

Image:
Tessella by Saba Rifat.
Photo © Lucille Moore

Beam Portfolio

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Beam

Arts for people and places

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 Definition of Art in Public Spaces

Beam's definition of 'public art' is broad ranging and encompasses a multitude of ways in which artists creatively work in and respond to public spaces that engage in a meaningful way with people.

Image:
Dancing Flowers of Doe Lea by Tonkin Liu.
Photo © Willy Lane.

Images:
Graphic design Lee Goater.



Building a More Diverse and Inclusive Public Art Sector

Principles of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) are at the heart of our organisation and work. Beam is actively working to address issues of EDI in relation to public art. Our research project, 'Building a More Diverse and Inclusive Public Art Sector', was undertaken by Nottingham-based independent creative engagement manager and consultant, Bo Olawoye, in close consultation with freelance artists and organisations.

The report, launched in July 2023 explores the barriers underrepresented artists face when making artwork in public spaces, and how we can make the public art sector more fair and equitable. In collaboration with ixia and the Contemporary Visual Arts Network we held an open forum in October 2023 to discuss the findings.



[Read more](#) →

Sustainability

We are committed to delivering environmental sustainability through our work by:

- Encouraging artists, clients, communities, staff, freelancers and partners to adopt more sustainable approaches;
- Low carbon and energy use - reduce our day-to-day carbon footprint and minimise the environmental impact of projects;
- Connecting people to one another and their ecosystems;
- Developing environmentally sustainable artworks - including consideration of materials, waste, circular economy, local suppliers, carbon footprint etc.
- Our Consultants are Certified Carbon Literate through The Carbon Literacy Project.





Clients

Current and recent Local Authority clients include:

Barnsley Borough, Bolsover District; Derbyshire County; Durham County; Hull; Kirklees; North East Lincolnshire; North Lincolnshire; Scarborough Borough; Selby District; Wakefield District.

Other clients include:

Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust; Featherstone Town Council; North Pennines AONB/ Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; South Pennines Park; and University of Leicester.

Image:
Pop Up Studio.
Photo © Emmeline North.

Why work with us?

We're an experienced and multi-skilled team working efficiently to maximise the impact of the investment that clients and funders make in our services and always seek to make strategic connections to amplify and streamline all projects that we deliver.

With a wealth of experience in developing arts, heritage and cultural strategies and action plans, and acting as creative producers for commissions, we work in contexts from the urban to the rural.

We're experienced in working with a wide range of funders including Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund, developing projects and applications, project delivery, evaluation and reporting.

We act locally and impact strategically.

Bespoke services

- Creative Producers of public art programmes and commissions
- Place-based cultural strategies
- Public art strategies, action plans and feasibility studies
- Artist-led community engagement
- Artist development and mentoring
- Fundraising and bid writing

Image:
Urban Rewild by Emmeline North.
Photo © Phil Drakett.

Our impact

- Engaging Communities and Young People
- Pride in Place and Visitor Economy
- Supporting the Cultural and Creative Sector

beam

Our Impact

Engaging Communities and Young People

Meaningful engagement with communities and young people is embedded throughout our work and delivers the following outcomes:

- Learning opportunities to help people articulate, demand and contribute to change
- Positive impact on health and wellbeing
- Co-production embeds social value
- Unique regeneration schemes
- Engagement with heritage to inform the future
- Surprise and delight
- Community pride, belonging and identity
- Reflect our diverse communities
- Shared experience and connection
- Inspire and challenge audiences

Pride in Place and Visitor Economy

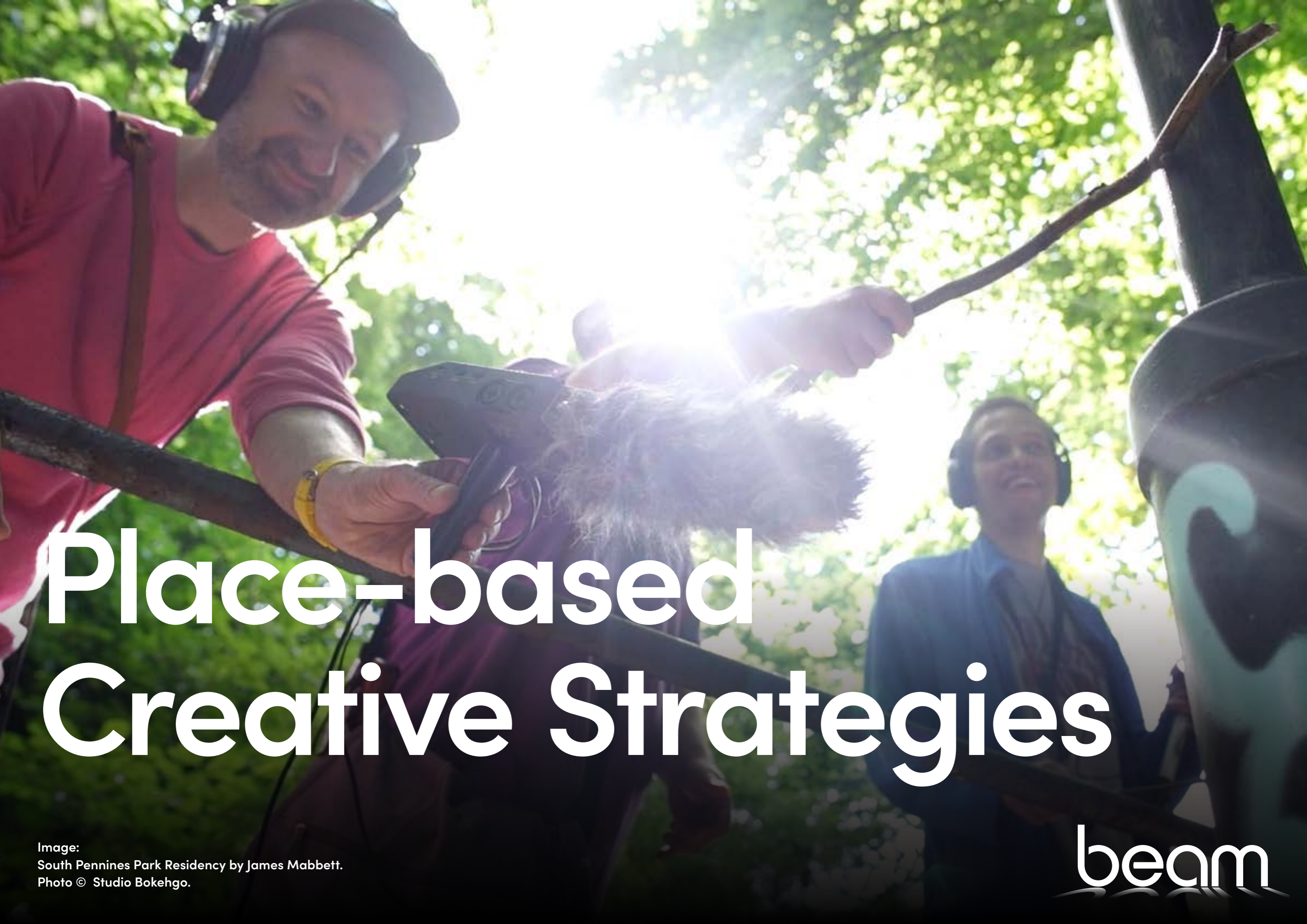
Art in the public realm makes places distinctive, supporting:

- Enhanced sense of place and celebration of local distinctiveness
- Pride in place
- Improving wayfinding and legibility of a place
- Increase feeling of safety and encourage dwell time
- Support inward investment
- Connect and amplify existing cultural ecology
- Cross sector collaboration

Supporting the Cultural and Creative Sector

- Support growth - nurturing the creative ecology and sharing learning
- Skills development opportunities
- Innovation and an opportunity test and refine
- Inspire young people
- Highlight creative career pathways
- Partnership working and network development
- Use of local supply chains





Place-based Creative Strategies

Image:
South Pennines Park Residency by James Mabbett.
Photo © Studio Bokehgo.

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North East Lincolnshire Council

Creativity Strategy (2021/22)

+

An Approach to Art in Public Spaces (2022/23)

Beam worked closely with North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) and key stakeholders on the development of two key pieces of cultural development work.

Firstly, a Creativity Strategy to underpin and drive forward creative activity, formed around nine key stories which creativity could help to tell about the area.

Secondly, we were commissioned to develop 'An Approach to Art in Public Spaces' outlining how art and artists can work with communities in public places and spaces across the district.



[Read more →](#)

 *Culture*

 *Community*

 *PrideInPlace*

 *VisitorEconomy*

 *CreativeSector*

Wakefield Council

A Mural + 2D Art Guide for the Wakefield District (2022/23)

+

Implementation Feasibility Study (2023)

- ✦ *PrideInPlace*
- ✦ *Community*
- ✦ *VisitorEconomy*
- ✦ *CreativeSector*

Developing a framework and feasibility study for the implementation of murals and 2D art in the public realm across the Wakefield district, working with Artist Emmeline North. Extensive research and stakeholder consultation resulted in a guide and supplementary appendices designed to offer inspiration, alongside practical and flexible implementation guidance.



[Read more →](#)

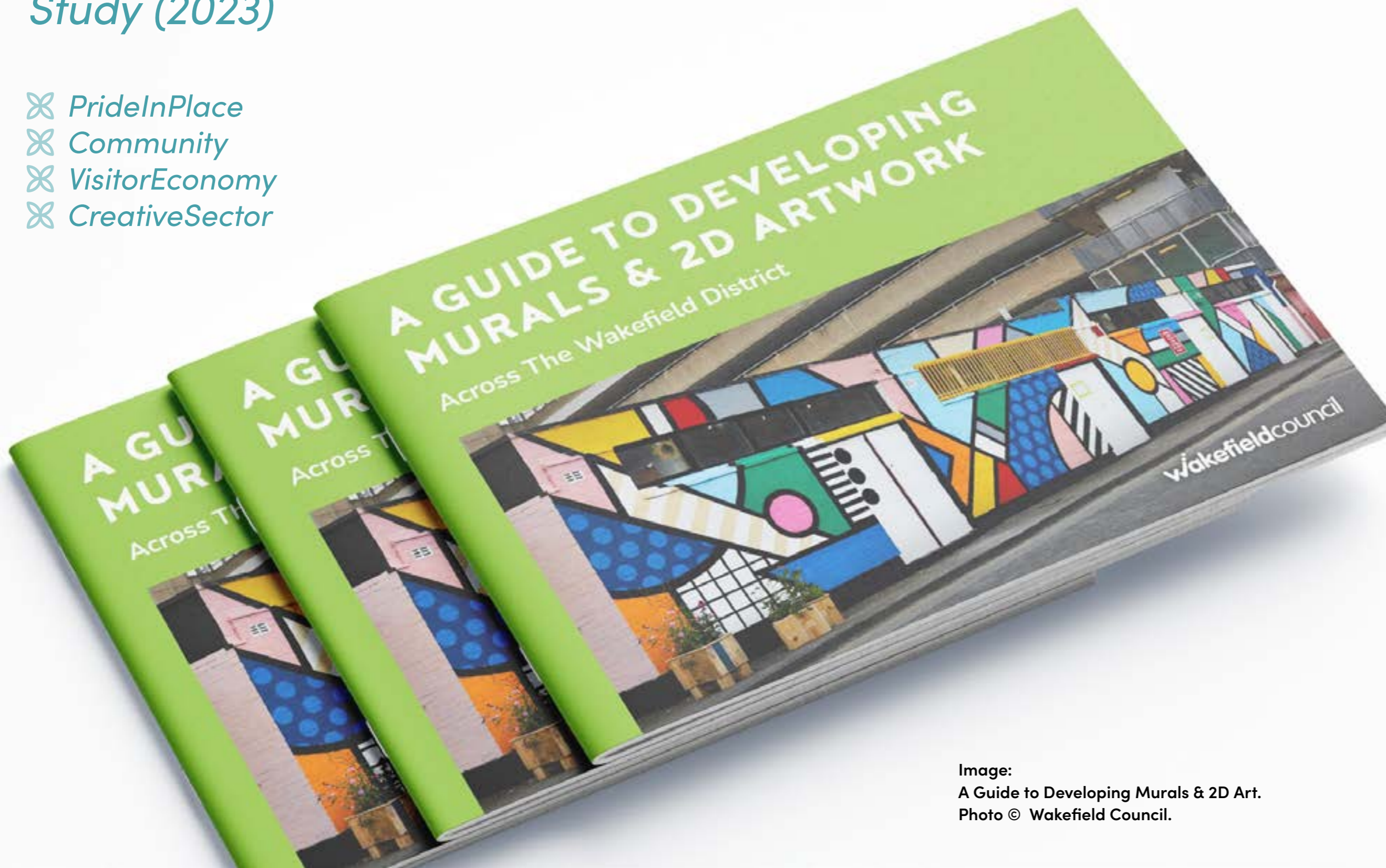


Image:
A Guide to Developing Murals & 2D Art.
Photo © Wakefield Council.



Images:
Public Art Guidance.
Photo © Rhubarb Design.

Barnsley Council

Public Art Audit (2022)

+

Public Art Guidance (2022/23)

An audit of public art across the Barnsley borough laid the foundations to develop a 'Public Art Guidance' document. This builds an understanding about public art, its role, and supports a cohesive approach to commissioning.



Read more →



Public art is key to placemaking for Barnsley. The Trust, together with colleagues in Barnsley Museums, have worked with Beam on a number of direct commissions, as well as the development of a Public Art Strategy and guidelines which have been adopted by the Borough. Beam are a pleasure to work with, and have a flexible, friendly and creative approach.

**Barnsley Museums
& Heritage Trust.**



- ✘ *PrideInPlace*
- ✘ *Community*
- ✘ *VisitorEconomy*
- ✘ *CreativeSector*

Selby District Council
/ North Yorkshire Council

Cultural Development Framework for Selby District (2020/21)

+

Public Art Plan for the Selby, Tadcaster and Sherburn area of North Yorkshire (2021)

Development of a five year Cultural Development Framework for Selby District, North Yorkshire, 'A New Culture of Culture', laying out a framework to harness the unique opportunities and address key challenges for the area. We were subsequently commissioned to develop a Public Art Plan for the area, to increase the amount and quality of public art.



[Read more](#) →

- ✘ [PrideInPlace](#)
- ✘ [Community](#)
- ✘ [VisitorEconomy](#)
- ✘ [CreativeSector](#)



Images:
Public Art Plan.
Photo © Lazenby Brown.



Image:
Voyage by Steinnum
Thorarinsdottir.

Hull City Council

Public Art Policy & Audit (2023)

Working with Hull City Council to conduct an audit of public art across Hull and to develop a Public Art Plan, creating an overview of how public art has social, cultural and economic value. The Plan includes methodologies and good practice for public art commissioning.



[Read more →](#)

-  *PrideInPlace*
-  *Community*
-  *VisitorEconomy*
-  *CreativeSector*

Image:
Ever Glow by Graeme Mitcheson.
Photo © Beam.

Place-based Creative Commissions

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South Pennines Park

Socially Engaged Artist Residency Programme (2021)

A programme of socially engaged artist commissions delivered in diverse, socially and economically disadvantaged communities, which aimed to use the skills of artists to engage people across the South Pennines in discussion about the developing idea of a non-designated 'South Pennines Park'.



The commissions were captured in a series of short films.
[View here](#) →



[Read more](#) →

 *PrideInPlace*

 *Community*

 *CreativeConsultation*



Image above:

Ammie Sykes Residency.
Photo © Studio Bokehgo.

Image below:

Emma N.J. Long Residency.
Photo © Studio Bokehgo.

North Pennines AONB and Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority

Tees-Swale: Creatively Connected Pilot (2021/22)

Image:
Swaledale Gates by Abre Etteh.
Photo © Wendy McDonnell.



As part of 'Tees Swale', a £8.5 million natural heritage programme, we led on the pilot of 'Creatively Connected', which took an artist-led approach to engaging local people and those in bordering urban areas.



Our Country Lives by Joanne Coates
Read more. →



Swaledale Gates by Abre Etteh
Read more. →

 *PrideInPlace*
 *Community*
 *YoungPeople*

Image:
Our Country Lives by Joanne Coates.
Photo © Wendy McDonnell.





Images:
Walking Together Sculptures
and publication.
Photo © David John King.



Derbyshire County Council

Walking Together, Markham Vale Mining Memorial Heritage Trail by Stephen Broadbent (2012 - 23)

Beam worked closely with Derbyshire County Council, Henry Boot Developments at Markham Vale Business and Industrial park and the voluntary Markham Vale Heritage Group for over ten years on the delivery of a significant mining memorial project. The Walking Together memorial forms a walking trail and commemorates 106 men who died in three major disasters at the colliery.



[Read more](#) →



*A vision and a hope that has grown
and blossomed in unexpected and
meaningful ways.*

Volunteer



- ✘ *PrideInPlace*
- ✘ *Community*
- ✘ *Heritage*
- ✘ *Regeneration*



*Derbyshire Heritage Awards 2019 - Winner for
Best Volunteer Project & Highly Commended
for Young People in Heritage.*

Derbyshire County Council

Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site *Great Place Scheme (2018-21)*

Creative producer over three years for this Arts Council England and National Lottery Heritage Fund supported 'Great Place Scheme'. Creating place specific artist commissions, in partnership with heritage venues, connecting residents and visitors with the World Heritage Site.



Read more →



Really enjoyed working with Beam to create a diverse programme of events across the DVMWHS to encourage new audiences to appreciate the valley in different ways and use it to inspire artists too. Kate and Frances were easy to work with and full of ideas of how to create a programme that was varied and adaptable to the changing circumstances!



**Derwent Valley Mills World
Heritage Site Partnership**

- ✧ *PrideInPlace*
- ✧ *Community*
- ✧ *VisitorEconomy*
- ✧ *Heritage*

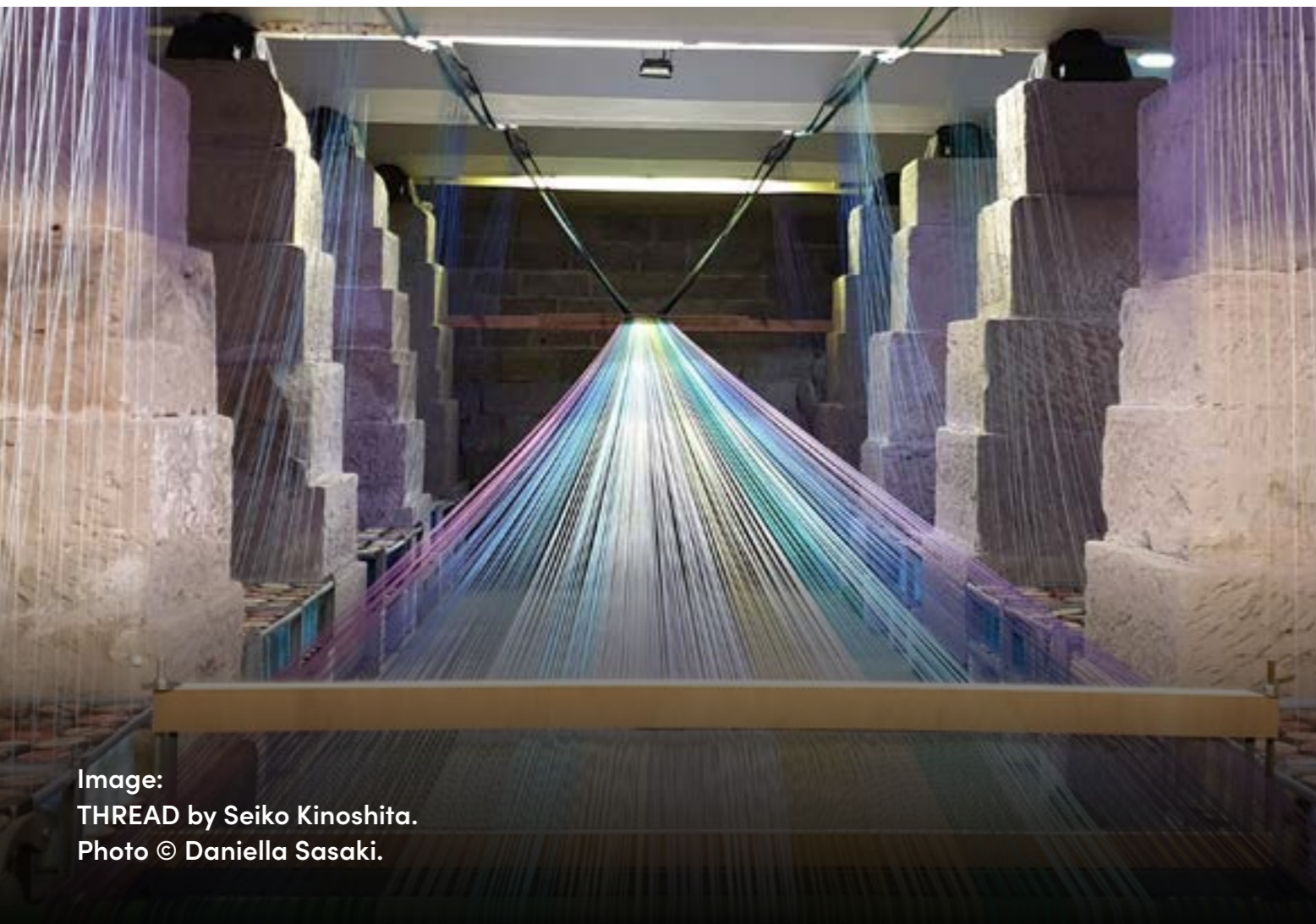


Image:
THREAD by Seiko Kinoshita.
Photo © Daniella Sasaki.

Image top left:
Spin a Tale by Constella.
Photo © Ray Gumbley Photography.

Image top right:
Tales of Derby Women
Photo © She Speaks.

Barnsley Council

Stairfoot Public Art Programme (2020-22)

Creative commissioning programme to enhance the identity of the Stairfoot area, Barnsley, collaborating with a local steering group to commission a series of unique works that bring colour, intrigue and delight to the area.



Colour Pop by Lenny & Whale
Read more →



Can You See Us by Andrew Small
Read more →



Stairfoot Animation Trail by Andrew Small
Read more →

- ✂ *PrideInPlace*
- ✂ *Community*
- ✂ *Heritage*
- ✂ *Wayfinding*

Image left:
Colour Pop by Lenny & Whale.
Photo © Timm Cleasby

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





Barnsley Council

Wentworth & Elsecar (WE) Great Place Scheme (2019/21)

As Creative Producer, Beam delivered site specific commissions aimed at inspiring people to engage with arts, culture and heritage on their doorstep. Working with partner heritage venues Wentworth Woodhouse, Elsecar Heritage Centre and Wentworth Castle Gardens



Colour Forms by Lenny and Whale
[Read more →](#)



The Mute Still Air by Ed Carter
[Read more →](#)

- ✘ *PrideInPlace*
- ✘ *Community*
- ✘ *VisitorEconomy*
- ✘ *Heritage*

*The Mute Still Air was shortlisted for an Ivors
Composer Award for Sound Art in 2022.*

Image above:
The Mute Still Air by Ed Carter.
Photo © Scott Merrylees.

Image below:
Colour Forms by Lenny & Whale.
Photo © Timm Cleasby.



Kirklees Council

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts programme (2019-23)

Creative Producer for a three year £220,000 creative programme, as part of the Dewsbury Blueprint 10-year plan to revitalise the town. A wide range of permanent and temporary public artworks were produced, enhancing the overall physical experience of the town centre and supporting local emerging artists.

[Read more about the overall programme](#) →

Image:
d-e-w-s-b-u-r-y by Cubic Fruit.
Photo © Lucille Moore.

Key commissions included:



Tessella by Saba Rifat
[Read more](#) →



d-e-w-s-b-u-r-y by Cubic Fruit
[Read more](#) →



Urban Rewild by Emmeline North
[Read more](#) →

 *PrideInPlace*

 *Community*

 *CreativeSector*

 *VisitorEconomy*



Kirklees Council

Dewsbury Creative Town Arts programme (2019-23)

Continued



This looks wonderful!! Chuffed to see a bit of loveliness here.



Looks great and just what the town needs.”



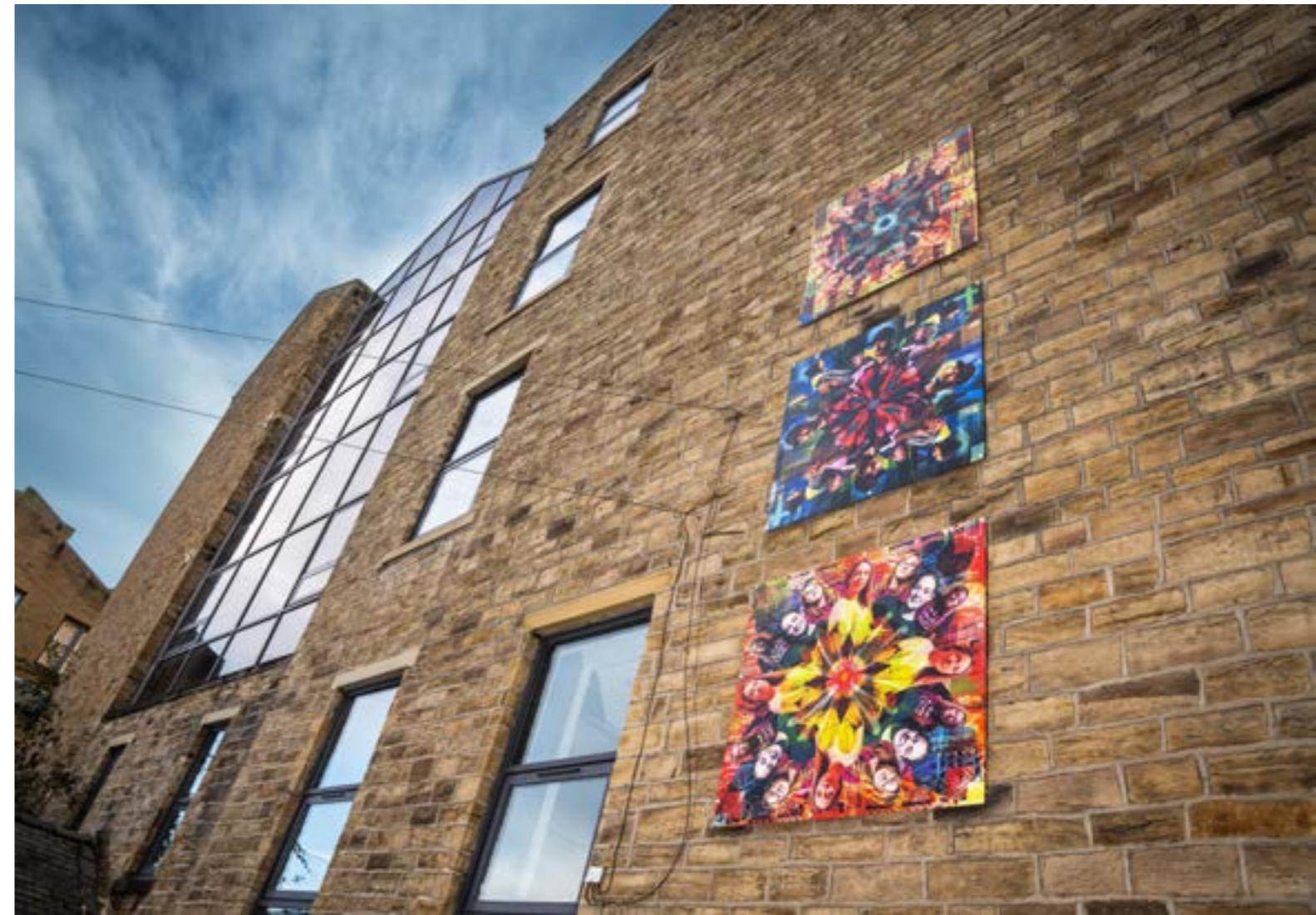
This opportunity has raised my Creative Practice to the next level. Wonderful learning experience, nurtured throughout the journey from the Beam team.

Mentee Artist



Image above:
Tales from T'Mill by Harriet Lawson.
Photo © Lucille Moore.

Image below:
Tapestries by Lenny & Whale.
Photo © Timm Cleasby.



Featherstone Town Council

Memorials in Featherstone, West Yorkshire (2015-23)

Beam has built a long standing relationship with the Town Council to develop a number of commemorative, yet future facing memorials for the Town, including 'War Horse' by Codsteaks and 'Fighting from Home' by Luke Perry.

- ✦ *PrideInPlace*
- ✦ *Community*
- ✦ *Heritage*



War Horse, A Place of Peace To Be Together by Cod Steaks
[Read more](#) →



Fighting From Home by Luke Perry
[Read more](#) →



It's a fab place to visit, we are so proud of our War horse and its surroundings.



Image:
Featherstone War Horse.
Photo © Cod Steaks.

Bolsover District Council

Doe Lea Village Arts Commissioning (2018/19)

The 'Dancing Flowers of Doe Lea' by Tonkin Liu, celebrates the identity of the village of Doe Lea, Derbyshire, alongside a socially engaged film residency, 'The Story of Doe Lea' by Studio Bokehgo.



*Winner of a RIBA East Midlands
Award 2019 and RIBA East Midlands
Small Project Award 2019.*



Artwork
[Read more →](#)



Film Residency
[Watch here →](#)

 *PrideInPlace*
 *Community*
 *Heritage*

Image:
Dancing Flowers of Doe Lea by Tonkin Liu
Photo © Willy Lane.



Public Art at City Fields Living Development (2016-23)

Production of a Public Art Strategy for City Fields urban housing extension which is an appendix to the masterplan for the site. Guiding public art across the 20-year development and supporting the creation of a distinctive identity and community at City Fields. Beam continues to activate this through a range of commissions.

- ✦ Regeneration
- ✦ Community
- ✦ VisitorEconomy
- ✦ PrideInPlace

 **Living Landscape by Broadbent Studio**
Read more →

 **Ever Glow by Graeme Mitcheson**
Read more →

 **Public Art Strategy**
Read more →



Beam has been crucial in ensuring that the Council has been able to deliver our City Fields Public Arts strategy. They have been central to the whole process of shortlisting, appointment and delivery of site. There's still much to do and we hope that we can continue working with them.

Dave Fowles, Housing Growth Manager, Wakefield Council.



Image:
Living Landscape by Broadbent Studio
Photo © Wakefield Council.



Image:
Ever Glow by Graeme Mitcheson.
Photo © Wakefield Council.



Artist Development

Images:
Creative Town Artist Talks.
Photo © Kirklees College.

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Image:
Tales of Derby Women.
Photo © She Speaks.

Artist Development

We are passionate about supporting artist development opportunities and seek to embed mentoring and shadowing within our commissioning programmes to provide learning around delivering arts in place.



Knowing that your time and input as an artist is not only interesting but valued is crucial for both emerging and established artists. Their approach underpins this statement and their support straddles the fine line between encouraging creative freedom and trust in your abilities, while gently helping to support things such as fee's, budget and time management.

Commissioned Artist



Beam's support helped to pull everything together, summarised things and kept things in perspective, kept things moving, looked at things analytically.

Mentee Artist





Trudi Entwistle



**Gordon Watson
(Chair)**



Sanaa Shaikh



Henri Pearson



Karmjit Lyal



Bongani Muchemwa



Jessica Richmond



Andrew Ball

Board of Trustees

A team of specialists, passionate about how art can have a positive impact on communities and individuals. Their extensive experience in a variety of disciplines helps inform the work we do.

- ✘ *Artist*
- ✘ *HigherEducation*
- ✘ *BusinessDevelopment*
- ✘ *ChangeManagement*
- ✘ *Finance*
- ✘ *Marketing*
- ✘ *BuiltEnvironment*
- ✘ *EquityDiversityInclusion*
- ✘ *Architecture*
- ✘ *LandscapeArchitecture*
- ✘ *Placemaking*
- ✘ *Museums&Galleries*
- ✘ *Sustainability*
- ✘ *UrbanDesign*

Get in Touch

We're always happy to have a conversation to discuss your specific requirements. All our projects and programmes are bespoke, recognising the unique identities, qualities and challenges of our towns, cities, and communities.

Contact our Principal Consultants to arrange an informal chat:

Frances Smith

frances@beam.uk.net
07718 564 376

Kate Watson

kate@beam.uk.net
07718 564 376

 www.beam.uk.net

 beam-arts-uk

 @Beam_ArtsUK

 @beam_artsuk

 @Beam_ArtsUK

Address

Beam, The Art House, Drury Lane, Wakefield,
West Yorkshire, WF1 2TE

Memberships

We are proud group members of the Academy of Urbanism, Wakefield Civic Society, and sit on the Wakefield District Public Art Framework Steering Group.



Image:
Kate Watson and Frances Smith at the launch
of Walking Together at Markham Vale.
Photo © Andy Tryner.

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