

A TALE OF TWO *INNER* CITIES

DRAFT – 1

Birmingham and Chicago – are two cities that have been ‘twinned’ and connected as ‘sister cities’. Both have a wealth of culture, arts, venues and artists who strongly identify with the city’s diverse cultures. How well do they really know their city and more interestingly the gritty inner city lives and stories?

We want to identify 4 or 5 artists who will discover our cities for us and introduce the contemporary stories through their eyes, words and creative expressions. The twist in the ‘tale’ is that they will explore the sister city and not their own. We will see each other’s city through the eyes of these artists – the musician, the dancer, the writer, the photographer and the storyteller...

These will be Artists, who come from all walks of life and backgrounds and who have the passion and excitement needed in this collaborative, cross-arts and cross-cultural project – and who are excellent in what they do.

Some random thoughts for exploration.....

- what connects the cities?
- where is the soul of the cities? people? music? arts? dance? commerce???
- what are we learning from each other – the universities are in dialogue and the students are exchanging ideas -
- who are the adopted children of the cities?
- what is illuminated? what are the shadows?
- where is the vision/ who is leading us?
- do the children of 21st century inner cities connect to their own city and their cousins in the other city ?
- who are the faces of our cities?
- who are we praying to?
- who are we celebrating?
- what do we want to celebrate?
- what are the memories we want to make for the future?

Production Planning draft

- Phase 1** **research and planning with partners**
identifying and selecting artists
fundraising
- Phase 2** **sharing and learning Birmingham**
All artists come together and go through a collaborative artistic process. Explore Birmingham – meet other artists, organisations and visit spaces.
creative phase in Birmingham
- Phase 3** **sharing and learning Chicago**
same programme as above in Chicago
- Final Phase** **Exhibition and performances in both cities**

sampad will work with artists and arts organisations in Birmingham and Chicago to develop this project in 2014/2015.

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