



Visions of The Community Quilt

**' A quilt should keep you safe and warm,so should a good community.
We are all patches on that quilt".**

The Visions of Community Quilt was produced by the Bluebell Arts Project in the summer of 2008, funded by the Northern Ireland Arts Council and Derry City Council's Urban Regeneration fund. Bluebell Arts is an innovative community arts programme based in the Gasyard Centre, Derry, which targets often marginalised and over looked groups raising their profile through the arts.

For this Bluebell Project the production and design of a quilt was used as a vehicle for local women to discuss and define the history, vision and aspirations of their community. What they want and need, within and from, their immediate surroundings. From good housing to education, each square represents an element of community vision.

The eye in each corner represents 'community vision' and the people represent friends and family as the most important component of a good community. The figures are different genders, race and generations and are celebrated for their diversity. Many of the patches represent the identity and ideals of the local community, including local history (The Shirt Factory), the arts, employment, education, and hopes for the future (Peace, housing, good health, new industry and tourism). The focal point of the quilt is Free Derry Corner. As well as representing the Bogside and Derry, it is also represents a symbol of civil rights and equality for all.

Tina Maclaughlin who crafted this quilt is facilitating the current Bluebell quilting project "Fabric of the Community" which sees women of all ages and backgroups working together mapping their local area in a quilt. Tina is joined on this project by visiting Artist Heather Tuffery and local quilting queen Jackie O'Doherty. The sessions run from 7-9pm on Thursday evenings in the Gasyard Arts Factory and all are welcome.

This quilt on display at the Verbal Arts Centre, from Tuesday 5th May until Friday 5th June, is part of a continuous series of quilt exhibits curated by Roberta Bacic in Derry, which started March 8th 2008 and lead up to International Women's Day 2009 and beyond.