

Keyword: Sunnyside

£6m ARTS BUSINESS CENTRE OPENS

A showpiece £6m arts and business centre has opened in the regenerated historic quarter of Sunderland's city centre.

Made up of a new building and six refurbished listed buildings, thePlace also has a cafe, meeting rooms, artists' studios and offices.

The venue is already home to a diverse range of businesses including a college department, photography and film companies, an architecture firm and a project management consultancy.

Designed by Newcastle-based architects Reid Jubb Brown Partnership and constructed by Kendall Cross Holdings Ltd, with glass louvres installed on the outside of the building designed by local artist Kathryn Hodgkinson, thePlace won best office development at the region's prestigious Journal Landmark Award in October.

Ben Hall, director of Sunnyside Partnership, said: "thePlace is a fantastic building that will help to attract further investment into the area. It is providing high quality, modern business and artistic space in a beautiful setting."

Councillor Paul Watson, leader of Sunderland City Council and chairman of Sunnyside Partnership, said: "More and more businesses and artists are taking advantage of the high quality buildings and offices we can now offer in Sunnyside and it is great to see it becoming a thriving part of the city centre again."

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