

sixty years
celebrating
the arts



annual review 2006

vibrant communities

Urban Cultural Programme

Cities across England are at the centre of an exciting programme of events that encourages new collaborations and opportunities within regions funded by the Urban Cultural Programme.

We set up the Urban Cultural Programme with the Millennium Commission, allocating £15 million of National Lottery funds to support cultural projects in urban areas across the UK.

In June 2005, Derby, Leicester and Nottingham collaborated on Three Cities Create and Connect. This helped fund the first ever International Festival of Children's Theatre and Dance across the three cities with performers from Italy, Canada and Germany. Other initiatives support carnival stars from the Caribbean to undertake residencies and

community workshops, a summer urban music series, and *Under Scan*, the world's largest interactive video installation.

In the south east – Brighton and Hove, Canterbury and Oxford – Urban Cultural Programme initiatives have also been successful with projects such as:

- *The Friend Ship* – an array of activities touring schools in the region
- *Make it Real* in Canterbury, which supports 19 performing and visual arts projects such as the youth-focused Mozart Now
- *Evolving City*, exploring today's Oxford as a more complex, interesting and contradictory place than the image generally portrayed
- *making a difference*, a range of projects and festivals in Brighton and Hove to improve the environment and develop the arts scene in the area



Left: *Under Scan* by Rafael Lozano-Hemmer. Installation at Lincoln University, November 2005. Photo: Richard Cannon

Under Scan was a £750,000 investment from emda to celebrate Cultural Quarters across the East Midlands. The project was also financially supported by Arts Council England and Three Cities Create and Connect.