

15 December 2011

## Aberystwyth Arts Centre Becomes a Multi-Millionaire\* (\*in visitor numbers!)

### Information begins....

Figures from Aberystwyth Arts Centre, a community resource of Aberystwyth University, show that in the 10 years since their major redevelopment project was finished in 2000 there have been over six and a half million visitors to the venue. The original project cost £4.3 million and was partly supported through the Arts Council of Wales Lottery Fund who awarded £2.6million.

This original project, together with a subsequent project to build a series of 18 Creative Units for artists and companies has helped create an Arts Centre with a range of facilities unrivalled throughout much of the UK.

The figures show that since the 2000 there have been

- **over a million** attendances at individual performances and events
- **over a million** participants in the community arts programme of courses and workshops
- **over two million** visitors to the programme of contemporary art exhibitions
- **over six and a half million visitors** to the venue as a whole

Arts Centre Director, Alan Hewson, said:

*'Our vision for the Arts Centre has always been a strong belief in the power of the arts to transform society and to change and enrich lives and we work hard to open up the arts to as many people as possible – old or young and from any walk of life. It's hugely rewarding to see so many people using the Arts Centre and to see how the investment in 2000 has had such an on-going benefit. As we approach our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary as an Arts Centre it's wonderful see the organisation continue to thrive and develop.'*

An economic impact survey completed in 2010 by Cardiff based Econactive showed that Aberystwyth Arts Centre contributes £10.65 million annually towards the Welsh economy and supports over 175 jobs, making it a major player in the creative industry sector. The report showed that for every £1 of public subsidy, over £10 of economic impact is generated by the Arts Centre, with the vast majority of this impact in the Mid-Wales economy.

These figures and the continued growth in attendances at the Arts Centre show that the creative arts sector can be a key agent for delivering economic growth even in the current financial climate.

END/

Aberystwyth Arts Centre is a department of Aberystwyth University and a Regional Funded Organisation of the Arts Council of Wales.

Photos of the Arts Centre are available.

Interviews are available with Alan Hewson, Director, Aberystwyth Arts Centre

For more information contact Louise Amery [lla@aber.ac.uk](mailto:lla@aber.ac.uk)

Attendance figures are drawn from official Arts Council Wales annual returns 2000 – 2011

Economic Impact Report prepared by Econactive for Aberystwyth Arts Centre May 2010

Contact Calvin Jones: [info\\_econactive@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:info_econactive@yahoo.co.uk)