

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.**





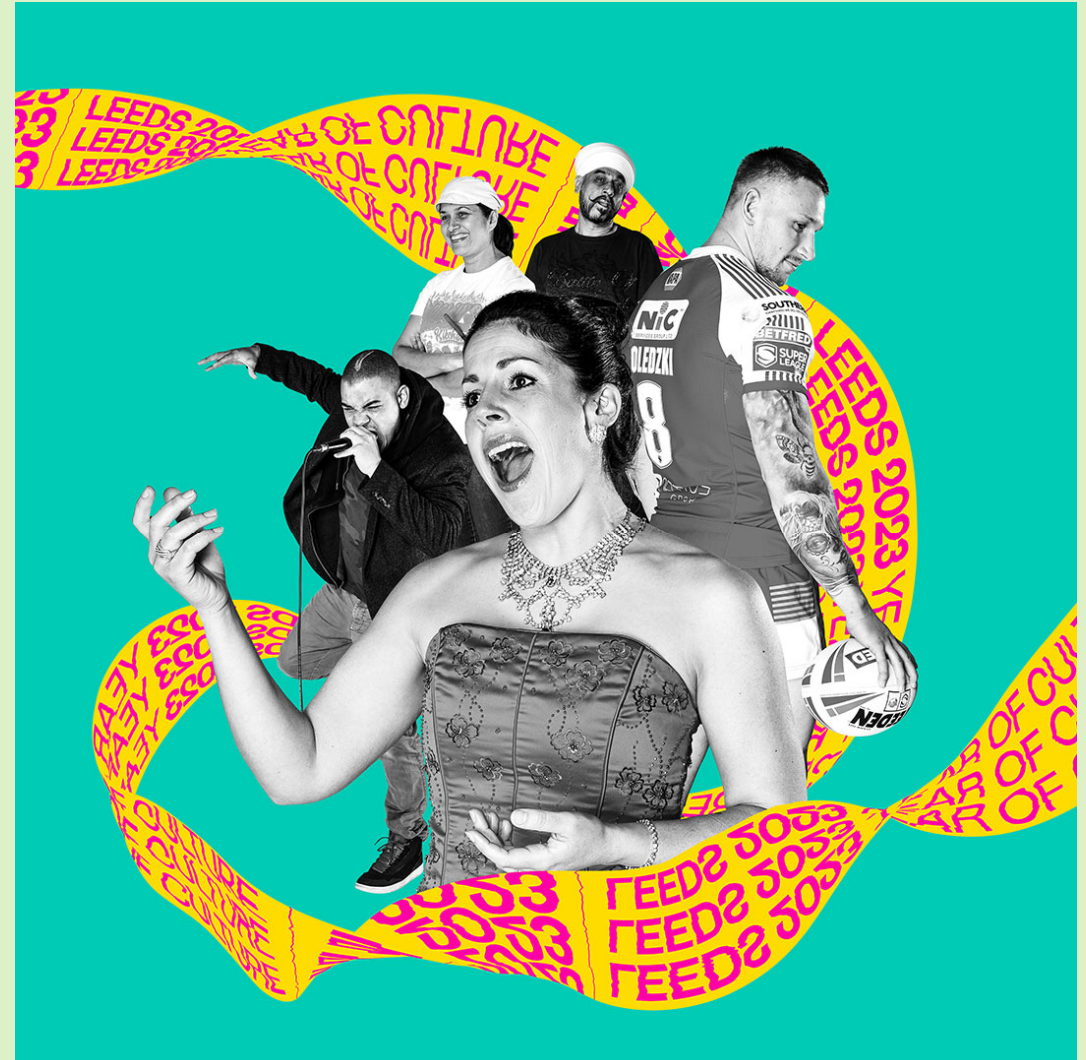
# What will 2023 look like?

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

# What have we been doing in Alwoodley, Harewood, Wetherby?

## Schools

**Katy Hewison** has been looking at Improvised dance with some local primary schools (Wigton Moor Primary)

**Head Teacher Advisory Group:** Grammar School at Leeds

## My World My City My Neighbourhood

**Ali Pidsley and John Wilkinson** have been working with Wetherby Young offenders.

## Hidden Stories

**Harewood House and Lucy Orta** have been looking at food waste and sustainable eating on a local level in the Harewood area.





## 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 that have taken place in your ward:**

**Alwoodly** – 16th May @ Allerton Primary School

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

**Wetherby** – 30th June @ Wetherby Sports Association 6pm til 8pm

**Harewood** – TBC



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