

Weekly Digest

Cultural Strategy and Beam

A new vision for culture and heritage in North East Lincolnshire

North East Lincolnshire Council has appointed specialist organisation, Beam, to drive forward the work to create the new strategy needed to underpin the resurgence in creative work in the area.

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Following the announcement of North East Lincolnshire as a Priority Place for Arts Council England [earlier], the Cultural Strategy, which was agreed the council in 2017, needs updating to reflect the significant strides have been made in the borough to bring culture and heritage forward.

Since 2017, significant amounts of government and National Lottery money has been awarded for programmes such as Grimsby Creates, Cultural Development Fund (CDF) programme, Heritage Action Zone, Cleethorpes Townscape Heritage Programme and Towns Fund programme.

Cllr Callum Procter, Cabinet member for culture, explained: "Creativity can play a vital role in the economic, social and environmental prosperity of our communities. Much of the activity being undertaken by the council and partners stems from that 2017 Strategy, and it's now time to update our work and build on the firm foundations now in place.

"In recent years, money awarded through the various programmes and bids has supplemented and enhanced creative activity delivered by great local organisations. Now, this vital funding will help us develop that creative vision for the area, and help us secure support from National Lottery Heritage Fund and Arts Council England, working in partnership with the council."

Specialist arts organisation Beam have more than 35 years' experience in developing new creative approaches, particularly with public sector organisations.

Over the next few months, Beam will look at what progress has been made recently and, working with stakeholders and local people, develop a fun and engaging strategy for the future that will focus on three key elements:

- How to build leadership to champion the role of creativity across the borough
- how to engage young people
- how to celebrate North East Lincolnshire's rich and varied heritage to wider range of audiences

Frances Smith at Beam continued: "Beam is delighted to have been appointed to create a dynamic Creativity Strategy for and with the people of North East Lincolnshire. We're excited by this unique opportunity to consolidate the existing rich evidence base around culture and creativity in the area, build on achievements to date and explore how the power of creativity can help residents and visitors to shape NEL's distinct sense of place."

Introducing... Sam Dunstan

Hello! My name is Sam Dunstan and I will be working with East Street Arts in Grimsby over the next few months to deliver a bespoke programme designed to support artists in Grimsby. This will include research, meeting artists, building relationships and co-designing a series of activities spanning workshops, mentoring, site visits and more. My background is as a director, producer and educator, born and bred in Doncaster, South Yorkshire. Before the pandemic I lived in London working on my own creative projects and leading artists development workshops. For more information on my work now you can check out [The Growth House](#) and [Jozara](#). I fundamentally believe the arts are strongest when we work together, so whether it is an arts project or development programme I lead with a listening ear. In the spirit of this, if you want to learn more about what I do then please get in touch by emailing sam.dunstan@esamail.org.uk.

Reshape Grant

More than £800,000 is being made available in capital grants to local businesses through the new "NEL Reshape Grant" to help North East Lincolnshire-based businesses to grow, expand, or diversify their work.

The grant scheme, which links with phase 2 of the NEL Recovery Plan 'Restore-Reshape-Replenish, to create the conditions to grow, offers eligible businesses 50% of project costs, up a maximum of £25,000.

Grants will be available to SMEs from any sector who are registered and trading in North East Lincolnshire who can demonstrate that investment in capital expenditure will assist in the growth or diversification of their business. Applicants that can demonstrate additional value, for example the creation of jobs, empty or poor-quality property brought back into use or improved, or wider community benefits will be prioritised. The funding stream also has an element which mirrors the recent Digital Boost Grant, capped at £5,000, for businesses who missed out.

While project which have already started cannot be supported, expenditure will have to have been made and the grant claimed no later than 28th February 2022.

For full details, eligibility and application form go to <https://www.nelincs.gov.uk/business-and-investment/nel-reshape-grant/>

The Ropewalk

The Ropewalk is open this weekend at 10am-4pm showing some wonderful pieces!

Heritage Network Meeting

The next Heritage Network Meeting is Wednesday 17th November 2pm-4pm.

SOcial

The next SOcial is face-to-face! [Book your tickets](#) for 29th September, 6pm-7:30pm!



Sam Dunstan

Upcoming Events

Festival of the Sky First Showing	24 September
Festival of the Sky Second Showing	25 September
The Ropewalk	25 September
The Ropewalk	26 September
Social	29 September
Hammond House Literary Prize 2021 deadline	30 September
Lincolnshire Day	1 October
Edward Watkin	5 October

SEPTEMBER 2021

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