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Press release

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## Bradford 2025 and Bradford Producing Hub launch British Council funded International Artist Exchange Programme

- The International Artist Exchange Programme is designed to connect artists from Bradford with peers across the world
- The programme will prepare local artists to take their work to global audiences for the first time, nurturing new international artistic collaborations
- Deadline for applications is Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 11 pm
- Programme commences online from January and concludes in March 2024

Today, Bradford 2025 and Bradford Producing Hub have launched a British Council funded International Artist Exchange Programme. Designed to connect artists from Bradford with their peers across the world, the programme will empower local artists to take their work to global audiences for the first time. The programme will facilitate and nurture international artistic collaborations ahead of Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture.

The comprehensive new development programme recruits 15 artists from Bradford and 15 artists from outside the UK and is accepting applications until 11pm on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2023. Online workshops, inspirational sessions and 'go and see' online opportunities will commence from January, concluding in March 2024.

Bradford Producing Hub, in its role as Bradford 2025's Cultural Capacity partner, is assembling a team of skilled facilitators with extensive experience in delivering outstanding arts and performance on a global scale. The expertise of the facilitators, including Bradford 2025's Head of Production, Ben Pugh, promises an enriching, and inclusive experience for artists from a range of art forms, particularly those from a performance and live art background.

**Jenny Harris, Head of Producing at Bradford 2025** said *"We're excited to launch the International Artist Exchange Programme in partnership with Bradford Producing Hub, and generously funded by the British Council. This programme has been months in the making, and it is a key milestone for us as we continue to devise and launch creative sector opportunities with our cultural capacity partner, Bradford Producing Hub."*

*As a UK City of Culture, one of our objectives is to showcase and strengthen the local arts and cultural sector, and the International Artist Exchange Programme is one way that we are creating opportunities for local artists that will lead to greater international collaboration. I'm looking forward to seeing the relationships and collaborative opportunities that develop over the coming months."*

**Lisa Mallaghan, Director of Bradford Producing Hub** said, *"We're thrilled to be working alongside our partners at Bradford 2025 to deliver this exciting artist exchange that will not only connect Bradford artists to a new international community of creatives but also highlight Bradford as a thriving cultural city. It's such a rare opportunity to connect with artists from around the world in this way and it's our hope*

*that this programme will give artists the confidence and knowledge to take their work to new global audiences."*

**Skinder Hundal, Director of Arts, British Council** said:

*"Artists and creatives go on journeys, literally and metaphorically, going to places others might not and bringing insight and expression back with them when they do. We are delighted to support an initiative that connects artists in Bradford to their peers around the world, promoting international collaborations and supporting mutually beneficial exchanges of skills, expertise, and insight. Art matters, it gives us a way to express ourselves and our values and to share those with others. This initiative also supports the development and growth of Bradford as an emerging creative hub."*

Prospective artists can join an online information session on Thursday 21 November at 3 pm to learn more about the programme.

Further information about the International Artist Exchange Programme is on the Bradford Producing Hub website at <https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/bph-x-bd25-international-artist-exchange/>

## ENDS

Programme eligibility:

- All applicants must be 18 years old or over.
- **UK artists** must be living or working in Bradford, or from West Yorkshire with a demonstrable connection to Bradford.
- **International artists** can be from anywhere in the world, though priority will be given to countries eligible to receive **ODA funding**.
- **The programme will be delivered in English**  
Participants must have a good understanding of spoken and written English.
- **The programme will be delivered entirely online**  
Participants must have access to appropriate equipment to connect via Zoom and an adequate internet connection to sustain engaged participation including the use of a camera and microphone. If applicants have any access requirements due to a disability, they are asked to highlight this in their application and Bradford Producing Hub will do what they can to accommodate their needs.

- **Applicants must be able to attend all the scheduled sessions**  
The first session, My Practice, My Place will take place in January 2024. The remaining sessions will run to the end of March 2024. The dates will be confirmed in the agreement letter which is shared following the offer of a place.

For press and media enquiries contact Anys Williams or Debbie Bradley at Anita Morris Associates on [Anys@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk](mailto:Anys@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk) / [Debbie@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk](mailto:Debbie@anitamorrisassociates.co.uk) 01943 603311

Alternatively, you can contact Zahra Iqbal, Press Officer at Bradford 2025 at [Zahra.Iqbal@bradford2025.co.uk](mailto:Zahra.Iqbal@bradford2025.co.uk)

## Notes to Editors

Twitter: @Bradford2025

Facebook: [/bradford2025](https://www.facebook.com/bradford2025)

Instagram: /Bradford\_2025

Website: [www.bradford2025.co.uk](http://www.bradford2025.co.uk)

**Bradford 2025** is the organisation delivering the programme of activity for the UK City of Culture 2025. Awarded every four years by Government, the UK City of Culture title has had a transformational impact on previous host cities, securing millions of pounds of investment and acting as a catalyst for creative place-making and culture-led regeneration.

This year, Bradford 2025 is building the foundations of its organisation to be able to deliver a transformational programme of events and activity for (and with) the Bradford district in 2025. Initiatives with key partners are in progress including:

- a Cultural Capital Grants fund with Bradford Metropolitan District Council. Launched in June, the grants are designed to deliver projects that will increase the cultural infrastructure of the district and enable more people – Bradford residents and visitors, to access and participate in cultural activities during 2025 and beyond. 21 successful organisations were revealed in October 2023, with further project updates to be shared ahead of April 2025
- a joint design competition with the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA) to source a design team for an iconic travelling performance venue

Bradford 2025 is aligned with the Cultural Place Partnership which includes Bradford Council, University of Bradford and other representatives of the cultural sector, alongside national funders.

## About Bradford Producing Hub

Founded in 2019, Bradford Producing Hub (BPH) is an arts development organisation that tests radical new approaches to producing work, supporting talent, developing a local arts workforce, and partnering with communities across Bradford to reimagine the city as a thriving creative hub.

BPH supports artists, producers, and small companies through funding, grants, mentoring, training, development, and networking opportunities to establish Bradford as a city that nurtures homegrown talent.

In 2023, Bradford Producing Hub was appointed as the Cultural Capacity Partner of Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk/>

## About the British Council

The British Council is the UK's international organisation for cultural relations and educational opportunities. We support peace and prosperity by building connections, understanding and trust between people in the UK and countries worldwide. We work with people in over 200 countries and territories and are on the ground in more than 100 countries. In 2021-22 we reached 650 million people.

<https://www.britishcouncil.org/>