

Sheffield Culture Consortium



**YEAR OF
MAKING
SHEFFIELD
2016**

Press information

22 February 2016

SHEFFIELD CULTURE CONSORTIUM IS AWARDED £550,000 FROM THE ARTS COUNCIL FOR A THREE YEAR PROJECT CALLED 'MAKING WAYS'

Arts Council:

*Sheffield Culture Consortium will receive £550,000 for **Making Ways**, an ambitious three-year project that will develop, demonstrate and celebrate exceptional contemporary visual art produced in Sheffield. The project will develop artistic talent and leadership and create **a living economy** for the arts community that will stimulate and support growth. The Sheffield Culture Consortium (that includes Yorkshire Artspace, Sheffield Theatres Trust, Museums Sheffield, Site Gallery, The University of Sheffield, Sheffield Hallam University and Sheffield City Council) will coordinate a visual art programme that complements the **Year of Making Sheffield 2016** - a new festival and partnership between culture and businesses.*

Making Ways will be funded by Arts Council England, Sheffield City Council, The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University. The project will include: Artists' Continual Professional Development, (master-classes, industry residences, a bursary programme), large scale outdoor and digital commissions, exhibitions and promotional support delivered in collaboration with industry. The project will begin during the **Year of Making Sheffield 2016 and will develop through 2017 and 2018**.

Professor Vanessa Toulmin, Chair of the Sheffield Cultural Consortium & Director of City & Cultural Engagement at The University of Sheffield: "The Culture Consortium is naturally delighted that the Arts Council has demonstrated its belief in Sheffield's potential to harness the value of our artistic community for the city and its economy.

"The most recent *research shows that our publicly invested arts still return 0.4% of the UK's GVA and contribute indirectly to GVA through tourism, overseas trade and regional growth. Arts and culture industries generated £15.1 billion in turnover in 2012-13 and for every pound generated by the arts and culture industry, an additional £1.06 is generated in the economy.

"The Visual Arts Report launched just last week cited the Millennium Galleries as the most visited free gallery in the North of England and noted that the Cupola Gallery sold over £2 million worth of artwork mostly by local artists.

“This funding means we can develop a three year programme to build and sustain initiatives to support artists in Sheffield, and to build on the best practice we already deliver in managed studios and galleries. And the **Year of Making Sheffield 2016** will be a springboard for this activity.”

*www.artscouncil.org.uk

Kim Streets, CEO, Museums Sheffield: “**Making Ways** is a timely strategic investment in our artistic community and builds on what we do well as a city. Sheffield has a reputation for making things happen, for an innovative DIY culture and for growing things from the ground up. **Making Ways** will harness our potential as a centre of excellence within the visual arts and make a real difference for our artistic community and for the people of Sheffield.

“Great arts and culture is what makes our city unique – it’s what attracts business investment; a skilled workforce and students from around the world seeking a vibrant and exciting place to study. ACE support for **Making Ways** recognises Sheffield’s talent and says art is not the icing on the cake – it’s the recipe book and the essential ingredient in a successful international city. This is exciting news for Sheffield.”

Richard Jones, Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research and Innovation at the University of Sheffield: “We’re delighted with this news at the University of Sheffield. We’ve been committed to working with a variety of partners in Sheffield in making the city an even more culturally and economically vibrant place; the **Making Ways** project is a great recognition of what we’ve been able to achieve so far in uniting culture, innovation and business, and a platform to take those collaborations much further. The **Year of Making Sheffield 2016** will be a great platform for everybody in the city to get together and make sure the world knows what an exciting place this is to live, work and create in.”

Professor Roger Eccleston, Pro Vice-Chancellor for the Faculty of Arts, Computing, Engineering and Sciences (ACES): “Sheffield Hallam University is delighted to be involved in Sheffield’s Year of Making. The University, and our city, have a long tradition of creativity, innovation, design and artistry. Being involved in a city-wide celebration such as the **Year of Making Sheffield 2016** is especially fitting now, as our Sheffield Institute of Arts takes up residence in its new home at the Head Post Office, and we launch our own Catalyst Festival for the arts.”

Cllr Sioned-Mair Richards, Acting Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods: “This is great news for the city and its creative community. Sheffield City Council is delighted to support the work of the Sheffield Culture Consortium, which has become a strong and successful partnership mechanism for bringing cultural investment into the city”.

Master Cutler Craig McKay and CEO of Sheffield engineering firm Evenort Ltd: “We need to ensure **Making Ways** creates strong and productive links between the artists communities and business. I am part of a group of representatives from every

form of making in the city that are working collaboratively to drive activity through the ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016***. Sheffield has always appreciated its artistic talent and this funding will be significant in helping us to ensure that the artistic community becomes a greater part of its economy.”

The Culture Consortium is planning the details of the programme following the funding announcement. Further information about the project and the events and opportunities available through this programme will be published on the Consortium website www.sheffieldculture.co.uk

Ends

For more information on the ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** contact:

Surriya Falconer

surriya@falconerassociates.com

M:07770 415262

Heather Gilberthorpe

heather@heathergilberthorpe.com

M:07736 932180

Will Roberts

roberts.will@gmail.com

M: 07525 151192

For sponsorship opportunities please contact:

Tamar Millen Events Manager ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016***

T: 0114 2735542

E: tamar.millen@sheffield.gov.uk

W: www.sheffieldcityofmakers.co.uk

Twitter: @cityofmaking

Facebook: www.facebook.com/SheffieldCityofMakers

Editors Notes:

The ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** is a year long festival to celebrate all the forms of making. Through cross sector collaboration, it will demonstrate to regional and international audiences that this is a skilled city with a strong reputation for excellence and innovation.

Incorporating five core themes: Art & Design, Manufacturing & Industry, Film & Literature, Heritage & Place-making, and Music & Performance the ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** features an exciting programme of festivals, theatre, exhibitions, conferences and cultural events offering a unique opportunity to unlock hidden talent and break down barriers from advanced manufacturing to award winning theatre, internationally significant art and design, ground-breaking research and world class talent.

The ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** is led by the Sheffield Culture Consortium, with major partners The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University and supported by the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce, Made in Sheffield, The Company of Cutlers in Hallamshire and Sheffield City Council. An Advisory Group is creating links between each industry sectors with members from a range of organisations including both Universities, RIBA, Sheffield City Council, Cutlers Company, Assay Office, Made in Sheffield and the wider business community.

The ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** will support Sheffield's professional development and partnership activity, bring international commissions and expertise to the city, engage residents and visitors in a wide range of making activity. It will create a narrative for Sheffield that reflects its making heritage and projects it into the future, showcasing the city as a great place to live, work, study and invest.

The ***Year of Making Sheffield 2016*** launch will be hosted by the Mistress Cutler, Ms Karen McKay on Thursday 3rd March 2016, 5.30pm-7.30pm at the Sheffield Institute of Art, Sheffield Hallam University, The Old Post Office, Fitzalan Square, S1.

Visual Arts Report commissioned by the University of Sheffield

A new report gives a snapshot of Sheffield's lively arts scene based on reflections from 390 local artists, art studies professionals and arts organisations

Sheffield is a huge source of inspiration to its artists, while the arts scene contributes to the city's vibrancy and economy

The report makes recommendations to grow the visual arts economy and make Sheffield a destination venue for art

A copy can be downloaded from:

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/polopoly_fs/1.551028!/file/Sheffield-Art.pdf