

## **Much loved Norwich venue receives financial boost to ensure future.**

***Norwich Arts Centre has been awarded £499,000 funding by Arts Council England for an exciting new regeneration project that will transform the venue's accessibility and carbon footprint.***

One of Norwich's leading arts venues has been awarded a £499k grant towards renovations to improve accessibility and customer experience with a focus on environmental impact and sustainability.

Norwich Arts Centre is one of Arts Council England's National Portfolio Organisations and this award comes from the Arts Council's Small Capital Grants scheme designed to help NPO's build a confident financial future.

The grant will allow the venue, a registered charity, to become as accessible as possible, allowing many more people to experience cultural events.

Improvements to the building will include a permanent stage lift, a new hearing loop system and a wheelchair viewing area. A new heating system, combined with the installation of solar panels, will help the venue to reduce energy bills by as much as 25%, while significantly cutting its carbon footprint.

Alongside the accessibility and energy efficiency improvements, the front of house and main auditorium will be refurbished and redecorated. The improved facilities will allow increased daytime usage for a range of activities including community events, performances, weddings and artist's rehearsals. A 'quiet room' will also be created for audience members to relax in.

The grant comes at a poignant time for NAC as it prepares to celebrate its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2020. The community music and arts venue has been based in the medieval St Swithin's church since 1980. The last major investment in the building was 20 years ago when a new foyer was built and since that time it has won numerous awards including best UK Small Venue, chosen by NME readers.

Pasco-Q Kevlin, Norwich Arts Centre Director says *"We are coming up to 40 years in the heart of Norwich's cultural community and we want to be around for another 40+ years, so this grant is extremely timely to help us build sustainable future".*

To release the funding the venue will need to raise some match funding, so a campaign to raise the money will be launched in the coming year.

*'We're excited about what this grant means for the future of Norwich Arts Centre but we also know that we have a lot of work in store for us. To make the most of this extraordinary opportunity we will need the support and input of our customers and friends. I'm looking forward to working with the incredible community of people we have in Norwich and beyond to make to venue the best it's ever been'. - Pasco-Q Kevlin*

### **#NACregeneration**

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