

Maritime heritage, port city 'stigma' and a cultural mega event

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and its legacy

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HOMEE Heritage Opportunities/threats
within Mega-Events in Europe:
Changing environments, new challenges and possible solutions for
preservation in mega-events embedded in heritage-rich European cities

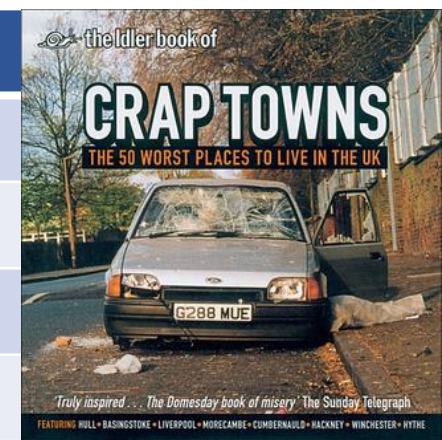


Hull – a port city for 800 years



- 800 years' of history as a **maritime gateway**, Britain's 3rd port in the 1930s
- **socio-economic decline** due to port-labour restructuring, in particular since the collapse of the fishing industry in the 1970s
- **Hull was stigmatised** (e.g. 2003 book *Crap Towns*) due to unemployment, deprivation, health problems... we argue this is 'port city' stigma
- But maritime industry still thrives, plus continued manufacturing sector and a growing renewable energy sector (Green Port Hull partnership; **"Energy Port City"** vision in the City Plan)

City population	259,126 (ONS, 2020)
GVA per capita (Hull / UK)	£ 23,320 / £ 30,201 (ONS, 2019)
Unemployment (Hull / UK)	5.8% / 5.6% (ONS, 2021)
No NV qualifications (Hull / England)	11.1% / 6.4% (ONS, 2021)
Foreign-born population (Hull / UK)	7% / 14.2% (ONS, 2020)



The UK City of Culture programme

- Established in 2009, launched in 2010
- Aimed at enabling other UK cities to benefit from the positive effects of cultural mega events witnessed in the cases of Glasgow (ECoC 1990) and Liverpool (ECoC 2008)

Hull UK City of Culture 2017 statistics:



300+
VENUES
AND SPACES



new commissions
(against a target of 60)

8.5 - 9.5
average audience rating using Arts Council England Quality Metrics



1 IN 2
commissions inspired by heritage



MORE THAN 9 IN 10 residents engaged in at least one cultural activity



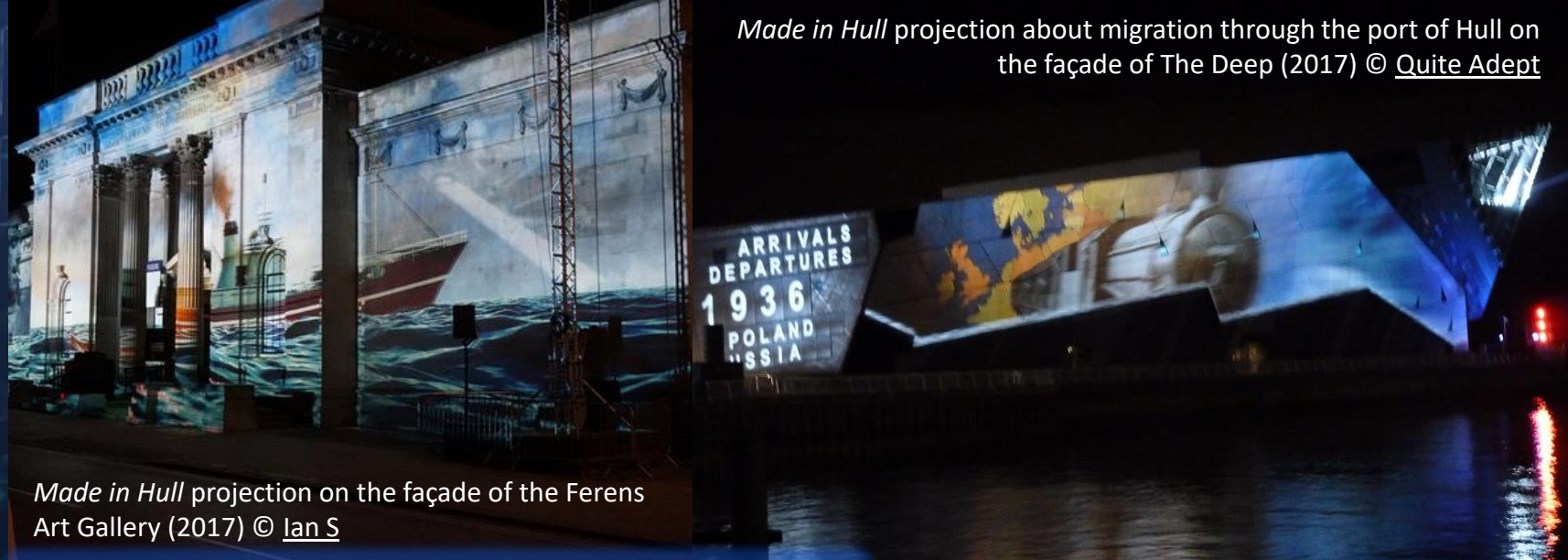
5.3 MILLION
audience visits

2 IN 3 residents with increased knowledge of the city's heritage and history



Hull UK City of Culture 2017 and maritime history and heritage

- Fishing heritage -neglected in the event bid- became more visible in 2017 events
- Because Maritime heritage is an inevitably part of the spectacularisation of Hull's history
- Creative/innovative use of maritime heritage assets to 'tell the story' of Hull



Made in Hull projection about migration through the port of Hull on the façade of The Deep (2017) © Quite Adept

Made in Hull projection on the façade of the Ferens Art Gallery (2017) © Ian S



The Dead Bod mural: from a painting on a shed scheduled for demolition to art exhibited at Humber Street Gallery



Dead Bod mural © Garry Whitfield (above); Ian S (below)

The Last Testament of Lillian Bilocca review - Maxine Peake salutes Hull's wonder women

★★★★☆

Guildhall, Hull

Peake reels us in with this winning story about the women who fought for fishermen's rights, featuring folksy music by the Unthanks

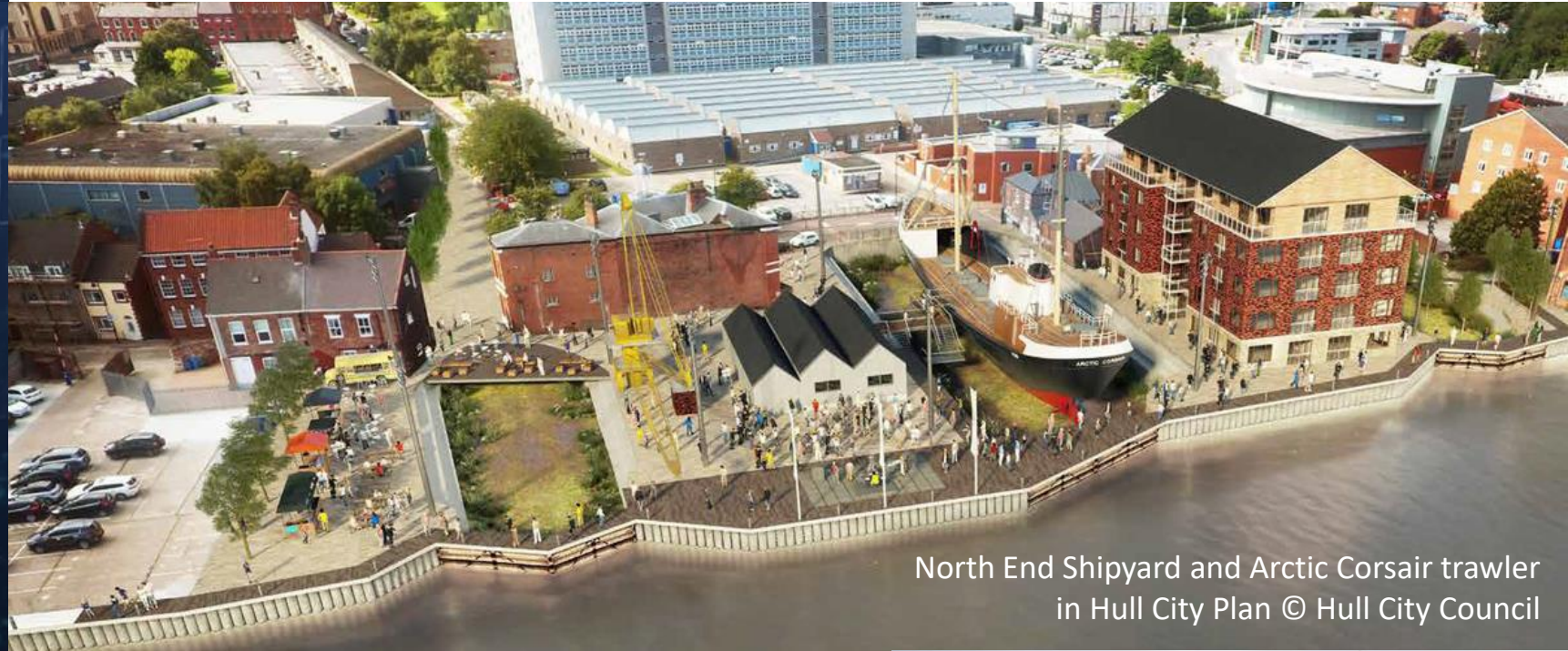


<https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2017/nov/10/the-last-testament-of-lillian-bilocca-review-maxine-peake-salutes-hulls-wonder-women>

The legacy of Hull 2017

Hull: Yorkshire's Maritime City ???

- But after 2017, Hull City Council immediately returned to maritime heritage to place-market the city...
- £27.4m heritage project as a 'legacy project' of the UKCoC
- A high profile maritime history / tourist offer to offer (or 'rebalance'?) narratives of Hull...



North End Shipyard and Arctic Corsair trawler in Hull City Plan © Hull City Council



The Hull Kraken installation (2021) at the Maritime Museum © Bernard Sharp



Spurn Lightship at Hull Marina © Enrico Tommarchi

So... one legacy of Hull 2017: the maritime-heritage city reborn?

- The maritime shifts from 'dissonant heritage' to key anchor of civic pride and asset for local development
- Building upon positive narratives from Hull 2017
- But also building upon the appetites for maritime heritage from Hull and from wider publics



Dominoes (2018) at Queens Gardens, former Queens Dock © dom fellowes



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Lord Line: Plans to demolish Hull trawler building refused

6 November 2019



<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-humber-50323465>

GEOGRAPH / CHRIS MORGAN

The derelict former trawler company offices stands by Hull's former fishing dock.

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