

PRESS RELEASE

Thursday 31st December 09
For immediate release



New Art Exchange Chair awarded MBE in New Years Honours



Edwin Maxwell, New Art Exchange Chair
Photograph: UrBen Media

New Art Exchange Chair and Nottingham resident Edwin Maxwell was recognised in the New Years Honours List with an MBE for services to the local community and New Art Exchange.

Edwin has been active in the city for 20 years on a number of arts and community development projects, as well as starting his own business - EAM Electrical in 1983. From 1990-93 he was a founder member and chairman of Excel - a voluntary organisation working in partnership with both public and private sector organisations.

After initially working to steer and develop visual arts organisation EMACA, he is currently Chair of New Art Exchange, the largest contemporary art facility for African, African Caribbean and South Asian art outside of

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London, based in the Hyson Green area of Nottingham. The gallery has already achieved significant international acclaim and recognition. The accolade marks yet further recognition for the organisation, and reinforces its profile as one of the UK's most dynamic spaces for art and the local community.

Chief Executive of New Art Exchange, Skinder Hundal commented:

"We are very proud of this achievement and would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Edwin on this fantastic achievement. As a Nottingham-based entrepreneur he has balanced his family life, business and his passion to support the arts and local communities in such a tireless and selfless way. He has helped steer New Art Exchange through many successes with a sense of indomitable spirit, truth and integrity in his approach. Edwin is a credit to the Nottingham community and arts and cultural sector and a respected driving force behind New Art Exchange."

Edwin's other projects include sponsorship of community initiatives and organisations, including West Indian Ex-Servicemen Association and the Caribbean Cavaliers Football, which aims to provide young people from inner city Nottingham the opportunity for personal development through sporting activities.

Edwin will be officially conferred with the MBE in the New Year.

ENDS

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Notes to Editors:

- Edwin Maxwell, 51, of Mapperley Park, is being given an MBE for services to the New Art Exchange and the Nottingham community
- Edwin will be officially conferred with the MBE in the New Year
- New Art Exchange is located at 39-41 Gregory Boulevard, Nottingham NG7 6BE
- Opening Times: Monday to Friday 10am - 7pm, Saturday 10am - 5pm
- Vision: To deliver an innovative and exciting programme of contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts.
- New Art Exchange has been funded by Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council

Edwin Maxwell

Edwin was born in Yallahs, St Thomas, Jamaica. He came to Nottingham at the age of 11 to join his parents who had settled here during the 1960s. He attended Elliot Durham School leaving at 16 to become an

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apprentice electrician. At the end of his apprenticeship he worked throughout the UK as an electrician until 1982, of note were the three years in the Shetlands working on the construction of the Sullom Voe Oil Terminal.

Being born and brought up in a village on an Island where family and community are important factors in shaping you as an individual. There were shared social values, care and consideration for all these principles remain as important factors in Edwin's philosophy on life. His reasoning for becoming involved in community and arts organisations was to give something of himself to support projects that made, or could make a difference to individuals and communities. He was not in a position to nor wanted to just donate money to a cause, he felt that his skills, knowledge and life experiences, especially those from developing and running a business, could be utilised by and bring positive benefits to the organisations he was involved with. Through his civic and community work he was giving back into society and by doing so hopefully helping to make it a better society for all.

Edwin believes that Arts and Culture has a key role to play in modern Britain in terms of community cohesion, education and entertainment. He is pleased and delighted that his skills has allowed him to play a role in making BME arts and culture accessible to a wide audience not only in Nottingham but also further afield.

EAM Building Group

EAM Building Group was started in February 1983 as an electrical business "EAM Electrical" by Edwin as a sole trader employing one operative. As Managing Director, Edwin has developed the Company into a general contracting company providing a range of services to public, private and commercial clients.

Community involvement is a part of the company's ethos, and over the years Edwin has been involved in a variety of community organisations:

Excel: 1990 – 1993 Edwin was a founder member and chair of Excel a community based organisation for African Caribbean business and professional individuals. EXCEL was set up to work in partnership with both public and private sector organisations to positively support and encourage African Caribbean individuals to pursue professional careers and/or develop as entrepreneurs. Professional and business careers, it was felt, would provide positive role models and thereby contribute to addressing the socio-economic needs of the local African Caribbean community. As a founder member Edwin played an active part in the development of the organisation and its work.

EMACA: October 1998 - Edwin joined EMACA and became chair shortly afterwards in 1998.

Caribbean Caribes Cricket Club: 1998/9 - Secretary Caribes was one of the first cricket clubs set up after WW2 by men from the Caribbean who had come over to England to help the war effort. Eddy was asked to become the Secretary in order to instil some discipline and professional organisation into the management of the club's affairs. He was secretary for approximately 2-3 years and resigned the post to focus on his business. The club still calls on him to help out with formal occasions, making presentations.

Carrington Sports and Recreation Centre: September 1999 - 2000/1 - Chairman Carrington Sports and Recreation Centre Management Committee. Primarily set up to provide sporting facilities, special interest in cricket, for children and young people in the inner city areas of Radford, Hyson Green and Forest Fields.

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National Federation of Builders (NFB): Eddy became active in the NFB from 1997, in order to gain a better understanding of the industry, engage with his peers and contribute to the training and diversity agenda of the federation. He was voted onto the Midlands Regional Committee in 1997 and served two terms.

June 2002 - October 2004: President of the National Federation of Builders (NFB) Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Association. He also served on the NFB Midland Regional Executive Council prior to and during his presidency.

NECTA (Nottingham Environmental Construction Training Agency): Eddy was a director from 1998 - 2006. NECTA's remit was to provide an introduction to the basic fundamentals of work and the work ethic via construction training to assist the long term unemployed, those who were excluded or at risk of exclusion from society into work.

Eddy was one of the founder Directors of NECTA when it was set up in 1998 he resigned from the Board in November 2006 to focus on EAM and NAE.

Greater Nottingham TEC: Director 1990 - 1993 Eddy was nominated by First Enterprise to join the TEC board as an SME and BME representative, during his term in office he chaired the Inner City Group focusing on issues impacting on the development, implementation and delivery of training and enterprise initiatives in the inner city areas of Nottingham.

Current Community Involvement:

- Chair of New Art Exchange
- Sponsorship of community projects and organisations, for example:
 - The Caribbean Cavaliers Football Club. The club aims to provide young people from inner city Nottingham with the opportunity for personal development through sports.
 - West Indian Ex-Servicemen Association – an association set up following the end of WW2 by ex-servicemen and women from the Caribbean who had settled in Nottingham and Derbyshire. Recent donations given to the laying-up of the Associations standard as a result of falling membership resulting from ill health and death of members.

New Art Exchange

- **New Art Exchange was awarded £5million** of funding from Arts Council England, Nottingham City Council, the Greater Nottingham Partnership, East Midlands Development Agency, Radford and Hyson Green New Deal for Communities, and European Regional Development Funding, and took 18 months to build. The organisation was a big winner in Arts Council England's the January 2008 review of national arts funding gaining a 58% increase in its annual funding grant. The award was made in recognition of the organisation's vital role in supporting visual and performing arts.

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- **The building designed by architects Hawkins Brown**, boasts 5 -storey building provides 1360 sqm space dedicated to visual arts with; galleries, workshop/performance/rehearsal space, artists in residence facilities, and a cafe. Distinguished from the red clay buildings of the neighborhood by its black brick façade and arrangement of frameless windows ranging in size (from 0.16 sqm to 4.84sqm), offers incidental and unexpected views into and out of the building.
- **Mission:** *The New Art Exchange's ambition is to become a national centre of excellence promoting contemporary arts development within the cultural and creative industries, to deliver an innovative and exciting programme of activity to promote, support and advocate contemporary multi-cultural arts development in visual and performing arts and new media. To be a cultural centre led by African, African Caribbean and South Asian arts practice. To serve an international community from roots firmly embedded in the local area.*

Our First Year...

New Art Exchange opened in September 2008 in Nottingham's Hyson Green, to provide a creative space dedicated to meet the artistic and cultural needs of local residents, as well as showcasing art of international standing. The centre not only holds exhibitions in its gallery space but has also hosted theatre productions, music festivals and an extensive educational programme in its' hugely successful inaugural year. Funded by both Arts Council England and Nottingham City Council, its biggest success has come from its ground-breaking commissions with international artists, as well as bringing strong contemporary art to the local community.

Highlights over the past year include:

- **Over 150,000 people experienced work commissioned and produced by New Art Exchange**
- **Over 300 artists took part in exhibitions, events and activities produced by New Art Exchange**
- **A strong programme of NAE curated exhibitions including An(other) Story, Strength of Feeling by Sokari Douglas-Camp and Next We Change Earth**
- **New Art Exchange commissions from internationally acclaimed artists including Keith Piper, Samson Kambalu and Zineb Sedira**
- **Producing substantial new commissions including Floating Coffins and An(other) Story, which have gone onto tour internationally, to Finland, Sweden and Denmark**
- **Supporting local Nottingham artists such as Michael Forbes and Hetain Patel; one of Arts Council England's Artists Taking the Lead, Cultural Olympiad Finalists**
- **Won numerous national and regional design awards including RIBA and The Civic Trust**
- **Co-producing the Mela 21 festival which garnered national and international news and media coverage, with attendance from the Australian and Indian cricket teams**
- **A strong education and events programme, working with regional educational and community groups and culminating in the launch of the new Central Gallery**

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- **Making Nottingham part of a European art world; with cutting edge exhibitions that have garnered international recognition and presence**