

Introduction to the 2013 Edition

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In the wake of the London 2012 Olympic Games, this edition of Culture @ the Olympics is entirely dedicated to research papers analyzing the immediate impacts and emerging legacy of the London Cultural Olympiad. The edition compiles seven papers that were first published by Arts Council England and the Institute of Cultural Capital as part of the main Cultural Olympiad evaluation programme, directed by Dr Beatriz Garcia between 2011 and 2013.

The first paper, by Beatriz Garcia, offers an overview summary of the full evaluation exercise, a pioneering research programme that offered, for the first time in Olympic history, a full assessment of the Games cultural programme throughout its four years of operation (2008-2012) and across the four nations of the United Kingdom (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales).

This assessment touches on five main areas of impact: cultural programming, people's engagement, tourism, governance & partnership, and making culture more central to the Games. This summary offers the key highlights, while **the complete report has been published separately by Arts Council England.**

The following six papers offer the results of a series of case studies, ranging from the experience of distinct youth oriented cultural projects (issue 15.2) and a nationwide youth programme (*Stories of the World*, issue 15.3); to the experience of the two main Deaf and disabled artist programmes (*Unlimited* and *Accentuate*, presented in issue 15.4); the outcome of a dedicated entrepreneurship programme for the arts sector (*Creative Jobs*, issue 15.5); reflections on three tourism-oriented art projects (issue 15.6) and an overview of the social media impact of the Cultural Olympiad and its culmination event, the London 2012 Festival (issue 15.7).

Happy reading!