

# MUSEUM OF SCIENCE INDUSTRY

## PRESS RELEASE

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### LEVER PRIZE 2016 - WINNER ANNOUNCED

The Museum of Science and Industry has won the prestigious Lever Prize 2016 for a joint project with FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology), exploring the interaction between arts and science. Now entering its eleventh year, the Lever Prize is judged by the North West Business Leadership Team (NWBLT) in partnership with Arts & Business. The prize includes £10,000 cash and the opportunity of collaborating with some of the region's most influential business leaders.

The Lever Prize is an annual award given to arts organisations in North West England who are judged to be regionally distinctive with international or potentially international significance, and who show a high calibre existing work and can demonstrate exciting future developments.

The collaboration between Museum of Science and Industry and FACT will have an educational focus, and provide both formal and informal learning opportunities for young people, exploring physical and digital making, and the interaction between arts and science.

The project will build on FACT's existing work with Minecraft that has been carried out in FACTLab, FACT's workshop space for Research & Innovation. FACTLab was launched in June 2015 in partnership with Liverpool School of Art and Design at LJMU, and invites visitors to try out new technologies and work with artists and creative technologists. New Minecraft content will be developed, tailored to Museum of Science and Industry and its objects, artefacts and themes, and integrated into Museum of Science and Industry's events and schools programmes in order to access new audiences and partners.

Sally MacDonald, director at the Museum of Science and Industry commented "We are delighted to have won the 2016 Lever Prize and to be sharing the honour and the opportunity with FACT. Working together at our annual MakeFest event, we want to focus on developing innovation and making in the North West, which is still the largest manufacturing region in the UK. We want to foster a wide range of making skills from traditional crafts to digital innovation and FACT bring a real expertise in creative coding. And we're thrilled to have the chance to work with NWBLT, which includes some of the region's key business innovators."

Jo Wright, executive director, FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) added "I am very proud that the Lever Prize panel has chosen to recognise the potential of FACTLab by awarding the Museum of Science and Industry and FACT this prestigious award. Collaboration is central to FACT's practice, and we are very happy about this opportunity to work together going forward. Moreover, our partnership with Museum of Science and Industry fits well in the context of FACT's vision, which in 2016 specifically places a major focus on art and science."

"We are very much looking forward to working with the Museum of Science and Industry and FACT. It will be great to see two arts organisations from Manchester and Liverpool coming together and working in collaboration with one another and with leading North West businesses. I am sure we will all learn a lot from each other over the coming year" said Geoffrey Piper, chief executive, NWBLT.

Previous winners of the Lever include Liverpool Biennial in 2006, Manchester International Festival in 2007, TATE Liverpool in 2008, The National Football Museum in 2009, FutureEverything in 2010, The Whitworth 2011, DaDaFest in 2012, Hallé St Peter's in 2013, Contact in 2014 and Manchester Museum in 2015.

## **ENDS**

For further information please contact:-

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## **Notes to Editors**

### **About NWBLT**

The North West Business Leadership Team (NWBLT) is an independent group of influential business leaders, who work together to promote the long-term well-being of North West England. NWBLT's mission is to make the North West the UK's most attractive region in which to live and work for generations to come. As the principal North West voice for senior business leaders, NWBLT addresses key strategic issues affecting the well-being of the region as a whole – for example Skills, Transport and Science and Innovation. NWBLT also sponsors and administers the annual Lever Prize to stimulate collaboration between the North West's cultural and business communities with support from Arts and Business.

[www.nwblt.co.uk](http://www.nwblt.co.uk)

### **About Museum of Science and Industry**

The Museum of Science and Industry tells the story of where science met industry and the modern world began. Its mission is to inspire all its visitors, including future scientists and inventors, with the story of how ideas can change the world, from the industrial revolution to today and beyond.

Manchester was one of the first global, industrial cities, and its epic rise, decline and resurrection has been echoed in countless other cities around the world. From textiles to computers, the objects and documents held in the museum's collection tell stories of everyday life over the last 200 years, from light bulbs to locomotives.

The Museum of Science and Industry is part of the Science Museum Group, a family of museums which also includes the Science Museum in London; the National Railway Museum in York and Shildon; and the National Media Museum in Bradford. The Science Museum Group is devoted to the history and contemporary practice of science, medicine, technology, industry and media. With five million visitors each year and an unrivalled collection, it is the most significant group of museums of science and innovation worldwide.

<http://msimanchester.org.uk/>

### **About FACT**

FACT (Foundation for Art and Creative Technology) is the UK's leading media arts centre, based in Liverpool and is focused on bringing people, art and technology together. FACT's award-winning building houses three galleries, a café, bar and four cinema screens. Since the organisation was founded in 1988 (previously called Moviola), it has commissioned and presented over 250 new media and digital artworks from artists including Pipilotti Rist, Nam June Paik, Bill Viola, Apichatpong Weerasethakul and Isaac Julien.

Opening hours: Tuesday – Sunday 11am – 6pm

Tickets: Free entry

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