



Major sponsors announced for Didsbury Arts Festival 2017

Local businesses strike gold for this year's DAF!

Four local businesses have been named as 'gold' sponsors of Didsbury Arts Festival 2017.

Engineering giant, Siemens, and neighbour, Spire Manchester Hospital on Princess Road, West Didsbury, are supporting this year's nine-day, biennial festival. They are joined by developers, PJ Livesey, and mystery shoppers, family-owned ABa Quality Monitoring Limited in Heaton Mersey. Between them, the four sponsors will make a significant contribution to the funding needed to put on the volunteer-led, community arts festival, taking place from 24 June to 2 July.

Spire and PJ Livesey are first-time sponsors of DAF, whilst ABa and Siemens have supported the arts festival in previous years. In 2015, ABa also sponsored a children's concert for DAF, while Siemens hosted a high-profile musical evening, attended by Alex Poots, the (then) out-going artistic director of the Manchester International Festival.

'We are delighted to welcome our two new sponsors, Spire and PJ Livesey, whose support of our local arts festival reflects their interest in being part of the local community,' said Maria Stripling, Chair of the DAF Board.

'We are also fortunate to enjoy the continued backing and involvement of Siemens and ABa. The support of our gold sponsors provides an anchor to the festival and ensures its high quality. As we now go into the intensive programme development period we can be confident of delivering an event that exceeds expectations.'

As well as the four gold sponsors, DAF, a registered charity, is supported by a whole host of organisations, individuals and volunteers, who donate time, money and services to ensure the festival's success. The 2015 festival saw more than 7,000 visitors attend 130 events, with 93% of respondents, in post-festival feedback, rating the overall quality of DAF as very good or good.

'This year's festival promises to be bigger and better than ever. Our aim is to make it an even more inclusive experience and to reach out to a wider and more diverse audience across Manchester, as well as to the local, south Manchester community,' said Maria.

'We look forward to working to working with all our supporters, whose generosity is key in enabling us to deliver a successful programme.'

The four gold sponsors recently joined other local stakeholders and patrons for a reception at Didsbury House Hotel, where festival director, Dan Williamson, unveiled plans and branding (created by Manchester-based artist, Meha Hindocha) for the 2017 programme.

To find out how you can support DAF, visit: www.didsburyartsfestival.org/sponsor

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