

Birmingham City Council **Cultural Development Service** **Funded Arts Activities**

February – August 2023

Over thirty different creative projects happening across twenty-five city wards, reaching thousands of Birmingham residents, through participation and as audiences, for over seventy exhibitions and performances; all supported by the Cultural Development Service through Arts Activities Commissioning Grants.

Mothers and babies will make new music together; migrant communities will create theatre; young people from across the city will produce films about roller skating, mental health and activism; isolated older people will be invited to dance, and community choirs will create a celebratory space where vulnerable people feel safe and included.



BE BOLD BE BIRMINGHAM

Birmingham City Council's Cultural Development Service supports this activity so that local people can both take part in and shape arts activity where they live.

Young people are empowered to develop their creativity and play an active part in the artistic and cultural life of the city through **Next Generation** Funding.

Cultural Leadership projects help to ensure that the people who take forward our city's arts organisations are diverse, in the way that our city is diverse, shaping, and steering provision to meet the interests, and harness the strengths, of all our communities.

The Cultural Development Service puts arts and cultural activity at the heart of our communities, with **Culture on our Doorstep** funding making it accessible and relevant wherever it takes place.

Leading on from the success of the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival, our city continues, through **Creative City Legacy Projects**, to be enriched by high quality, inclusive arts initiatives.

This supports the health and wellbeing of Birmingham citizens and gives them even more reasons to feel connected to each other and proud of their city.

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B2022 Creative City Programme Legacy Projects

Activities for organisations who received Commonwealth Games Creative City grants to build on the collaborations formed between arts organisations/groups and communities to continue to co-create exciting artworks, inspire community cohesion and increase physical activity & mental wellbeing.

- Ten projects
- Across thirteen wards
- Exploring film, music, theatre, traditional crafts, architecture, storytelling and video.



ARTS 50 ALIVE!



Notnow
Collective



Birmingham
Contemporary
Music Group



Mimar Collective CIC



Arts For All

Led by Arts 50 Alive

Arts For All will encourage local people of all ages to discover – or rediscover - their artistic skills whilst also bringing the community together. The project aims to help a wide range of local people of all ages and abilities to come together, to learn and develop their artistic skills and so discover a sense of self-worth and creativity.

As well as improving individuals' artistic skills, Arts For All will bring benefits in terms of community cohesion, improved mental health and reduced isolation for many participants

Location: Northfield; Kings Norton North; Kings Norton South

For more information about the grantee and project visit: arts50alive.org

Rolling Out Brum

Led by Bertz Associates

“Rolling out Brum”, will be a community film project with lead artist Yonatan Tiruneh, co-created by “Children of the Diaspora” Ladywood young film collective makers, and the Roller-Skating community in Canon Hill Park, that established itself during lockdown and continues to flourish.

The film aims to document the Canon Hill Park Skater’s journey and explore the idea of “unofficial” communities - those that arise outside traditional organisational structures to become a “family” to people from diverse backgrounds of ethnicity, age, and class.

This project attempts to capture the voice of the community and shine a light on Birmingham’s untold stories.

Location: Moseley

For more information about the grantee and project visit: bertzassociates.net

Flourish!

Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Flourish! builds on BCMG's highly successful project Flourish! for B2022.

Four composers will each work with four community/youth ensembles to compose a short, engaging, dynamic piece of music that will celebrate something, somewhere or someone that has strong and positive connections with Birmingham. BCMG will work with the ensembles to identify a suitable composer who will, with the ensemble, gather and try out ideas before composing and rehearsing the final piece for a performance within their community. BCMG is known for commissioning living composers: this project brings that expertise, excitement, and experience to the groups it works with.

Location: Ladywood; Moseley

For more information about the grantee and project visit: bcmg.org.uk

Dis/Connect

Led by Geese Theatre

Geese Theatre is a long established and influential arts in criminal justice organisation working in a range of criminal and social justice settings. The company works with diverse participants with multiple and complex needs, improving wellbeing, rehabilitation and recovery.

Continuing their engagement with Staging Recovery community ensemble, Geese Theatre will work with new and existing members, their own practitioners and other local artists to co-create a performance exploring barriers to and opportunities for connection – with their city, with friends and family and with each other - giving members a chance to share their creativity through their own stories.

Location: Moseley; Acocks Green

For more information about the grantee and project visit: geese.co.uk

Passing Time

Glue Collective

Glue Collective is a collective of artists, gardeners and community workers seeking to address current and emerging, social, health and economic challenges in local communities.

The organisation uses plots of unused land for a range of visual arts initiatives and to give access to nature as a fundamental need for human growth and development.

‘Passing Time’ is a festival, a space to celebrate play, creativity and nature. The community will be invited to co-create ambitious structures inspired by nomadic architecture, using natural materials such as mud, sticks and string, to weave the story of a shared earth and a collective history. The evolving structures will become home to film screenings, workshops and talks as well as being a space for making and experimentation.

Location: Weoley & Selly Oak

For more information about the grantee and project visit: gluecollective.co.uk

Creative Journeys

In Her Shoes

Through the In Her Shoes model of inclusive practice, women will explore and re-imagine the 2022 Creative City Journeys of Hope. Guest women artists, from different music genres and ethnicities, will share their musical culture through drumming, music and songs.

In Her Shoes will work with women who have a passion for music, feel isolated or have come to Birmingham seeking sanctuary or a better life. Women will explore their own creativity in a safe space, develop their singing and musical performance skills.

Location: Moseley; Allens Cross; Erdington

For more information about the grantee and project visit: inher shoes.org.uk

Spread Your Wings

Mimar Collective CIC

Mimar Collective will be using its embodied healing approach to work creatively with a diverse group of 18–25-year-old young women with mental health support needs, to develop a story and produce a series of short video portraits that participants record in character. The project will be delivered by Mimar Collective CIC in partnership with the Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust.

Location: Small Heath

For more information about the grantee and project visit:

[Instagram.com/mimar_collective](https://www.instagram.com/mimar_collective)

Momma's Login

Mooville Theatre Company

'Momma's Login' is a creative arts project working with mothers and babies to provide multi-sensory baby activities, creative workshops and collation of their personal experiences to inspire, celebrate and empower.

Location: Edgbaston; Nechells

For more information about the grantee and project visit: moovilletheatre.co.uk

BRIGA Croatian for 'Care'

Led by Not Now Collective

This is a project which focuses on celebrating carers and care givers.

The project is a development of activity where Notnow Collective collaborated with Chat & Splash English learning women's group to co-create the audio experience BOSA. It centres on the story of caring for our elders, both in the family as well as within personal and professional circumstances and capacity.

Notnow Collective is a migrant led organisation, aware that much of the professional care giving in UK is provided by migrant workers, but this project will deliberately transgress beyond migrant identity, with the hope of attracting participants and audience from a much wider demographic, joined together to celebrate the act, challenges and selflessness of care giving.

Location: Balsall Heath West

For more information about the grantee and project visit: notnowcollective.com

Strength Strings Legacy Project

Stryx

Strength Strings Legacy Project allows The Women's Peer Support and Social Group members into a safe space to have a voice, raise awareness of their issues, grow self-esteem and confidence. The artists are aware of the specific areas the group members are interested in, which is: to explore self- image and use the project as a place for self-expression through traditional craft skills.

This project will encourage collaboration by creating a series of contemporary artisan meetings inspired by past times women's meetup groups, during which the women produced work and discussed women's' business freely.

Location: Quinton

For more information about the grantee and project visit: stryx.co.uk

Culture On Our Doorstep Projects

Arts activities in local neighbourhoods creating a better sense of place, local identity, better quality of life, health & wellbeing for communities and within communities.

- Eight projects
- Across twelve wards
- Exploring textiles, photography, dance, sculpture, singing, storytelling, printing, painting, theatre and circus



Craftspace[©]

SECRET CITY ARTS
www.secretcityarts.com



SUDDEN PRODUCTIONS

IKON

KDCULTURE

Northfield Arts Forum



Mending Stories

Craftspace

Artist led workshops that support people to use creative and practical textile techniques to add value to a garment or textile that holds personal meaning. Encouraging creative expression and the value of mending and repair artists will demonstrate how the process of repair can change the perception of ourselves and our environment.

Workshops will be a constructive platform where skills are learnt together with others. Through renewal and reuse of participants' cherished items the sessions aim to also repair and alleviate feelings of isolation, anxiety and doubt brought about by the current climate. We will work within four community hubs.

Location: Moseley; Soho & Jewellery Quarter; North Edgbaston; South Yardley
For more information about the grantee and project visit: craftspace.co.uk

A Gift to Birmingham, Part 2

IKON gallery

A Gift to Birmingham, Part 2 tells the story of our superdiverse city, using documentary photography, critical enquiry and creative practice. A group of inner-city residents, based in and around Handsworth, will collaborate with artists, educators and photographers to co-design an exhibition and digital activity pack that supports intercommunal dialogue. Delivered in partnership with local charities, sessions will take place between Handsworth Library and Park, drawing on photographic collections and sculptural trails, connected to the exhibition history of Ikon Gallery. Participants will have the opportunity to progress into volunteer roles, touring the exhibition and testing the learning resource in summer 2023.

Location: Handsworth

For more information about the grantee and project visit: ikon-gallery.org

Community 55+ Dance Workshops

KD Culture

These activities aim to address barriers in accessing arts and culture, and physical activity for those in supported living. The project will help to tackle isolated participants and reduce health problems that may arise from older age or a sedentary lifestyle.

Communal areas will be opened to the community once or twice a week to create opportunity to participate in fun arts and cultural activity.

The project will respond to resident requests for movement-based activities that are inclusive and suitable for people in wheelchairs as well as those who are able to stand.

Location: Bordesley Green

For more information about the grantee and project visit: kd-culture.weebly.com

Northfield Notes

Northfield Arts Forum

‘Northfield Notes’ is a Northfield Acapella Choir project which invites adults in Northfield, particularly vulnerable and isolated adults, to take part in regular choir rehearsals, performances, song writing and recording. Through access to high-quality music workshops, they will build a community, access creativity and culture, and cultivate pride in Northfield.

Location: Northfield

For more information about the grantee and project visit: northfieldartsforum.com

Wellbeing Brew

Secret City Arts

In Well-Being Brew, Secret City Arts celebrates creativity as a powerful tool for processing experiences, tapping into positive emotions and connecting with others. A creative collaboration between artists and community group, Well-Being Brew is part story sharing, part tea tasting, part plant and nature exploration and part workshop. The project will explore a range of inter-linked creative practices to build and sustain well-being, both individually and cohesively within communities. The artistic work will culminate in a public showcase event celebrating participant creators performing live, a creative activity by Well-Being Brew's shadow artist, and launching the Well-Being Brew publication and audio podcast, inviting a further round of creativity.

Location: Balsall Heath West

For more information about the grantee and project visit: secretcityarts.com

Day by Day

Soothing Stitches

Day by Day will encourage people from migrant communities to voice and express their ideas and thoughts about their culture, their arrival to the UK and their hopes and aspirations for the future. Their voices will be recorded visually in a handmade paper and fabric journal, using a variety of mixed media processes including stitch, collage, printing, and painting to add to it over the duration of the project and to keep and continue adding to after the project has finished. Over the duration of the project, Soothing Stitches will visit several groups around the city including a church centre, hostels/ hotels, and a community centre, whereby each participant will create a journal. Due to the groups being transient, the project go wherever it is needed across the city.

A photographic diary of individual pages will be recorded and used to catalogue and evaluate the project and to be shared via social media throughout the project to highlight what is happening.

Location: Ladywood; Bournbrook & Selly Park

For more information about the grantee and project visit: soothingstitches.co.uk

Maryvale Pop-Up Theatre

Sudden Productions

Maryvale Pop-Up Theatre will inspire a group of approximately twenty-five adults with learning disabilities to create original, innovative and spontaneous theatre at Maryvale Community Centre in Kingstanding. Participants will be involved in all aspects of the production from designing and making costumes, props and set through to acting on stage, stage management, fundraising and production. Participants will all have the opportunity to shine and feel a valued and respected member of the community. The production promises to be full of life, colour and delight and will be celebrated during a community performance.

Location: Oscott

For more information about the grantee and project visit: suddenproductions.co.uk

Community Circus

Windswept Workshops

Community Circus is a ten-week course to introduce disadvantaged adults to the world of circus. Combining Circus MASH's track-record of facilitating high-quality circus training for the local community with Windswept's dedication to creating financially accessible and inclusive storytelling opportunities, Community Circus is a free-to-attend circus club for adults living locally, with an emphasis on using the artform as a vehicle for self-expression.

Location: Kings Heath

For more information about the grantee and project visit:

www.windsweptworkshops.com

Next Generation Projects

Arts activities for children and young people who do not ordinarily participate in arts activities (outside of education) engaging their imagination and interest, inspiring them to be bold and ambitious

- Eight projects
- Across six+ wards
- Working with young people of all ages
- Exploring music, activism, drama, storytelling, heritage and photography.



calico

Birmingham
Contemporary
Music Group



Midland Actors Theatre

Picture This Media CIC

cloud cuckoo land



**SUDDEN
PRODUCTIONS**

OFFICIAL

Musicadoodledo

Led by Birmingham Contemporary Music Group

Musicadoodledo is a BCMG Early Years (EY) offer, mixing performance by BCMG musicians with musical play led by an EY musical specialist. Through a series of five workshops, in two participating nurseries, the children and, in some cases parents/carers, will have access to live music, and be supported to develop their musical learning through facilitated play and adult-led activity. Online learning resources will be available for free on BCMG's website and disseminated by project partners to EY settings and families across Birmingham, leaving a lasting project legacy.

Location: Ladywood; Alum Rock

For more information about the grantee and project visit: www.bcmg.org.uk

The Young Artist Incubator

Led by Calico

The Young Artist Incubator is a pilot education and outreach programme: a co-created activism project teaching young people to harness their creativity for good. The project brings together two Young Participants with two young Creative Interns based in Birmingham and invites them to join the Calico team to create their own activism campaign about a topic that is important to them. With mentoring, support, and a weekend of creative workshopping, the Young Participants will each produce an activism short film, which will be shared on Calico's platforms. This pilot will act as a trial for future large-scale Young Artists outreach.

Location: Ladywood

For more information about the grantee and project visit: calicotheatre.co.uk

Hoopla!

Led by Cloud Cuckoo Land

Hoopla! is a child-led music/drama play space for children aged 2-12 who have recently arrived in Birmingham. It is a gentle creative haven where children with unstable living/schooling situations are made welcome, listened to and offered much-needed space to express themselves through responsive music and drama activities.

Hoopla! develops CCL's experience working with young refugees, supporting their specific needs with high artist-child ratios, non-verbal facilitation, natural green space on their doorstep, nutrition, and family engagement support. It uses an improvised co-creation model adapted from innovative Jamboree music and drama clubs. Hoopla! grows and celebrates the voices of Birmingham's least heard children

Location: various

For more information about the grantee and project visit:

cloudcuckoolandtheatre.com

Once Upon a Time

Led by LouDeemY Productions

A project of fifteen sessions where LouDeemY will use theatre techniques to explore with the participants the importance of self-identity, awareness of themselves as members of the community and as individuals. The project will involve the creation of a show, using what everyone has contributed to making, with the opportunity for participants to take up character roles within the production. The story will include drama, movement, music, song, and storytelling. This show then will be shared with an invited audience at the last sessions to celebrate what they have achieved and learned during the project.

Location: Ladywood

For more information about the grantee and project visit: letscreate.great-site.net

Birmingham's Lost Workhouses

Led by Midland Actors Theatre

This is an arts project which will celebrate local history and heritage. Midland Actors Theatre will work with 120+ participants and volunteers (age 11–21), in five groups in different areas. Participants will produce different forms of artwork inspired by the story of Birmingham's "lost" workhouses, using drama, film, art, etc. The project will culminate in a site-specific, immersive event and exhibition, which will be open to the public. The project will give participants the opportunity to make original work and share it with audiences; and take a leadership role in organising and managing their own work and the work of others.

Location: Northfield; Acocks Green; Bartley Green; Bordesley & Highgate

For more information about the grantee and project visit:

www.midlandactorstheatre.com

Levelling Up for the New Generation!

Led by Picture This Media

This project aims to engage, inspire, motivate, and mentor young people with an interest in the arts to develop their own cultural voice and identity through the medium of photography and film, which would normally be outside their reach due to either education, social and financial barriers.

Under the framework of a Bronze Arts Award, young people will develop new skills such as photography, film, animation, create a portfolio, study an artist, visit an exhibition and pass on their newly acquired skills.

The work of the young people will capture and celebrate youth culture and form part of a local art exhibition for family, friends and public to enjoy whilst gaining an Ofqual recognised qualification.

Location: Longbridge; West Heath

For more information about the grantee and project visit: picturethismedia.co.uk

Urban Theatre Project: Hawkesley

Led by Sudden Productions

Urban Theatre Project: Hawkesley will inspire a group of twenty children and young people aged 10-17 to take on a journey of discovery of theatre and meet with artists to develop their imagination, creating an original and individual piece of theatre which will express their cultural distinctiveness and personality.

During eight weeks, they will work in groups to achieve an Arts Award qualification. On their Arts Award journey, they will develop valuable 21st century skills including creativity, communication, problem-solving, leadership and teamwork and grow as artists and arts leaders.

Location: Kings Norton South

For more information about the grantee and project visit: suddenproductions.co.uk

South Birmingham Storytelling Club

Led by Windswept Workshops

Storytellers' Club will be a weekly club where young people can come together to get creative and tell stories outside of the constraints of the school curriculum. They will co-design a new project each term, which could be a publication, performance or event, and then work together over the course of the term to create their own stories to share. This project will support a group of home-educated young people to take part in the project, as well as a group of young people in care.

Location: Northfield

For more information about the grantee and project visit: northfieldartsforum.com

Cultural Leadership Projects

Leadership development opportunities aimed at diversifying Birmingham's arts sector leaders to better represent our diverse population

- Eight projects/activities aimed at increasing the diversity of Birmingham's arts leadership
- Exploring strategic planning and development, building partnerships, co-creation, sustainability, policies and action plans, resilience, capacity building, career pathways, community cohesion, Arts Award training, creative production, developing new audiences and freelance working



Mimar Collective CIC



Cultural Leadership Development Programme

Led by Handsworth Creative

Handsworth Creative will be developing an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy and associated action plans and amendments to Handsworth Creative's relevant policies.

For more information about the grantee visit: handsworthcreative.com

Please Do Not Touch

Led by China Plate Theatre

China Plate will support Birmingham based producer Jade Samuels, to develop her leadership potential - moving from “digging in and gritting your teeth producing” to strategic activity with strong community impact and legacy.

China Plate will support Jade’s progression via an Action Learning project centred around ‘Please Do Not Touch’ written by former Birmingham Poet Laureate Casey Bailey. Alongside developing this exciting new play, Jade will be focussing on:

- Strategic Planning and Partnership Building
- Co-Creation Methodologies
- Cultural Leadership

For China Plate this is an opportunity to extend our development practice from supporting emerging artists to supporting those ready to make the move into a more substantive leadership role.

For more information about the grantee visit: chinaplatetheatre.com

Cultural Leader Development Programme

Gap Arts Project

GAP Arts will provide a bespoke development programme for a young emerging cultural leader from an ethnic minority background with a passion for environmental art and sustainability. The participant has developed and demonstrated significant leadership skills through the Culture Collective, GAP’s youth forum (Next Gen funded 2021-22). This programme will offer carefully structured support for progression into a professional arts career, with a balanced combination of training, research and co-working elements.

It will also begin to realise GAP’s ambitious succession plan, to build representation of our diverse target communities, and the local population, in our organisation and the wider creative sector.

For more information about the grantee visit: thegapartsproject.co.uk

Think Like a Tree: Leadership, Training and Mentorship

KD Culture

The activity is to work with the organisation 'Think Like a Tree' to help develop the leadership of our organisation, its freelancers and local dance artists to be more sustainable and resilient.

The aims are to strengthen the skills of our leadership, enable progression and growth of our leadership and associated freelancers to create new partnerships to deliver more work for dance

artists, moving actors and generally the more able-bodied members of the public.

We will use this

opportunity of training with 'Think Like a Tree' to develop our planning for more able bodied

members of public, moving actors and independent dancers.

The main activities we will use to achieve this are business consultation, training, mentorship, self-study and workshops.

For more information about the grantee visit: kd-culture.weebly.com

NAF Arts Leaders

Northfield Arts Forum

Northfield Arts Forum (NAF) will mentor an artist/arts leader over six months on a part-time contract with a view to being co-opted onto the NAF advisory board and becoming a leader of Raising Black Voices (RBV) - a project aimed at giving underrepresented youth a safe space to express themselves creatively and develop as young leaders.

They will undergo Bronze & Silver Arts Award Adviser training while also being involved with the creation and delivery of NAF's community arts activities.

By the end of the project, they will be given the option of setting up RBV as its own entity and/or developing their own NAF project as a freelance leader.

For more information about the grantee visit: northfieldartsforum.com

Throw NET

Stryx

This project proposes a new, yet old way of creating lasting professional partnerships with local community centres to enable and develop a role of Community Engagement Officer at Stryx.

Through impersonal approach as a motto of its practice that was developed through the commissioning: Blindspot Project (20-21), Stryx aims to further its goal in creating partnerships with Community Centres that are very often forgotten in the Digbeth-centralised art scene of Birmingham.

The tool that Stryx aims to co-develop will emerge from consultations with the community centres and focus on enabling new audiences to participate in the Stryx programme. This tool will be aimed at new, diverse audiences that often feel excluded from contemporary art spaces.

Through the consultations (Coffee Meetings) Stryx also wishes to enable three members of the community centres to temporarily join the Stryx team and gain professional experience in operational, creative and project-led practices of the organisation.

For more information about the grantee visit: stryx.co.uk

Producer Internship

Sampad

Sampad has created a Creative Producer Internship (five months), to lead on its BEDLAM 2023 programme. This internship will give hands on career development to a Birmingham individual of BAME background, supporting their development as a leader/creative producer and addressing the under representation of ethnic minorities in the arts workforce.

For more information about the grantee visit: sampad.org.uk

Leadership & Organisational Development

Mimar Collective CIC

Mimar Collective (MC) will be developing its leadership and the capacity of the organisation to deliver bespoke projects for marginalised communities. MC is a new community arts organisation, established to serve diverse, marginalised inner-city audiences in and around Birmingham.

Building capacity in the organisation will enable it to better serve and be a voice for its chosen audiences, reaching and uplifting more communities through increasing their participation and engagement with the arts. The project aims to foster community cohesion and provide creative development and leadership opportunities for people of all ages. It will provide artistic development, career pathways and a platform to showcase emerging artists from these communities.

MC intends to build capacity through a combination of activities including Board and strategic development, as well as better defining its vision and values and improving its ability to raise funds.

For more information about the grantee visit: [Instagram.com/mimar_collective](https://www.instagram.com/mimar_collective)

The programme of arts activity supported by the Cultural Development Service is one that strives to include everyone, that celebrates the boldly creative people that make up our city and, by taking art and culture into all manner of indoor and outdoor spaces, helps to keep Birmingham Citizens active and involved.

For more information visit [birmingham.gov.uk/arts](https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/arts) or email arts.team@birmingham.gov.uk



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