

beam



# Beam Portfolio



## 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 front: The Stories by STATIC. Photo © BMBC.

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



## Clients

### Current and recent Local Authority clients include:

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

### Other clients include:

Buxton Crescent Heritage Trust; Featherstone Town Council; FORGED partnership (Tees Valley); ixia, public art think tank; North Pennines AONB/ Yorkshire Dales National Park Authority; South Pennines Park; The Leap, Bradford; 'Down to Earth', Wigan; DASH; CVAN West Midlands; and University of Leicester.

### Image:

The Stories by STATIC (Craig Evans and Tom Jackson)

Photo © BMBC

## 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

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 Lead Consultants are Certified Carbon Literate through The Carbon Literacy Project.

Carbon Literacy  
Project



# Our impact

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

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# 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 to test and refine
- Inspire young people
- Highlight creative career pathways
- Partnership working and network development
- Use of local supply chains



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

Image:  
Tessella by Saba Rifat.  
Photo © Lucille Moore.

# Place-based Creative Commissions

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*This afternoon has made me happy and excited! Quite inspiring if I'm being honest. More stuff like this please.*

*Workshop participant.*



## Wakefield Council

# Crossings and Gateways (2024/25)

Beam is producing a major element of the 'Our Year' Crossings & Gateways programme, delivering murals with local communities across the Wakefield district in Hemsworth, Ossett, South Elmsall, and Normanton, that celebrate the district's unique heritage, as well as looking to the future.

Artists Douglas Black, Peachzz, Harriet Colours, and Shiraaz Ali have engaged 1,000 + people in their design development processes.

**Lighting the Lanes by Douglas Black** [Read more](#) →

**The Normanton Junction by Harriet Colours** [Read more](#) →

**Ashfall and Bloom by Peachzz** [Read more](#) →

 [PrideInPlace](#)  
 [Community](#)  
 [CreativeSector](#)



Images: Left to right: 'Lighting the Lanes' by Douglas Black at Hemsworth Library © Nicholas Singleton. 'The Normanton Junction' by Harriet Colours © Nicholas Singleton.



Image: Ashfall and Bloom by Peachzz supported by Creative Associate, Makena Brooks  
© Wakefield Council.



## Wakefield Council

### First and Last Mile Programme, Castleford (2024/25)

As part of the First and Last Mile programme in Castleford, funded by Network Rail's Transpennine Route Upgrade Programme and delivered by Wakefield Council, we are working with 3 artists to deliver artworks at key pedestrian routes to the station. Two artworks have been installed so far at Welbeck Street and Tickle Cock Bridge, with a further commission to follow later this year working with artist Ellie Way.

International muralist Cbloxx (Jay Gileard) created the new 20-metre wide and 10-metre-high piece *Audacter et Sincere (Boldly & Frankly)* for the Welbeck Street site which depicts aspects of Castleford's rich history. The work was informed by workshops with community members and Castleford College and was supported by an assistant artist Nat Hues, with additional on site support from UNBOUND cohort member Rebecca Feneley.

[Read more](#) →



*We wanted something that would bring the story of Castleford to life. And I'm really pleased the artist worked closely with local people to include their stories. The artist has really helped showcase the incredibly rich and proud history of Castleford.*

*Cllr Denise Jeffery, Leader of Wakefield Council*



**Images:** Top: Cbloxx mural - detail  
Bottom: Rebecca Feneley, Jay Gileard and Nat Hues  
Photos © Nicholas Singleton.



Wakefield Council

## First and Last Mile Programme, Castleford (2024/25)

**This place has a story to tell** – by Yorkshire based artist **Emmeline North** – is inspired by the heritage and natural environment of the town. It is the latest phase of a project to transform key routes between the train station and the town centre.

The artwork comprises new colourful painted elements to the walls of the tunnel, entrance points and seating structure, inspired by the heritage and natural environment of Castleford and what the bridge means to people. A new poem inspired by the heritage of the town is featured within the tunnel.

[Read more](#) →



Images: This Place Has a Story to Tell by Emmeline North © Nicholas Singleton





## Chesterfield Borough Council Animate Chesterfield (2024/27)

A multi-year public art programme in Chesterfield and Staveley creating new artworks and activities for residents and visitors aligned with the Revitalising the Heart of Chesterfield and Staveley 21 regeneration schemes. Recent activity highlighted below with further commissions underway.

[Read more](#) →

**Lucie Maycock, Artist in Residence** engaged 435 participants through a range of creative activities to collect stories to inform 'Kaleidoscope' an art installation and community mural. [Read more](#) →

**Illustrator Sally Anderson created Robin's Lost Letters 2024** - a festive window trail incorporating Chesterfield based imagery promoting footfall to 12 independent businesses. [Read more](#) →

**In Staveley, Coralie Turpin** has been engaging children, young people and the community to inform the design development of a permanent gateway artwork to augment the Staveley 21 redevelopment of the market square which will be installed in 2025. [Read more](#) →

 *PrideInPlace*  
 *Community*

 *It's really great that the town has something creative to get involved with. It's special."*

*Residency workshop participant.*



Images: Top: Kaleidoscope community mural by Lucie Maycock.  
Bottom: Robin's Lost Letters © Sally Anderson.



## North Yorkshire Council

# Public Art Catterick Garrison (2024/26)

We're delighted to be working with artists Katayoun Dowlatshahi, Steve Anwar/ Sapien and Hazel Oakes/ Nocciola the Drawer who have all been appointed to lead on art commissions as part of the Public Art Catterick Garrison programme.

They are currently undertaking a detailed process of research and community engagement to develop their artworks for launch in 2026! The artworks will explore themes - Reflect, Welcome and Wayfinding.

The programme is part of a major scheme of regeneration works in Catterick Garrison Town Centre, North Yorkshire, which will reimagine the town for the future funded by UK Government, North Yorkshire Council & Ministry of Defence. Public Art Catterick Garrison is being produced by Beam.

[Read more](#) →

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

# Art in Goldthorpe (2024/25)

As part of the Goldthorpe Towns Fund Deal Investment Programme, Beam is producing two permanent commissions.

**Dan Jones** has designed a permanent sculptural work to be sited at a new roundabout that will provide the major access into the ES10 Employment Site inspired by community input. Ailish Treanor has been appointed as mentee artist to shadow Dan's process.

[Read more](#) →

**Artists Tom Jackson and Craig Evans – who work together as STATIC** – created mural designs for Horse and Groom Square following widespread consultation with people of all ages in the Dearne area.

The artwork titled *The Stories*, on two sides of the square pays tribute to the area's proud heritage while also looking to a bright future. The larger mural on the library wall features wildlife native to the Dearne Valley, references to the area's heritage and illustrations designed during workshops at local schools.

[Read more](#) →

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



Images Top: Dan Jones with Maquette of design  
Bottom: *The Stories* by STATIC (Craig Evans and Tom Jackson)  
Photos © BMBC



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 and the voluntary Markham Vale Heritage Group for over ten years at Markham Vale Business and Industrial park 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.*



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*



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' and 'Hope and Heritage' 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.*

Local resident.



Image:  
Featherstone War Horse.  
Photo © Cod Steaks.



Image: Hope and Heritage artwork and unveiling event  
Photo © Beam

## Featherstone Town Council Hope and Heritage (2022/24)

Beam supported Featherstone Town Council to commission Artist Luke Perry to celebrate the town's mining heritage and its future.

The Hope and Heritage sculpture is a powerful tribute to the men, women, and children who worked in Featherstone's local collieries and the families who supported them. It stands as a reminder of the community's immense contributions to the nation's industrial strength.

[Read more](#) →

- ✘ [Community](#)
- ✘ [Heritage](#)
- ✘ [PrideInPlace](#)



*The wheels represent both memories of the working past of the town and the incredibly progressive hopes of its young people.*

*Featherstone continues to be a town whose hopes are socially driven, kind, brave and revolutionary. I am proud to be able to make works that represent these wonderful human traits.*

*Luke Perry, Artist.*



# Public Art at City Fields Living Development (2016/25)

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 on site.*



**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

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Image:  
Unbound Symposium.  
Photo © Nicholas Singleton.



## 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.

✧ CreativeSector  
✧ Mentoring



*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**



## Unbound - Dynamic Artists for Public Spaces Development Programme (2024/25)

Working in collaboration with Yorkshire and Humber Visual Arts Network (YVAN) and on behalf of Wakefield Council we developed UNBOUND, an artist development programme which supported twelve artists with ambitions to bring their work into public spaces. The programme has been funded by Wakefield Council, the Cultural Development Fund and the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.

Over six months, the UNBOUND programme gave Wakefield and West Yorkshire based artists the chance to shadow and be mentored by an experienced artist delivering a real-time project in a public space, alongside training and support.

The programme featured a mix of in-person and virtual workshops and networking opportunities. As well as mentoring with artists working on live public art projects in the Wakefield district

[Read more](#) →

- ✂ CreativeSector
- ✂ Mentoring
- ✂ Learning



*The UNBOUND programme came at the perfect time for me as I was looking to gain a greater understanding of art in the public art realm and expand my experience working as a mural artist.*

*The programme's training sessions and talks with industry professionals have been extremely inspiring and directly helpful, and my one-to-one learning with my mentor (Harriet Lawson) has been invaluable in improving my approach to community engagement, public art and mural projects.*

*Rebecca Feneley.*



## Barnsley Council

# Engage / Create - Commission Programme with Mentorship & Support for Barnsley Based Artists (2024/25)

In 2024/25 we worked with Barnsley Council's Storying Barnsley team on ENGAGE / CREATE, a project to support artists to develop their socially-engaged practice. The project has helped artists and creative practitioners to connect and work with Barnsley communities across its 6 principal towns of Cudworth, Hoyland, Penistone, Royston, Wombwell and Goldthorpe to co-create new artwork, inspired by the towns and their people.

Artists received mentoring and support from Beam and experts in the field of socially-engaged practice.

Engage/ Create was funded as part of Storying Barnsley programme with support from Cultural Development Fund Round 2, Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Arts Council England.

[Read more](#) →

✦ CreativeSector  
✦ Mentoring  
✦ Learning



ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND



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*Having time to really get to know community members was wonderful and I feel very grateful that they shared so many of their stories with me.*

*Thank you to the Storying Barnsley and Beam teams for trusting and supporting me throughout this commission.*

*Mentee.*



# Place-based Creative Strategies



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

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Hull City Council

## Public Art Policy & Audit (2023/25)

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

[Read more](#) →

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

*Hull is rich in public art. From traditional statues, murals and sculptures to poetry and graffiti. The city offers something incredible on almost every corner, each with its own unique story. The Public Art Policy aims to celebrate our existing art, elevate its impact and cultivate new and fresh ideas for the future.*

*Councillor Rob Pritchard Portfolio Holder for Culture and Leisure.*

## Darlington Council

# Ixia Public Art Support Pilot – Advisor (2024)

We were delighted to have been invited by ixia, to undertake work as a one of three public art advisors as part of their ‘Public Art Support pilot’, with funding from Arts Council England.

The pilot supported three Councils developing public art commissioning projects planned as part of Levelling Up or Town’s Fund programmes, with Beam being partnered with Darlington Borough Council to act as a critical friend, helping to boost knowledge and understanding of current contemporary public art practice and processes.

The pilot resulted in a webinar in November 2024, at which Beam presented alongside ixia and fellow advisors Hazel Colquhoun and UP Projects. A series of recommendations stemming from the pilot can be accessed via the link below.

[Read more →](#)

- ✘ *Regeneration*
- ✘ *Learning*



*The advice has been very useful in showcasing examples of best practice and providing expert insight into approaches which have worked in other contexts.*

*Participant, Darlington Borough Council.*



# Castleford Creative Engagement and Consultation (2024)

We worked with Castleford children, young people and community groups to engage them in conversations about the future of their area through creative activities. Beam led interactive consultation sessions with community groups and collaborated with Artist Emmeline North, supported by Harriet Lawson, to develop a range of creative activities aimed at exploring children and young people's visions for the future of Castleford to influence plans for Long Term Plan for Towns/ Plan for Neighbourhoods.

[Read more](#) →

- ✦ *PrideInPlace*
- ✦ *CreativeConsultation*
- ✦ *Community*
- ✦ *Regeneration*



*I want to celebrate local cultural and heritage assets, sporting, industrial, military and Roman heritage.*

*Participant.*





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](#) →

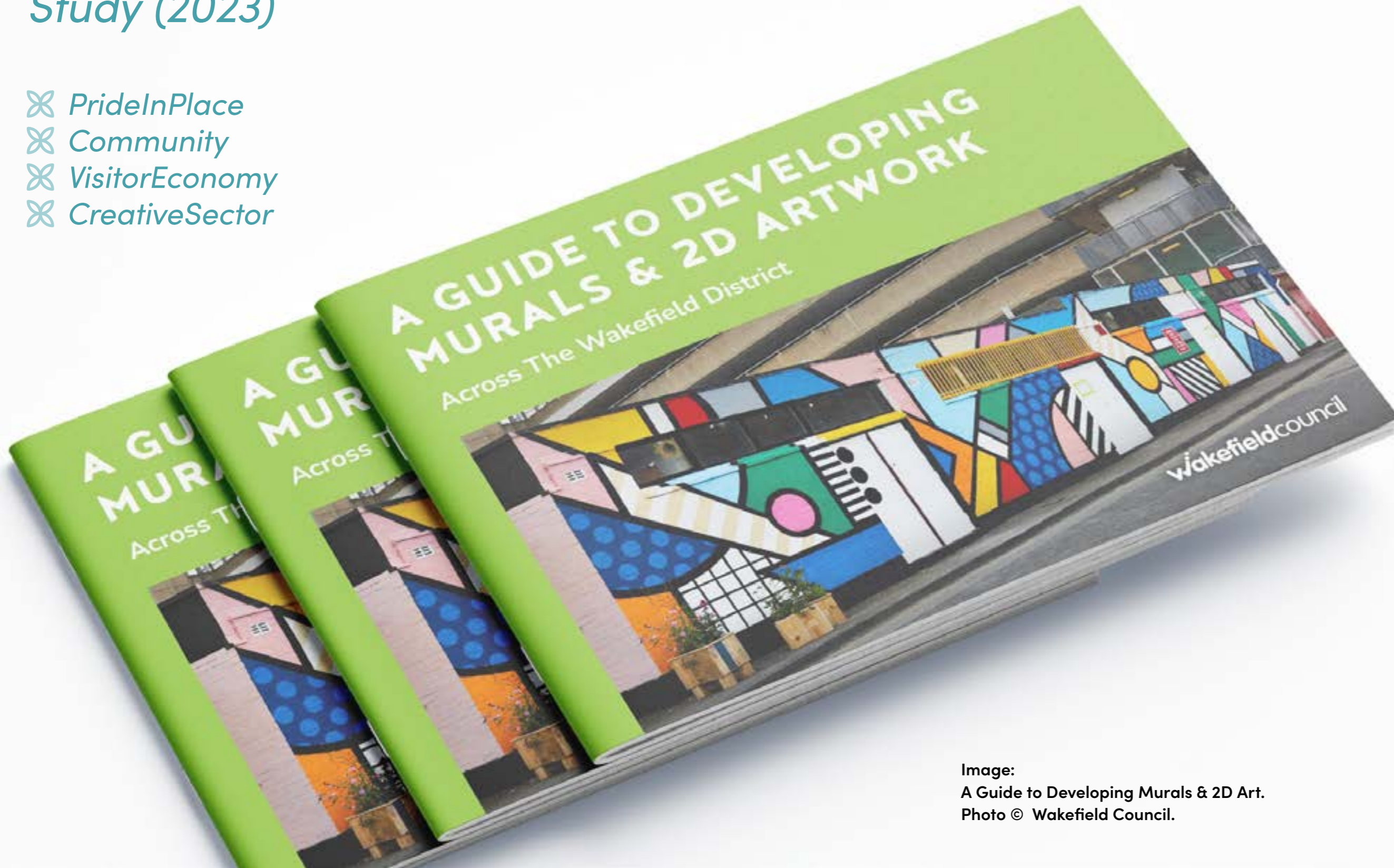


Image:

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.

## Board of Trustees



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## Our Team

Our Beam board of trustees offer rigorous oversight and support for Beam's work. Board skills range from Museums & Galleries, Architecture & Landscape Architecture, Finance, Marketing, Higher Education, Business Development and Placemaking.

Our **Consultants and Associates** have a wealth of experience in developing arts, heritage and cultural strategies, action plans and evaluation frameworks. We are expert creative producers for temporary and permanent commission programmes working in contexts from the urban to the rural with a range of commissioners.

[Read more](#) →

## 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

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07718 564 376

#### Kate Watson

kate@beam.uk.net  
07718 564 376

 [www.beam.uk.net](http://www.beam.uk.net)

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#### 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:  
Board Away Day at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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