

The background is a complex collage. It features two faces: a man's face in the upper left and a woman's face in the upper right. These are partially obscured by large, overlapping geometric shapes in blue, yellow, black, and magenta. The central text is contained within a black rectangular area that also has some geometric cutouts. At the bottom right, there is a small rectangular inset showing a hand reaching up towards glowing lights. Below this inset is a horizontal row of four small colored squares: blue, green, magenta, and yellow.

MANCHESTER CULTURE AWARDS 2022



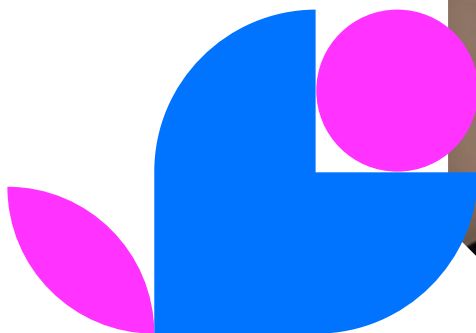
MANCHESTER
CITY COUNCIL



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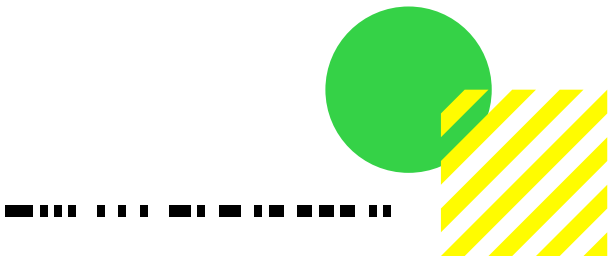
COUNCILLOR LUTHFUR RAHMAN OBE
STATUTORY DEPUTY LEADER,
MANCHESTER CITY COUNCIL



FOREWORD

Welcome to the 2022 Manchester Culture Awards. For the first time we have received over 400 nominations, which is fantastic. Congratulations to all the finalists here tonight, and my thanks to our supporters and sponsors. This is our fourth awards event and, as ever, it is a joy to bring together such a diverse range of organisations and people from across the city – all delivering valuable work to enable culture and creativity to entertain and surprise.

These are certainly challenging times for cultural organisations and groups, your staff, artists, volunteers, audiences and our communities. It is through much dedication and diligence from yourselves and our partners that we are once again able to celebrate the city's enormous wealth and breadth of arts and culture. This connects with every ward in the city and in lots of different and positive ways, through artistic excellence, improving health and wellbeing, attracting tourism and investment, creating jobs, and opportunities to learn new skills.



Increasing inclusion, partnership and co-production even further in the future will be essential to remain relevant, resilient and distinctly Mancunian. Working with our library network, community venues and events, as well as securing opportunities for new investment, it is important that the cultural infrastructure extends even further into our neighbourhoods. This will increase opportunities closer to where people live, while building stronger links and pathways to the fantastic offer in the city centre.

Thank you to everyone for the contribution you make to arts, culture and heritage in the many forms and ways it takes place in Manchester. I hope you all have a great night.

Don't forget to shout about all the achievements we'll hear about tonight.

#McrCultureAwards





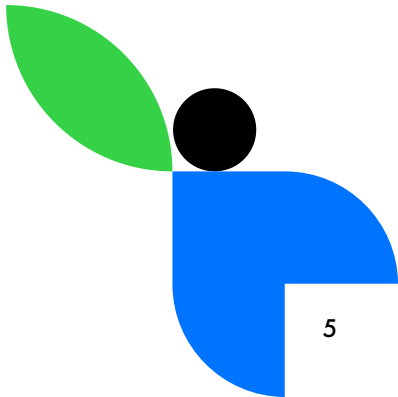
NAZIA MOGRA
BBC TV PRESENTER AND PRODUCER



YOUR HOST

Nazia Mogra is a BBC TV presenter and producer. She currently works for the award-winning regional television news programme BBC North West Tonight. She's also worked for BBC Sport, local and national radio, and more recently as a presenter of the children's TV show Newsround. Nazia is a BAFTA-nominated presenter with a passion for stories from diverse communities. In her 16 years at the BBC she has given a voice to them, as well as deprived communities and women. Nazia tries her best every day to help them express themselves through her work.

Recently, she has been appointed as a Senior Leadership Adviser for the BBC, working closely with its board of directors.



A stylized graphic for the year 2023. The numbers are large and bold, with a 3D effect. The '2' and '3' are white with black outlines, while the '0' is solid black. The '3' has a small flame-like shape above it. Below the year, the text "Our Year" is written in a simple, sans-serif font.

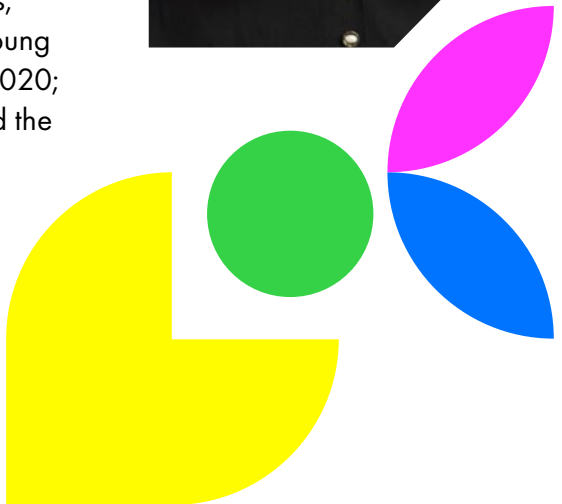
#2022OurYear

Having completed A Levels in Biology, Chemistry and Maths, Ahtasham is taking a gap year to develop as a young creative and to work further on his project, Dawn To The Light, with friends Aaliyah and Demerecce. The role of producer has allowed him to develop skills in all categories and created opportunities such as the role of co-host at this evening's event. His future plans include going to university to study Accounting and Finance, and to develop his video game.



HANS WEINER

Hans is a punk poet and facilitator from Manchester, currently studying BA Honours in Applied Theatre and Community Drama at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts. Their work involves bringing together storytelling and conversations on modern class and sustainable education into pupil referral units and youth groups as an outlet for social change. They also create and perform their own poetry in a variety of locations, such as One Mic Stand and Arts Club Liverpool. They have been a participant at Contact for nearly four years, being involved in Contact Young Company and Future Fires 2020; they have also self-published the book 'In Waves'.





KAO HOVE

Kao is a multidisciplinary artist and director/facilitator who has trained and worked throughout Manchester. Their work includes poetry with Young Identity, music with Reform Radio's HERchester, learning and directing through the Royal Exchange's Young Company, and premièring a scratch one-person theatre show at HOME. Their most frequent connection is with Contact Theatre, working on projects from Contact Young Company, Future Fires, directing Creative Protagonists, and movement direction on The House is on Fire. They regularly host poetry and music night, Drop the Mic, and will soon be hosting Fight For Manchester's Trans Rights fundraiser gig. They like creativity to impact social change, particularly improving mental health, accessibility, and queer human rights. Their ambition is to continue building a creative career, while making projects that benefit these groups.

JUDGES



COUNCILLOR LUTHFUR RAHMAN OBE

Councillor Luthfur Rahman OBE, Deputy Leader of Manchester City Council, is a strong advocate for the role of culture in the development of the city and believes that all members of the community should be able to participate in the broadest range of cultural activities.

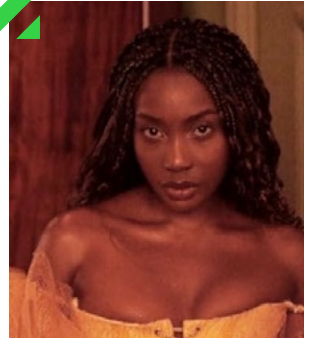


NEIL FAIRLAMB

Neil is Strategic Director (Neighbourhoods) at Manchester City Council. He is responsible for the planning and delivery of local and citywide Neighbourhood Services, including the city's libraries, parks and leisure services, as well as the Cultural Strategy. Neil's other priorities include improving highways, tackling homelessness, improving the Council's social housing stock, and ensuring that neighbourhoods are vibrant and clean. He also leads the Crime and Disorder Strategy, which aims to reduce crime and antisocial behaviour. Neil sits on the board of the National Football Museum, is chair of Manchester Active, and leads on bringing a range of services together with partners in Manchester's neighbourhoods.

PETE COURTIE

Pete joined Arts Council England in March 2019. In his role as Senior Relationship Manager, he co-ordinates the organisation's relationships with local authorities across Greater Manchester and is the lead SRM for Theatre across the North. Before joining ACE, he worked in senior leadership roles in a number of local authorities and cultural organisations, including Islington Council, where he was Head of Partnerships, Place & Culture, as well as Insomniac Productions, and Bernie Grant Arts Centre in Tottenham, North London.



PRINCESS ARINOLA ADEGBITE

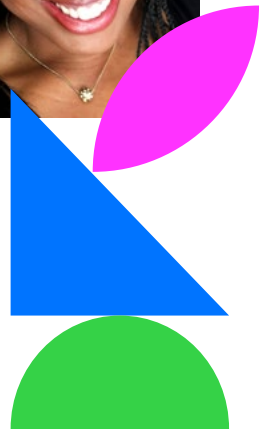
Princess Arinola Adegbite is a multi-award-winning poet, Youth Music-funded musician, actress, author, filmmaker, and BBC Words First artist. She is an MIF artist and active member of Young Identity. In 2021 she won Young Creative of the Year at the Manchester Culture Awards. She's also been commissioned by Selfridges, the University of Cambridge and the BBC.



VENESSA SCOTT

Venessa Scott, known as Vee, is a prolific public artist from the North of England. Recognised widely for her contribution to the arts and cultural sector in the North, her vibrant and joyful pattern-based murals can be seen on walls, buildings and floors across the UK.

Venessa also designed and painted one of the UK's tallest murals. She is an ambassador of The Pankhurst Centre and has been recognised as a 'Great Mancunian; a person who has had a significant cultural and creative impact on the City of Manchester and its surrounding areas'. When she is not adding colour to the walls and windows of cities, Venessa presents art content for children on CBeebies and runs the custodial education organisation SevenThreeOne, which she founded with her sister in 2015.



BEST BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP

BARRY BENNETT LTD AND VENTURE ARTS

The long-standing partnership between Barry Bennett Ltd and Venture Arts has included donations of nearly £10,000 to support artist commissions, technical support for participants, and sponsorship of Venture Arts' major 2021 exhibition, 'Completely A Hustling Place'. The partnership has proved essential, not only in providing financial support to keep Venture Arts going, but to provide a platform for the organisation and the artists it supports.



MCR CONTEMPORARY AND MCR ART GALLERY

Since 2017, the Manchester Contemporary Art Fund has donated funds for Manchester Art Gallery to acquire 14 works from the Manchester Contemporary, which takes place alongside the annual art fair. The fund ensures that the city's collection remains dynamic and relevant, and that those involved follow in the footsteps of the many Manchester businesspeople who founded the gallery and have contributed throughout its 200-year history.



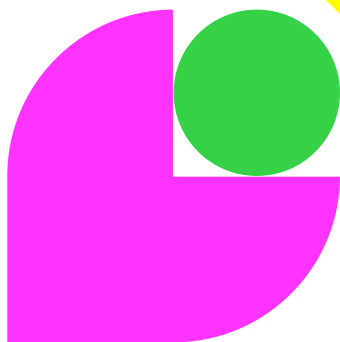
HOME AND ASK REAL ESTATES

In the summer of 2021, HOME and Ask partnered to deliver Homeground, a landmark outdoor arts festival on First Street. Running from May to August, it was created in response to the closure of cultural institutions during the pandemic and offered a safe place for people to return to live events. Ask provided substantial space, funding and support without which the project would not have been viable.



BROTHER AND THE HALLÉ


The 33-year relationship between the Hallé and Brother has survived the pandemic, several recessions and turbulent international events. Its enduring success is testament to a shared focus on supporting diverse communities and young people, as well as building a cultural offer in Manchester to rival any in the world.



ROYAL EXCHANGE AND WARNER BROS DISCOVERY

Royal Exchange and Warner Bros Discovery partnered to develop the Writers' Exchange, a unique scheme supporting writers whose voices are currently underrepresented on stage and screen, and who have experienced barriers to forging sustainable careers.





PROMOTION OF CULTURE AND EDUCATION

MADE

MADE, a collaboration across cultural, educational and youth-sector organisations, provides high-quality cross-curricular creative learning experiences. In 2021/22, MADE engaged 10,000 children and young people across more than twenty projects, creating amazing work at such an important time as we came out of the pandemic. “MADE has given me opportunities to be creative, make new friends, and use my skills to make a difference.” MADE Creative Influencer.





REFORM RADIO

SUPPORTING THE NEXT
GENERATION OF CREATIVES,
CREATORS AND
BROADCASTERS

Reform Radio is an online radio station and arts organisation that works with over 350 young people every year, supporting them to access high-quality cultural experiences, creative skills training and career pathways. Every young person who takes part in Reform Radio's programme is engaged in arts creation, whether they see themselves as an artist or not. By the end of the programme, these young people devise, produce and deliver a live radio show.



SHOOTING STAR THEATRE SCHOOL

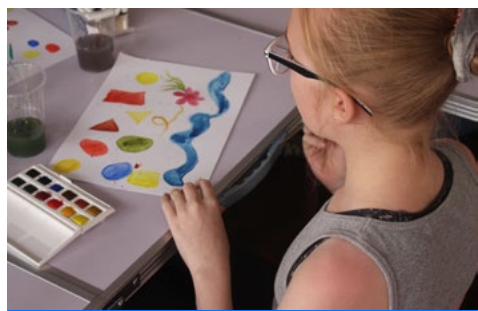
Shooting Star Theatre School is a Performing Arts School in Wythenshawe that delivers high-quality creative learning experiences for 2 to 18-year-olds. Students have successfully attended classes, passed exams and performed at competitions, shows and community events. The school works tirelessly to make sure that the children get every opportunity they can to succeed and reach their dreams.



FUTURE CREATIVES

THE MANCHESTER COLLEGE VISUAL ARTS DEPARTMENT AND MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

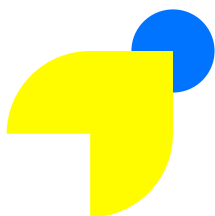
For the 2021 issue of Future Creatives, students created an exhibition and takeover of Manchester Art Gallery. 'Unlock the Love' culminated in a display of visual arts and dance, and a day of positive, collective action. Supported by their tutors and working with artist Jeremy Deller, the students showed their resilience in response to the two-year pandemic.



CREATIVE CITY

SKETCHBOOK CLUB

Creative City's Sketchbook Club in Gorton is a weekly group for local young people to build their creative skills for self-expression, explore big ideas through art, and encounter a wide variety of role models and art forms. The sessions are a safe space to feel creative and free, helping to boost confidence and wellbeing. Welcoming guest artists and engaging with wider cultural opportunities, the group also provides a bridge to other exciting things!





MADE IN MANCHESTER



AMID THE MIRK OVER THE IRK: WHEN IRISH MEETS KLEZMER

Evocative film of an imaginary meeting of Irish musicians from Angel Meadow and Klezmer musicians from Red Bank at the start of the 20th century. The Irk serves as a metaphor for the boundaries faced by newcomers. The film involved Manchester-based artists from the fields of musical composition, spoken text, sound, filming and production, musical performance, aerial footage, and original artwork.



THINGS THAT GO ON THINGS

Created in response to lockdown, COMPACT DISCO was a huge travelling mirror ball on the back of a trailer, with a sound system, lights and exuberant performers. At the Hulme Is Where The Art Is festival it visited those who were isolating on their streets, allowing them to take part. 'Disco Kits' were posted through their doors, with instructions and materials for making things with CDs. There were also other creative ideas and doorstep discos all over Hulme.



MANCHESTER YOUNG CARERS SUPPORT NOT SYMPATHY MUSIC VIDEO

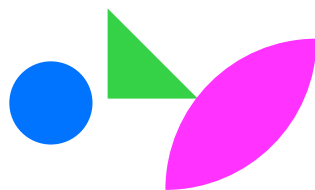
A partnership of organisations and schools worked together with Manchester City Council and over 100 of the city's young carers to produce a song and music video. It has been instrumental in raising awareness of hidden young carers in our city and how small changes can make a big difference.





MAPPING MIGRANT VOICES

Mapping Migrant Voices is an interactive map of musical and oral histories from 70 Manchester-based musicians from 27 countries. The Migrant Voices network connects Manchester children from diverse backgrounds with musical role models, enabling them to see adult versions of themselves as artists on stage.



POSTCARDS FROM OXFORD ROAD

MANCHESTER LITERATURE FESTIVAL AND MANCHESTER POETRY LIBRARY

Postcards from Oxford Road is commissioned by Manchester Literature Festival and Manchester Poetry Library at Manchester Metropolitan University. Poets Hafsah Aneela Bashir, Andrew McMillan and Reshma Ruia wrote poems inspired by their memories and associations with Oxford Road. Postcards from Oxford Road was premièred at the inaugural Corridor of Light Festival.



PROMOTION OF EQUALITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

MICHAEL BISHOP

Michael is a 78-year-old volunteer who, as chair of the East Manchester Theatre Trippers, established relationships with the city's theatres to make it possible for lower-income residents in east Manchester to attend regular performances. This year he also launched a community amateur play reading group for older residents who have difficulty travelling far to the theatre. The group has helped to reduce social isolation.

Mike says: "It's quite simple really! If we all do a bit to give our neighbours and friends something to look forward to, we can all enjoy friendship and bring joy for them – and ourselves."





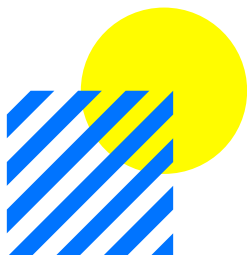
UNCERTAIN FUTURES

Uncertain Futures is a participatory art and research project highlighting inequalities facing women over 50 in relation to work, whether paid or unpaid. It has been co-designed and co-produced by a group of women leaders from Manchester's diverse communities. This evolving project includes an art installation at Manchester Art Gallery, public events, and education initiatives.



MANCHESTER LIBRARIES – LIBRARIES OF SANCTUARY

Following a request by Manchester City Council's Afghan refugee response team, some 100 asylum-seeker families based at airport hotels attended hospitality sessions during the autumn and winter of 2021/22. Manchester Libraries staff and Manchester City of Sanctuary volunteers provided a warm welcome, offering engaging creative children's activities, which assisted with learning English and resettlement.





AFROCATS AND THE WHITWORTH

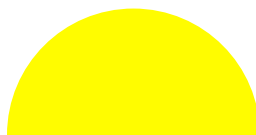
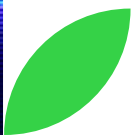
Afrocats and The Whitworth joined forces to connect asylum seekers and refugee families with the gallery. Over three days in February 2021, the gallery was filled with cultural and creative activities that engaged 1,674 families in an inclusive and equitable way; more than 90% were first-time visitors to The Whitworth.



THE OASIS UNITY CHOIR

THE HALLÉ, PZ CUSSENS
AND THE OASIS CENTRE,
GORTON

This collaboration supports vulnerable and disadvantaged people to live healthy, happy and meaningful lives. The choir brings people together, uniting in the joy of singing and providing a diverse community where everyone is welcome and valued.

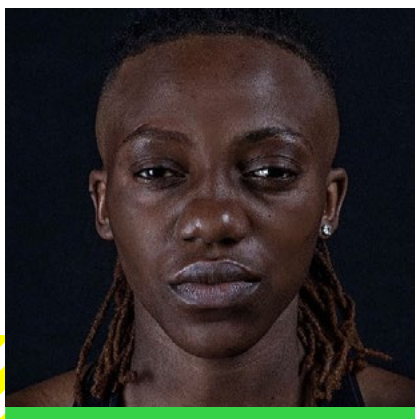


YOUNG CREATIVE OF THE YEAR

YANDASS NDLOVU

Yandass is the founder of I M Pact collective. She is an artist whose infectious energy, laughter, hard work and determination inspire all those she meets. This year, her work includes 'Little Amal' and 'When the Birds Land', as a choreographer with Manchester International Festival; Movement Director for 'Let The Right One In'; and an actor in 'Electric Rosary' at Royal Exchange. Further work includes creative lead at I M Pact Dance Lab with Lowry Theatre; Movement Director at Theatr Clwyd, 'A Pretty Shitty Love'; and choreographer with Young Company Contact Theatre for 'Everything All of the Time'.

"I wholeheartedly believe Yandass is the most exciting and inspiring creative working right now in Manchester."





DANNY HASSAN

Danny Hassan is an inspirational young music producer, composer, guitarist, finger drummer and songwriter from Manchester. He creates a unique sound palette using a blend of real-world instruments, samples and software. Danny is currently a workshop facilitator and in-house engineer at Contact, and his kind nature and willingness to help others is apparent in everything he does. The young people he engages with always leave with more knowledge and a mentor.



MATTHEW NEEDHAM

Matthew Needham is a visual artist and strategic creative based in Manchester.

He advocates finding new ways to integrate queer, disabled and protected identities into institutional art spaces.

Matthew is also a Lead Art Agent with The Whitworth Gallery X British Art Show 9 and works for Young Manchester.

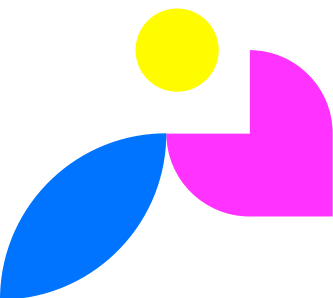
"My colleagues and I all appreciate Matt's endless passion. He is one of the most inspiring young people I have had the privilege to work with."





FAZ BARBER

Faz is an energetic poet, performer, activist, trainee architect and board member. He has received multiple nominations for his inspiring monologue at Contact Young Company's production 'Everything All of The Time'. Faz has recently been appointed to the board at MIF, and works as part of MIF's Young People's Forum. He also had a role within the Hulme Hippodrome campaign and is involved with Young Identity.

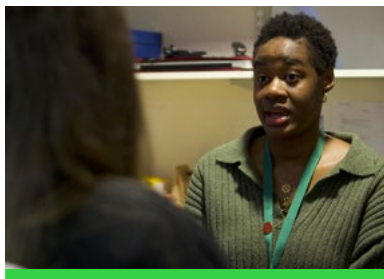


OCEANA CAGE NZENE

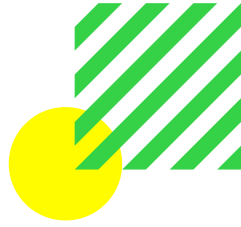
Oceana is an inspirational, passionate and generous young person championing opportunities for young people from Manchester.

She was part of Royal Exchange's Young Company – as a performer, writer and maker, and as a quietly confident natural leader she encouraged younger members. In 2021, she was appointed as Children and Young People Co-ordinator at the Exchange, supporting young people pastorally in workshops and outside sessions.

Alongside her work at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Oceana is a producer at SWITCH_MCR theatre company, founded by Royal Exchange Young Company members. She also curated and produced Save Me a Seat, a weekend festival of work by queer people from the Global Majority.



PROMOTION OF ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

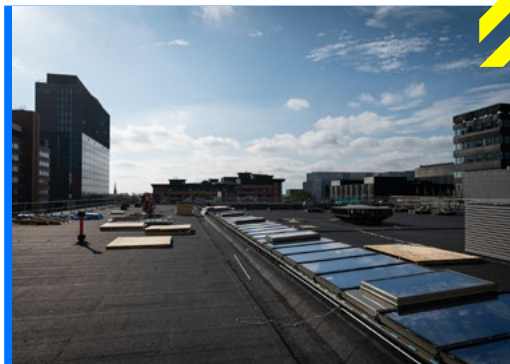
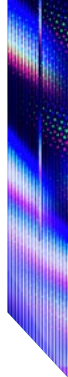


ERGON THEATRE: THE WICKED PROBLEM

.....

The Wicked Problem at Contact was part of Julie's Bicycle Season For Change and Manchester's contribution to COP26. Set in 2060, the audience are jury in the UK's first ecocide trial of an individual. The question asked, "What would you put first: the future of the planet or your family?"





ROYAL NORTHERN COLLEGE OF MUSIC'S ROUTE TO DECARBONISATION

The Royal Northern College of Music has made bold advances on its route to decarbonisation thanks to a £6.5million programme of work. Delivered in partnership with GMCA's Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the substantial project has vastly improved the quality and efficiency of the Royal Northern College of Music's estate as it strives to become zero-carbon.



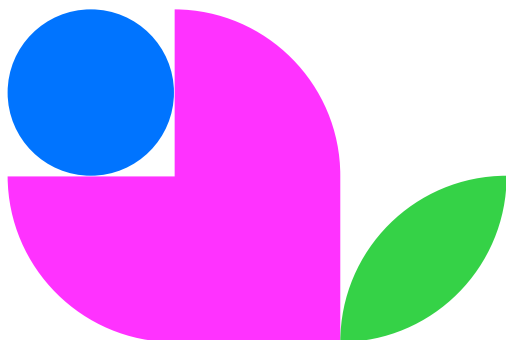
NATIONAL FOOTBALL MUSEUM

The museum's first Carbon Reduction Plan supports Manchester City Council's targets with a £1.9million upgrade to air handling, heating and cooling within the iconic Urbis Building, in addition to improvements across the toilets, café and shop. As a key partner of the 'Roots & Branches' scheme, the museum offered its staff Carbon Literacy Training.



ROOTS & BRANCHES

Roots & Branches is a unique collaboration, passionate about the active role that museums can and should play in addressing the climate crisis and social inequalities. The project creates opportunities for museums to build people's capacity, skills and knowledge, and experiment with new ideas for a more sustainable future.



KULJIT CHUHAN

Kuljit Chuhan is an artist, creative producer, and director of Crossing Footprints, with 15 years' experience of creative climate-justice work. Kooj collaborates with groups underrepresented in the climate movement, such as Ayna Bangladeshi Theatre and Amani African Arts, enabling new and urgent narratives from diverse communities that are most affected by climate change.



INDEPENDENT CREATIVE



SHARON RAYMOND

Sharon uses her creativity and passion to connect new audiences to culture in Manchester. As well as community members, she also meets with CEOs of organisations, as she believes that widening access starts at the top. For the Culture for our Communities project she created and motivated a group of 24 cultural ambassadors to connect over 2,000 people with offers at cultural venues as the COVID-19 restrictions were lifted.



ED WELLARD

WITHINGTON WALLS

Ed leads Withington Walls in his spare time, raising funds and adding artwork to walls, shop shutters, street cabinets and lampposts. He works with local groups, businesses, housing associations, volunteers and artists to deliver beautiful artistic creations in Withington. These have not only brightened up the area, but have also fostered community pride and attracted visitors.

JEZ DOLAN

Jez Dolan is a leading contemporary visual artist, based in Manchester and Salford. In 2021/22, he was artist in residence at Manchester Art Gallery's exhibition: Derek Jarman Protest! Connecting with artists, community groups and audiences, Jez delivered a public-facing programme of participatory activities and new artworks. His residency was crucial in connecting the gallery with the wider queer/ LGBT+ communities of the city, which will have a significant legacy beyond the life of the project.



PHILL HOWLEY

Phill is a professional drummer, composer, producer and educator with an inclusive approach to supporting young people. His passion for music is contagious to anyone who works with him, and he brings unwavering professionalism, calm and creativity to sessions with those from some of the most challenging backgrounds.



EMMANUELA YOGOLELO

Acclaimed Congolese British singer, songwriter and co-founder of African arts organisation, Amani Creatives CIC, Emmanuela has been nominated for her collaboration on cross-cultural music project 'When Musical Traditions Meet and Inspire', for which she delved deep into the folk-music traditions of her native Democratic Republic of Congo. She is an inspiring powerhouse of an artist who continually extends the boundaries of her creative practice. Emmanuela is a truly unique, mesmerising and inspiring artist!



PROMOTION OF HEALTH AND WELLBEING

THE EDGE

This venue works closely with people with learning disabilities, mental health issues, drug and alcohol dependencies, and people who experience homelessness. It also works with ex-prisoners, people who are alone and isolated, and those who have been neglected, abused and discriminated against, enabling them to enjoy creative, fulfilling and life-affirming involvement in theatre.





THE ROYAL EXCHANGE THEATRE WE'LL BE IN TOUCH PROJECT

This project was created in partnership with the Royal Exchange Theatre and Together Dementia Support (TDS), supported by Small Things. Participants living with dementia received phone calls as an opportunity for a creative conversation. A piece of text would be shared, which acted as a stimulus to spark the imagination and creativity of participants.



SOUNDPATHS SICK! FESTIVAL AND BRIGHTER SOUND

Soundpaths is a mobile app that takes users on a sonic journey through north Manchester. Its soundtrack is designed to boost physical and mental wellbeing, and changes as you move along the route. Composer Yoni Collier worked with local artists and communities to record the hums of nature and the urban landscape, incorporating them into his music, and allowing users to experience the area in a new way.





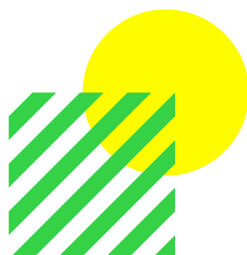
STILL PARENTS

Still Parents is a unique partnership with Manchester Sands charity using art and creativity to support parents who have experienced the loss of a baby. The groundbreaking exhibition has created a platform to share personal stories, open up conversations, and break the silence that surrounds baby-loss.



REFORM RADIO CREATIVE X WELLBEING

Through their online radio station and creative programmes, Reform Radio support hundreds of young people to raise awareness about wellbeing and mental health and to develop self-help strategies. Their programme includes specialist week-long programmes exploring wellbeing through creative expression, a weekly Life Lounge Forum, and a monthly BeWell radio show, hosted by Reform's very own Wellbeing Manager and qualified psychotherapist Dan Owens-Cooper.



MANCHESTER PEOPLE'S CULTURE AWARD

ED WELLARD

Ed volunteers his time to run the Withington Walls, which is responsible for transforming the area with over 100 vibrant public artworks by local artists. As well as fundraising, organising events, securing permissions, cleaning shop shutters, street cabinets and walls, and co-ordinating and championing local artists, Ed involves the whole community in the project.



ALISTAIR HUDSON

Under Alistair's leadership, The Whitworth and Manchester Art Gallery are making positive social changes in the city. Whether giving gallery space to local residents, inviting artists to work with Manchester's communities, or advocating for radical arts education as part of MADE, Alistair uses his position to empower others.





LIZ O'NEILL

Z-ARTS

Artistic Director and CEO of Z-arts, Liz has given national recognition to the UK's only arts centre for children and families. Passionate about hearing the voices of children, families and artists, she is the driving force behind many partnerships that improve creative opportunities for children in Manchester and beyond.



BLOCK CINEMA

Block Cinema is an inclusive community cinema in Wythenshawe offering a range of accessible and affordable films. The inspirational team create a welcoming atmosphere for all. They are committed to offering free cinema nights to volunteers from other groups that make Wythenshawe a happier and healthier place to live.





DRYWAVE RECOVERY CIC

Ben Riley from Drywave is an ex-addict on a mission to bring sober events to Manchester's club scene. The events attract the sober-curious, those in recovery, and people seeking wellbeing activities with a difference. Drywave also support early recovery through creative workshops at their recently built studio in Clayton.

ALL FM

ALL FM broadcast a diverse range of shows in different languages, including shows for carers, those with mental health issues, LGBTQ+ and many underrepresented communities. They provide free radio training for those at risk of isolation. Many unsigned Manchester musicians have had their first radio play on ALL FM 96.9.



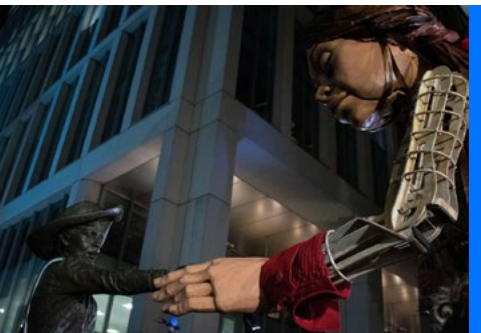
BEST PERFORMANCE

THE GIFT

Z-ARTS AND TOUCHED THEATRE

The Gift is a new early years puppetry adventure commissioned from Touched Theatre by Z-arts to explore friendship post-pandemic. With immersive, highly visual storytelling, the production celebrated Christmas in outer space with grumpy astronaut Noli, a cheeky robot, and a kind star. The Gift performed to 1,078 families, sitting on 342 socially distanced planets.





WHEN THE BIRDS LAND MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

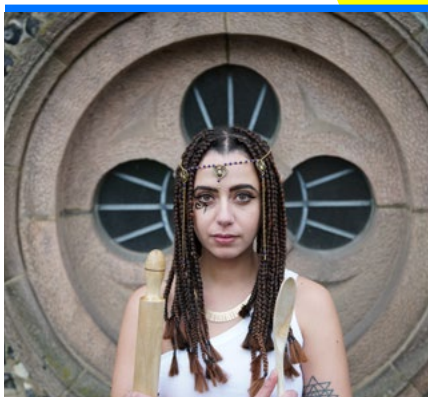
Over 4,000 participants, 110 local performers, three schools, 14 community advisers, as well as numerous charities and community leaders were involved in this free event produced by Manchester International Festival to welcome the refugee girl-puppet Little Amal to Manchester at the end of her journey from the Turkish-Syrian border.



THE BREAD WE BREAK MIRAY SIDHOM

Miray Sidhom's debut solo show was commissioned by Contact, and premièred in March 2022.

A decade on from the Arab Spring, Miray traces the origins of uprisings to the first workers' strike in the pharaonic era, questioning bread's cultural symbolism and using fermentation as a metaphor for social change. "A timely reminder of the vital role protest can play – and a championing of the cumulative power of individual acts of resistance." Circles and Stalls.



SATURNALIA

CONTACT YOUNG
COMPANY

Saturnalia is an outdoor musical performance in Projekts MCR Skatepark. It involves multi-talented young performers, including DJs, MCs, poets, dancers, musicians and storytellers. After a year of isolation and lockdown, it provided the young artists with a much-needed platform. The team and cast created an immersive rave-concept performance, attended overwhelmingly by a young, diverse audience.



THE WIZ

HOPE MILL THEATRE

This was the first UK revival of the seminal Black musical The Wiz in over a decade. Produced by Hope Mill Theatre, it featured an all-Black cast of 14 performers and an all-Black and global majority creative team. It received rave reviews in the national media and multiple Black British Theatre Award nominations.



PROMOTION OF TALENT AND LEADERSHIP

LEVEL UP CONTACT

Level Up is a music project mentored by industry experts and supported by Contact's amazing team. Young emerging artists on the programme develop professional-level skills in music production, promotion and performance.

"Contact undeniably became my first springboard into becoming a self-dependent musician." Former participant





CREATIVE FELLOWSHIP MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

This is a six-month Fellowship programme, which provides mentoring support, a £3,000 bursary, and opportunities to shadow the creation of major festival productions. Fellows were exposed to new networks in Manchester, the UK and worldwide to expand their professional connections and to learn about fundraising, digital content, producing and communications.

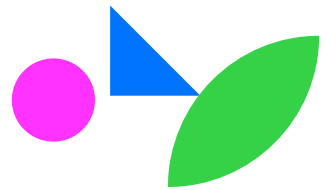
BOTH SIDES NOW LEADERSHIP PROGRAMME BRIGHTER SOUND

Building on the success and impact of Brighter Sound's gender-equality work, this programme specifically focused on providing 120 in-depth leadership development opportunities for women and people of marginalised genders working in music. It included business start-up training for innovators and entrepreneurs, work placements with industry partners, and management training focused on authentic leadership styles.



VIC ELIZABETH TURNBULL

Vic is the founder of MIC Media and has a social mission to amplify underheard voices and stories through good-quality audio, for a richer, more diverse podcast landscape. She works with not-for-profit and value-led companies. A notable outcome was at the National Football Museum, where she trained four young, diverse female community producers to create a women's football podcast.



CHAIR DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME Z-ARTS

A chair development for five trustees from backgrounds underrepresented in arts leadership, the programme included shadowing other chairs, as well as meetings, mentor sessions, online learning and peer reflection. Z-arts are making a genuine difference in what leadership in the arts will look like in future years, as these newly skilled, confident, diverse leaders forge their paths in the sector.



BEST EVENT

HOMEGROUND

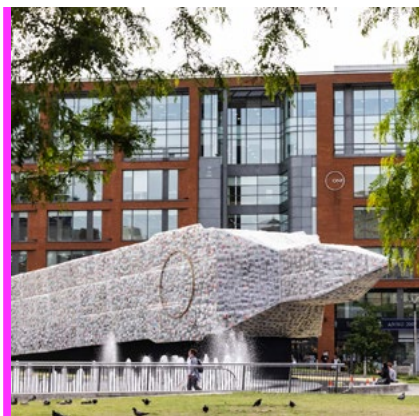
Homeground was an outdoor festival hosted between May and August 2021 at First Street. HOME worked with arts organisations across Manchester to engage over 700 freelance artists after a long period of venue closure, presenting events that included theatre, music, stand-up comedy, family shows and poetry nights. It brought live events back to audiences after lockdown, with 95% agreeing strongly that it helped to create a vibrant and inviting city centre.



MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2021

After months of lockdown, Manchester International Festival returned between 1 and 18 July 2021 for 18 days of culture, creativity and connection. There were 68 events across Manchester, more than 57% of them free.

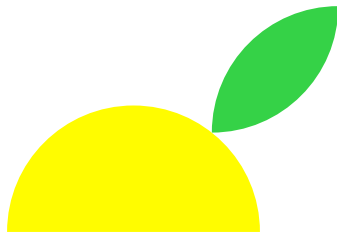
Nearly 6,000 people participated, 1,462,244 attended in person and 1.2million people from 187 countries engaged with the digital programme.



SUBMERGE FESTIVAL

Submerge Festival was full of groundbreaking performances and events in venues across Manchester throughout March 2022. It brought together subversive and underrepresented artists to present ambitious work, bringing radical and diverse perspectives to the fore.

"Not every performance is to everyone's taste, but that's what makes it exciting and thrilling! We need more experimentation and risk-taking like this." Festival-goer





Z-ARTS SUMMER OF PLAY

In 2021, Z-arts delivered Summer of Play, a free programme of safe, creative fun for all ages in parks across Hulme. It was co-created with community groups, including Hulme Artist Network, Friends of Hulme Park, and Z-arts advisory group The Sparklers. Seventy artists and freelancers were employed and 3,099 attended.



INTERNATIONAL MOTHER LANGUAGE DAY MANCHESTER LIBRARIES

International Mother Language Day took place on Monday 21 February 2022, with a wonderful celebration of all the languages spoken in Manchester. Activities in the city's libraries involved a range of multilingual and multicultural communities and partners. These gave people a chance to enjoy one another's unique languages and rich cultures, and taught children the languages and traditions of their parents, grandparents and countries of origin.



BEST EXHIBITION



CANCER REVOLUTION: SCIENCE, INNOVATION AND HOPE

SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY MUSEUM

This exhibition showcased cutting-edge research and engaged audiences of all ages. Developed with people living with cancer, it explored revolutions in research and how science can give hope.

"Cancer is a difficult subject and to turn this crucial aspect of medicine into a highly creative, original and high-quality exhibition experience required daring, expertise and commitment." Exhibition visitor



COMPLETELY A HUSTLING PLACE

VENTURE ARTS

Venture Arts' inspiring full studio show at Manchester Central Library exhibited new visual artwork from over seventy learning-disabled and neurodiverse artists. The exhibition was the studio's first physical show since lockdown and provided a poignant and permanent reflection of a moment in history.

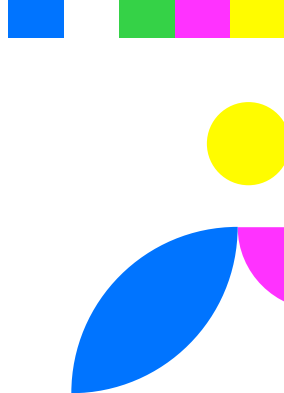
DEREK JARMAN PROTEST!

MANCHESTER ART GALLERY

The exhibition was a major retrospective of the work of one of the most influential figures in 20th-century British culture: artist and activist Derek Jarman.

Showcasing the breadth of his multimedia work, it attracted 125,090 visitors to the gallery during its five-month run and featured a dynamic engagement programme and collaborations.





MANCHESTER HIP-HOP ARCHIVE EXHIBITION

The Manchester Hip-Hop Archive Exhibition at Central Library celebrated the launch of the UK's foremost hip-hop repository and education resource, now homed at Archives+. The exhibition features rare and exclusive visual, audio and physical objects, telling Manchester's incredible untold hip-hop story and spotlighting local pioneers' global contributions from the 1980s to the present day.

POET SLASH ARTIST HOME AND MANCHESTER INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

Curated by Hans Ulrich Obrist and Lemn Sissay for Manchester International Festival 2021, this exhibition brought together the work of 25 poets and visual artists who cross both art forms. Connecting cultures, continents, languages and generations, more than 4,000 visitors experienced this at HOME. Thousands more saw new commissions in the public realm, reaching those wary of returning to indoor galleries as pandemic restrictions lifted.





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