

EDINBURGH PEOPLE'S FESTIVAL

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PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

Edinburgh People's Festival Wins Backing of Influential UK Foundation

The Edinburgh People's Festival has received important financial backing from an influential UK foundation. The Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust based in London aims to 'advance public education, learning and knowledge in all aspects of the working class movement'. The Trust has awarded the Edinburgh People's Festival £3,000 towards the cost of an exhibition to be staged later this year.

People's Festival Chairman, Colin Fox warmly welcomed the announcement and believes the award to be a significant endorsement for the community based arts organisation. Colin told us: 'The Edinburgh People's Festival is delighted to receive this support from such an important foundation as the Barry Amiel and Norman Melburn Trust. It is an ideal collaboration for both of us as we share very similar objectives.'

'It is our intention to use the money to present an exhibition, in the city, on 'Fifty Years of the Edinburgh People's Festival' and I hope to confirm the venue for the show in the next few days. It will explain the origins of the Edinburgh Festival itself as well as the emergence of the People's Festival in 1951.'

'We will highlight the terrific achievements the pioneers of the original project made in the 1950's as well as the reasons for its revival in 2002. The Edinburgh People's Festival exists in part to ensure that everyone in this city and indeed across the Lothians is invited to participate in the world greatest arts festival. This donation helps us to move forward with our objective to promote art 'for the people and by the people.'

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