

Creative Lancashire

Creative Industries Officer: Activity Report

25/09/2017

1. Fabrications Festival / Fabrications Exchange: 29/09/2017

Fabrications is the UK's first festival that celebrates and explores textiles and the textile industry through the eyes of artists. Taking place in galleries, museums and former textile mills across Blackburn, Hyndburn, Burnley and Pendle throughout September. As part of *Fabrications Exchange* final weekend programme Creative Lancashire are collaborating with Super Slow Way to explore the broader themes of Skills, Migration and Heritage through a series of panel conversations with (and for) industry and professional textiles practitioners. The programme features leading textile artist Michael Brennand-Wood, a panel to with some of the textiles designers, manufacturers and commissioners involved in the Art in manufacturing project for National Festival of Making, and culminating in trip across to Brieffield Mill to see the Lancashire Premier and post show talk for the METIS World factory performance.

2. Design Council Sparks

I attended the exhibition and presentation of Design Council Spark, a support and funding programme designed to turn bright ideas into commercially successful products. Creative Lancashire have been a partner since its launch in 2014. Sparks programme has helped more than 100 innovators and entrepreneurs to develop their product ideas, 31 of these have been intensively supported with mentoring, funding and specialist workshops in order to progress to market. One of the finalists for 2017 is Nick Rawcliffe from Raw Studio (Chorley).

Applications close midday Tuesday 21 November 2017.

3. Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund - Call for Expressions of interest

Creative Lancashire are working closely with Marketing Lancashire to facilitate a process to nominate an appropriate scheme from the county in response to the Government announcement for a legacy fund to amplify the impact of the Great Exhibition of the North. Alongside the Exhibition, which will take place in the summer of 2018 in Newcastle Gateshead the Government also announced plans for a legacy fund to amplify its impact and pave the way for future cultural investment in the North of England.

Towns and cities across Northern England are being invited to bid for a share of a new £15 million Northern Cultural Regeneration Fund that sets out to help build a lasting regional legacy. The Fund will make grants of up to £4 million available to support major inspirational culture and tech capital projects that could have a transformational local effect, particularly in communities that have historically had low levels of cultural and creative investment. The first round of bids is open to the eleven Local Enterprise Partnerships across the North who are invited to each submit one bid to the Fund for a single capital project. It is anticipated that the Fund will support three or four large capital grants of around £3-4 million each over a three year period 2018-2021. The deadline for final submissions is the end of November with successful projects announced in March 2018. A further round of funding may follow if all the available funds have not been committed.

Meetings & Events etc.

We have attended recent meetings Blackburn Cathedral/Cathedral Trust and Preston Cultural Partnership/City of Culture 2025

Forthcoming meetings include a visit to meet with the Director of Screen Yorkshire with members of the board, a visit to digital businesses in Burnley and Lancaster with Digital Lancashire for members of the LEP board and elected members. Finally we are meeting with the Dean of Blackburn Cathedral to discuss further how we can help shape their cultural and creative proposition (16 October)

Following the success of the recent POWWOW at Burnley Mechanics (20 Sept) through October we are running a series of CPD workshops for creative practitioners and businesses with the consultant David Parrish – followed by the opportunity to apply for 1-2-1 surgeries.