

news

from arts council england, yorkshire



Own art

Own Art

Own Art, Arts Council England's new national interest free loan scheme was launched at the Ikon Gallery in Birmingham in late November. In the Yorkshire region 26 galleries have already been accepted onto the scheme with further galleries in the pipeline.

Own Art's interest free loans are designed to make it easy and affordable for people to buy original, high quality contemporary art with loans of up to £2,000 available. The scheme includes a range of contemporary visual art including painting, glass, furniture, jewellery, sculpture, ceramics and photography – in fact anything by a living artist.

The scheme aims to develop the contemporary visual arts market in England, particularly outside London. It will make it affordable for people to have unique pieces of art in their own homes and at the same time will make it easier for artists to earn a living through their creative activity.

There are 250 participating galleries across the country. A full list of the **Own Art** galleries regionally and nationally and further details about the scheme can be found at www.artscouncil.org.uk/ownart

Own Art is the new national identity for the previous regionally-led art purchase schemes. The new national art purchase scheme was successfully piloted last year. **Own Art** is administered by HFC (a division of HSBC) and managed by ArtCo Trading Ltd.



Nairn I, necklace in 24, 22, and 18 ct gold, silver, beach pebbles, glass, tanzanite, tourmaline and labradorite. Jeweller Deborah Boyd Whyte. Available at Godfrey & Watt.

For further information about the scheme please contact Kelly Amoss, Visual Arts, tel: 01924 486220 or kelly.amoss@artscouncil.org.uk

Quote... unquote

'I am a strong supporter of the Own Art scheme as both a purchaser of pieces of art and as an artist selling through various galleries.'

It increases access to artists for people on lower incomes who ordinarily wouldn't be able to purchase works of art.... It has been a definite asset to me, as an artist, increasing and widening my market substantially and as a result allowing a greater degree of sustainability in my career as a developing ceramic artist.'

Sheila Boyce, ceramic artist

'The Own Art scheme is essential to the development of craft sales and appreciation of the art. It enables galleries to reach an audience that they may not have been able to before the scheme was introduced, and helps galleries to open up the minds of customers and potential art collectors who may have thought of buying or owning art or craft as unachievable or elitist.'

Amanda Peach, Yorkshire Sculpture Park gallery and shop

Yorkshire Sculpture Park has been selling high quality contemporary craft work for over ten years. Its range includes jewellery, ceramics, glass, textiles, wood, metal and wall works.

'The Own Art scheme is a great idea; it encourages people to buy original pieces of artwork. I would never have been able to own the pieces I have bought without the scheme... I am definitely going to use it again. I look at the work I have bought and enjoy it every day.'

Julia Keeling, customer at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park

'I have found being in the scheme really helpful and it has significantly increased sales of pieces that might not otherwise have sold due to being of highish value. People who use the scheme are always very positive about it and like the idea that they are supporting the art and craft industry in a very direct way.'

Kath Libbert, Kath Libbert Jewellery Gallery, Salts Mill, Saltaire

Kath Libbert Jewellery Gallery opened in Salts Mill in 1996 and specialises in showcasing a diverse range of contemporary jewellery by renowned designers and emerging talents from both Britain and Europe. Pieces are often created using a surprising range of materials and techniques with a large choice of hand-crafted and unique jewellery.

'Each time I visit there is always something new to buy. The Arts Council's Own Art scheme is an ideal opportunity to encourage those on a limited budget to enjoy contemporary art and craft in their own homes.'

Peter Hirschmann, customer at Godfrey & Watt, Harrogate

'We were one of the first galleries to offer the Arts Council interest-free credit scheme, and it has been extremely effective in encouraging customers new to the arts to purchase work. They often "fall in love" with a piece of work, but are discouraged by the price tag if it is more than three figures. With the scheme, they feel more comfortable about making the

investment and, once the instalments have finished, they will often purchase another piece.'

Alex Godfrey, Godfrey & Watt gallery, Harrogate

The Godfrey & Watt gallery, which was founded in 1985, combines a shop and exhibition space. The shop has a constantly changing stock of ceramics, jewellery, studio glass, sculpture, paintings and prints, by many of the country's top makers.

'Without a doubt the scheme benefits everybody. The artist sells more work, the gallery gets more custom and the customer obtains art that they had believed was outside their budget. Offering this scheme increases our customer base. Most people do not set aside money for art, being able to spread the cost over ten months allows art lovers to collect without a sudden drain on the monthly finances....'

Andrew Sanderson and Debbie George, Sanderson George and Peach, Holmfirth

Sanderson, George and Peach gallery has been running for nine years. Based in Holmfirth, the gallery exhibits and sells jewellery, ceramics, painting, photography and sculpture from both local and national artists and makers.



The arts celebrate the National Lottery's 10th birthday



The National Lottery's 10th birthday was celebrated across the region in November with several beneficiaries of arts lottery funding holding celebratory events.

In the ten years since the National Lottery began nearly £110 million of lottery money has been invested in the arts in Yorkshire and the Humber. The birthday provided a unique opportunity to showcase the wide range of regional projects funded by lottery money through Arts Council England.

On Saturday 6 November Arts Council England, Yorkshire and Yorkshire Sculpture Park jointly hosted a lottery celebration day. Arts Council Lottery funding enabled Yorkshire Sculpture Park to purchase 237 acres of land called Longside in 1999. The opening of the Longside gallery has allowed the Park to programme temporary and permanent installations and projects in a way not previously possible, as well as giving the public access to a landscape that had been in private ownership for many centuries. Longside Gallery is also home to the Arts Council's Sculpture Collection, and Longside opened its viewing room featuring works from the Collection selected especially for the day.

Other celebratory activities included a family workshop making artwork from seasonal materials, the launch of two new displays of prints by artists Eduardo Paolozzi and Rachel Whiteread, music throughout the day by students from The University



of Huddersfield, an extended opening of the Winter and Hörbelt exhibition at Longside Gallery, dry stone walling and logging pony demonstrations.

Across the region highlights of the celebrations included a family activity day at 20-21 Visual Arts Centre in Scunthorpe; free back stage tours at Stephen Joseph Theatre in Scarborough; the Warsaw Village Band performing at Otley Courthouse; The Summerhayes Piano Trio recital at Helmsley Arts Centre, Dewsbury Arts Group's performances of Magical Mystery Tour; and Primary Colours' school tour of its Cultural Curriculum Project.

Arts Council England, Yorkshire also worked with other lottery distributors in the region to highlight the transforming effect of ten years of lottery investment in communities across Yorkshire and the Humber. As part of the joint celebrations a postcard pack was produced featuring transformational projects from the Big Lottery Fund, Heritage Lottery Fund, Awards for All, Sport England, Screen

Yorkshire and Arts Council England. The postcards were launched at Otley Courthouse, a project that has received lottery funding from Heritage Lottery Fund, Big Lottery Fund and Arts Council England.

There will be an annual Lottery Day each November to raise awareness of lottery investment in good causes. If you are a lottery-funded project and are interested in hosting a special event next year please contact Tamsin Curror, Communications Officer, on 01924 486238 or tamsin.curror@artscouncil.org.uk.



Left to right: Anne Dawson, Jacky Dickins, Daniel Park, Mike Twigg, Vanessa Druett, Joanne Mateer and Andy Carver. Representatives from lottery distributors in Yorkshire celebrate the lottery's 10th birthday at the Otley Courthouse. Photo: Tim Smith

Fellowship programme

Amani Ezzeldin joined Audiences Yorkshire last January to take part in a 12 month paid work placement through the Arts Council funded Fellowship programme, managed by Showhow.

Joining the Showhow Fellowship programme allowed me to move back into the arts and cultural sector and apply my private sector experience to something I have a real passion for. Most importantly it offered a professional development and support programme – an invaluable resource in my career progression.

At Audiences Yorkshire my role as Marketing & Projects Officer has involved undertaking the company marketing, including production of the quarterly newsletter, ebulletins and ecommunications to members, running member networking meetings and organising the annual conference, as well as supporting audience development and research campaigns.

Highlights have included meeting Estelle Morris and DCMS senior officials in London and a week in Holland learning all about the Dutch arts funding system and its approach to areas such as diversity, access and inclusion. What has been really great though is having met such a fantastic bunch of other Fellows, who hopefully will not only become future colleagues but good friends as well. Lastly, I cannot forget the support and guidance from the Showhow team and also my mentor Lucy Banwell.

My fellowship ended in December, and apart from the obvious uncertainty of being unemployed in the New Year, I feel this is a rare opportunity to be able to stand back and take stock, and really decide where I want to be next. I feel very excited about what could be around the corner, and putting all I have learnt to very good use.

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Pyramid of Arts

'It's all about empowerment through creativity – and it takes a long time!'

Pyramid of Arts, based in Leeds, provides arts activities for severe learning-disabled adults working alongside volunteers and professional artists. It also runs a full programme of associated training for artists and volunteers. Its foundations lie in Meanwood Hospital in Leeds.

'Me and my friends started the group at Meanwood Park Hospital because we liked it. I kept going in the snow, wind and rain because I was happy doing it. I'm very proud it is still going.' Mary Brayshaw, member, Pyramid of Arts Swarthmore Group

Mary was referring to the Arts Club, established at Meanwood Park Hospital in Leeds in 1989, when there were approximately 400 people with severe learning disabilities living there. At this time, residents had little regular access to the arts and very few opportunities to meet people outside the hospital with whom they might share common interests.



The Arts Club, which became Pyramid of Arts in 1996 when the hospital closed, was formed to address these issues. Its large-scale, professionally led, collaborative arts projects have been the hallmark of Pyramid of Arts' work ever since.

Fifteen years on, over 100 projects, six carnivals, four films, a CD and several dragons later, Mary, her friends, and many younger people with and without learning disabilities are celebrating an Arts Council award which will help put Pyramid of Arts firmly on the map, as a leader in the field of arts and inclusion.

Julia Piggott, Coordinator, says:

'The advantage of long-term working is now becoming apparent. Learning-disabled members have a very substantial contribution to make to the wider community, both artistically and in terms of education about communication and group work. Their success in one area of their lives is spilling over to affect their whole attitude towards their future in society. But there's plenty of work to do to challenge the attitudes and preconceptions of a community that doesn't always recognise the positive contribution that people with learning disabilities can make.'

The recent Arts Council Grants for the arts award for organisational development will enable Pyramid of Arts to restructure and to extend the range of arts opportunities that it offers to people with learning disabilities. Members are looking forward to working with other established arts and educational organisations that want to involve them in their work, whether as practitioners, participants, trainers or audiences.

Plans for 2005 include a new programme of youth work, a public art project led by artists Joe Cooke and Cath Murphy, training and professional development opportunities for artists, and three arts residencies in Adult Training Centres in preparation for new developments involving the Learning Disability Day Service users in Leeds.

To find out more contact:

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Report highlights cultural diversity in Yorkshire's creative sector

A new report shows that organisations in the creative sector in Yorkshire and the Humber are addressing the cultural diversity agenda in a number of ways. *Cultural diversity and employment in the creative sector*, a Creative Yorkshire research publication, was launched at the Royal Armouries in Leeds in November.

Creative Yorkshire is a programme of research and development activity led by Arts Council England, Yorkshire, the University of Leeds and Yorkshire Forward. It aims to raise the profile of creativity in the region and contribute to the development of the region as a place where creative people can live, work and prosper.

Dr Calvin Taylor, author of the report and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Leeds, commented: **'Although general representation of minority ethnic groups across the creative sector is improving, there is still work to be done in addressing the relative lack of minority ethnic groups represented in senior positions in the sector.'**

Key findings of the research include:

- there is a growing body of work that is being done on improving equality of opportunity in the creative industries
- the performing arts seem to recognise this quite specifically as an area that they need to address and are active in engaging with it
- organisations address the cultural diversity agenda in a wide range of ways, especially in programming and audience development work but less so in terms of organisational development and staff recruitment

- addressing the issues seems to be easier to facilitate in larger organisations and is most pronounced in the organisations with significant public funding
- a majority of organisations in the survey regarded the commitment to equality and cultural diversity as a positive choice
- significant reasons offered for the perceived under-representation of minority ethnic professionals in the business were the lack of role models and the perceived elitism of the arts.

Andy Carver, Executive Director of Arts Council England, Yorkshire, said: **'Arts Council England is delighted to be involved with this new regional report. Issues of race equality and cultural diversity in employment are important areas to address in any sector. The creative sector has made good progress but there is still much to be done to achieve equality of access and progression in employment in our sector. We hope that this project prompts further debate and action across the sector to make more progress towards a workforce that truly reflects our society as a whole.'**

Forthcoming Creative Yorkshire publications include *The voluntary creative sector in Yorkshire and the Humber* and *Visual artists in shared workspaces: resources and facilities*.

Copies of *Cultural diversity and employment in Yorkshire's creative sector* are available at www.artscouncil.org.uk/information and on the Creative Yorkshire website www.creativeyorkshire.com

New welcome for visitors

After extensive building work during the autumn the transformation of the reception and entrance area of the Yorkshire office is complete and ready to welcome visitors.

The project was part of a nationwide look at physical access within Arts Council offices and Leeds-based architects Bauman Lyons developed an attractive and innovative solution for the Yorkshire office.

The refurbished reception area will provide an informal meeting area for visitors, higher visibility from Bond Street and new meeting rooms, all of which meet the Disability Discrimination Act requirements.

We have also commissioned a significant new artwork by Stefan Gec for the reception area. *Untitled (Scammonden)/ Untitled (Ferrybridge)* is a twin screen, digital line animation on a continuous, non-repetitive loop depicting two familiar landmarks on the M62, which bisects the region. This complements an earlier piece for the Arts Council Collection which was commissioned to mark the opening of the Longside Gallery at Yorkshire Sculpture Park.

Scotfit, a Bradford-based contractor, carried out the refurbishment and worked with staff and visitors to enable the office to function throughout the extensive programme of works.



Be part of the annual celebration of contemporary architecture 17 – 26 June 2005

Architecture Week is the annual national public celebration of contemporary architecture. It explores architecture and the built environment via the arts and culture. It is organised by Arts Council England in partnership with RIBA and the Architecture Centre Network.

We would like to encourage architects, artists and arts organisations to get involved in Architecture Week in 2005 by organising events for the public about contemporary architecture, regeneration and the role of arts and culture in our built environment.

What is built around us affects us all, and Architecture Week is a great way to share enthusiasms, debate the issues and introduce more people to your organisation. Applications for funding to support Architecture Week projects and events in 2005 should be made to our Grants for the arts programme.

For further information about Architecture Week in 2005 please email yorkshire.archweek@artscouncil.org.uk or call Sara Trentham, Visual Arts Officer on 01924 486223.

Five commissions for public spaces



Creative Partnerships in Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham collaborated with visual arts organisation The Art House on a series of commissions exploring artists' creative responses to historic sites. Each artist spent five days in residence with a school working on a project which ran in parallel to their own work.

Three sites were selected:

- St Mary's Church in Barnsley, the town's parish church
- Brodsworth Hall, an English Heritage property near Doncaster
- Clifton Park and Museum, Rotherham.

The Hill Primary School from Thurnscoe in the Dearne Valley, Barnsley, became particularly involved with Cesar Cornejo and Deirdre Nelson, who were making new work in response to Brodsworth Hall.

Cesar Cornejo is an architect and sculptor originally from Peru and now living and working in London. He decided to make a large and complex labyrinth piece from laminated wood strips, which was installed on the lawn at Brodsworth Hall and radically altered the view of the Hall when visitors entered it.

'Working with Cesar was fascinating', said teacher Jeanette Lowther, **'He led the children through the process he used when creating a piece of work rather than focusing on what the end product was going to be. He demonstrated relaxation techniques, centering one's self and asked the children to imagine they were the paper, clay or whatever media they were using. This was a very different way of working for us all and gave us an**

invaluable insight into the way he worked. Their finished pieces were of a very high standard and they were all excited by the workshops. His influence on how we work is bringing about change in the way we deliver our arts curriculum.' There were also spin-off benefits in other curriculum areas, such as Maths and English.

The children also worked with Deirdre Nelson, a textile artist who has made a number of site-specific installations by digitally transferring small-scale hand embroidered work to large-scale printed textiles.

In her research into Brodsworth Hall's history she was particularly struck by the story of the textiles there, which had been so infested by insects when English Heritage took over the site that they had to be deep-frozen to kill off the insects. She decided to link the lives of the human inhabitants with those of the insects by discovering characteristics they shared. The pupils from The Hill researched insects too, and began to make their own bugs, learning new skills as well as covering aspects of the science curriculum.

The insects were intricately embroidered, then photographed so that they could be multiplied and digitally printed on to a long runner, which was then installed in a corridor of the Hall. The work included sound and video, in order to create a real sense of animation. Deirdre created a video projection of the insects on part of the carpet, introducing subtle movement to the work. This was accompanied by a soundtrack, which used oral history recordings from the Hall's collection.

The influence of working with artists through this and other projects has been profound at The Hill, where creative approaches to the curriculum are found throughout the school. The impact on the children is also tremendous, as Jeanette Lowther, a teacher at the school observed, **'Deirdre was amazed at the skills the children developed and how confident they were at the end of the project'**.

New national director

Paul Collard has been appointed as National Director of Creative Partnerships. He will provide leadership for the programme, taking overall responsibility for its policy, strategic planning and delivery.

From 2001 Paul Collard was Head of Programme Development for Newcastle Gateshead Initiative with responsibility for coordinating Newcastle Gateshead's bid for European Capital of Culture. In 2002 he became Chair of Arts Council England, North East until March 2004 when he stepped down to take up a full-time role as Creative Director of culture¹⁰, the ambitious £70 million cultural programme which replaced the bid. He is also a member of the Culture and Education Advisory Board of London's 2012 Olympic bid.

As a former General Manager of the Institute of Contemporary Arts, he is internationally known for work in developing pioneering arts programmes.

Paul Collard will take up his new role with Creative Partnerships from January 2005.

Website

For updates on projects and details of how to contact the Creative Partnerships teams in Bradford, Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham (BDR) and Hull please visit www.creative-partnerships.com and select local area information.

The Castleford Project

The Castleford Project is a high profile regeneration initiative taking place in the West Yorkshire town of Castleford. The progress of the project is being filmed by production company Talkback UK and will be screened by Channel 4 as a landmark new series next year presented by Kevin McCloud.

Some of the UK's leading figures in regeneration, design and development are involved with the initiative and £6 million worth of funding has already been raised to start the work. All of the projects were identified as priorities by local people at a series of public events in 2003.

Arts Council England is a partner in The Castleford Project and the initiative is an exciting opportunity to demonstrate the valuable role the arts can play within regeneration schemes, delivering very real benefits to communities.

Already a reclaimed shop in Sagar Street, used as the base for the project, has held successful art exhibitions, including an exhibition of photographs documenting the early years of Castleford-born Henry Moore. Other projects in the pipeline include international artist residencies in association with Yorkshire Sculpture Park and a heritage trail led by Castleford Heritage Group working with two artists and the local community. The Arts Council has been advising the architectural practices working on the project on involving artists in their plans.

Adrian Friedli, Director of Visual Arts and Literature at Arts Council England, Yorkshire, comments: **'We are thrilled to be involved with this landmark project for Castleford. To have leading international landscape designers like Martha Schwartz working on this project is a tremendous boost for Castleford and for the region.'**

'We want to work to ensure that the arts are understood as a crucial and mainstream part of any regeneration initiative and that they reflect the cultural aspirations of the communities involved.'

Work has started on some of the key community improvement schemes. The first scheme, at New Fryston, will be complete by the end of January. Internationally renowned designer Martha Schwartz is creating a new village green. Funded by English Partnerships this imaginative £1 million project includes new seating and green areas, walkways and a modern bridleway for local horse riders. It has been designed to be part of a wider masterplan to revitalise this former mining village with elements that reflect the area's heritage.



Work is also about to start on schemes at Ferry Fryston, to improve an existing community park and Cutsyke, where a spectacular children's play forest is being created on a derelict former council allotments site.

Other schemes include:

- A new pedestrian bridge between the town centre, Lock Lane and Castleford Lock
- Castleford Waterfront – new sheltered seating and river viewing platforms
- Town Centre – relocation of the outdoor market, improvements to Carlton Square and Sagar Street
- Sagar Street gallery/ exhibition space – derelict furniture shop to become Project centre and modern café/gallery

- Tittle Cott Underpass – new pedestrian walkway linking Vickers Street and Carlton Lanes shopping centre and new seating
- Wilson Street – community development and improvements to urban street scene

The Project is a Channel 4 partnership led by Wakefield District Council with English Partnerships and Yorkshire Forward. Other key supporters are CABE, English Partnerships, Arts Council England, Groundwork Wakefield, the Coalfields Regeneration Trust and Waste Recycling Environmental.

For further information about our involvement with this project contact Adrian Friedli, Director of Visual Arts and Literature. Tel: 01924 486245 or adrian.friedli@artscouncil.org.uk

www.channel4.com/castleford



Plaudits

Yorkshire has a strong showing in the nominations for the **South Bank Show Awards 2005**.

Sheffield Theatres' production of *Don Carlos*, directed by Michael Grandage, is nominated in the Theatre category. **Phoenix Dance Theatre** has received a nomination in the Dance category for its programme at West Yorkshire Playhouse and **Opera North** has been nominated in the Opera category for *Eight Little Greats*. The South Bank Show Awards will be broadcast on Sunday 30 January.

Phoenix Dance Theatre and **Northern Ballet Theatre** have received several nominations in the **Critic's Circle National Dance Awards 2004**. Phoenix Dance Theatre has been nominated for the **Company Prize for Outstanding Repertoire (Modern)** and Tanya Richam-Odoi, a professional dancer in the company, has also received a nomination for the **Outstanding Female Artist (Modern)** award.

Northern Ballet Theatre has been nominated for **Company Prize for Outstanding Repertoire (Classical)** and Pippa Moore, a dancer with the company, has received a nomination for **Outstanding Female Artist (Classical)**. David Nixon, Artistic Director has been nominated in the **Best Choreography (Classical)** category. The awards will be presented on 20 January 2005 at the Royal Opera House, London.

At the TMA Theatre Awards 2004 **Opera North** won the **Outstanding Achievement in Opera** award for its *Eight Little Greats* season. Anna Mackmin was awarded the Best Director award for *Cloud Nine*, a **Sheffield Theatres** production at the Crucible. **Opera North's** *Eight Little Greats* has also won the **2004 Manchester Evening News Theatre Award for Opera**.



Public Arts received the award for **Best Use of Public Art** at the **2004 Roses Design Awards**. The award was for *The Green* – a temporary transformation of busy streets in Bridlington, Doncaster, Halifax, Huddersfield and Wakefield into green spaces. The 2004 awards were the fourth annual awards to recognise the work of architects and designers outside the M25 area.

Audiences Yorkshire has announced the results of its **2004 Marketing and Audience Development Awards**. The Awards provide a platform for Yorkshire arts-based organisations to celebrate good practice and innovation in marketing the arts in Yorkshire.

Best piece of print went to Eureka! for the promotion of its SoundSpace Gallery. **Best approach to access and inclusion** was won by *The Beautiful Octopus Club @ West Yorkshire Playhouse*. **Best use of the media** went to Hull





New Theatre for *Saturday Night Fever*. **Most innovative use of new technology** was awarded to Pilot Theatre for *Lord of the Flies*. **Best overall marketing and audience development** campaign went to Opera North for Eight Little Greats. There was also a Special commendation in the **Most innovative use of new technology** category for Cartwright Hall Art Gallery 'The Shooting Gallery' game.

QT Creative, a Huddersfield based web design and PR company, has won **Institute of Export award for 2004**. The award, sponsored by Arts Council England, Yorkshire and managed and delivered by CIDA (Creative Industries Development Agency) is set up to encourage practitioners and businesses in the creative sector to work internationally.

Managing Director of QT Creative, Clare Quartermaine received the accolade for innovative trans-national work undertaken with Meiji University in Tokyo producing a prototype

e-learning product. The award was a stunning wooden bowl designed and made by Hebden Bridge based artist Ian Clarkson.

Paul Floyd Blake has had a piece of work selected for exhibition at the National Portrait Gallery for the annual **Schweppes Photographic Portrait Prize**. *George, the Church of the New Testament of God*, which was part of the Changing Faces of Yorkshire exhibition at Halifax's Piece Hall Gallery in 2004, has been selected as one of 60 images to be exhibited. The selection was made from 8000 entries to the competition.

The film *Change* by young people from **Creative Partnerships** (Barnsley, Doncaster & Rotherham) and CMedia production was selected by the **BBC Blast** series to be screened on BBC2 on 5 December. *Change* is a documentary driven animated film that reveals young people's experiences of change through a visually rich montage of animated sequences.

Starters and leavers

Creative Partnerships in Bradford has recently been joined by **Kathryn Martindale** as Operations Manager and **Danielle Alderson** as Team Assistant.

Kathryn, who has an Art History degree and many years experience working with children on PGL Adventure holidays, returned to Bradford a few years ago to work as an accountant for locally based companies. Danielle has worked for a fashion company in Camden, London, followed by two years in the education sector in Calderdale. She is currently studying for a BA Hons in Creative Arts with the Open College of Arts.

Dr Helen Cagney-Watts joins us as Creative Director for the Creative Partnerships programme in Hull. Helen trained in Russian Ballet in London from the age of seven to 14. She has a first class degree in English and Social History and a PhD in English and American Post Modern Literature. Helen has a background in the University sector, and was a Senior Lecturer with the University of Lincoln.

'I'm really looking forward to this new challenge' she said. **'I have worked in the arts, education and business sectors for a number of years, specialising in creative thinking, so this is a perfect opportunity to consolidate that experience.'**

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