

CVF Members Meeting Minutes

Date: Monday 22nd July 2024

Venue: Shipley Library (2 Well Croft, Shipley BD18 3QH)

Jessica Swift - Contemporary Artist

- Works primarily in contemporary sculpture and abstract painting, with a focus on colour and texture
- Studied at Leeds Arts University, where she explored various mediums and met influential artists.
- Created the 'Possession' series during lockdown, reflecting her struggle with artistic ownership after being diagnosed with dyslexia.
- Initially struggled to integrate into the local art scene after graduation but gained momentum through connections with South Square Centre and Bradford Producing Hub.
- Participated in over 20 group shows and 4 solo exhibitions, including venues like The Apothecary Gallery, Skipton Town Hall, and The Bingley Gallery.
- Currently teaches at Young Masters Visual Art School, plans the Thornton Art Trail, and runs workshops in schools and other venues.
- Recently closed a solo exhibition titled 'My Life Since University' at The Apothecary Gallery.
- Preparing for upcoming exhibitions, including a group show at Saltaire Festival and an international project in Chemnitz, Germany.
- Started her first full-time job at Kala Sangam as a Marketing Officer.
- Discussed her artistic evolution, the challenges faced during and after university, and the significant support from the Bradford cultural scene.
- Shared experiences and photos from her time in Chemnitz, Germany.
- Provided insights and advice to aspiring artists, emphasising perseverance and confidence in their creative paths.

For more, follow Jess on Instagram: [@jessicaswift_fineart](https://www.instagram.com/jessicaswift_fineart)

Tom Payne (Senior Lecturer at Sheffield Hallam University) - Ark Bradford

- Ark Bradford aims to spark conversations about the climate crisis through art and performance, building on the success of Ark Sheffield.
- Utilises a three-step process involving Curated Conversations, Dialogues, and Public Assemblies to foster community involvement.
- Emphasised five cross-cutting practices of care: eat, move, listen, act, and assemble, to create a holistic and inclusive project framework.
- Discussed the MOVE 2024 program, highlighting recent arts-led activities in Bradford addressing the climate emergency, including film projects, creative workshops, and public tours.
- Invited participants to join upcoming ARK Bradford events, aiming to expand the conversation and impact of the project within the community.
- Encouraging anyone interested in getting involved with Ark Bradford - if you are organising your own activity or if you are keen to collaborate to reach out (contact page on their website!).

www.ark-bradford.org

Rhiannon Hannon - Director of Creative Engagement and Participation at Bradford 2025

- Cultural Capital Fund. Cultural Capital Fund:
 - Supporting 22 cultural venues in Bradford to upgrade facilities in time for 2025.
 - Beneficiaries include Bingley Little Theatre, Ilkley Playhouse, Brontë Parsonage, and the 1 in 12 Club.
 - Specific projects like the African Caribbean Achievement Project, All Star Entertainment, and Connecting Roma CIC are also included.
- Bradford Producing Hub:
 - Strong partnership with Bradford Producing Hub (BPH) to ensure continuous support for local talent and cultural capacity building.
 - Programs include R&D initiatives, explore funds, and go and see opportunities.
 - From October 2022 to March 2024, 521 people participated in creative development, 592 accessed skills-based training, 52 aspiring leaders received development opportunities, and 110 received direct funding for creative and professional development.
- Film Makers in Bradford:
 - FORGE filmmaking lab focuses on developing films, scripts, and cinematic ideas.
 - Offers pitch training, documentary editing, screenwriting, character, and story development.
 - Three films will receive funding, including "The Ceremony" by Cosmosquare Films & Jack King, which will debut at the Edinburgh Film Festival.
- Young Creatives Program:
 - A 16-month work-based training program starting September 2024, ending January 2026.
 - Paid at the living wage foundation rate, recruiting 10 young people aged 18-24 from diverse backgrounds.
 - Includes one day of study and four days of paid work placement per week.
 - Associated initiatives include a Youth Panel and additional apprenticeships.
- Artists Awards:
 - Round 1 winners include Ascendance, Imaran Ali and Tarique Naeem, Deborah Pakkar-Hull and Emma Adams, and several others.
 - Round 2 applications open on 19 August, with a deadline of 30 September.
 - Total pot of £150,000 with a maximum award of £15,000 per project.
 - Designed to reach and engage audiences in the Bradford District with activities culminating between July 2025 and December 2025.
- Community Awards:
 - "Give Bradford" Creative Communities initiative has awarded funds to 32 organisations.

- Awards range from £500 to £15,000 for new activities to be delivered in 2025.
- "Do Your Thing" awards are micro-awards for non-professional/amateur communities, launching in October 2024.
- Networkers Initiative:
 - Approximately 10 posts, aiming for representation of the Bradford population.
 - Selected individuals will help create publicity, translate materials, and engage their communities.
 - Successful applicants will be announced soon, including 5 Community Connectors in host organizations and 5 Creative Practitioners.
- Upcoming Recruitment:
 - Recent freelance call-outs for Engagement Producers, Coordinators, and Project Managers.
 - Future rolling recruitment will include facilitators, artists with expertise in working with children and communities, session support, and education specialists.
- **Save the Date:** Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture tells the story of Bradford people. Many of the events in the programme involve its residents in performances, profiles local theatre and dance companies, and has Bradford born artists at the centre. **They will be unveiling who they are at a city centre event on 12 September.**

Harry Jelley – Producer at Bradford 2025

Heritage Skills Group Discussion

- Facilitated discussions on the use of heritage resources in the creative sector, identifying current resources and gaps.
- Explored the use of archives, museums, and oral histories in creative projects and discussed what additional resources are needed in Bradford.
- Identified key skills that need to be developed within the creative community to better utilise heritage resources.
- Programme aimed at enhancing local heritage resources and providing training to develop heritage skills within the community.
- Keep the conversation going:
 - As a creative sector, what heritage resources do you already use? i.e. archives, museums, oral histories etc.
 - As a creative sector, what heritage resources do you think are missing in Bradford?
 - What skills would you like to develop personally or within your organisations?
 - A Heritage Skills Programme for Bradford
- Reach out to Harry via email: harry.jelley@bradford2025.co.uk

Aisha Khan, Rahila Hussain, Aamta Tul Waheed

- Little Foodies Project

- Little Foodies is Bradford's first dedicated children's food festival, evolved from pop-up cooking events at the Bradford South Asian Festival.

- Aims to teach children and families to cook healthy, nutritious, and affordable meals, celebrating diverse culinary heritages.
- Includes a series of cooking classes and healthy eating events throughout the year, culminating in a large food festival during the summer holidays.
- Designed to have a transformative impact on Bradford's communities by elevating everyday culinary practices into cultural and learning experiences.
- Upcoming events include heritage food and recipe sessions led by an experienced chef, aiming to engage young people and their families in meaningful cultural exchanges through food.
- Make sure to check out Little Foodies on social media. They are excited to delve into cuisines from around the world. If you're interested in learning more or collaborating, feel free to reach out to them at littlefoodiesbd@gmail.com.
Instagram: [@littlefoodiesbd](https://www.instagram.com/littlefoodiesbd) Facebook: [Little Foodies](https://www.facebook.com/LittleFoodies)