

# LUCI Charter Launched

The PLDA's Graham Festenstein reports on the LUCI conference in September, at which it launched its 'Charter on Urban Lighting'

Last September LUCI, the organisation representing lit cities around the world, held their AGM in Chartres, France. As well as the AGM there was a conference on 'Light Heritage and Tourism' and most importantly the launch event for LUCI's 'Charter on Urban Lighting'.

For those of you unfamiliar with LUCI, which stands for Lighting Urban Community International, it was formed in 2002 at the behest of the city of Lyon, as 'a unique international network bringing together cities and lighting professionals engaged in the use of light as a major tool for urban, social and economic development'. In particular, it has interest in sustainability and environmental issues. It serves as a forum for discussion between members and aims to help cities in the use of light as a tool for urban development, through lighting plans, projects, innovations and the use of strategies and masterplans. LUCI has rapidly grown to over 100 members, including 63 cities across four continents, ranging from Scotland to South Korea. The current President city, Glasgow, took the reins at this year's AGM.

LUCI hold commissions and working groups on Urban Strategies, Culture and Festivals, Sustainable Development and Technological Prospects and Trends. These are opportunities for members to discuss and share their experiences and formulate best practice. LUCI also works closely with lighting designers, academics, the Professional Lighting Designers Association (PLDA) and the Social Light Movement. LUCI relies very much on the support of its corporate members; Philips, Thorn Lighting and Schreder, which, as well as providing financial support, are heavily involved in LUCI's Lightlinks Programme and the City-People-Light Awards, supported by Philips – the AGM saw the announcement of this year's winner, the City of Lucerne in Switzerland.

## LUCI's New Charter

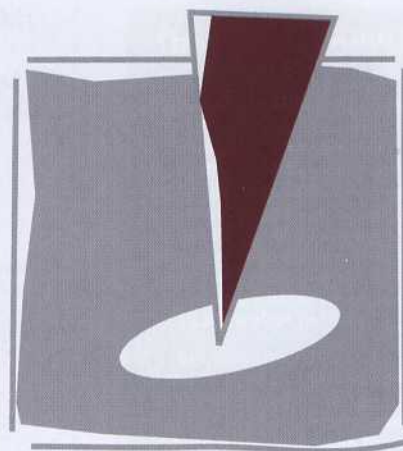
The Charter on Urban Lighting, ratified at the conference, is an exciting new development which sets out to raise the profile of lighting and promote best practice. It is written in two sections, which are summarised within the document as follows:

- **Sustainable Cities - Integrating Urban Lighting in Urban Development Policies**

'We are convinced that high quality and carefully designed urban lighting can influence the process of urban development and regeneration in a decisive and positive way.... We believe that a fully integrated public lighting strategy supported by a master plan constitutes one of the keys to a balanced urban development.'

- **Sustainable Light - Considering the Environmental and Ecological Impacts of Light**

'Cities and countries worldwide are taking action to limit their CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and we fully support these initiatives... We believe that cities contribute to these objectives by planning and realising their urban lighting strategies in an efficient and resource-friendly way.'



# PLDA

In simple terms the Charter highlights the benefits of lighting to safety, to culture, to economic development and to social equality. It declares a commitment to optimising energy consumption and minimising environmental impact, the importance of maintenance and quality control and the reduction of light pollution.

The members of LUCI signed up to the Charter at the AGM the full text of which can be downloaded from their webpage, [www.luciassociation.org](http://www.luciassociation.org)

## Designer Presentations

As well as the LUCI AGM there were presentations by various designers; Louis Clair discussed his work on historical sites across the world, Diana Galic presented her strategies for Dubrovnick and Split and I presented a paper on the Pier Head Public Realm project in Liverpool. The artist and scenographer Xavier De Richmont discussed his work as artistic director and artist for the Chartres festival, Chartres en Lumieres – and we were lucky to experience the opening of his stunning and dramatic work on the facade of Chartres cathedral (see photo).

Although knowing of LUCI for some time, this was my first opportunity to really investigate what they do. I was very impressed at the depth of knowledge and commitment of the association, its members and their detailed understanding of the technical and aesthetic issues of public lighting, as well as the economic and social ones. The wealth of experience and contacts they collectively hold is extensive and the potential benefits to municipalities, towns and cities are such that I hope there will be many more UK members in the future. **For more information go to LUCI's website [www.luciassociation.org](http://www.luciassociation.org)**



Chartres Cathedral gets the image and colour treatment by Xavier de Richemont