liverpool has been altered for the better at the end of the year. "Legacy" means the way in which the city has improved for the people who live here, so what is the legacy?

Improving the image of the city and attracting more tourists is good, but it is not enough. To me, 2008 will have been a success if in 2009 and beyond local people continue to attend cultural events and activities. That's a challenge for all of us in the cultural sector.

It is crucial that we keep up the momentum of 2008. The city needs to be brave and ambitious to achieve that. NML is now creating the best museum in the world devoted to a single city – the new Museum of Liverpool opening 2010. I believe the museum will come to be seen as the single most important legacy of 2008.

David Fleming
Director, National Museums Liverpool



Looking back on 2008, we can now say that the European Capital of Culture has been an unmitigated success and that many of the high hopes and dreams associated with year have been fulfilled. It has been a momentous 12 months for art, culture and heritage in Liverpool

with the city's art galleries, museums, theatres and orchestras staging a truly world-class programme.

The highlight of the year at Tate Liverpool was without doubt the exhibition devoted to Gustav Klimt and the art, architecture and design of Vienna around 1900. With 200,000 visitors this spectacular exhibition attracted record numbers to Tate Liverpool throughout the summer. However, the Klimt exhibition was only one element in a full programme that kicked off in autumn 2007 with the Turner Prize and ended with the Biennial and The Fifth Floor this autumn. This was the first time in the 24-year history of Britain's most controversial art prize that it was held outside London. 2008 also gave us the opportunity to completely change the displays drawn from the Tate Collection with masterpieces from *Rodin's Kiss* in the gallery's foyer to *Degas*, *Bonnard*, *Picasso*, *Andy Warhol* providing a selection of unprecedented quality.

Tate Liverpool's 20th birthday coincided with the Capital of Culture year and we celebrated in style with a weekend full of activities and events, reflecting on the incredible growth and change that the gallery, but also the city, has experienced over the past two decades. We have come a long way and feel proud to have played an active role in Liverpool's regeneration.

For us, the Capital of Culture was a unique opportunity to stage a programme of the highest ambition. Never have we welcomed so many visitors (more than 1.1 million in 2008, doubling last year's figures!), attracting many first-time visitors who were amazed by the cultural riches of Liverpool. 2008 has demonstrated that art and culture can indeed be the driving force of a city's rebirth. We must not lose momentum, build on the successes and continue to stage ambitious international exhibitions and collection displays. Tate Liverpool wants to continue to be one of the world's most favourite art galleries, located right here on your door step in Liverpool!

Christoph Grunenberg
Director, Tate Liverpool