

**Bradford
Producing
Hub**



BRADFORD 2025
UK City of Culture

Bradford Producing Hub Visual Arts Report

Progress: Jan 2025 to Mar 2026

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Introduction

Since Bradford Producing Hub began supporting the visual arts sector in 2023, we have been tracking progress against my initial needs analysis report (published and shared widely in September 2023) and a second report published a year later. This new report outlines what has happened since September 2024, and particularly how Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture, and the opportunities it has offered, can act as a springboard for continued growth and development.

Whilst we continue to acknowledge that BPH will necessarily take the lead on many of the initiatives designed to meet the needs of the sector, the visual arts strategic group of core district-wide visual arts organisations continues to meet regularly to explore connections, collaborations and mutual support. It includes Bradford Council, Bradford Culture Company, Bradford Museums and Galleries, BPH, Bradford College, Impressions, Saltaire Inspired, Keighley Creative, South Square Centre, HIVE, Yorkshire Contemporary and Yorkshire Visual Arts Network.

Initially formed to address the needs outlined in the original needs-analysis report, it has rapidly become a key strategic driver of action and change for the visual arts in Bradford.

In the following sections, I outline what has been delivered by BPH and visual arts organisations across the district, against the key priorities of the initial report. This is not an exhaustive list of activity and development that has taken place, but aims to pull out some of the key activity in line with the needs identified through the previous reports.



1. Individual Needs

1.1

Professional Support

1. Need: Opportunities to get feedback – experienced artists

and

2. Need: Opportunities to get feedback – newer artists & marginalised communities

BPH seed-funded the establishment of regular crits at **South Square Centre, Saltaire Gallery, Keighley Creative** and **Trapezium**. 81 people attended a crit to April 2025. **South Square Centre** and **Keighley Creative** are continuing to run self-led or facilitated crit sessions. Alison McIntyre, Visual Arts Instigator at **BPH** now delivers **Crit Club** sessions, alternating months with the existing **1-2-1 Support Sessions (2.2.2)** from December 2025

Impressions Gallery held **Portfolio Reviews** in February and November 2025 for 24 early-career photographers to share their practice and gain professional feedback from exhibiting photographers. The portfolio reviews took place as part of *Impressions Photo Conversation* events; days of advice, talks and behind-the-scenes insights into the making of their exhibitions.

3. Need: Support to write funding bids and proposals

BPH have provided cross-artform support for fundraising and writing bids. £145,000 in successful visual arts bids have been supported through training, advice, guidance, letters of support and references to date.

Impressions Gallery has supported Photo Hub North with funding applications.

4. Need: Developing skills in marketing, visibility and finding your audience

Alison McIntyre, Visual Arts Instigator at **BPH**, offers bi-monthly open and bookable **1-2-1 Support Sessions (2.2.2)** to artists at all stages of their careers. 77 people have received support to date.

From Nov-Dec 2025 **BPH** ran a series of workshops in the Promote programme, looking at: creative marketing; using LinkedIn; creating professional phone videos; growing your audience through newsletters; use of AI; and creative networking.



5. Need: Commercial and business development support

From June 2024 – June 2025 BPH partnered with the **Visual Artists Association** to create 20 opportunities for artists to access Premium Membership for 1 year, including support that covers commercial and business development, selling work online, marketing, visibility, and finding your audience. Feedback has been mixed so this hasn't been renewed for 2025-26.

BPH have provided cross-platform business development support for freelancers and organisations through the **Expanding Horizons** (2.1.9) programme, as well as sessions on tax and self-assessment.

6. Need: Understanding the role of Visual Arts Producers

BPH held a **Visual Arts Producer Panel** event in September 2025, hosted at **Impressions Gallery**, exploring the role and how it compares to a curator, how producers and artists find each other, and the different working relationships they build. Participants were keen to attend more events where artists and producers can connect and potentially collaborate.

See also **Propel Assistant Producer** (1.1.7) placement on **The Turner Prize**.

7. Need: Developing a successful freelance career

A new partnership with **Yorkshire Contemporary** led to **Practice: Bradford** – a development programme, part funded by **Bradford 2025**, that was a highly focussed, tailored intervention designed to fast-track development and career progression for four talented, emerging visual artists from Bradford – Joanna Byrne, Atiyya Mirza, Saba Sadiqqi, and Liv Preston. It culminated in an exhibition at Loading Bay in September 2025, which launched **OUR TURN** (1.2.5). The programme included artist talks and workshops for the wider sector – Working With Film/Audio (Daria Martin), Working With Archive Material (Pio Abad & Karanjit Panesar), Sculptural Textiles (Sarah Evelyn Marsh, Stephanie Jeffries & Naseem Darbey), Writing About Your Work (George Vasey) – that met a number of the priorities from the needs analysis:

- a. Developing a successful freelance career
- b. Understanding career pathways
- c. Writing about your work

BPH's Propel (1.1.7) programme included a placement for a Bradford-based Assistant Producer on **The Turner Prize**.

Saltaire Inspired delivered talks by guest academics, curators, and artists in partnership with Saltaire Art Gallery as part of Saltaire Arts Trail 2025.

Keighley Creative are keen to establish a formal artist development programme and have an open-door policy for early-career creatives for experience, advice and access to opportunities.

Opportunities at **Keighley Creative** are all open calls and unsuccessful applicants are added to a database for future contact and call outs.

YVAN partnered with BEAM to deliver UNBOUND, a professional development programme for artists working or wanting to work in the Public Realm. Three Bradford-based artists were included in the cohort.

See also **Visual Artists Association Premium Membership** (1.1.5)

8. Need: Building confidence, self-belief and value

and

9. Need: Training on managing relationships

Visual Artists have benefited from **BPH's Series of Care** programme, a series of sessions including: **Creative Confidence Coaching**, **Maintaining Momentum** and **Master Your Mindset**, which covered working intentionally and sustainably, resilience, setting boundaries, confidently presenting your ideas. More development work is needed around managing relationships.

OUR TURN (1.2.5) dramatically increased confidence, self-belief and value across the sector.

10. Need: Training on how to write about your work

BPH's Promote (1.1.4) programme included sessions in creative marketing, writing newsletters, and use of AI.

See also **Practice Bradford** (1.1.7) for workshops on writing an artist statement and biography.

11. Need: Targeted support for graduates into visual arts careers

BPH Creative Careers workshops: talks for schools and college students to help people understand career pathways in the visual arts. Over 400 students have been reached to date.

Saltaire Inspired provided 'In the Making' subsidised pitches for students and recent graduates of Art & Design at Shipley College as part of Saltaire Arts Trail 2025. This included a CPD session by the team at Shipley College.

Saltaire Inspired programmed the 'Rags to Riches' exhibition project with FdA Textile Practice Students at Saltaire Arts Trail 2025, which included crit sessions with the team at Bradford College.

Bradford College have suggested running a student-focussed Exhibitions Speed-dating event (2.2.3).

Bradford College are actively looking for new live briefs and collaborations with other organisations.

South Square recruited a **Young Curator** and have extended the placement to continue into 2026.

Impressions Gallery's New Focus: Bradford Young Curators project marked the longest and most in-depth professional development programme delivered by Impressions Gallery for nine young people aged 21 to 24 from Bradford. This included more than 80 mentoring and professional development sessions between June 2024 and December 2025.

12. Need: Subject/artform based training

Bradford College are currently offering short courses in **Preparing to Work in the Arts Industry** and **Preparing to Work in Fashion**.

South Square Centre run successful skills-development workshops, including **Still Life Drawing** and **Traditional Glass Painting**.

Bradford 2025's BD: Walls project (1.2.2/3) included a six-month Talent Development Programme of skills development, workshops and opportunities for a cohort of local artists, from the district and surrounding region—looking to take their first steps into professional mural commissions, or strengthen their early career practice. Each month the cohort had access to two sessions, which spanned a range of topics, including practical painting techniques and professional skills, such as gaining work, budgeting, health and safety etc. The demographic of the cohort was significant, as it brought in a majority of women between 25 and 55, into an artform that is typically overrepresented by younger men.

13. Need: Learning how to hang an exhibition

BPH are in active discussions with gallery and exhibition partners on how to embed opportunities for this learning. Feedback from **Bradford Art Show** (2.3.2) also raised the need for support with applying to exhibition call outs, including photographing, framing, pricing and presenting your work – which could be included as part of future **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) programming.

Throughout **Impressions Gallery's** 18-month **New Focus: Bradford Young Curators** (1.1.11) programme, each of the nine curators acquired detailed knowledge and practical experience in every stage of producing a professional exhibition, including hands-on installation work.

Anne McNeill and Jane Hiley at **Impressions Gallery** advised Keighley-based photographer Lisa Holmes with the selection and presentation of her work in the exhibition **CultureCam: This Is Us** currently on show at the **National Science and Media Museum**.

14. Need: Understanding how to work with communities

Through partnership with **Bradford 2025** and their **Our Patch** cohort, **BPH** has delivered in depth training in:

- Trauma Informed Practice
- Co-creation
- Decolonising the Creative Industries
- Disability and Gender Awareness
- Environmental Awareness & Sustainability
- Wellbeing and Avoiding Burnout
- Trauma, Stress and Maintaining Balance
- Goal Setting

More work is needed to open up this training to the wider visual arts community.

15. Need: Supervision/care for artists working in communities

This is an area that needs further development and a broader approach. Processes have been developed and trialled with the **Bradford 2025 Our Patch** cohort, including quarterly peer to peer reflection and support days. **BPH** delivered a session on what we all need to do our work well, at the Our Patch Shared Ground Gathering in February 2026 to develop tangible ideas for action.



Inspiration

1. Need: Go and Sees for visual arts

With so much to see in Bradford in 2025, **BPH's Go and See** visits were put on hold, with plans to revive them later in 2026. The **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) **Steering Group** visited **The Turner Prize** in London early in 2025 and 15 people have taken part in Visual Art Go & Sees to date.

2. Need: International collaborations

and

3. Need: Local inspiration (big name artists in Bradford)

Bradford 2025's programme has brought national and international visual artists and new collaboration opportunities to the district, including **Osman Yousefzada**; **Nationhood: Memory and Hope**; **The Turner Prize**; Luke Jerram's **A Good Yarn** (with Blooming Buds); David Hockney through **DRAW!** and **Painting the Sky**, Saad Qureshi's **Tower of Now**, Bill Bailey's **Extraordinary Portraits**, Anne Hamilton's **We Will Sing**, **The Jameel Prize: Moving Image**, street art through **BD:Walls**; and outdoor sculpture through **Wild Uplands**. Across the programme there were 32 visual art projects and 52 visual artists were commissioned.

International artists also outlined their practice and career journeys through the **Practice: Bradford Online Talks** (1.1.7 above)

BPH's Art of Collaboration (1.3.2) podcast includes interviews with **Jeremy Dellar** and **Charles Hazlewood**.

4. Need: Host a contemporary art/ sculpture Biennial

The Turner Prize came to Bradford as part of **Bradford 2025**, with discussions already underway in the **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) **Steering Group** about models for biennial/future opportunities and a plan to run the festival again in 2027.

5. Need: Highlight BD talent

OUR TURN is a visual arts festival, delivered for the first time from September 2025 to January 2026 by **South Square Centre**, with funding from **Arts Council England** and **Bradford 2025**, and support from **BPH**, to showcase local visual artists when **The Turner Prize** spotlight was on us. It included commissions, Bradford Print Collection, exhibitions at Loading Bay for **Practice: Bradford** (1.1.7) and the open submission **Bradford Art Show** (2.3.2), a writing bursary, and continued learning and development for the Steering Group, who are keen to deliver another festival in 2027.

Opportunities such as existing and new arts trails in Saltaire and Thornton, as well as ongoing discussions about a **Bradford Art Trail** (2.1.2), and **Exhibitions Speed Dating events** (2.2.3) are all raising the profiles of local artists.

Promotion and sharing of local exhibitions has improved. **BPH's Visual Art Socials** (1.3.3) have moved across district venues to help increase visibility and awareness.

Bradford 2025's BD:Walls (1.2.2/3) project commissioned murals from local Bradford artists. **Bradford 2025** also commissioned Carolyn Mendelsohn to develop her **Hardy and Free** project; The People Powered Press' **HOPE/ACT**; and **Tu I Tam/Tyt I Tam**, curated by Tim Smith and Marta Szymańska

Impressions Gallery offered five commissions targeted at local artists in 2025, with the resulting work presented and promoted alongside national and international commissioned artists. Director Anne McNeill nominated two local photographers for Fotomuseum Winterthur's annual portfolio viewing event *Plat(t)form*, with a busary to attend (*outcome tbc*).



Connection and Community

1. Need: Opportunities for collaboration and exchange

Keighley Creative have established a **Studio Holders Group** with bi-monthly meetings.

OUR TURN (1.2.5) showcased Bradford artists, with commissions, the **Bradford Print Collection** and the **Bradford Art Show** offering opportunities for collaboration and exchange.

2. Need: Share career pathways

Visual Art Socials (1.3.3) have included speakers sharing their career or organisational development.

Creative Careers (1.1.11) talks for young people have shared career pathways.

Practice: Bradford Online Talks (1.1.7) have shared career pathways of renowned national and international artists.

The Art of Collaboration podcast from **BPH** includes conversations with local and national artists, including visual artists, around collaborative aspects of their practice.

3. Need: Visual Arts Socials

BPH have delivered nine **Visual Art Socials** since September 2023, with careful planning to ensure collaboration and exchange opportunities, including offers and requests, materials swaps and introductions to local

and national organisations . 301 people have attended in total.

YVAN deliver regular online socials, hosted by Michael Barnes-Wynters.

Impressions Gallery have held three **Photo Social** events since Jan 2025, attended by 128 people

4. Need: Connection in and between studio spaces

BPH are ensuring that support for artist-led communities goes hand-in-hand with any buildings and spaces development work (2.1.3).

Keighley Creative offer support and opportunities for resident studio holders and an artist database. They have also established a **Studio Holders Group** with bi-monthly meetings and hold regular **Maker Fayre & Open Studios** events which introduce new creatives and makers.

Connection in and between spaces has significantly strengthened through the strategic group and the **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) **Steering Group**.

5. Need: Space to play and experiment together

BPH's Play Days, designed to explore new skills or experiences in a playful way, were popular and successful, so it is important to include visual arts in any future programming.



2. Sector Needs



2.1

Infrastructure/ Space

1. Need: A City Centre Art Gallery

Loading Bay, Bradford 2025's city centre temporary events space includes new gallery space which has been well programmed and very popular with audiences. It has now been confirmed that programming will continue until at least March 2027.

2. Need: Informal spaces for exhibition/installation

In November 2024 **BPH** commissioned an R&D project from curator Court Spencer to identify which shops, cafes and bars are interested in being informal spaces for exhibition / installation in Bradford City Centre and what support they might need to develop an exhibition offer. Discussions are ongoing with **Bradford BID** and city centre organisations about how to develop a regular **Bradford Arts Trail** event.

Saltaire Inspired are exploring possible future exhibitions/residency offers at weekends in partnership with Salts Works/People Powered Press.

Keighley Creative have informal exhibition space in their entrance and are developing a more formal gallery space in their new building.

South Square Centre hire out the Community Room for informal exhibitions and community-led events.

Discussions have begun with **Damart** in Bingley about the development of a gallery in their basement.

3. Need: A mid-scale experimental art space

BPH commissioned Rosie Freeman to create a **Building and Space Needs Analysis** that pulled together artists and organisations looking for space and potential spaces that could house them, along with outline financial models.

Bradford 2025's Loading Bay (2.1.1) has provided facilities for mid-scale and experimental arts during 2025.

4. Need: Permanent rather than temporary spaces

Active discussion and progress is underway around a number of options for new permanent creative spaces, including **Bingley Town Hall**, **Bradford Resource Centre**, **Perkin House** and **Loading Bay** (2.1.1).

Keighley Creative's new permanent visual arts space, developed in partnership with **East Street Arts**, will open this year, and will house a gallery, project and studio space in the centre of Keighley.

Saltaire Inspired continues to engage with Saltaire Collaboration Group convened by Bradford Council to identify opportunities for visual artists from across district to access space and resources within Saltaire/Shiplay.

Bradford College are improving their strategy around hiring space for external companies and artists, particularly the Dye House Gallery for external exhibitions. They currently hire space to Amber Lights and Dance United and host The Leap.

Impressions Gallery is continuing to develop plans for a new permanent home in Bradford, whilst taking up residence in the former Bradford Club from April 2026. The gallery's work with other northern photography organisations also continues to advocate for stronger investment in photography and visual arts in the north.

See **Appendix** below for a list of all exhibition spaces across the district

5. Need: Maker Space

and

6. Need: Ceramics Workshop

and

7. Need: Print Workshop

Bradford Museums and Galleries have opened a **Heritage Crafts Workshop** in the Industrial Museum, through which freelance artists and makers can deliver workshops, including print, as well as an option to rent for their own workshop delivery or practice.

HIVE have re-opened in Shipley with excellent new maker spaces for pottery, woodworking and more.

West Yorkshire Print Workshop are moving out of their current locations in Mirfield/Huddersfield and have National Lottery Heritage Funds for an R&D project to explore new locations and buildings. Whilst in very early stages, they are in discussions with BPH about consultation/engagement with key organisations and the print community in Bradford.

8. Need: A community space for visual arts

Keighley Creative's new space will be a key convening point for visual artists and will continue its community focus and ethos.

The proposed **Bingley Town Hall** development would also aim to meet this need.

9. Need: More visual arts organisations

BPH's Expanding Horizons business development support programme, designed for organisations to establish and grow, runs from February 2025 to May 2026 and includes visual arts organisations **Mek Summat, Aire Place Studios** and **Upcycle CIC**. BPH also ran a **Core Funding Readiness** programme in 2025 after the postponing of the ACE NPO application deadline, with **509 Arts, South Square Centre,** and **Keighley Creative** in the cohort.

10. Need: Commitment to commissioning local artists

OUR TURN (1.2.5) commissioned 20 local artists (in a combination of bursaries, project grants and print commissions) to develop new work for the festival.

BPH has commissioned 9 local artists to create new artwork for marketing each of our Visual Arts Socials.

Bradford 2025 commissioned 12 local artists to make short films highlighting their drawing practice and encouraging others to draw, as part of their national **DRAW! Campaign**

Bradford 2025 commissioned local artists through its artist-led programme, including visual art projects from People Powered Press, Summat Creative, Double Pivot, Mek Summat, Razwan UI-Haq and Losing the Thread

Bradford 2025's BD:Walls (1.2.2/3) programme commissioned 26 murals in total, including commissions for Bradford-based artists. Two members of the Talent Development Programme (1.1.12), MOD ONE and Ruth Agbolade, were commissioned to produce murals in the new Darley Street Market.

Bradford Council commissioned local artists to develop new planters for Darley Street Market and created animation opportunities for the launch event.

Bradford Council commissioned local visual artists Nicola Murray, Cat Scott and Naomi Parker for the BD is Lit festival.

Saltaire Inspired continue to support local artists with their long-running Arts Trail and with larger-scale exhibitions at Salts Mill, Caroline Street Social Club and Saltaire United Reform Church.

Impressions Gallery offered five opportunities targeted at Bradford-based artists for major commissions in 2025.

Info and Understanding

1. Need: A visual arts newsletter

While this hasn't been delivered as described, **BPH** has significantly increased sharing visual arts opportunities on their monthly newsletter and are now exploring further segmentation to create artform specific newsletters.

It's On In Bradford (2.2.5) features visual arts venues, exhibitions and events.

Impressions Gallery co-produces the **Photo Connect** newsletter, with open submissions for the monthly What's On newsletter covering photographic exhibitions, events, news and opportunities in the north. Photo Connect is a pilot network designed to champion and support photographers, photographic artists, and photography organisations across the region, in collaboration with Open Eye Gallery (Liverpool) and Side (Newcastle).

2. Need: Regular information sessions

Alison McIntyre, Visual Arts Instigator at **BPH** offers bi-monthly open and bookable **1-2-1 Support Sessions** to artists at all stages of their careers. 77 people have received support to date.

Visual Arts Socials (1.3.3) always include an information sharing element with updates about upcoming projects, opportunities and events.

3. Need: Clarify commissioning and exhibiting processes

After a successful **Exhibitions Speed Dating** event in October 2024, creating a two-way conversation between organisations and artists, **BPH** are exploring how to develop an event with a wider scope that covers other opportunities to work with venues, not just exhibitions.

After delivering the **Bradford Art Show** (2.3.2) as part of **OUR TURN** (1.2.5), **South Square Centre's** evaluation has identified a need to include support on exhibition application readiness, including pricing, framing and photographing your work, and understanding curation practices.

4. Need: A list of exhibition/gallery spaces

This was compiled as part of the original needs analysis work, along with a list of studio spaces. It is updated and maintained informally by **BPH**, included as an appendix at the end of this report, and sent out in a resources document to anyone attending a **Visual Arts 1-2-1** (2.2.2)

Exhibition and gallery spaces can also be found in the venues section of **It's On In Bradford** (2.2.5)

5. Need: A central online What's On and Opportunities resource

It's On In Bradford went live in April 2024, providing a central online What's On resource and details of exhibition/gallery spaces. Opportunities are also listed on the site, but more communication, development and consistency is needed if this is to be the place where the sector posts and looks for all opportunities.

Community and Connection

1. Need: Create a community of bar and café owners keen to exhibit work

The work Court Spencer (2.1.2) has carried out has identified five bar and café owners keen to exhibit work in the city centre. Discussions are ongoing with Bradford BID and city centre organisations about how to develop a regular **Bradford Arts Trail** (2.1.2) event. Bar and cafe owners across the district do show artwork already. **BPH** are looking at sustainable formats for gathering this data in one place.

2. Need: A District-wide Open Show

The **Bradford Art Show**, an open submission exhibition at **Loading Bay** (2.2.1) showing work from 105 professional and non-professional/community artists, was programmed as part of **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) in December 2025. The **OUR TURN Steering Group** are keen for it to be part of future festivals, or running as a separate event on alternate years.

Trapezium also programme an annual Open Exhibition.

3. Need: District-wide Open Studios

New artist-led trails have started to emerge around Thornton and Keighley, with the **Thornton Arts Trail** developing since 2024 to include 20 venues, 45 artists and 4 groups participating in 2025. These could develop into a district wide network of independent events, along with the long-established **Ilkley and Saltaire Arts Trails**.

4. Need: Training for arts organisations on how to work with communities

BPH supported the **Bradford 2025 Our Patch** cohort (1.1.14/15) to ensure they have the skills needed in socially engaged practice, to work well in and with communities. Discussions are underway about how to continue offering a programme of support from 2026 onwards.

5. Need: More visibility for work from marginalised communities (artists who identify as D/deaf, disabled, neurodivergent, come from disadvantaged socio-economic backgrounds, working class, LGBTQ+, the Global Majority)

There have been some significant projects over the past year, many of which were programmed or supported by **Bradford 2025**, including: **The Ramadan Pavillion**; **You:Matter**; Loading Bay's **Frontline 1984/85** and **Tu i Tam / Tyt i Tam**; Cartwright Hall's **Fighting to be Heard**, **Jameel Prize** and **Turner Prize** artists Nnena Kalu, Rene Matić, and Mohammed Sami; Impressions Gallery's **Nationhood: Memory and Hope**, **Bradford Family Album**, and **Everything in the forest is the forest**; artists exhibiting in South Square's **Home Is Not A Place But We Are Home**, **Our Past, Present & Future**, **Faith and Flowers** and **Sky at Salah** by Helina Basseby, **Crumbs** by Ananya Megotia, **Becoming Bradford**, **Activists of Our Time**, and **NEET in Full Colour**; and OUR TURN's **Under the Light**, **Shared Substrate**, **Art Trading Card Social**, **Zine Library**, **Mona and the Moths**, **But where are you REALLY from?**, **Chinese Whispers** and **Bradford Print Collection's** Laura Alice Thompson and Fizah Afzal, as well as a diverse mix of artists in the **Bradford Art Show** (2.3.2)

6. Need: Encourage cross-cultural attendance at events/launches

This is being encouraged by all partners, including the **Cultural Voice Forum** which continues to be the main convener of all artforms and independent artists in Bradford.

7. Need: A Visual Arts Symposium

A symposium was proposed for the **OUR TURN** (1.2.5) programme, but didn't happen this time. The Steering Group are continuing to consider its inclusion in future festivals.

3. Conclusions



Progress has been rapid and impressive since 2023, with the OUR TURN Visual Arts Festival in 2025 providing a significant boost in confidence, connection and visibility, and creating a desire for an ongoing biennial festival. However, we are aware that Bradford 2025 programming and infrastructure has met many of the visual art sector needs during the year, so building on this is imperative to creating a thriving and sustainable visual art sector in Bradford. BPH will continue to support the OUR TURN Steering Group to meet, providing the infrastructure that will support South Square to further develop OUR TURN and the Bradford Art Show as the focal point for the momentum developed throughout 2025.

With more visual arts activity and building development across the district – Bingley Town Hall, Damart’s potential exhibition space, Keighley Creative’s new building, Thornton’s developing visual arts scene, Loading Bay programming until at least March 2027, Saltaire Inspired’s continuing success – Bradford’s visual arts ecosystem is developing as a community that is connected around a district-wide festival, rather than having a city centre gallery or institution as its focal and connecting point. Whilst a general visual arts NPO in the district is still a priority, there are benefits to this model in its potential to be a more democratic and fluid model that doesn’t create institutional barriers to engagement and participation.

Key priorities are:

SECTOR

- Establishing a permanent City Centre Art Gallery, potentially the continuation of Loading Bay, creating opportunities for international collaborations, and bringing big name artists to Bradford.
- Developing OUR TURN into a regular biennial Visual Arts Festival.
- Continuing to push for the development of permanent buildings and spaces for visual arts use across the district, including exhibition, studio, community and specialist making spaces.
- Supporting new visual arts organisations to develop, particularly looking at opportunities for new artist-led groups through the development of new visual arts buildings and spaces.
- The establishment of a general visual arts NPO in the district.
- Continued visibility and support for artists from marginalised communities.
- More graduate support to keep students in Bradford and attract them from other nearby cities.
- Work with It’s On In Bradford to develop the Opportunities section of the site.

INDIVIDUAL

- Training on: managing relationships; readiness for exhibition applications; working with communities.
- Supervision/care for artists working in communities.
- Increase in visual arts producing support.
- Research small funding pots (under £1000) that can enable opportunities to exhibit (venue hire, framing costs etc) and provide support to access them

BPH will continue to work with the Visual Arts Strategic Group and the OUR TURN Steering Group to develop the fantastic work already happening, and to find ways to make it sustainable, allowing us to focus on new initiatives to address what still needs to happen.

This report, the actions and priorities identified, are an ongoing and shared process being led by BPH on behalf and in support of the visual arts sector across Bradford District. If you feel there is anything important missing, misrepresented, or incorrect, please let us know by emailing hello@bdproducinghub.co.uk.

Appendices

Current Exhibition Space

Please contact alison@bdproducinghub.co.uk to update any details or add your exhibition space to the list.

Organisation	Content	Application/hire details
<u>Impressions Gallery</u>	Contemporary Photography	Moved out of gallery space March 2026, currently based at Bradford Club building, so no local exhibitions currently planned. More info
<u>Bradford Museums and Galleries</u>	Cartwright Hall, Bradford Industrial Museum, Cliffe Castle Museum and Bolling Hall	Can only pursue a small proportion of applications received and need at least 12 months lead in time. More info
<u>Bradford School of Art</u>	Dye House Gallery available for free hire outside student exhibitions	Programmed two years in advance. Contact Helen Farrah to discuss ideas.
<u>Bradford Mechanics Institute</u>	Exhibition space to hire	Contact Tricia Restorick to discuss ideas.
<u>Trapezium Gallery</u>	Volunteer run exhibition space in temporary space, available to hire	Kirkgate Centre due for demolition this year, so future is uncertain. Usually an 18 month waiting list for exhibitions. More info
<u>Bradford Arts Centre</u>	Mostly performance but some wall space or festival focussed displays may be possible.	At least 12 months lead in time. Contact Alex Corwin
<u>Loading Bay</u>	Temporary gallery and performance/event space	Programmed by Bradford Culture Company team until March 2027–future unknown
<u>South Square Centre, Thornton</u>	Community Arts Space and Gallery	For details on how to exhibit contact by email
<u>Fountain Street Arts, Thornton</u>	Tattoo studio and gallery/event space	For details on how to exhibit contact by email

Appendices

Organisation	Content	Application/hire details
<u>Bronte Parsonage Museum, Haworth</u>	Programme of artist exhibitions displayed within museum.	Exhibitions have connections to the Bronte's work and landscape. More details here , including link to enquiry form for initial ideas.
<u>Ilkley Manor House and Solar Gallery, Ilkley</u>	Gallery in Grade 1 listed Manor House in centre of Ilkley. Solar Gallery is also within the building and programmed by the Solar Group.	Contact by email with details of what is to be exhibited, artists' statements, price ranges and high resolution images.
<u>Saltaire Inspired</u>	Arts Trail and Makers Fair	Opportunities to exhibit publicised on website/ social media
<u>Salts Mill</u>	Exhibitions of David Hockney's work and other artists they have built relationships with.	Open to proposals, though usually work with artists they have already built relationships with – contact by email with initial ideas
<u>Holding Space Gallery, Dandelion Cafe</u>	Café with exhibition space	Contact by email
<u>The Bingley Gallery</u>	David Starley is resident artist, but also exhibits other artists' work.	Contact through the website
<u>Saltaire Art Gallery</u>	Commercial fine art gallery and workshop space set up by Nina Hunter/Saltaire Art School.	Follow on social media for open calls or contact by email to discuss.

Current Studio Space

Please contact alison@bdproducinghub.co.uk to update any details or add your studio space to the list.

Studio Name	Info	Application/hire details
<u>Keighley Creative</u>	New building due to open spring/ summer 2026 with studio, exhibition and event space.	TBC once new space open
<u>Yarn Studios, Shipley</u>	TBC once new space open	£230-£700 PCM
<u>Dockfield Road Creative Arts Hub, Shipley</u>	12 studios (4 in communal space)	From £120 - £300 PCM
<u>4th Idea Studios</u>	11 studios spread over 3 large rooms with good natural light. Shared kitchen/social space and bookable workshop/exhibition space in basement.	From £100 - £200 PCM
<u>Salts Works, Shipley</u>	Co-working desk and workshops space	PCM for 2 days/week £59 Full time £121 Ad Hoc & 1/3/4/6 days/ week also possible.
<u>South Square Centre, Thornton</u>	11 studios	From £100 to £200 (1 large £270) PCM



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