



## **NEWS RELEASE**

For immediate release

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### **EXCITEMENT BUILDING FOR UNION SQUARE'S ART COMPETITION ONLY THREE EVENTS LEFT TO BE PART OF THE ART**

Excitement is building as Union Square's 'U be part of the art' project nears the end of its tour and the countdown to public voting begins.

'U be part of the art' is an opportunity for people in Aberdeen City and Shire to contribute to the permanent art fixture in the new £250m development. Union Square artists, Gudrun Bombosch and Iain Gildea, have been touring local communities, encouraging people to donate items which, to them, represent Aberdeen or Aberdeenshire.

The next event will take place at the Banchory Show on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July at King George V Park. Artists Gudrun and Iain can be found at the Union Square Original 106 Stagecoach bus between 9:00am and 5:30pm and anyone who would like their item cast into a 'U be part of the art' resin block, is encouraged to bring it along.

After the last event on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August, selected items will be uploaded onto the Union Square website and put to a public vote. The final 14 items - which can be no bigger than a shoe box - will be cast into resin blocks and make up the art installation in the development.

Items suggested to date range from the historic to the ultra modern. A sea merchant's discharge books, train tickets to Aberdeen, a piece of Granite, a replica seagull, a model of an oil-rig and a hand-knitted Aberdeen FC scarf are among the suggested objects.

Penny Godfrey, marketing manager for Hammerson's Union Square said: "We have had a great response to date with some interesting takes on Aberdeen City and Shire. With only a few weeks to go until public voting begins, we are encouraging

people to send in pictures of their items, or take them along to an event, with an explanation about why they are important to them.

“We’re on the look out for objects which reflect your hometowns, memories and traditions. The items selected in the public vote will become a permanent feature in Union Square, so it’s an exciting opportunity to add your personal touch to the city’s newest and largest retail and leisure development.”

Those unable to attend one of the public events can visit the website ([www.unionsquareaberdeen.com/public-art](http://www.unionsquareaberdeen.com/public-art)) for more information, or send an email about the item they would like to put forward to: [publicart@unionsquareaberdeen.com](mailto:publicart@unionsquareaberdeen.com)

After Banchory, the last two events include the Aboyne Highland Games and March of the North East Clans on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> August and the Turriff Show on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> August.

## ENDS

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### Notes to Editors:

#### ‘U be part of the art’ events:

Banchory Show	25 <sup>th</sup> July 2009 (9:00am - 5L50pm)	King George V Park, Banchory
Aboyne Highland Games and March of the North East clans	Saturday 1 <sup>st</sup> August (10:15am – 5:30pm)	Village Green, Aboyne
Turriff Show	2 <sup>nd</sup> August 2009 (7:00am-6pm)	The Showfield, Queens Road, Turriff

## **Union Square**

Union Square is a £250 million mixed use, regeneration scheme creating a new retail and leisure quarter for Aberdeen. Developed by Hammerson, the scheme includes 56 retail units, comprising a range of national and international brands, up to 12 restaurants and cafés, a 203 bed hotel and 10 screen multiplex, set to be Aberdeen's largest cinema. The scheme will also provide visitors with a new civic square. Union Square will be Aberdeen's most accessible retail and leisure offer with 1,700 car parking spaces, easily reached from all major routes and integrated with the city's bus and rail stations - providing a gateway to the region and encouraging sustainable travel to the city.

[www.unionsquareaberdeen.com](http://www.unionsquareaberdeen.com)

## **Hammerson plc**

Hammerson plc is a FTSE-100 Real Estate Investment Trust which operates principally in the retail sector in the UK and France. Its £6.5 billion portfolio, which provides 1.4 million m<sup>2</sup> of retail space and 255,000 m<sup>2</sup> of offices, includes 15 major shopping centres and 19 retail parks.

Hammerson has a track record of successfully delivering major city centre regeneration projects. Award-winning developments include Bishops Square in London and Bullring in Birmingham. In September 2008 the Company opened three major retail-led developments: Highcross, Leicester; Cabot Circus, Bristol and an extension to Parinor, an existing centre in Paris. This autumn, Hammerson will open its latest retail-led regeneration scheme, Union Square in Aberdeen.

The Company is currently working with several councils across the UK to deliver retail-led mixed-use projects in cities including Leeds, Southampton and Sheffield.

For more information, visit [www.hammerson.com](http://www.hammerson.com).