



'The only nation I have now is my imagination'
Diversity, Collaboration, Passion, Celebration, Conversation

ION is an inclusive and engaging five year long participatory art project, creating Puppets, Champions of the Future, which reaches touches and captures the imagination of the youth of today – the citizens who will shape the future. We have a vision for a major cultural event in East London during the period of the Olympic Games, the culmination of 5 years of work with thousands of participants across the 9 regions and 3 Nations of the UK. They will walk to London accompanied by 12 different 6 metre extraordinary figures - **Champions of our Communities** coming together for the first time.

So far, by October 2009, 22 partners will have engaged over 9,000 participants, and 17 champions will have appeared at 57 events reaching an audience of over 2 million across the UK; Imagination Our Nation has won the Cultural Olympiad Inspire Mark two years running.

Imagination Our Nation is a story that takes us on a journey, which asks questions and seeks solutions, a journey in our communities, and a journey connecting communities, discovering facts from the past that will equip communities to live in the future:

- 2008: GerminNation: Sowing the seeds of the future
- 2009: FasciNation: Champions are born and wake up to a world of opportunities
- 2010: DetermiNation: Champions embark on their journey of exploration and make choices
- 2011: IllumiNation: Teams of champions work together to find solutions for the future
- 2012: ImagiNation: Champions and their teams walk from all over the UK to London with a Vision for the future. They enter East London for a spectacular finale that takes place simultaneously with regional presentations