

beam



Annual Report 2022

Beam Arts for people and places

Introduction

“2022 was an exciting and productive year as we worked with artists, communities and clients to deliver a wider than ever range of projects. These included completing the final phases of the ten-year Walking Together project at Markham Vale and major elements of longer-term programmes such as Dewsbury Creative Town.

The increasing diversity of our work is reflected through the rural programme Tees-Swale Creatively Connected, Snap Time and Fighting From Home with communities in the Wakefield district and Stairfoot Public Art.

The place-based strategies written during the year show the importance of our work in strategic development and regeneration in the region. Strategic development of Beam included growing our Board and, as part of our work on EDI, commissioning field research into barriers faced by artists with protected characteristics working in the public realm. We will build on the findings in 2023.”

Gordon Watson, Chair of Beam Board of Trustees.



The Shoddy Factory. Photo © Kerry Lemon

Our Purpose

Beam is a cultural development organisation working across the North of England. Our inclusive approach champions, celebrates and engages artists and communities to shape and animate thriving places.

Our work supports positive community wellbeing and economic benefit. We act locally and impact strategically.

Our Core Values

- Enabling artistic innovation
- Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism
- Cross-disciplinary and cross sector team working
- Trust, respect and transparency
- Nurture and support
- Environmental responsibility

Our Vision

Collaborating with Artists to shape inspiring, creative and inclusive public spaces for all, which are owned and loved by their communities.

Our Services

- Creative Producers of public art programmes and commissions
- Place-based cultural strategies
- Public art strategies and action plans
- Public art feasibility studies to support regeneration funding bids
- Artist-led community engagement, creative consultation and learning opportunities
- Artist development and mentoring
- Fundraising and bid writing

Our Collaborators, Partners and Audiences

We work with local authorities, public funders, trusts and foundations, artists, arts and heritage organisations, community groups, education settings, protected landscapes, and the voluntary sector.

Overview

2022 continued to be a busy year for Beam. As we emerged from the pandemic we've been delighted to get back to more in person delivery and face to face conversations.

As Creative Producers, our work in 2022 has encompassed permanent public art commissions, temporary artist-led interventions, creative consultation and socially engaged residencies, in a broad spectrum of urban and rural contexts.

A memorable highlight of the year was seeing the completion of **'Walking Together' a mining memorial trail by artist Stephen Broadbent**, at Markham Vale in Derbyshire, which commemorates the 106 miners who died in three separate disasters at the pit. It was a pleasure to collaborate with partners Derbyshire County Council, the Markham Vale Heritage Group and HBD to achieve this vision.

We are delighted that the National Lottery Heritage Fund committed to support '10 Years of Walking Together', a project that engaged local schools and communities with the mining heritage of the area, and supported a commemorative publication, film, celebration event and other activity. This marked the significant moment of the completion of the memorial after ten years of a phased delivery approach which saw us working with the community to develop the idea, fundraise, research the miners and connect with relatives and the community.

In a regeneration context the three year **Dewsbury Creative Town Arts programme** saw a number of commissions come to fruition in 2022 including Tessella, Saba Rifat's colour and pattern based permanent artwork for the Rishworth road underpass; Harriet Lawson's mural artwork 'Tales from T'Mill', illustrating Dewsbury's textile heritage; and some exciting glazing artwork concept designs for the entrance fanlight of the developing Dewsbury Arcade, from internationally renowned glazing artists - Martin Donlin, Sarah Galloway and Christopher Tipping.

Commissions have been supported by menteeship opportunities for locally based artists and we look forward to continuing this



Fighting from Home by Luke Perry - work in progress.

commitment in 2022 with new commissions, including one linked to the new Town Park and Arts Council supported project 'Time + Place'.

In our home district of Wakefield we were delighted to realise the installation of two new permanent artworks as part of the City Fields residential development - **'Ever Glow' by Graeme Mitcheson** and **'Living Landscape' by Broadbent Studio**.

In Normanton, striking granite sculpted artwork and seating, **'Snap Time' by Michael Disley**, brought the camaraderie of mining heritage to the town centre; and in Featherstone a series of sculptures entitled **'Fighting from Home' by Luke Perry**, were installed at the WW1 memorial woodland, shining a light on non-combat heroes from the town.

Strategic work in Wakefield has included the development of a 'Mural and 2D Art Strategy' for the district on behalf of Wakefield Council.

In Barnsley we saw the completion of two major artworks supporting the identity of Stairfoot which were initiated at the start of the pandemic. **Colour Pop by Lenny & Whale** injecting colour and fun into a play area inspired by the area's transport

infrastructure and **Can You See Us by Andrew Small** celebrating Stairfoots' industrial heritage of producing the iconic Codd Bottle, the local mining community and the brick works.

We continued our relationship with North Pennines AONB to work in the rural landscapes of Teesdale and Swaledale on two pilot socially engaged commissions - **Swaledale Gates with Abre Etteh and Our Country Lives by Joanne Coates** and support them with their longer term planning for 'Creatively Connected' an arts engagement programme.

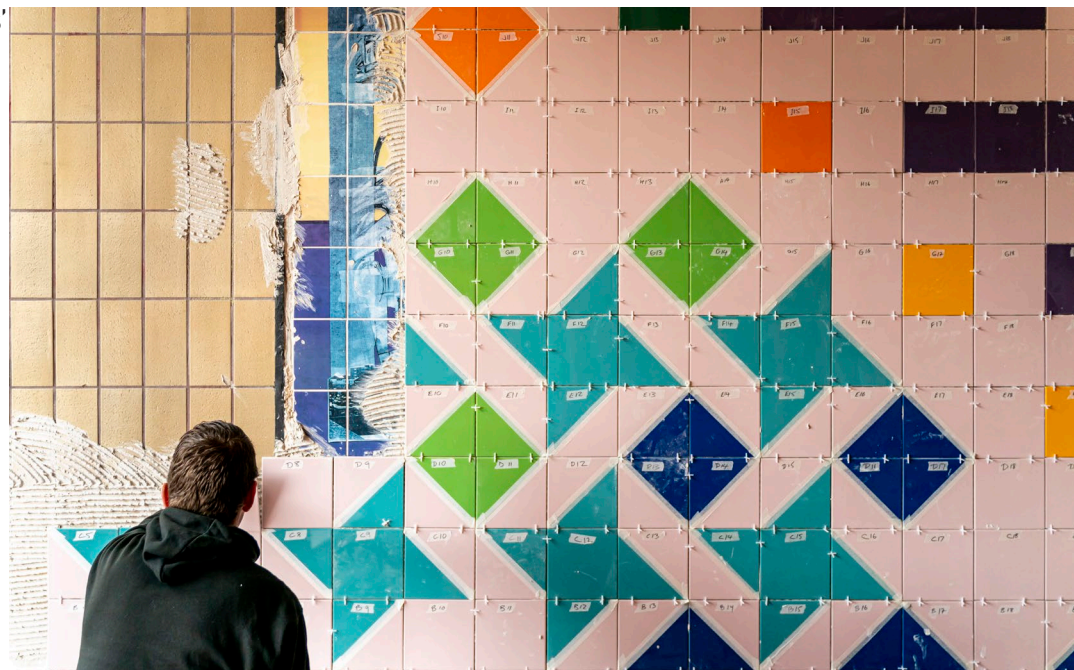
Our delivery focused work has been complemented by strategic work developing place based cultural strategies and public art guidance. In **North East Lincolnshire we developed a new Creativity Strategy** launched in summer 2022, and are delighted to be continuing our relationship through the upcoming development of a '**Public Art Approach**' for the area.

In North Yorkshire we have been working with Selby District Council to develop a '**Public Art Plan for the Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn Areas of North Yorkshire**'.

With Barnsley Council we undertook a **Public Art Audit** and are currently developing a **Public Art Guidance** document for the borough, and with North Lincolnshire Council we developed a public art feasibility study for regeneration in Scunthorpe Town centre to support broader funding bids.

It's been exciting to work with the higher education sector in 2022 - with the **University of Nottingham Business School** on a live project brief with MA Creative Entrepreneurship students, and to continue our relationship with PhD candidate Katie Lee and the University of Leeds School of Geography. Katie has been continuing to explore '**Public Arts for Inclusive Placemaking**' in the context of Beam's 35 year + archive, focusing on projects at Markham Vale, Featherstone and the award winning touring sculptural intervention 'The Green'.

Our board has seen some exciting changes in 2022 with the appointment of a new Chair of Trustees, museums and galleries professional Gordon Watson, and new additions of built environment professionals Sanaa Shaikh & Jess Richmond and communications specialist Henri Pearson.



Tessella by Saba Rifat - work in progress. Photo © Lucille Moore.

We were sad to say goodbye to long standing Chair Sharon Gill and Trustee Debbie MacTaggart and thank them both for their invaluable contributions over the years.

In the summer we were very happy to be able to bring the board of trustees together for a physical awayday session hosted in the inspirational surroundings of the new Leeds Beckett University Creative Arts building, to focus our board around our newly launched business plan for 2022-26.

We were excited to build on our Equity, Diversity and Inclusion menteeship in 2021 with Inc Arts, by investing in the freelance role of '**Diverse Artist Network Coordinator**' in 2022. We welcomed Bosedá Olawoye in spring 2022 to undertake field research into the barriers faced by artists with protected characteristics delivering work in the public realm.

Bo's report is due to be published early in 2023 and will inform the direction of our future work supporting artists from diverse backgrounds working in the area of art in public spaces.

Creative Commissions



The Shoddy Factory by Kerry Lemon. Photo © Kerry Lemon

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts Programme

Kirklees Council

We are producing the 3 year [Dewsbury Creative Town arts programme](#) 2019-23, which is part of the Dewsbury Blueprint 10-year plan to revitalise the town. The programme includes a wide range of permanent and temporary public art interventions and aims to provide residents, businesses and community groups with opportunities to engage with art and get involved in the commissioning process.

DCT aims to enhance the overall physical experience of the town centre for residents and visitors, promote positive health and wellbeing amongst the community, as well as providing a valuable platform and support for local emerging artists to showcase their skills and develop their practice. Images from some of the recent commissions are featured by Cubic Fruit, Daylight Robbery, [Kerry Lemon](#), [Harriet Lawson](#) and [Saba Rifat](#) as well as concept designs developed for The Arcade by Renowned glazing artists [Martin Donlin](#), [Sarah Galloway](#) and [Chris Tipping](#).

Kerry Lemon has been commissioned to create a permanent artwork inspired by the cultural heritage of the town that will be integrated into the floorscape of the new Dewsbury Market. Kerry engaged 158 residents and school children in her design development through the [Shoddy Factory event](#).

Artist Collective Cubic Fruit has been appointed to transform shipping containers in the town centre which traders will use whilst they relocate during the £15million revamp of Dewsbury Market. [Cubic Fruit](#) have developed a unique and vibrant design for the temporary market which will be applied using multiple surface application techniques and have held numerous open days to engage traders and the public.

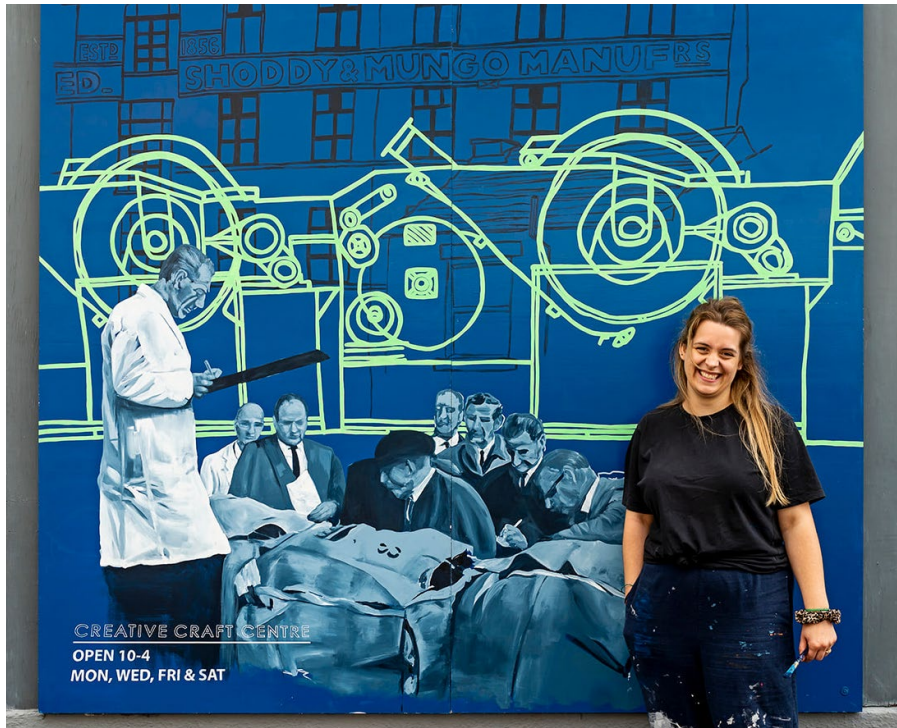
The design includes a bespoke 3D typography element to “put the market on the map”. The letters D, U, R and Y are from a former Superdry sign at the White Rose Centre in Leeds which have been rescued from a local reclamation yard, re-surfaced and are now awaiting their final respray finish.

The other letters – E, W, S and B – have been designed by Emmeline North and fabricated by Mick Kirkby Geddes and Rebecca Appleby.



Dewsbury Letters work in progress by Cubic Fruit. Photo © Phil Drakett

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts Programme cont....



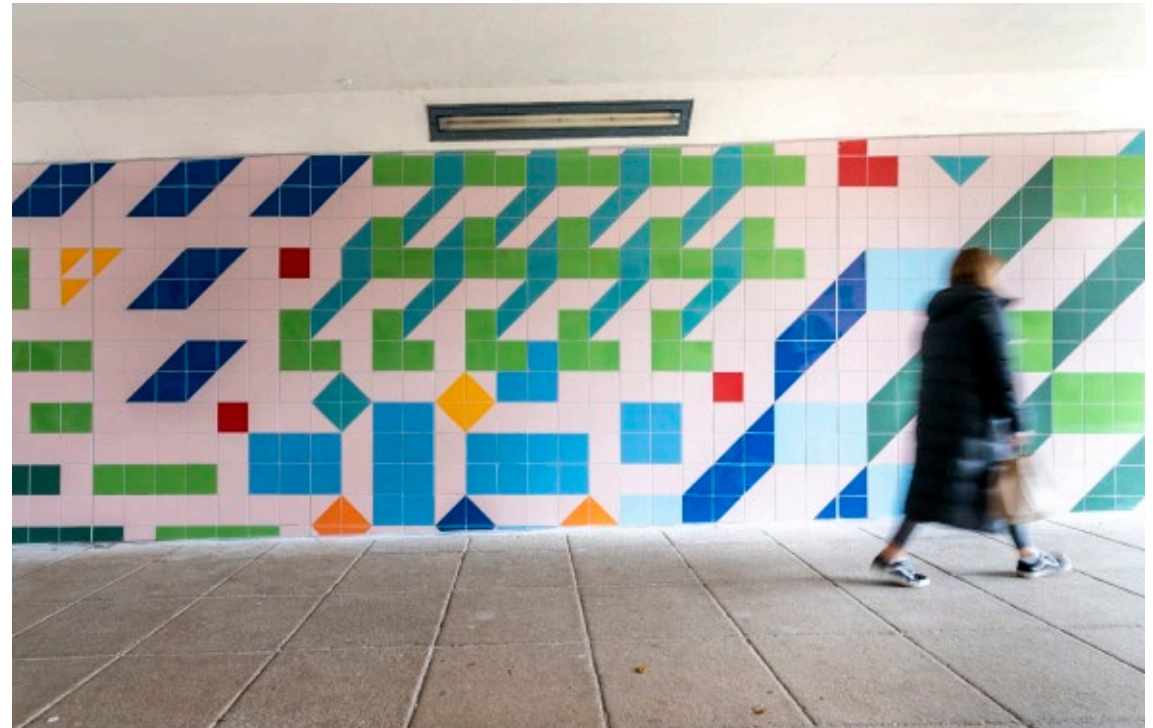
Tales from t'Mill by Harriet Lawson. Photo © Lucille Moore

Harriet Lawson drew inspiration through indepth research and interviews with local mill owners and workers to produce **Tales from t'Mill**.

Harriet's work features a number of elements from her research such as: auctioning the bails of rags, the machinery and tools used, and the pickers who were mainly women.

Tales from t'mill is installed outside the Dewsbury Creative Craft Centre on Union Street.

Prior to this commission, Harriet was also mentored by Kerry Lemon as part of Kerry's project to create a permanent artwork for the market.



Tessella by Saba Rifat. Photo © Lucille Moore

Tessella designed by Dewsbury based visual artist **Saba Rifat** took inspiration from the historical and urban brickwork, paving, stain glass windows and stone carvings in the town centre.

Saba Rifat worked with design students from Kirklees College and held engagement events with the general public to help develop her ideas.

Tessella, which is a feminine Latin word to describe square tiles of stone and glass which are used in mosaics, was employed as the process for generating design ideas to create the surface pattern for the underpass walls.

The final piece includes over 3,000 bespoke, colourful tiles!

Stairfoot Public Art Programme, Barnsley : Colour Pop by Lenny & whale

Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council



Colour Pop by Lenny & Whale. Photo © Timm Cleasby

Beam was appointed by the Principal Towns team and the Stairfoot Ward Alliance at Barnsley Council to develop a creative commissioning programme to enhance the identity of the Stairfoot Basin area, Barnsley.

Within the programme we commissioned Lenny and Whale to create [Colour Pop](#) - a fun and colourful artwork inspired by drawings and playdough

sculptures made by children at a local School, after studying images of the canal and railway bridges that were prevalent during Stairfoot's industrial past.

Lenny & Whales' design consists of three, tall, freestanding sculptural pieces that are a playful celebration of the industrial and transport heritage of Stairfoot.

Stairfoot Public Art Programme, Barnsley : Can You See Us by Andrew Small



Can You See Us by Andrew Small. Photo © Timm Cleasby

Andrew Small's design celebrates Stairfoots' industrial heritage of producing the iconic Codd Bottle, the local mining community and the brick works. The design process involved a period of researching the local area's histories to be reflected within the work, whilst interpreting any heritage aspects within a contemporary visual context. Ideas were explored through a series of workshops with the steering group and pupils from Barnsley Academy Secondary School.

The piece '[Can you see us](#)', incorporates key industrial notes from the past using the profile of the Codd Bottle's negative form as the overriding shape. (The main Codd Bottle production factory was in Stairfoot) The piece references the coal industry and the surface design uses prismatic reflective rectangles in a tessellated brick pattern.

As the central focal point, a 3D printed piece of coal represents the iconic Codd Bottle marble.

Walking Together, Markham Vale Mining Memorial Heritage Trail by Stephen Broadbent

Derbyshire County Council



Markham Vale Heritage Group Volunteers. Photo © Andy Tryner



Ceramic Medals by Angie Hardwick

Beam has worked closely with Derbyshire County Council at Markham Vale Business and Industrial park for over ten years on the delivery of a significant mining memorial project. Originally commissioned in 2012, the [Walking Together](#) memorial forms a trail which stretches between the village of Duckmanton, near Chesterfield, to Markham Vale, close to where the former pithead of Markham Colliery once stood. The memorial commemorates 106 men who died in three major disasters at the colliery in 1937, 1938 and 1973.

Cheshire-based Artist Stephen Broadbent designed the memorial supported by Markham Vale Heritage Group (MVHG) volunteers who researched the lives of the miners who were commemorated. Beam supported fundraising for the memorial which was delivered in phases over ten years and completed in October 2022. Funders included local businesses, community

fundraising, trusts and foundations and larger grant giving bodies.

Alongside the physical memorial Beam supported the MVHG to secure two National Lottery Heritage Fund grants to enable community engagement projects - [The Storymine](#) in 2018, which developed a new website for the project to act as a repository for stories about the mining heritage of the area. In 2022, the '10 Years of Walking Together' project enabled heritage engagement work to take place in schools, a final celebration event to mark the completion of the trail, new on site interpretation materials and creative documentation about the project in the form of a book and short film. The project was the Winner for 'Best Volunteer Project' and 'Highly Commended' for 'Young People in Heritage' at the Derbyshire Heritage Awards, 2019 and also Highly Commended in the 'Sky's the Limit' category at the East Midlands Heritage Awards 2019.

Public Art at City Fields

Wakefield Council

In 2016 we produced a long term [Public Art Plan for City Fields](#), a planned 152 hectares urban extension just East of Wakefield city centre which we continue to work with the Council and developers to activate.

Living Landscape by Broadbent Studio

On behalf of Wakefield Council, Beam commissioned artists from **Broadbent Studio** to design this series of new artworks for City Fields that explore how wildlife has adapted to an industrial landscape. The artists wanted to tell a story about the intertwining of humans and nature and how the change of industry into a green corridor has produced not only a vital refuge for biodiversity but also a resource that gives back to humans.

Broadbent Studio collaborated with CB Arts to produce the series of five artworks that have recently been installed at the southern end of the City Fields development. Landscaping around the site will be completed in 2023.

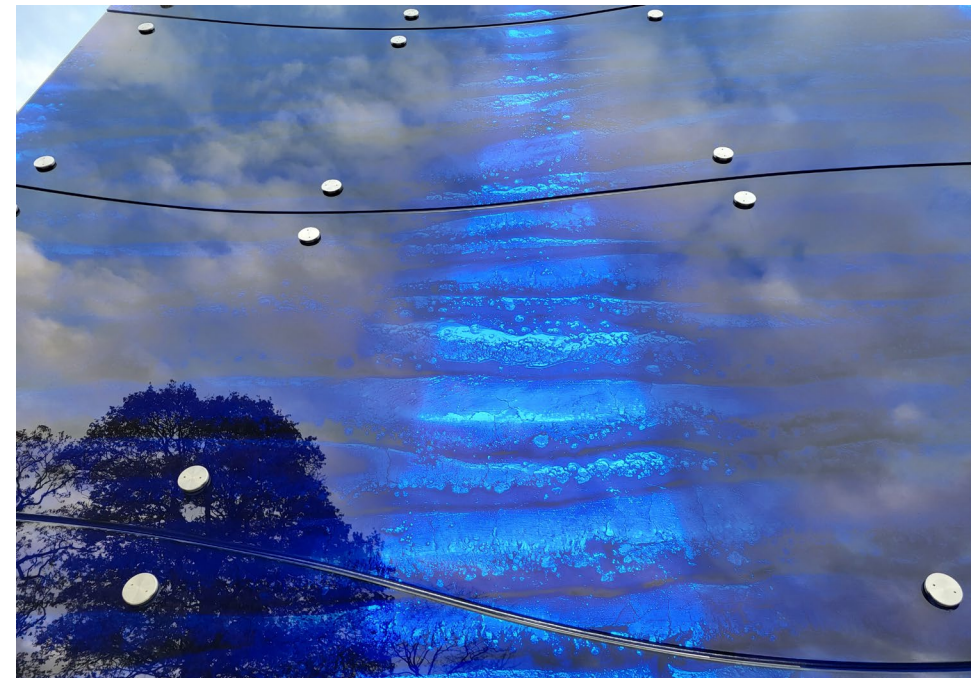
Ever Glow by Graeme Mitcheson

On behalf of Wakefield Council, Beam commissioned **Graeme Mitcheson** to develop a new permanent artwork at a key pedestrian and vehicular gateway to the City Fields development. Following a period of community consultation, the artist designed a sculpture that seeks to reaffirm the historical significance of the nearby canal and also acts as a significant gateway feature to this rapidly developing area.

The sculpture takes its shape and scale from the impressive lock gates constructed only a stones throw from the site at Stanley Ferry. Built from 2 concrete pillars, the reverse side of the sculpture incorporates the pattern of a lock gate. The front of the sculpture features blue coloured glass and is inspired by a photograph of the canal taken during a walk the artist took with members of a local walking group. The blue reflection of the glass is captured on the granite terrace that contains a poem 'Field Song' written especially for the site by local poet, Laura Potts.



Living Landscape by Broadbent Studio - Work in progress



Ever Glow by Graeme Mitcheson

Fighting From Home by Luke Perry

Featherstone Town Council



[Fighting From Home](#) is a series of six sculptures created by **Luke Perry** that shine a light on the non-combat heroes of WWI installed at Mill Pond Meadow, Featherstone.

Following months of research and engagement supported by Arts Council England, Luke developed the concept for the artwork as a tribute to those who supported WWI efforts from home and to the compassion of the Featherstone community during that time.



Snap Time by Michael Disley

Wakefield Council

Michael Disley was commissioned by Wakefield Council to create an artwork to celebrate Normanton's proud mining history. Michael has created a striking piece called '[Snap Time](#)' carved from granite and incorporating seating.

The artwork is now in situ on the High Street in Normanton town centre. The artist took inspiration from the strong camaraderie in Normanton's mining community and hopes that people will be able to use the installation to sit and enjoy their 'snap' together. During his commission Michael engaged over 200 children and local residents sharing skills through his 'School of Rock' workshops.



Photos courtesy of Wakefield Council.



Place-based Creative Strategies & Plans

Creativity Strategy for North East Lincolnshire

North East Lincolnshire Council

During 2021/22 we worked closely with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) and key stakeholders to develop a [Creativity Strategy](#) to underpin and drive forward creative activity in the area. The strategy was funded by NELC, Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund. We carried out detailed stakeholder and community consultation to develop the strategy and an associated action plan.

The strategy identified nine key story areas which creativity could help to tell about the area. Following adoption of the strategy we supported NELC to develop a new advisory group, the 'Creativity Board' to advocate for and oversee delivery of the strategy. We also commissioned three local creatives - Duncan Chapman (sound artist); Lowercase Theatre Company; and Micky Parsons (Filmmaker) to develop [creative commissions](#) responding to themes in the creativity strategy.

Public Art Plan for the Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn area of North Yorkshire

Selby District Council

Throughout 2022 we've continued our relationship with Selby District Council. Following on from the development of the Selby District Cultural Framework in 2021, a Public Art Plan for the area has been developed through close collaboration with local stakeholders and communities.

The Plan comprises a suite of three practical documents - outlining the context for public art in the Selby district; offering guidance to planners and developers; and sharing 'how to' guidance and examples for best practice commissioning, to help increase the amount and quality of public art in the area.



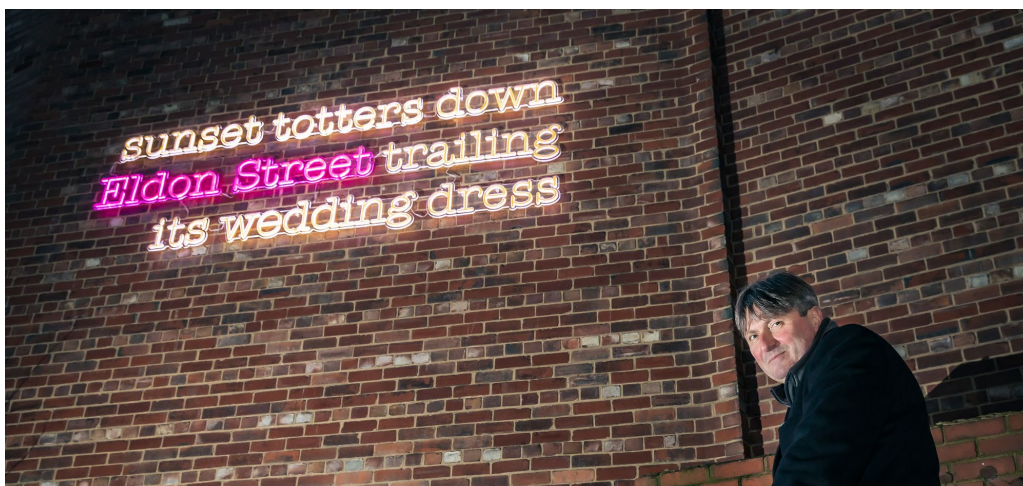
'The Twilight Hour, Periplum. Photo © Tom Arran



Selby Stories. Photo © Duncan Lomax, Ravage Productions



Dreamers Unite by Boa Mistura. Photo © Scott Smith



BMC Heritage Action Zone project - Sunset by Simon Armitage + Patrick Murphy

A Mural + 2D Art Strategy for the Wakefield District and Feasibility Report

Wakefield Council

Working in collaboration with Artist Emmeline North, we developed a 10 year strategy to provide a framework for the implementation of murals and 2D art in the public realm across the Wakefield district. Beam carried out extensive research and stakeholder consultation resulting in a strategy and supplementary guidance designed to offer inspiration. The Strategy highlighted a range of possibilities alongside practical and flexible guidance on how to successfully embed murals and 2D art across the district, taking a dynamic yet cohesive approach.

We were then invited to develop a feasibility study for the implementation of the strategy across all 21 wards in the district in association with Wakefield Year of Culture 2024.

Public Art Audit and Guidance for Barnsley

Barnsley Council

We carried out an audit of public art across the Barnsley borough laying the foundations for Barnsley Council to gain a better understanding of existing permanent and semi permanent public art to shape future activity, identifying gaps and potential opportunities. This work culminated in a working database and a populated googlemap.

A new Public Art Guidance document developed through desktop research and stakeholder consultation will build understanding about public art and its role, support a more cohesive approach to commissioning public art led both from within the Council and externally. It will streamline processes, encouraging best practice, resulting in high quality artworks and will enable the Council to track works being undertaken leading to more joined up approaches.

Tees-Swale: Creatively Connected

North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority



Swaledale Gates by Abre Etteh. Photo © Wendy McDonnell

In 2021/22 we delivered a pilot for Creatively Connected, an ambitious embedded element of 'Tees Swale Naturally Connected' (TSNC). TSNC is an £8.5 million natural heritage programme funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund. Creatively Connected takes an artist-led approach, engaging local people and those in bordering urban areas. A key aim of the programme is to collaborate with artists and communities to make space for creative dialogue at a critical time for farming and conservation and to demonstrate the importance of the Tees Swale landscape.

Beam commissioned two artists, [Joanne Coates](#) and [Abre Etteh](#), to deliver pilot commissions, they worked with young people to create temporary artworks in the landscape at Bowlees Visitor Centre, Teesdale and Muker Meadows, Swaledale.

Following the commissions Beam coordinated a knowledge exchange seminar for the delivery team and developed and wrote a funding application for the continuation of the programme to align with the delivery of the wider TSNC programme.



Our Country Lives by Joanne Coates. Photo © Wendy McDonnell

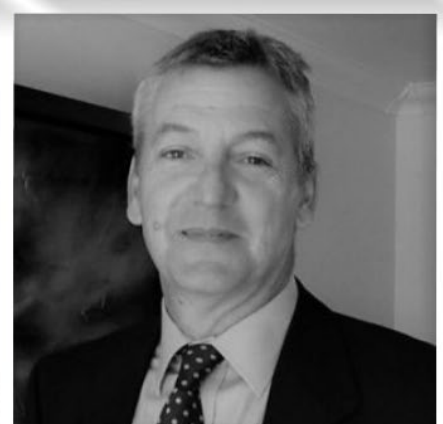


Our Country Lives by Joanne Coates. Photo © Nat Wilkins

Board of Trustees

Beam is supported by a dynamic Board of Trustees who have oversight of all of Beam's portfolio of work, led by Chair Gordon Watson who has many years of experience of arts, museums and large-scale capital development projects.

Our Board brings a wealth of expertise in the fields of placemaking, the built environment, urban design, landscape design, public art, higher education, marketing and communications and business development.



Our People

Our Board of Trustees

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Henri Pearson
Jessica Richmond
Sanaa Shaikh
Gordon Watson (Chair)

Our Team

Principal Consultants:

Frances Smith
Kate Watson

Associates:

Richard King
Emmeline North
Boseda Olawoye
Gini Wilde

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