



Cultural Industries Development Agency

P R E S S R E L E A S E

Date: 16 January 2006

CIDA announce Anwar Aktar as new CEO

CIDA, the Cultural Industries Development Agency, is delighted to announce the arrival of Anwar Akhtar as its new Chief Executive. Anwar comes to CIDA after completing the Clore Leadership Programme and was previously the Project Director for the Rich Mix Cultural Foundation where he successfully raised over £26 million in capital and revenue funding whilst leading the business development, partnerships and planning for the centre.

Anwar has worked extensively within the arts and creative industries over the past 15 years and brings to CIDA a broad portfolio of expertise in organisational development and project management. Earlier roles have included Senior Officer in the Culture Team at the Greater London Authority, Project Officer at Arts Council England and Project Director for the Republic a commercial music venue in Sheffield.

Anwar will drive CIDA forward as the leading creative industries development agency in East London. CIDA's team will continue to offer information, advice, training, networking and showcasing opportunities, and champion creative individuals, businesses, and arts organisations in East London. In the coming years CIDA will enhance its focus on partnerships with other support providers with events such as the creative links expo, the development of a referral service and the development new projects that will tie into the LDA's Creative London programme, cultural programming for the 2012 Olympics and the development of cultural infrastructure such as workspace, studios and venues within the Thames Gateway.

Professor Michael Keith, leader of Tower Hamlets Council and Chair of Thames Gateway London Partnership said of the appointment 'I welcome the appointment of Anwar Akhtar as CEO of CIDA on behalf of LBTH. Anwar has already made a fantastic contribution to the arts and creative sector in the East End, having inspired

and led the development of the Rich Mix Centre for 3 years. I look forward to working with CIDA on projects to support and bring investment into the arts and creative industries sector within East London and also ensure that the many potential regeneration benefits of 2012 and the development within the Thames Gateway are available to all sections of the community."

"Anwar joins CIDA with a superb track record in the Arts and Culture field. We are delighted to have him on board and look forward to him taking CIDA to the next stage of its development." Liam Kane, Board Director of CIDA and Chief Executive of ELBA, East London Business Alliance.

For press enquiries please contact Helena Joyce, CIDA's Marketing & Events Manager at CIDA on t: 020 7247 4710 or e: helena@cida.co.uk.

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Notes for Editors

CIDA, the Cultural Industries Development Agency - CIDA is a specialist support organisation for the creative and cultural sector. It provides development services to creative individuals, new and existing businesses and not-for-profit arts organisations and projects. All CIDA's services are open to all and are free or highly subsidised for people based in Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.

CIDA's core services include advice, training, fundraising guidance, networking & showcasing opportunities, website & e-bulletin, online directory and specialist consultancy services including research, project and event management. Visit www.cida.co.uk or contact info@cida.co.uk for more information.

Creative Links: An annual two-day creative industries showcase event and ongoing brokerage service giving creative enterprises from across East London the opportunity to access the latest support, advice and information and find out about new opportunities in the Thames Gateway. The Creative Links Expo will take place at the Old Truman Brewery in Brick Lane in June 2006 and will include exhibition stands, live art and music, seminar and workshop programme and The Meeting Zone. Visit www.creativelinks.co.uk for more information on the last event.