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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Construction milestone for Leeds Arts University



A £22million building and facilities expansion at Leeds Arts University has achieved a major construction milestone as the building's steel frame structure reaches its highest point.

The five-storey, 63,500 sq ft extension is a key element of an ambitious masterplan by Leeds Arts University (formerly Leeds College of Art), which gained university status last year, making it the first specialist arts university in the north of England.

The new extension will connect to the existing Blenheim Walk campus, allowing the University to further expand, offer more courses and provide an enterprise centre for students.

Representatives from main contractor, ISG and the University came together to mark the 'topping out' construction milestone in suitable style by spray-painting the University's new logo on to the building's floor slab.

Professor Simone Wonnacott, Vice-Chancellor, Leeds Arts University, said:

"The ambitious plans for the expansion of our Blenheim Walk site have played a significant role in our aspirational vision for the future of Leeds Arts University. It is very rewarding to see the development taking shape, at what is an exciting time for those studying at the only specialist arts University in the North of England."

The new building will ensure the University can grow to meet demand for places and the future expectations of students, creating a more diverse mix of educational courses, including the introduction of BA (Hons) Filmmaking and BMus (Hons) Popular Music Performance.

Specialist facilities will include a 230-seat auditorium, music, film and photography studios, and a larger specialist arts library. An open plan atrium-style entrance, with a public exhibition gallery and coffee shop, together with the enterprise centre, will enable the University to collaborate with regional businesses and the wider communities of Leeds.

The building will have many sustainable features, including solar energy panels and an urban roof garden, and is expected to achieve a high BREEAM environmental performance rating.

Tim Harvey, regional director at ISG, said:

"Our universities are the envy of the world and it is by constantly innovating and creating a unique student learning experience that the sector will continue to thrive. Leeds Arts University has ambitious plans for the future and I'm delighted that ISG will play a role in translating the University's vision into reality as these new facilities start to take shape over the coming months."

Alongside ISG, other partners involved in the Leeds Arts University expansion are: DLA Design, the architects who worked with the University to draw up the bespoke design; structural engineers, WYG; GVA Apleona, project management consultants; and quantity surveyors TB+A Mechanical & Electrical and Rex Procter & Partners. HSBC have helped to finance the building development.

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Image caption: *Professor Simone Wonnacott, Vice-Chancellor pictured with ISG senior project manager Dave Carter at the topping out of Leeds Arts University.*

For further information and images contact Sophie Miller Wallace, PR and Communications Officer, at sophie.millerwallace@leeds-art.ac.uk or on 0113 202 8044/07879 414706.

Notes to Editors

About Leeds Arts University

Founded in 1846 as the Leeds Government School of Art and Design, Leeds Arts University (formerly Leeds College of Art) has contributed significantly to the development of art education in Britain and across the world. In 2016 the University was granted Taught Degree Awarding Powers, and in 2017 was awarded full university status.

Leeds Arts University has been recognised for its industry-standard facilities at the Whatuni awards (winners in 2014 and 2016, runner up 2017), and is currently the highest ranked specialist arts university in the UK and the highest ranked university in Yorkshire for student satisfaction in the National Student Survey 2017.

About ISG

ISG is the world's most dynamic construction services company, delivering robust and future-proofed places that help people and businesses thrive. Our 2,800 worldwide specialists deliver unbeatable customer experiences fuelled by a fast-paced, ideas-driven culture.

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