

The power of ten – The MLA Partnership creates one voice for museums, libraries and archives

London, 26th April 2006 – MLA North West has joined forces with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the eight other independent regional agencies to create 'The MLA Partnership'. The new national board will include the Chairs of all the regional agencies and MLA North West has now become part of this new national partnership to collectively lead the transformation of England's museums, libraries and archives and promote their unique contribution for the future. The MLA Partnership will benefit the public and everyone who works in the museums, libraries and archives sector through a clear set of shared objectives.

The ten partners will now have one voice, creating a stronger impact in promoting the role of museums, libraries and archives in people's lives. To help achieve this, one corporate plan will be directing the work of all ten organisations. Greater co-ordination and consultation will result in better use of resources and investment and clear, shared objectives will make it easier to agree priorities and measure results, providing better evidence of the sector's achievements.

Steve Garland, acting Chair of MLA North West joined MLA Chair, Mark Wood to sign the partnership agreement with the Chairs of each of the eight other regional agencies. Mark Wood said: "The creation of The MLA Partnership will improve people's lives by providing greater access to collections and resources and help build knowledge, support learning and inspire creativity. It will create a strong, unified voice for the sector in promoting the role of museums, libraries and archives to the public and it will increase collaboration and deliver more consistent improvements in collections, services and standards."

The picture shows:

Front row, L-R: Dr Helen Forde (MLA East Midlands); Sir Geoffrey Holland (MLA South West); Mr Mark Wood (MLA National Chair) (Centre); Professor Judith Elkin (MLA West Midlands).

Back row, L-R: Mr Geoffrey Bond (MLA London); Mr Keith Crawshaw (representing MLA Yorkshire); Mr Steve Garland (MLA North West); Mr John Hicks (MLA South East).

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Press contact

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The MLA Partnership

MLA North West is the strategic development agency for museums, libraries and archives in the region. It is part of the wider MLA Partnership with the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA) and the eight other regional agencies. Together we work to improve people's lives by building knowledge, supporting learning, inspiring creativity and celebrating identity. The Partnership acts collectively for the benefit of the sector and the public, leading the transformation of museums, libraries and archives for the future.

The Partnership's aims are:

- To increase and sustain participation
- To put museums, libraries and archives at the heart of national, regional and local life
- To establish a world class and sustainable sector
- To lead sector strategy and policy development

MLA North West receives core funding from the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council.

<http://www.mlanorthwest.org.uk/>

The MLA Partnership comprises:

- The Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA)
- MLA East of England (formerly EEMLAC)
- MLA East Midlands (formerly EMMMLAC)
- MLA London (formerly ALM London)
- MLA North East (formerly NEMLAC)
- MLA North West
- MLA South East (formerly SEMLAC)
- MLA South West (formerly SWMLAC)
- MLA West Midlands
- MLA Yorkshire (formerly YMLAC)

