

Culture's role in place-making:  
the Manchester story

Helen Palmer, Director  
October 2017

## Personal view

- \_ Royal Exchange Theatre
- \_ Library Theatre Company
- \_ The Lowry
- \_ Cultureshock –  
Commonwealth Games NW Cultural Programme
- \_ Manchester International Festival
- \_ Marketing Manchester
- \_ Palmer Squared
- \_ Creative Tourist

**creativetourist**



Cultureshock

## Political aspirations & urban regeneration

- \_ 1982 – GMEX (now Manchester Central)
- \_ 1982 – Castlefield first UK Urban Heritage Park
- \_ 1988-96 – Central Manchester Development Corporation
- \_ 1986-90 – Bid for 1996 Olympic Games
- \_ 1990-3 – Bid for 2000 Olympic Games
- \_ 1994-7 – Built Velodrome, Arena and Olympic swimming pool
- \_ 1993-4 – Bid for 2002 Commonwealth Games
- \_ 2000-2 – Built City of Manchester Stadium
- \_ 2002 – Hosted Commonwealth Games & Cultureshock
- \_ 2007 – Manchester International Festival launches **creativetourist**

City of Manchester Stadium, now the Etihad Stadium

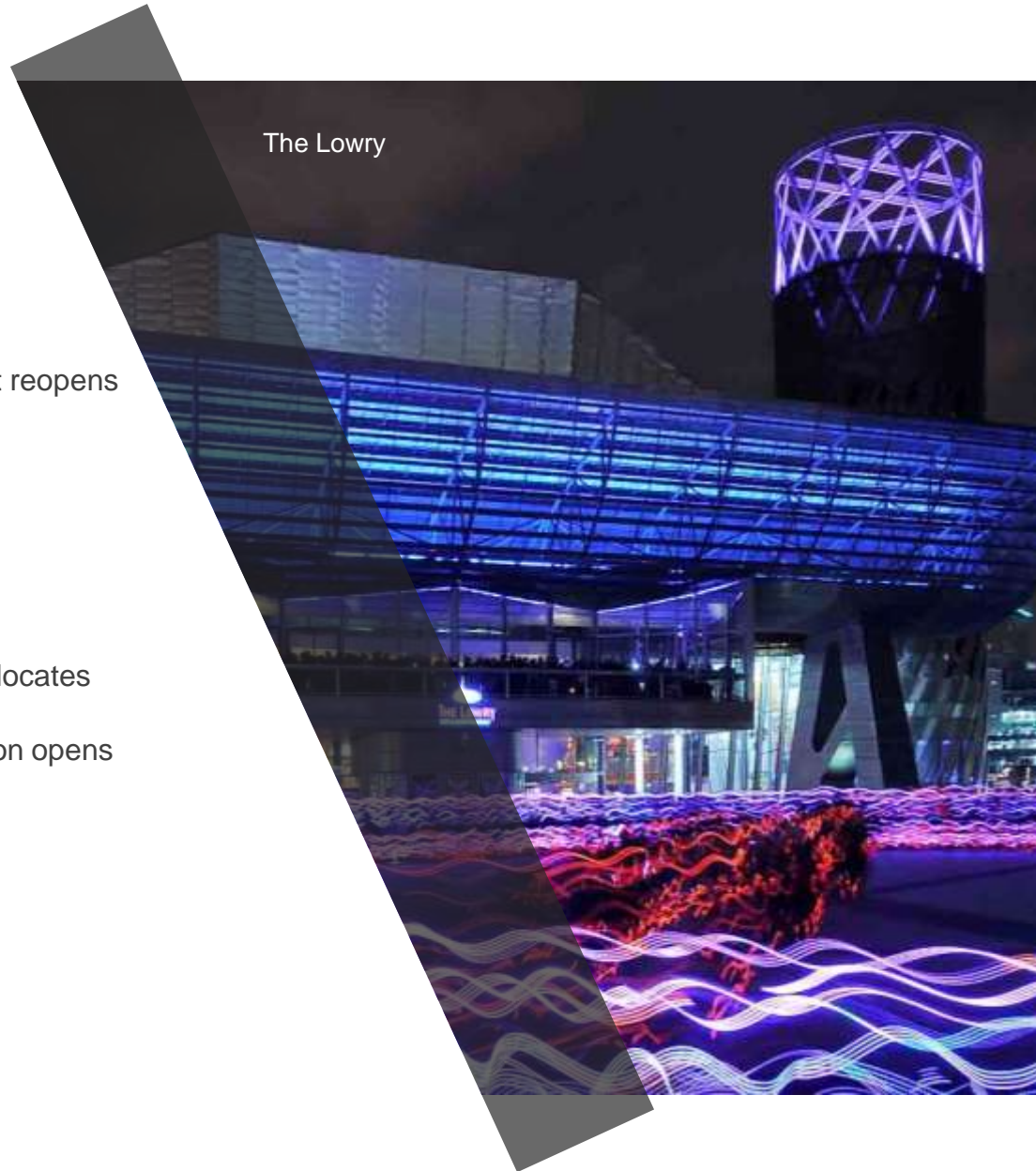


## Cultural capital investment

- \_ 1996 – Bridgewater Hall opens
- \_ 2000 – The Lowry & Islington Mill open, Contact reopens
- \_ 2002 – Manchester Art Gallery reopens
- \_ 2002 – Imperial War Museum North opens
- \_ 2002 – Castlefield Gallery relocates
- \_ 2003 – Centre for Contemporary Chinese Art relocates
- \_ 2004 – International Anthony Burgess Foundation opens
- \_ 2007 – AWOL Artists' Studios opens
- \_ 2008 – John Rylands Library reopens

creativetourist

The Lowry



## Cultural capital investment

- \_ 2010 – People’s History Museum reopens, new location
- \_ 2011 – MediaCityUK first phase opens
- \_ 2012 – National Football Museum relocates
- \_ 2014 – Central Library reopens
- \_ 2014 – Royal Northern College of Music reopens
- \_ 2014 – Elizabeth Gaskell’s House opens
- \_ 2015 – Whitworth Art Gallery reopens & HOME opens
- \_ 2016 – Hope Mil Theatre opens & Heaton Hall reopens
- \_ 2017 – Stoller Hall at Chetham’s School of Music opens & Paradise Works opens

creativetourist



The Whitworth

Manchester Town Hall

## Cultural capital investment

### Future major capital re/developments:

- \_ 2019 – Manchester Museum new South Asian gallery
- \_ 2019 – Contact Theatre
- \_ 2020 – Factory opens
- \_ 2020 – Manchester Jewish Museum extension
- \_ Museum of Science & Industry redevelopment
- \_ Manchester Town Hall & Albert Square – Our Town Hall project
- \_ ...and Pankhurst Centre, London Road Fire Station, Islington Mill, Bolton Octagon Theatre, Oldham Coliseum Theatre...

creativetourist



## Strategic collaboration

### Previous

- \_ Festival Organisers' Group
- \_ Manchester Histories
- \_ Family Friendly
- \_ Museums & Galleries Consortium
- \_ Arts About Manchester / All About Audiences

creativetourist



## Strategic collaboration

### Existing

- \_ Contemporary Visual Arts Manchester
- \_ Oxford Road Cultural Corridor
- \_ Cultural Ambition – Leaders' group
- \_ Orchestral music/classical music Group
- \_ Family Arts Network
- \_ Archives Plus
- \_ STUN Theatre Consortium
- \_ The Quays Consortium
- \_ Cultural Destinations and Culture Hosts

**creativetourist**





## Tactical collaboration

- \_ 1994 – UK City of Drama
- \_ 1995/2005-6 – British Art Show
- \_ 2002 – Cultureshock
- \_ 2007/11/14/18 – Asia Triennial Manchester
- \_ 2010-13 – Manchester Weekender
- \_ 2012 – We Face Forward
- \_ 2013-Ongoing – Manchester After Hours
- \_ 2013-2018 – Wonder Women
- \_ 2017 – New North and South

**creativetourist**

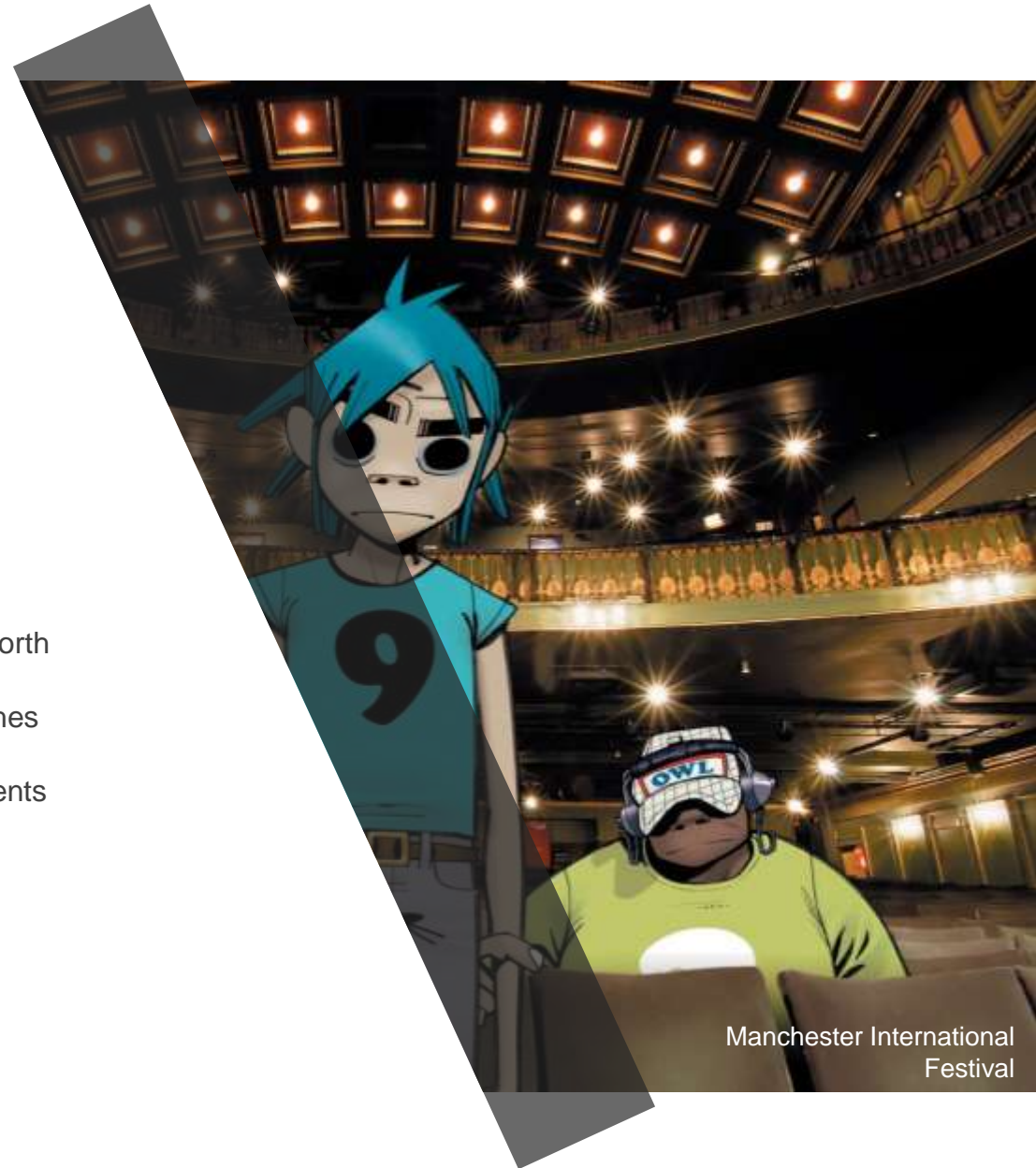


Asia Triennial Manchester

## Step change moments

- \_ 1996 – IRA Bomb
- \_ 1998-2017 – City leadership: Sir Richard Leese & Sir Howard Bernstein
- \_ 2002 – Commonwealth Games & Cultureshock
- \_ 2004 – Appointment of Alex Poots, MIF
- \_ 2006 – Appointment of Maria Balshaw at Whitworth
- \_ 2007 – Manchester International Festival launches
- \_ 2014-15 – Five major cultural capital developments
- \_ 2017 – Appointment of GM Metro Mayor
- \_ 2017 – Arena bomb and Manchester response

**creativetourist**



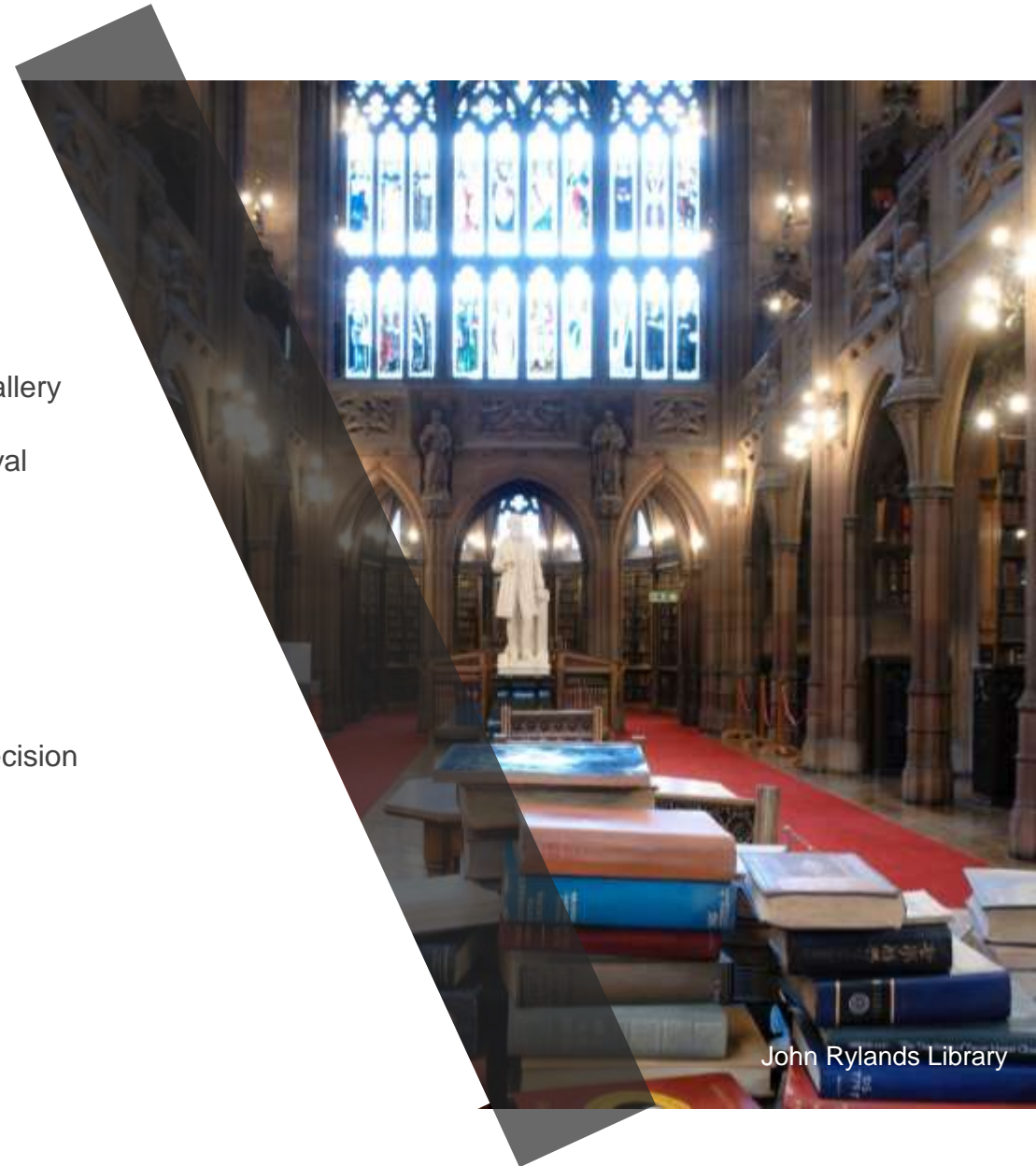
Manchester International  
Festival

## What next?

### Culture

- \_ New Director of Whitworth & Manchester Art Gallery
- \_ New Director of Manchester International Festival
- \_ New Director of Culture
- \_ New CEO Manchester City Council
- \_ Further cultural capital development
- \_ UNESCO City of Literature status – awaiting decision

creativetourist



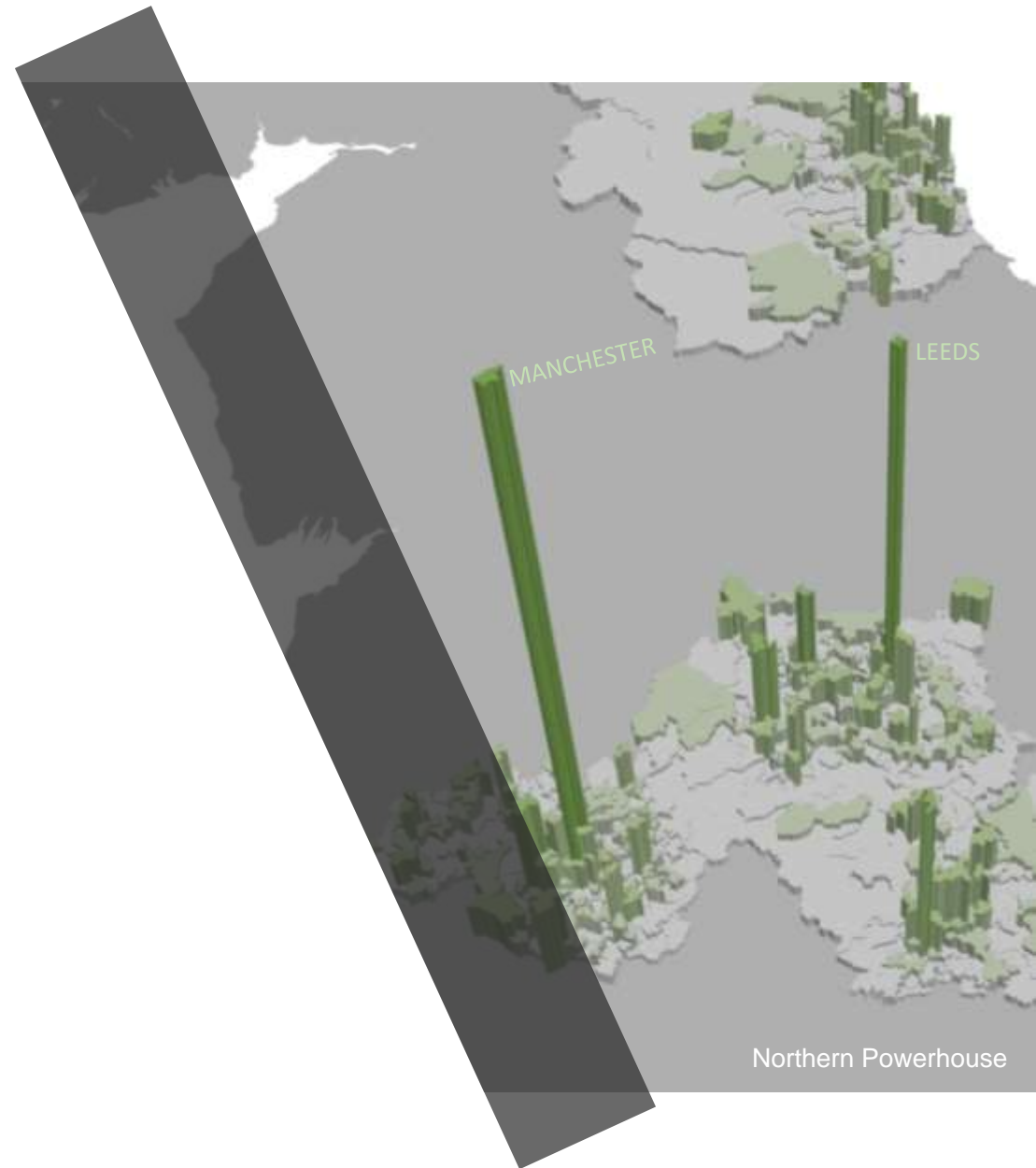
John Rylands Library

## What next?

### City / City Region / North

- \_ Greater Manchester city region
- \_ Devolution
- \_ Northern Powerhouse
- \_ More collaborations:
  - \_ Manchester & Greater Manchester
  - \_ North
  - \_ National & International
- \_ Top 20 global city by 2035

creativetourist



Thank you.

