

# 1807-2007 Abolition 200

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Launch of Bristol's Abolition 200 programme



## Bristol commemorates Abolition 200

Throughout 2007, Bristol is commemorating the bicentenary of the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act. Bristol City Council agreed a resolution supporting the year in December 2006, and since January thousands of people have attended over 100 events at venues all over the city ranging from thought-provoking exhibitions and plays to lively debates, talks and music concerts.



Signing the Statement of Regret

Credit: Bristol Evening Post

In January, city leaders gathered to sign a declaration of regret and over the weekend of 24-25th March – marking 200 years to the day since the Abolition of the Slave Trade Act was signed – a range of events took place.



'Breaking the Chains' slavery exhibition at the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum

Credit: Shoel by Rod Brown

Bells rang out across the city and a 'people's service' of commemoration was held at Bristol Cathedral focused on the themes of remembrance, reconciliation and healing.

A major new exhibition on slavery opened at the British Empire and Commonwealth Museum in April. 'Breaking the Chains' uses artefacts, film and testimony to tell the story of Britain's involvement in the slave trade. Since opening it has received 30,000 visitors.

## Abolition focus for children and young people

In May young black Bristolians from three youth groups in the city opened their own exhibition 'Afrikan Footsteps' at the City Museum and Art Gallery. Visitors to the museum saw how the young people discovered their heritage through field research in Ghana and workshops in Bristol through film, artefacts and interviews.

And three Bristol students have had the opportunity to join the crew of the Amistad Freedom Schooner - a replica of the original ship commandeered by its African captives in 1839. During the journey the ship will stop at more than

a dozen Atlantic ports, including Bristol in August and September, that all played a significant role in the trade.



Three students from Bristol selected for the crew of Freedom Schooner Amistad. Credit: Tammi Redman

Hundreds of children and young people in Bristol schools are taking part in projects this year addressing issues of history and heritage through drama, music and art workshops. This year has also been designated the Year of Black Achievement in schools and a series of conferences and new resources for teachers are planned. In December, over 20 schools are expected to take part in a large - scale production that will showcase creatively the important contributions that Black Bristolians have made to the history, life and the culture of the city.

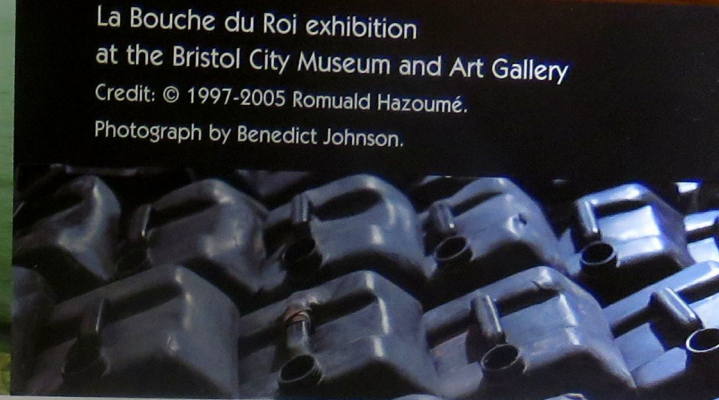
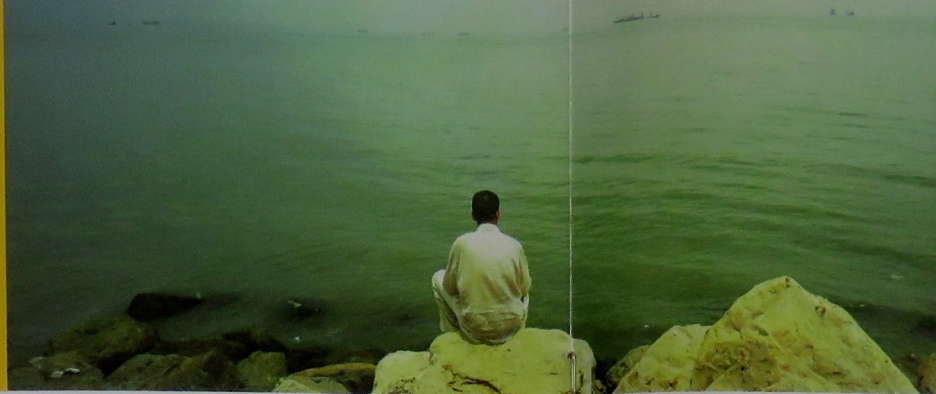
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## Port City Exhibition at the Arnolfini

Credit: Zineb Sedira.

Photograph from Saphir 2006. © Zineb Sedira



## La Bouche du Roi exhibition at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery

Credit: © 1997-2005 Romuald Hazoumé.

Photograph by Benedict Johnson.

## Creative community projects

Over 30 projects have been funded by Abolition 200, from over 100 submitted to the community-led steering group, to reflect Abolition 200's core themes of education, commemoration and legacy. These include innovative artist installations, educational projects and community theatre events. Many of these will be taking place during the next few months.

### 'Time to Heal'

**6 - 18 Oct**

'Time to Heal' is an exciting arts project focusing on the notion of healing and moving forward from the legacy of the Slave Trade within all communities, by exploring and understanding the past. Centrespace Gallery, The Watershed, Poetry Can and the Pierian Centre are working together to produce a fortnight of African and African Caribbean Visual Arts, spoken word workshops, historical walks, storytelling cinema and debates.



Market by Maria Onyegbule from the exhibition 'Time to Heal'

Credit: Maria Onyegbule

### Port City at the Arnolfini 15 Sept - 11 Nov

Port City is a large-scale exhibition featuring over 40 international artists addressing issues of migration, trade and contemporary slavery. Set in Arnolfini, it will be accompanied by projects and a related programme of live art, music, film, literature and educational activities as well as 'off-site' and online projects.



The Two Coins  
Installation on  
Bristol City Centre

Credit: Graeme  
Mortimer Evelyn

### The Two Coins (autumn)

The Two Coins is a site-specific visual sculpture and moving image installation by Graeme Mortimer Evelyn that will revolve around the Edward Colston statue on Colston Avenue. The installation will present an unprejudiced historical legacy while highlighting our collective responsibility to prevent forms of 21st century trade, which produce new forms of modern slavery.



Afrika Eye Film  
Festival, Bristol, 2007

Credit: Afrika Eye Film Festival

### African Eye film festival Oct - Nov 07

A collection of African films will be shown in Bristol at various venues

across the city including Watershed, Cube and Kuumba.

### La Bouche du Roi at the City Museum and Art Gallery 15 Sept - 28 Oct

A thought provoking installation by Benin artist Romuald Hazoume uses over 300 masks made from petrol cans, each representing a person, arranged in the shape of a slave ship. It explores themes of exploitation and enslavement, including the transport of slaves and the modern black market of petrol in Benin.

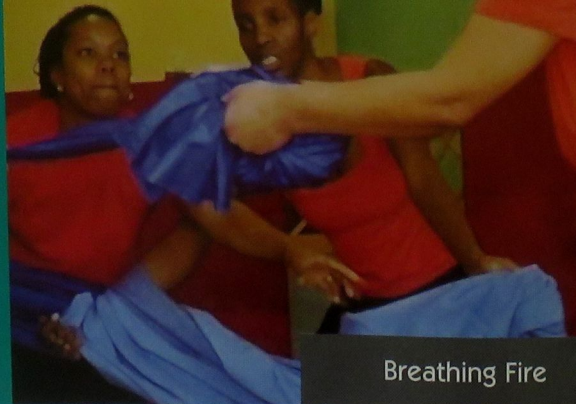
There are many more events and activities planned for the rest of the year including an end of year showcase and debate. And work is already underway to ensure that the December 2007 is not the end but the beginning of a lasting legacy in improvements to the quality of life of Bristol's residents of African and African Caribbean heritage.

[www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200)

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## Autumn events and activities



Breathing Fire



Arrangements for some events have not yet been finalised. For further information on any of these events visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200)

Date	Event and venue
Throughout the year until 2008	'Breaking the Chains' slavery exhibition The British Empire & Commonwealth Museum <a href="http://www.empiremuseum.co.uk">www.empiremuseum.co.uk</a>
Throughout the year until 2008	The sugar trail - An interpretative guide to the Georgian House Georgian House <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums">www.bristol.gov.uk/museums</a>
29 August - 6 September	Amistad moored at the Harbourside <a href="http://www.amistadamerica.org">www.amistadamerica.org</a>
15 September - 28 October	La Bouche du Roi - Sculptural installation Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums">www.bristol.gov.uk/museums</a>
15 September - 11 November	Port city - touring exhibition and events Arnolfini <a href="http://www.arnolfini.org">www.arnolfini.org</a>
19 September	'Documenting slavery and the abolition controversy' a talk at Bristol University Arts and Social Sciences Library
20 September	'Slaves who abolished slavery' - a talk by Edson Burton Bristol Central Library <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums">www.bristol.gov.uk/museums</a>
21 September	Black pupils improvement strategy conference
27 September	Launch of Bristol Abolition 200 legacy report for consultation at Council House
28 - 30 September	Port city weekender - installations & performances Arnolfini and other various locations. <a href="http://www.arnolfini.org">www.arnolfini.org</a>
Throughout October 2007	Black History Month - various events throughout the city
1 October	Black heroes in the hall of fame at the Colston Hall <a href="http://www.colstonhall.org">www.colstonhall.org</a>

Date	Event and venue
6 October	My Legacy "never forget where you come from" - retrace your history at Malcolm X Centre, St Paul's
6 - 19 October	A Time to Heal - art exhibition and related events Centre Space Gallery email: <a href="mailto:info@centrespacegallery.com">info@centrespacegallery.com</a>
11 and 13 October	Our Stories Make Waves - theatrical celebration at Kuumba Ffi call 0793 289 6422
17 October	Silver, Service and Slavery: the Black presence in the British Home - a talk by Helen Mears Pugsley Lecture Theatre, Bristol University <a href="http://www.bristol.gov.uk/museums">www.bristol.gov.uk/museums</a>
17 October	Costa King Cotton at Colston Hall <a href="http://www.colstonhall.org">www.colstonhall.org</a>
17 & 18 October	Our Stories Make Waves - theatrical celebration at Cotham School. Ffi call 0793 289 6422
20 October	Walter Tull Association Awards Presentation Council House email: <a href="mailto:beresfordlee@blueyonder.co.uk">beresfordlee@blueyonder.co.uk</a>
8 November	Abolition 200 - young people's conference Council House
17 November	'Pride' Hair Show at Colston Hall
24 November	'Barbados 41' Independence dinner dance Council House
8 December	Black Bristolians' school production Fielden Theatre, City Academy
15 - 16 December	Bristol Abolition 200 Legacy Debate

For more information, visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200) or [www.bristol.gov.uk/events](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/events)





To find out more visit [www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/abolition200)

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