

THE NATIONAL
FESTIVAL
OF MAKING

CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND PLACE



Creative
Lancashire

National Festival of Making
in association with
Creative Lancashire



CONTENTS

3 About & Agenda

5 Context

7 Speakers

8 KASPER DE GRAAF

10 ANTHONY ENGI-MEACOCK

12 DAVE O'BRIEN

13 IBUKUN BALDWIN

15 JENNIFER CLEARY

16 JOSIE CAHILL

18 LAUREN ZAWADZKI

20 NEIL HARRIS

21 QUESIR MAHMOOD

24 Other Talks at Festival of Making

25 ART IN MANUFACTURING ARTIST TALKS

28 IN CONVERSATION TALK

CULTURE, COMMUNITY AND PLACE

What is the potential for place-based arts & culture to affect long-term and effective change in places and communities?

This discussion considers how the work of artists, practitioners and organisations rooted in places and communities can help facilitate more inclusive, equitable, sustainable and cohesive models to enable system change, and how we approach challenges such as social justice, climate action and the circular economy.

| | |
|-----------|--|
| Talk Time | 1–3pm |
| Date | Friday, 7 July 2023 |
| Venue | University Centre Lecture Theatre University Centre Blackburn College (UCBC) St Paul's Street, Blackburn, BB2 1LH |

AGENDA

- 12.15–1pm** **Networking Lunch**
- 1–1.15pm** **Keynote Provocation**
- 1.15–2pm** **Roundtable Conversation — Part 1**
- 2–2.15pm** **Comfort Break**
- 2.15–3pm** **Roundtable Conversation — Part 2**
- 3–4.30pm** **Tour of Art in Manufacturing Exhibitions**



seek
out
some
silence



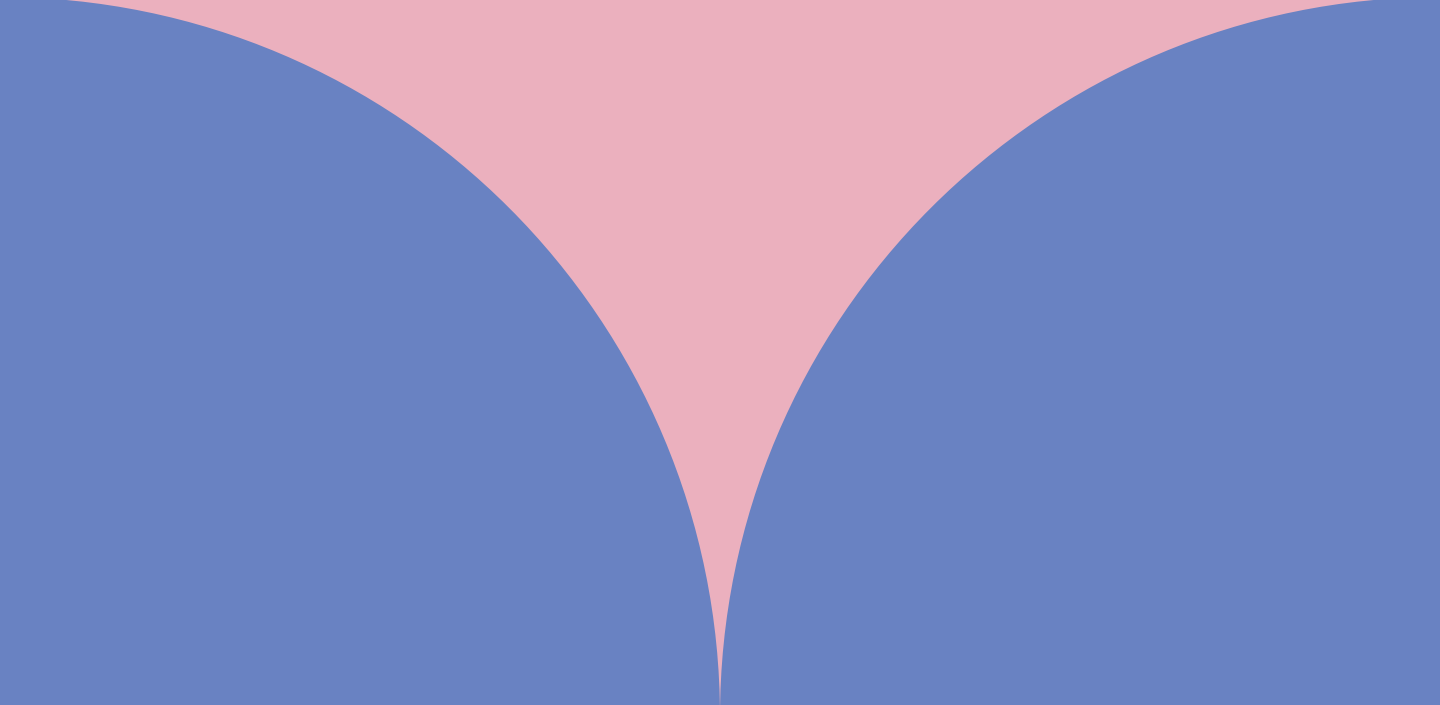
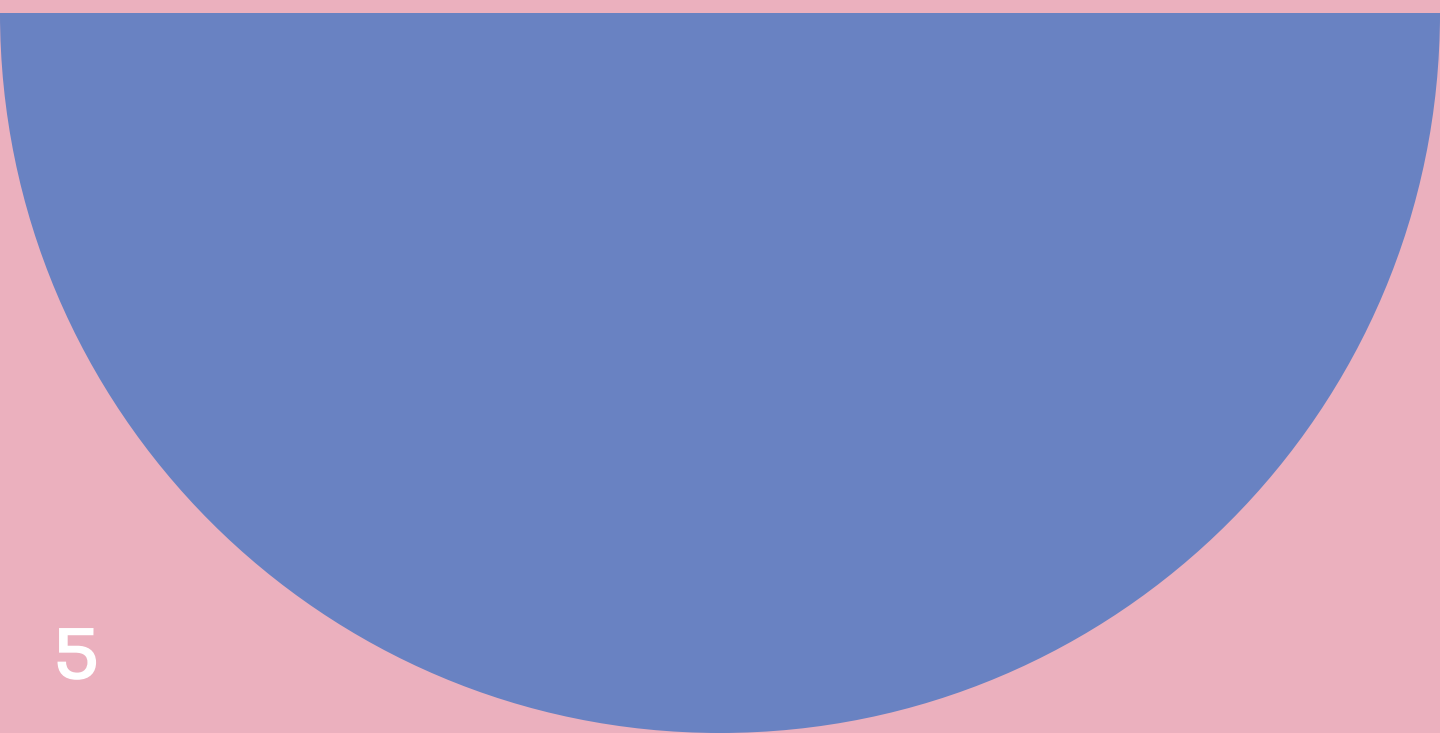
CONTEXT

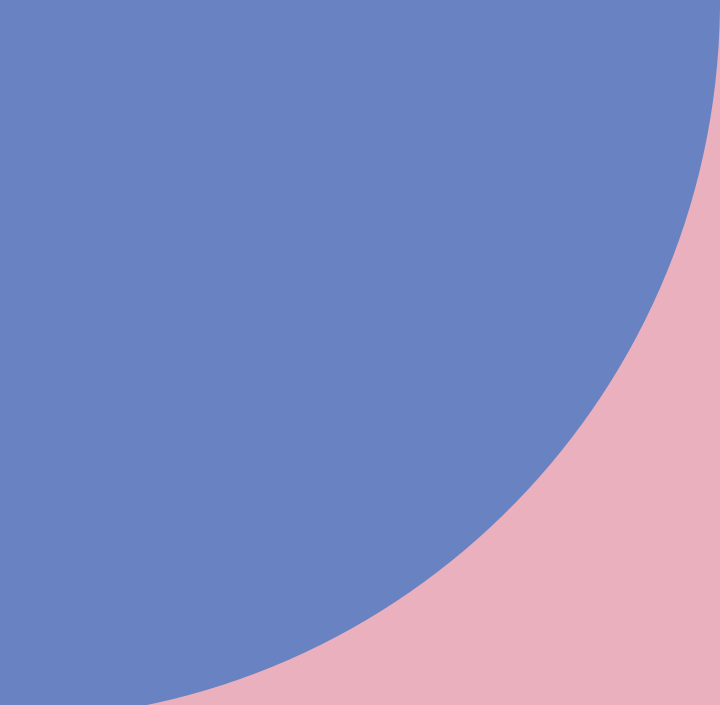
Over recent years, numerous strategies have made the compelling case for how arts and culture can help reimagine our towns, high streets, and also strengthen community ties.

This has been reflected in government initiatives. The Community Renewal Fund, Levelling Up Fund White Paper and UK Shared Prosperity Fund all highlight the role of culture and heritage initiatives in post pandemic recovery and step-change in places.

The influence is evident in Arts Council's 10-year strategy (Let's Create), for how arts and culture can also play a key role in addressing local challenges, strengthening community ties and encouraging more inclusive and cleaner versions of growth.

These themes continue to be explored in the recent Culture & Place in Britain report (ACE & Key Cities – Feb 2023.) The report advocates that culture needs to be positioned at the heart of a renewed drive for hyperlocal devolution to empower communities and drive local growth.





For this extended roundtable discussion, we will bring together contributors from the arts, creative practitioners, cultural organisations, academics, policy makers, strategists and thought leaders to consider:

- **How best do we mobilise culture for regeneration and recovery**
- **How do we reimagine places in a responsible and sustainable way**
- **How do we engage and include under-served communities**
- **What support is needed to best facilitate ongoing engagement**
- **Who are the additional stakeholders, brokers and actors who need who need to be involved**
- **What would the infrastructure or framework look like to support step change in places**
- **How we consider Cultural Memory & Communal Significance in how we encourage a more inclusive approach to projects**

This session will also crucially explore the potential of events such as the National Festival of Making and the role of all stakeholders in an ecology that is needed to sustain effective interventions and influence system design that embeds support for people and communities, creating opportunities to trial new approaches and innovative ideas at the local level.



SPEAKERS

HOST & MODERATOR

KASPER DE GRAAF



CEO, Images & Co.

Partnerships Director,
Design Manchester

Programme Director,
Key Cities APPG Innovation
Network

Kasper is a consultant on urban policy and innovation. He has worked on innovation in cities and organisations for over thirty years, including writing the Legible London study that led to the creation of Europe's largest pedestrian wayfinding system. He has also delivered innovation schemes in Istanbul, Vancouver, Glasgow and numerous other cities. Publications include: Culture and Place in Britain (Key Cities / Arts Council England 2023), Doing Zero: the story (Design Manchester / Nairobi Design Week 2022), Mind & The City (Design Manchester 2021), Cities Driving Recovery and Growth (Key Cities APPG 2021), What Makes a Liveable City? (Design Manchester, 2019), and All Schools Should Be Art Schools? (Design Manchester, 2018).

images.co.uk

designmcr.com

keycities.uk

twitter.com/kasperdegraaf

KASPER DE GRAAF

“Culture reaches the parts that other policies cannot reach. It empowers and enriches individuals, strengthens communities and defines places. Culture should be aligned with other policies that make up a strategy of place, but free to speak on its own terms. Culture-led regeneration is most beneficial when sensitive to the long-term impact it will have on communities.”



KEY GUEST CONTRIBUTOR

ANTHONY ENGI-MEACOCK



Founding Partner,
Assemble Studio

Anthony is a founding partner of Assemble, a multi-disciplinary collective working across architecture, design and art. Founded in 2010 to undertake the Cineroleum, their first self-built project, Assemble has since delivered a diverse and award-winning body of work, whilst retaining a democratic and co-operative working method that enables built, social and research-based work at a variety of scales. They have recently completed a new building at Luma Arles in France that showcases their approach to sustainable design. Assemble were awarded the 2015 Turner Prize for their long-term collaboration with a Community Land Trust in Liverpool, and shortlisted for the 2017 Mies Van der Rohe Award.

assemblestudio.co.uk

[@assembleofficial](https://www.instagram.com/assembleofficial)

ANTHONY ENGI-MEACOCK



DAVE O'BRIEN



**Author & Professor
of Cultural & Creative
Industries,
University of Sheffield**

Dave O'Brien is Professor of Cultural and Creative Industries at Sheffield Management School. He has written extensively about inequality in the production and consumption of culture, as well as on cultural policy, urban regeneration, and cultural work. He is the co-author of *Culture is bad for you* and is a Co-Investigator on the Arts and Humanities Research Council funded Creative Industries Policy and Evidence Centre.

sheffield.ac.uk
[@drdaveobrien](https://twitter.com/drdaveobrien)



IBUKUN BALDWIN



Artist & Social Practitioner

Ibukun is a multi-disciplinary artist and social practitioner specialising in print, illustration and embroidery. Centred in the human, social and environmental, her work has grown out of an awareness of the neglected needs of marginalised communities and the potential role that innovative, contemporary, hand-crafted design can play. Ibukun is also founder of fashion brand Bukky Baldwin Ltd which focuses on the importance of community and providing employment opportunities for marginalised groups. Past commissions include a residency at The Whitworth, exploring community grief and healing with Manchester International Festival and working with Tÿ Pawb to support a group of Wrexham based refugees and asylum seekers in producing accessories and homewares to launch their own micro businesses. Ibukun is one of the selected artists that will be exhibiting at the National Festival of Making this year as part of the associated Art in Manufacturing programme.

bukkybaldwin.com

ibukundesign.com

[@bukkybaldwin](https://www.instagram.com/bukkybaldwin) / [@ibukun_baldwin](https://www.instagram.com/ibukun_baldwin)



JENNIFER CLEARY



**Director Combined Arts
& Regional Director,
Arts Council England**

Jen is part of the national leadership group with responsibility for the development of the national Combined Arts portfolio, and a senior member of the North Area leadership team with accountability for its work across the North West and wider North areas. Prior to working at the Arts Council, Jen was a Director at Manchester International Festival where she worked for 16 years, leading strategic programmes of participatory commissioning and producing, education and engagement, talent development and fundraising. She was a senior contributor to MIF's transition plans into Factory International and wrote the vision for the Factory Academy and the Greater Manchester Cultural Skills Consortium - aiming to transform pathways into the cultural industries. Prior to her career in the cultural sector, Jen worked in Higher Education & the NHS and has a Doctoral degree in Medical Microbiology.

[artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

[@ace_national](#) / [@ace_thenorth](#)

[@Jen1Cleary](#)

JOSIE CAHILL



**Director of Place,
MediaCityUK**

Josie Cahill is responsible for all of MediaCity's placemaking activity from programming the expansive public realm with cultural events and activity, to place branding and marketing, social value, PR, partnerships and stakeholder engagement. As part of this role, alongside Wayne Hemingway MBE, she co-founded We Invented the Weekend – an ambitious free public festival for the region. Before this, Josie spent over a decade in the public sector, starting at the British Council before joining the BBC and working in a range of communications and events roles. She is proud to have been one of the first members of the BBC North project team, delivering the communications and events activity to support the biggest change programme in the BBC's history, the migration of 2,000 staff and departments to MediaCity, Salford. Josie also established and co-chaired 'Women at the BBC' - the BBC's first women's network.

mediacityuk.co.uk

weinventedtheweekend.com

[@mediacityuk](https://twitter.com/mediacityuk) / [@MediaCityUKofficial](https://twitter.com/MediaCityUKofficial)



WHEN
IN
DOUBT...
DRINK!

Weekend =
Me time
Family time
+
Wine

I Like weekend
be (U)ve
I don't go
to school!

TAYLOR
HILL OUT

LAUREN ZAWADZKI



Director & Co-Founder,
National Festival of Making CIC
and Deco Publique

Lauren works across the full scope of the Festival of Making's activities, including commissioning of new artistic work and community relationships. Together with Co-Director Elena Jackson, Lauren shapes the organisation's vision and works to ensure the curated programme upholds the aims of the festival within the context of the regional and national arts ecology. Since 2013, Elena and Lauren have also built their company Deco Publique into an established art, culture and commissioning company. Working across the North of England with artists, communities, organisations and industry they make public art, festivals and creative projects that animate coastal spaces, rural landscapes and urban centres. These award-winning experiences are rooted in people and place. Lauren regularly lectures at partner educational institutions including LIPA, Lancaster University and Blackburn University Centre, and champions talent development within the sector.

festivalofmaking.co.uk

[@festofmaking](https://www.instagram.com/festofmaking) / [@festivalofmaking](https://www.instagram.com/festivalofmaking)

decopublique.co.uk

LAUREN ZAWADZKI

“We are passionate about the use of co-design to empower people and communities to co-create authentic and meaningful place-specific work. No matter what the project, the absolute best outcome is the human-centred result - seeing people come together, take part, interact with one another, the sense of togetherness.”



NEIL HARRIS



Business Manager
Culture, Arts & Heritage,
Wigan Council

Neil is a happy bureaucrat with over twenty years of experience working at the intersection of art and placemaking. His work focuses on unlocking creative potential to deliver local transformative change which empowers communities and cross-sector partners to work collaboratively to develop alternative solutions to social issues by creating shared space for experimentation and exploration. Over the years Neil has fulfilled numerous roles within cultural organisations, local government and national funding bodies, and in his current role works with partners to meet the aims of the Wigan Borough's Cultural Manifesto 'The Fire Within'. Neil is currently interim chair of the GM Arts Network and a member of the Light Up The North Network.

wigan.gov.uk

COUNCILLOR QUESIR MAHMOOD



**Deputy Leader of Blackburn
with Darwen Council**
& Executive Member for
Growth and Development

Councillor Mahmood is leading politically on the borough's ambitious £1bn vision for the future, working with investors to reclaim the borough's position as a major economic centre in the North. The vision is underpinned by impressive new investment frameworks, including the Blackburn Growth Axis and the £250m Blackburn Town Centre Masterplan - the largest town centre development in the whole region - plus the £100m Darwen Town Deal. Work is also underway on Blackburn's new £50m Cultural Quarter centred around the impressive King George's Hall and including the transformation of neighbouring Blakey Moor Terrace. Continuing to develop the borough's cultural offer through strong partnership working is a key priority for Councillor Mahmood - recently bolstered by a £2m boost for the borough's arts, culture and creative industries with Arts Council England investment into four National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs).

blackburn.gov.uk

[@MQuesir](https://twitter.com/MQuesir)

COUNCILLOR QUESIR MAHMOOD

“We’re on the cusp of a major economic revolution here in Blackburn with Darwen.

Our £1bn vision for the future has the potential to transform our economy – making us one of the most important economic centres in the North.

We have a strong heritage here which is celebrated with an exciting new cultural scene with powerful partnerships and we’re incredibly proud to be home to four National Portfolio Organisations, including the National Festival of Making.”





OTHER
TALKS AT
FESTIVAL OF
MAKING

ART IN MANUFACTURING ARTIST TALKS

SATURDAY 8TH JULY

2pm BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL CRYPT

Sarah Marsh & Stephanie Jefferies In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director; and **Stuart McDonald**, Partner & Head of Branch at Herbert Parkinson

*This talk will start with an introduction from **Darren Henley** CBE, Chief Executive of Arts Council England.*

NORTH LIGHT

2.30pm BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL ANNEXE

YESS LAD exhibiting Artists **Barry Anthony Finan**, **Dominic Bennett**, **Horace Lindezey** and **Leslie Thompson** In Conversation with **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair

YESS LAD

4pm TEMPLE GALLERY, BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

Sapien (Steve Anwar) In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of theCoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director

WAVE SWEEPER

ART IN MANUFACTURING ARTIST TALKS

SUNDAY 9TH JULY

12pm OUTSIDE BAILEYS JEWELLERS, NORTHGATE

Jamie Holman Artist and National Festival of Making Chair discusses **QUIVER**, a new public artwork in Blackburn Town Centre.

QUIVER

1pm THE COTTON EXCHANGE

Sam Belinfante In Conversation with **Claire Mander**, Curator of the CoLAB and National Festival of Making Board Director; and **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair

I SEE A VOICE

2.30pm 29 NORTHGATE

Illuminos (Rob & Matt Vale) in Conversation with **Jamie Holman**, Artist and National Festival of Making Chair

PEDDIE'S

 This venue is accessed via a step

3.45pm PRISM CONTEMPORARY

Ibukun Baldwin In Conversation with **Patrick Grant** of Cookson & Clegg and The Great British Sewing Bee Judge

FUNUFACTORY

 This venue is accessed via a step



KEITH BRYMER JONES RETURNS: IN CONVERSATION WITH PATRICK GRANT

SATURDAY 8TH JULY

3pm BLACKBURN CATHEDRAL

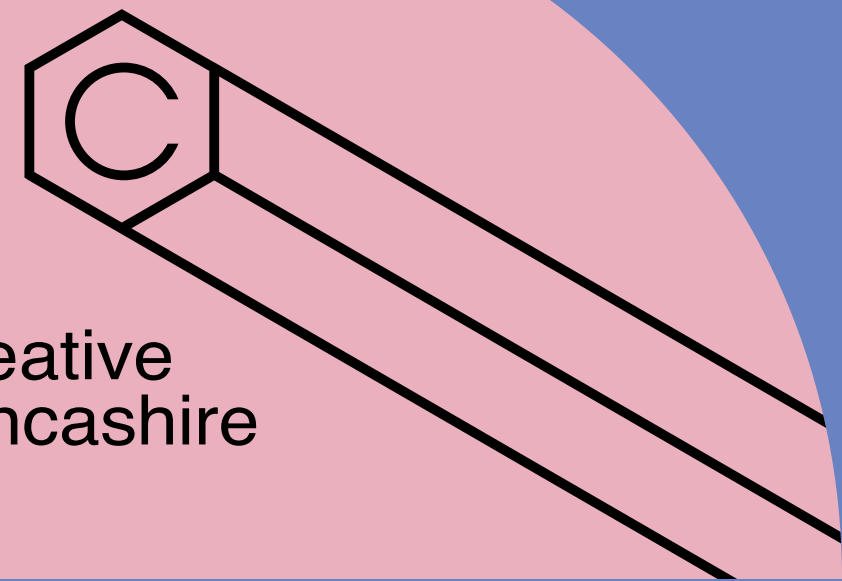
The Great Pottery Throwdown judge, **Keith Brymer Jones**, returns to the festival to discuss all things making and restoration with **Patrick Grant**, judge of The Great British Sewing Bee. Expect more anecdotes and insightful musings delivered with warmth and humour.

This Conversations in Creativity event is delivered in partnership with Creative Lancashire.

creativelancashire.org

Conversations
in Creativity
Explorations in
Inspiration





KEY
CITIES
UNLOCKING
POTENTIAL



Thanks to Active AV, Bondesio Communications,
Cardboard Box Company, Fish 2 Photography,
Source Creative & UCBC Blackburn College

Design by [Source](#) / [@MadeAtSource](#)