

# NEWS RELEASE

## ***Reaching Beyond***

**12<sup>th</sup> December 2011**

PLANS for a major arts festival in East London to coincide with next year's London Olympics are launched today by community arts group **Reaching Beyond**. An innovative programme of visual arts and community involvement will culminate with an exciting exhibition at Bow Road Methodist church between July 23 - September 2.

The newly renovated and spacious church - about one mile from the Olympic site - is situated prominently on the busy A11, one of the designated 'Olympic highways'.

With an inclusive remit that welcomes involvement from people of all faiths and none, **Reaching Beyond** is launching the following key components:

- An international Poetry Competition for adults and young people (via the internet).
- A young people's Art Competition through schools and community organisations in the London boroughs of Greenwich, Hackney, Newham, Tower Hamlets and Waltham Forest.
- A major Exhibition of work by contemporary artists with roots in a variety of cultures. The **Reaching Beyond** Exhibition will include the work of some 20 artists with work in a variety of forms - paintings, icons, sculptures, cartoons, fabric, mosaic and more. Also featured will be the winning art work and poetry from the competitions.
- Running alongside the exhibition will be a programme of events including art workshops, talks, explorations, tours etc.
- Kerbside painting, carving and other hands-on activities for passers-by on the exhibition forecourt beside the A11.
- An interactive journey with the **Reaching Beyond** 'Device' (a small sculpture) around the London boroughs of Tower Hamlets, Hackney, Newham, Waltham Forest and Greenwich. *Route to be announced.*

Organiser the Rev David Moore said the name **Reaching Beyond** was intentionally open to a wide range of interpretation. "We are looking to engage with people across and beyond London during the period of the Olympics. We want to encourage people to think beyond the limits of any one language, medium or culture and to stimulate creative thinking and engagement," he said.

Mr Moore, who was a Methodist minister in the East End of London for 23years, now lives in Milton Keynes. He is founder of Colloquy, an art and theology project. He is chair of the **Reaching Beyond** steering group which convenes at Bow Road Methodist Church.

## CONTACT DETAILS

*Further information about all the key elements of Reaching Beyond can be found on the website: [www.reachingbeyond.co.uk](http://www.reachingbeyond.co.uk)*

Email inquiries: [Info@reachingbeyond.co.uk](mailto:Info@reachingbeyond.co.uk)

*The Rev Moore (chair of Reaching Beyond steering group) 01908 665364 or 07773275963*

*The Rev Phil Summers (superintendent of the Tower Hamlets Methodist churches): 020 8980 5278*

*John Singleton: Media requests for image reproductions, features etc 07805802364*

Note: **Reaching Beyond** is coordinated by Colloquy and supported by the Methodist Church. Prizes are sponsored by Tate Modern and Bloodaxe Books.