

PRESS RELEASE

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The Big Draw Festival at Parliament

Drawn Together: Collaborating Creatively

On Tuesday 11 October, *Drawn Together: Collaborating Creatively*, an event organised by seven arts and education All Party Parliamentary Groups, will take place at the House of Commons as part of the international Big Draw Festival, which this year celebrates a STEAM Powered theme in support of arts education.

With the economic output of the creative industries in 2014 amounting to **£84.1billion** and the sector accounting for **5.8% of jobs** within the UK, as well as **£19.8 billion** of annual UK services exports, organisers argue that a high-quality, inclusive arts education is not only important to the well-being of the nation's children and young people and unlocking their creative talents, but also to the country's wider economic prosperity.

The '*Drawn Together: Collaborating Creatively*' Summit will be a chance for MPs and Peers from across the two Houses to show their support for arts education and the UK's creative industries and meet with various education, artistic and creative people who work in the sector.

The Summit will also help launch the beginning of **The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival**, and MPs and Peers will be invited to show their support for arts education by contributing to a collaborative cartoon. *Drawn Together* is being hosted by Sharon Hodgson MP, Chair of the Art, Craft and Design in Education APPG. It will be the first summit to bring together seven creative APPGs, collaborating to bring a focused, and significant, impact to their work in education and the arts.

A number of high-profile, creative individuals will be in attendance to show their support for arts education. 'Teen wonder-cartoonist' and Ambassador of The Big Draw, **Zoom Rockman**, will speak of his own experience of integrating art across the curriculum. Children's Laureate and Patron of The Big Draw, **Chris Riddell**, along with GBBO winner, Design-Baker and Ambassador of The Big Draw, **Frances Quinn**, and political cartoonist, **Martha Richler** (a.k.a. MARF), will encourage cross party MPs and Peers to pick up a pencil and engage in the universal language of drawing.

The Summit is also supported by other creative APPGs, including: Arts, Health & Well-Being; Design and Innovation; Music Education; Children's Media and Arts; Performer's Alliance Group; and the Teaching Profession APPG.

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#STEAMBDF16

Notes to Editors

About The Big Draw Festival

Launched in 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over three million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The Big Draw has transformed national museums, Trafalgar Square, and even the South Kensington underground tunnel into dynamic creative spaces enjoyed by thousands of people for a day.

Every year, The Big Draw Festival includes hundreds of drawing activities in schools, galleries, museums, libraries, heritage sites, village halls and town squares. In 2015, there were events by more than 1000 organisers on seven continents, engaging 400,000 people.

The 2016 theme, The STEAM Powered Big Draw Festival 2016, is part of the charity's campaign to give the arts subjects parity with Sciences, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, so that STEM becomes STEAM. Anyone can take part in The Big Draw Festival, by finding their nearest event or organising their own. Find out more: <http://www.thebigdraw.org/the-big-draw-festival>

About The Big Draw

Founded in 2000, The Big Draw is an arts education charity that promotes visual literacy and the universal language of drawing as a tool for learning, expression and invention. The charity leads a diversified programme encompassing advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing.

The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw. www.thebigdraw.org.

About Zoom Rockman

Zoom has featured in Evening Standard's Power 1000 list of influential Londoners, is a member of the Mayor's Fund Youth Board, an ambassador for Positive Youth in Haringey, Spirit of London Awards (he won their media award in 2012), and BICOF Comic Festival in South Korea (he won their international kids comic artist award for 2 years running). He runs regular cartoon workshops around the country in schools and at festivals.

Zoom held his first solo exhibition of original artwork at the Westminster Reference Library in Leicester Square, London in December 2015. At the Private View, Zoom was in conversation with Paul Gravett (who curated the 'Comics Unmasked' Exhibition at the British Library – which featured Zoom's work) and also launched his latest comic, 'The Zoom! No.11'. A frame of Zoom's original artwork from this show is the piece that featured in the It's Our World charity auction at Christies.

Zoom currently has an exhibition of his latest, local artwork at The Queen's Pub in Crouch End. This also features his Skanky Pigeon Strips for The Beano, which were set in the Haringey area. Visit www.thezoom.co.uk and follow Zoom on Twitter @The_ZoomComic.

About Chris Riddell

Chris Riddell is a prolific writer and illustrator whose work is familiar to both children and adults. He is known especially for his distinctive line drawings with their clever caricature, fascinating detail and often enchanting fantasy elements.

He has won the prestigious Kate Greenaway Medal twice, in 2002 for *Pirate Diary* and in 2004 for *Jonathan Swift's Gulliver*. His solo work includes the *Goth Girl* series, the *Ottoline* series and the picture books *The Emperor of Absurdia* and *Alienography*. The first *Goth Girl* novel won the Costa Children's Book Award in 2013. He received the Hay Festival Medal for Illustration at the 2015 Hay Festival.

In addition to his children's books, Chris is a renowned political cartoonist whose work appears in The Observer, The Literary Review and The New Statesman. He lives in Brighton with his wife and has three grown-up children.

Martha Richler (a.k.a. MARF).

Martha Richler is a British artist and advocate of The Big Draw. Her work appears in the V&A, London, the Charles Saatchi Gallery, and many private collections, including Barbara Broccoli and David and Victoria Beckham. In 2011, her solo exhibition of political cartoons, 'City Blues: Cartoons on the Recession and Banking Crisis', at the Guildhall Art Gallery, curated by Sonia Solicari, was hailed by The Independent, City A.M, and The Daily Telegraph. Martha has exhibited at St Paul's Cathedral, London, and the 'Satire Collection' of the City of London Archives holds a collection of her work.

About Frances Quinn

A British baker and designer renowned for her creativity, Frances' background in design results in her producing inspiring and unforgettable creations. The vital ingredient in all Frances' bakes and concepts is her ideas. In 2013, she wowed the judges with her imaginative showstoppers and extraordinary baking skill to win *The Great British Bake Off*. She has since published her own cookery book *Quinntessential Baking* with Bloomsbury and has created unique bakes for diverse clients, including Sir Quentin Blake, The Shard, Jewellery designer Alex Monroe and Marks and Spencers to name but a few.

Patrons of The Big Draw

Sir Quentin Blake | Andrew Marr | Bob & Roberta Smith RA | Lord Foster of Thames Bank |
David Hockney OM CH | Sir Roger Penrose OM | Gerald Scarfe CBE | Posy Simmonds MBE |
Chris Riddell