

Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Bradford appoints LGBTQIA+ Arts Instigator to see new ideas flourish and hidden talent brought into the spotlight

Bradford Producing Hub has recruited an LGBTQIA+ Lead into their team of Creative Instigators to provide career development opportunities and drive creative ambition amongst LGBTQIA+ creatives across the Bradford District.



Following consultation with Bradford artists, producers and organisers, a report commissioned by the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council concluded that specific support and development for LGBTQIA+ arts in the Bradford district is much needed.

One of the key recommendations in the report was to resource a coordinator role to help progress its key findings. Bradford Producing Hub has since appointed Sonia Sandhu as their new LGBTQIA+ Arts Instigator to help drive this work forward.

Sonia Sandhu says "Following on from my work on the [New Queers on the Block](#) scheme as a local area producer for Bradford, which was in partnership with Bradford Producing Hub, Theatre in the Mill and Marlborough Productions in

Brighton, I am so thrilled to be now carving out my role as LGBTQIA+ Arts Instigator to listen to and respond to the needs of local LGBTQIA+ creatives in our city. I'm so excited to join such a dynamic and generous team at Bradford Producing Hub. I'm keen to create career development opportunities, encourage creative ambition, and plan regular community building events which will provide spaces for peer support and to spark creative collaborations."

The consultation was conducted by [Rosie Freeman](#), Director of [The Brick Box](#), and [Richard Dunbar](#), freelance Arts Producer and LGBTQIA+ activist.

Rosie Freeman says "Having researched and consulted lots of people across the district, what's clear is that there is a huge amount of passion and under-served potential in the LGBTQIA+ arts scene. I know that Sonia, with the support and resources of Bradford Producing Hub, will help to connect and grow lots of individuals, organisations and ideas to make Bradford a more equitable place for all."

Richard Dunbar says “The appointment of the experienced and passionate Creative Sonia Sandhu will help progress the recommendations. There is a real hunger for the development of the LGBTQIA+ arts scene across the district and Sonia’s appointment is the perfect springboard off which to see new ideas flourish and hidden talent be brought into the spotlight.”

Bradford Producing Hub was recently [appointed by Bradford 2025 as its cultural capacity partner](#) to support its UK City of Culture programme. The appointment of Sonia Sandhu into the role of LGBTQIA+ Arts Instigator will help ensure a diverse representation of arts is platformed in Bradford as they embark on the journey to becoming the UK City of Culture in 2025.

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This press release is published [here](#).

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[Press images can be found here.](#)

Notes to editors:

Bradford Producing Hub

Founded in 2019, Bradford Producing Hub (BPH) is an arts development organisation that tests radical new approaches to producing work, supporting talent, developing a local arts workforce, and partnering with communities across Bradford to reimagine the city as a thriving hub for performance.

BPH supports artists, producers, and small companies through funding, grants, mentoring, training, development, and networking opportunities to establish Bradford as a city that nurtures homegrown talent.

Bradford Producing Hub is supported by Arts Council England, City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Bradford 2025, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation, Jerwood Arts, and the University of Bradford.

<https://bdproducinghub.co.uk>

Bradford 2025

Bradford 2025 led the district’s bid to be the UK City of Culture 2025. Awarded every four years by the Government, the UK City of Culture title has had a transformational impact on previous host cities, securing millions of pounds of investment and acting as a catalyst for creative place-making and

culture-led regeneration. Bradford district's bid is backed by Bradford Metropolitan District Council with the University of Bradford as a strategic partner.

Bradford 2025 is driven by the Cultural Place Partnership which includes Bradford Council, University of Bradford and other representatives of the cultural sector and national funders.

The bid forms part of [Culture is Our Plan](#) – Bradford Council's cultural strategy until 2031.

In July 2021, Bradford was officially named as one of 20 UK locations bidding for the title, the highest number of entries in the competition's history and a resounding show of confidence in the transformational impact the designation can afford.

DCMS announced eight longlisted locations in October 2021 which included; Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Bradford, Cornwall, County Durham, Derby, Southampton, Stirling and Wrexham County Borough.

Four shortlisted places were announced on Saturday 19 March including Bradford, County Durham, Southampton and Wrexham County Borough, with Bradford named the winner on 31 May 2022.

<https://bradford2025.co.uk/>