

Arts Council England awards £1,289,002 to Basildon as part of Creative People and Places 2019-2023

Basildon has been awarded a whopping **£1,289,002** from Arts Council England as part of Creative People and Places **2019-2023**. It is the first time this grant has been awarded to a borough within Essex and is an exciting win for the both residents and businesses within the town.

The Creative People and Places initiative has been specifically developed by Arts Council England for areas where evidence shows that there is low engagement with cultural activity and aims to put the local community at the heart of driving and delivering an array of diverse and engaging projects over a **4** year period.

In order to apply for this funding, **25** local businesses and community groups joined forces to create the BasildON Consortium; working together to develop a programme of **7** core projects that will change the cultural and business landscape of Basildon forever.

Led by **Things Made Public CIC**, The BasildON Creative People and Places programme is designed to empower the whole community – businesses and residents alike – to create a cultural democracy, developing a wide-range of activities and projects that give everyone the opportunity to be involved in shaping Basildon's cultural and creative future.

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“2019 is a pivotal moment in the history of Basildon. This year, 70 years ago, the New Town was born and we’re over the moon to be celebrating by looking to the future with BasildON Creative People and Places. Our programme aims to bring art and culture to EVERYONE, and is underpinned by the belief that Basildon is a borough of 180,000 artists, each capable of contributing to the cultural vitality of the place. We’re absolutely thrilled with the news and truly believe that this opportunity will be transformative to Basildon.”

Sarah Walters, Founder, Things Made Public CIC

“This is great news for Basildon as we celebrate our 70th year as a new town.

This funding will unlock and create opportunities for our residents to get more involved in cultural and creative activity and will help us work more collaboratively with our community on projects that will inspire and bring people together.”

Leader of Basildon Council, Councillor Gavin Callaghan



“As a son of Basildon, I am proud of the role Futurecity has played in developing a strategy for Basildon to become a creative digital town. From the outset of our work we said the measure of success of our strategy for Basildon would be an investment by a major art funder. The announcement by Arts Council England’s £1.3million funding is a clear sign of confidence in Basildon’s future.”

Mark Davy, Futurecity Founder



“Essex County Council are delighted that BasildON Consortium and Things Made Public have been successful with their bid to Arts Council England’s Creative People and Places Scheme. This is a very exciting time for Basildon and we very much look forward to working with colleagues on this vibrant programme of work as it seeks to use arts and culture to meaningfully engage and involve the community in a diverse range of projects, interventions and initiatives which will have a real impact on the economy, public realm, and wellbeing of the area.”

Essex County Councillor Susan Barker, Cabinet Member for Customer, Communities, Culture and Corporate



“It is fantastic news that Basildon has been awarded CPP funding from Arts Council England. Basildon has amazing local creative individuals, groups and organisations each with their own unique ambitions, and for ACE to recognise this, is a monumental step forward for Basildon and it’s future.”

Shaun C Badham, Bas Arts Index Founder

“The Edge Bar & Kitchen in Basildon are delighted to hear this positive news. For far too many years a lot of local businesses, ourselves included, have struggled to raise the profile of a fading town with very little spirit. This funding could make all the difference to small local shops, venues and businesses. We look forward to positive change in the very near future. There is hope! Onwards and upwards Basildon!”

Gary Kaye, The Edge Bar & Kitchen



“TIME are formed of a collective of people who grew up in the Basildon area. Unfortunately, in that time, we have witnessed the drastic closure and regress of artistic spaces and services. By acquiring this funding to provide the many initiatives this proposal presents, a sense of optimism and opportunity will be restored in to the local area.

This array of engaging projects will enable local people to have a definitive say on how their hometown is shaped and presented. It will provide essential platforms for creative individuals and businesses and open the eyes of the general public to what can be achieved when the right ethos is instilled.”

Marc Barnacle, T.I.M.E Music Therapy



“Gateway 97.8 is proud to be a partner in the BasildON Consortium. The Creative People and Places funding from the Arts Council England is welcome in Basildon And will be a big boost for the town.”

Danny Lawrence, Business Development Gateway Community Media

“It’s wonderful to know that Basildon’s talented creative people of all ages will have a chance to shine and show that our New Town pioneering spirit extends to art and culture.”

Elizabeth Grant, Trustee, TFEA



THE 7 CORE PROJECTS

COMMUNITY VOICES IS A VIRTUAL AND PHYSICAL NETWORK THAT ACTS AS A VEHICLE BY WHICH THE COMMUNITY CAN DRIVE THE DIRECTION OF THE CPP PROGRAMME, SHAPING THE CULTURAL OFFER OF BASILDON AT ITS CORE. AS A RESULT LOCAL PEOPLE WILL TRULY HAVE THE POWER TO SHAPE THEIR OWN LIVES AND EXPERIENCES.

CULTIVATE IS A NETWORK OF CREATIVE PRODUCERS IN BASILDON, SUPPORTING AND ENCOURAGING LOCAL PEOPLE TO COME TOGETHER AND CO-PRODUCE AN INNOVATIVE PROGRAMME OF EVENTS, ACTIVITIES AND INTERVENTIONS THROUGHOUT THE BOROUGH. AS A RESULT LOCAL CREATIVE PRACTITIONERS WILL NO LONGER FEEL ALONE AND WILL BE GIVEN THE TOOLS TO TRANSFORM HOBBIES INTO CAREERS.

CONNECT IS A BUSINESS SUPPORT PROGRAMME, CREATING A BRIDGE BETWEEN COMMERCIAL BUSINESSES AND CULTURAL PRACTICE, DEMONSTRATING THE BENEFITS OF COMMISSIONING CULTURAL ACTIVITY THROUGH INCREASES IN FOOTFALL, DWELL TIME, POSITIVE PR AND RATES MITIGATION STRATEGIES. AS A RESULT THE PRIVATE SECTOR WILL ACTIVELY SUPPORT THE SUSTAINABILITY OF CULTURE YEARS INTO THE FUTURE.

OPEN LAB HANDS OVER THE KEYS OF VACANT SHOPS TO CREATIVE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANISATIONS TO WEAVE THEIR MAGIC. USING THE TOWN CENTRE FABRIC AS A CULTURAL CANVAS, OPEN LAB ALLOWS FOR A CURATED PROGRAMME OF EVER-CHANGING ACTIVITY. AS A RESULT, ANY VISITOR TO BASILDON WILL GET TO ACCESS CULTURE WITHOUT THE FEAR OF INTIMIDATION OR JUDGEMENT.

BEYOND BOUNDARIES WILL PROGRAMME A SERIES OF STREET ART AND DIGITAL ART COMMISSIONS THROUGHOUT THE TOWN CENTRE, CULTIVATING BASILDON'S CULTURAL BRAND, OFFERING THE PEOPLE OF BASILDON YET ANOTHER WAY IN WHICH TO EXPERIENCE ART AND CULTURE. AS A RESULT THE TOWN WILL BECOME AN OPEN AIR GALLERY.

DIGICULT WILL BE A VIBRANT CENTRE OF CULTURE, DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY AND CREATIVE ENTERPRISE, WELCOMING THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY THROUGH IT'S DOORS. DIGICULT WILL BE THE EPICENTRE FOR NEW THINKING, NETWORKING AND COLLABORATIVE WORKING. AS A RESULT LOCAL CREATIVES IN THE BOROUGH WILL ALWAYS HAVE A HOME, AND RESIDENTS A SAFE SPACE TO EXPLORE CULTURE.

FUTURE FESTIVAL BRINGS TOGETHER A PROGRAMME OF INNOVATIVE ACTIVITY INCLUDING INSTALLATIONS, PROTOTYPE EXHIBITIONS, PERFORMANCES, AND WORKSHOPS THAT MAKE CREATIVE USE OF THE SPACE IN AND AROUND THE TOWN. AS A RESULT BASILDON WILL HAVE A NEW FUTURE, CELEBRATED INTERNATIONALLY AS A PLACE OF INNOVATION, EXPERIMENTATION AND CREATIVITY.