

YEAR OF CULTURE 2023



Background...

Following extensive city-wide consultation, Executive Board agreed in March 2015 that **LCC would bid to become a 2023 European Capital of Culture (ECoC)**. At the end of 2017 the European Commission **cancelled the ECoC competition** for UK bidding cities as a consequence of Brexit negotiations. In January 2018 Full Council agreed to see **Leeds host its own 'Year of Culture'** in 2023.

Leeds Culture Trust has been created as the delivery vehicle for LEEDS 2023, with an Independent Chair appointed in 2018 and a board developed.

In July 2019 LCC entered into a **grant agreement** with Leeds Culture Trust, up until March 2024. **The original grant of £12,700,000 has been reduced** due to budget pressures and substitutions have been achieved from the Business Rates Pool and from Leeds' Gainshare allocation, reducing the **Council's total net commitment to £7,231,893**. This will continue to be **properly scrutinised** through the revised grant agreement.

LCC's contribution has leveraged further funding from Arts Council England, British Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, Paul Hamlyn Foundation, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Leeds Community Foundation, Education Partners and 13 Corporate Sponsors, **taking total funding secured to date to £14.1m**.

Introducing LEEDS 2023

Our vision is a thriving city and region where creativity fuels opportunity for everyone.

Our mission is to deliver a landmark year of culture connecting and benefiting people now and in the future.

Diverse, inclusive and sustainable.



What will 2023 look like?

We will **PRODUCE** major events across the year, with something in every ward for everyone.

We will forge **PARTNERSHIPS** across the city, the region, the nation and the world.

We will **PROMOTE** existing activity in communities, the city and wider region and its thriving cultural offer.

We want everyone to have an extraordinary and memorable year!





Some of our goals

- **At least 75% of the city's households** involved in at least one event
- **Participation in culture increased** from people who face barriers
- The opportunity to participate **provided to every young person** of school age
- **Increased knowledge of the history and heritage of Leeds** and its communities

My LEEDS 2023

- **Showcasing the creativity of our communities** by activating Year of Culture celebrations in homes, on streets, clubs and galas across Leeds!

33 Neighbourhood Hosts

- **One host recruited** from each ward. This is a paid role from October 2022 – December 2023.
- Become a **connector for residents** across your wards to access and make the most of the Year of Culture
- Be part of the **Neighbourhood Hosts Training Programme**: learn new skills around creating cultural events in communities in preparation for **The Weekender**



THE WEEKENDER

- Two days in August 2023 **animating every ward with neighbourhood events**
- **33 hyperlocal events** curated and delivered by your Hosts.
- **Bringing your community together** to celebrate the Year of Culture in the way your ward wants to
- **Think street parties; cook outs; mini community carnivals with a twist**





Community grant programmes

- The Neighbourhood Hosts will develop a **community grant programme linked to The Weekender**.
- LCC's **Leeds Inspired programme** will offer further opportunities for communities and creatives to run cultural activities in each ward.



Volunteering with LEEDS 2023

- **We're building a team of around 1000 volunteers** to support all kinds of different activity across the LEEDS 2023 programme
- **Our pool of volunteers will represent Leeds as a whole** and come from every ward of the city to help us Let Culture Loose
- **Volunteers will learn new skills, make new friends and connections and play an active role in their local community**
- **We want to boost cultural volunteering opportunities in the city – in 2023 and beyond!**

We need you!

- **Help us spread the word** about our Neighbourhood Hosts opportunity
- **Recommend anchor organisations** in your areas who could work with the Hosts
- **Talk to us about your ward** – share insider tips and what's going on!
- Get people along to our Roadshows and pop along
- Join the conversation on Social Media and share what you're up to with us!



**Roadshows stopping off
in your ward soon:**

**Morley South – 22nd June @ Morley
Town Hall 6 - 8pm**

**Rothwell – 8th July @ Blackburn Hall
6pm - 8pm**

**Ardsley & Robin Hood – 19th July @
East Ardsley Community Centre 6 -
8pm**

Morley North – TBC



**Let's work together to make
LEEDS 2023 an extraordinary year!**