

#005  
Media release  
11.02.2025

Media Contact:  
Sarah Webster  
Marketing & Communications Coordinator,  
The Bowes Museum  
sarah.webster@thebowesmuseum.org.uk  
+44(0)1833 690 606 ext. 238

## **17 Arts & Culture Leaders Selected for Leadership Development Opportunity in County Durham**

The Bowes Museum is excited to announce the 17 dynamic individuals selected to Durham Creative Community Fellows, a free and innovative learning experience for people driving positive change in County Durham through arts and culture projects. The programme is delivered in partnership with Derby Museums and the USA-based NAS. It is a component of the Into the Light Place Partnership Initiative in County Durham.

Durham Creative Community Fellows empowers artists, community organisers, administrators and creative entrepreneurs who are driving social and physical transformations in County Durham to develop their leadership skills and take their arts and culture projects to the next level. The fellowship's nine-month journey includes a unique curriculum emphasising learning and growth, featuring monthly online meetups, online group sessions facilitated by leadership coaches, an in-person convening and more. Participants will also form a community of practice throughout the programme, drawing on their experiences to exchange knowledge, collaborate and hold each other accountable.

"We welcome this incredible group of arts and culture leaders into Durham Creative Community Fellows. The skills they will develop and the connections they will forge in this collaborative learning environment will be instrumental in their growth as changemakers," said Hannah Fox, Executive Director of The Bowes Museum.

"We look forward to the ways their work will enrich our community creatively and innovatively while helping shape the future of cultural engagement in County Durham."

Durham Creative Community Fellows is a partnership between The Bowes Museum, NAS, a US-based organisation that builds and supports diverse communities of cultural leaders and Derby Museums. It is a strand of the Into the Light Place Partnership Initiative in County Durham, which aims to develop enduring growth in the county by nurturing talent, broadening access to creative education, enhancing skills, and facilitating engagement and connectivity over 2024-2027.

The Durham Creative Community Fellows curriculum was co-created by alumni of the successful UK Creative Community Fellows programme to ensure participants gain relevant and proven tools for advancing their projects. The programme's teaching and facilitating team comprises artists, academics and creative leaders from across the globe.

The following fellows were selected for their exceptional creativity, commitment to community development, and potential to enact change in County Durham. Together they will build a community of practice that is strengthened by their broad range of backgrounds, experiences, and expertise.

Niamh Barclay  
Danijel Borna Fiket  
Ruth Flowers  
Sarah Gent  
Lizzie Lovejoy  
Naomi Marklew  
Gillian O'Mara  
Hazel Oakes  
Rupert Philbrick  
Christine Powell  
Ellen Ranson Howarth  
Matthew Smith  
Jackie Stonehouse  
Rebecca Sullivan  
Eleanor Thirlway  
Sarah Wilson  
Zara Worth

Learn more about the Durham Creative Community Fellows at [thebowesmuseum.org.uk/fellows](https://thebowesmuseum.org.uk/fellows).

-ENDS-

**Note to editors and picture desks:**

Download a graphic showing images of the 2025 DCCF cohort [here](#).

## **About The Bowes Museum**

The Bowes Museum is a charity managing a Grade 1-listed accredited Museum and Grade 2-listed parkland in Barnard Castle. Founded by Joséphine & John Bowes 150+ years ago, this purpose-built museum brings together an extraordinary collection of fine European decorative art as a cultural resource for the people of Northern England, where today we celebrate artists, designers, and makers.

The Bowes Museum receives funding from Durham County Council and, as a National Portfolio Organisation, receives support from Arts Council England. Arts Council England is the national development body for arts and culture across England, working to enrich people's lives. [artscouncil.org.uk](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk)

The Bowes Museum is a member of the Discover Durham partnership of attractions, whose commitment is to promote Durham as an exciting and vibrant group travel destination and to provide the travel trade with a professional and knowledgeable service. [discoverdurham.co.uk](https://www.discoverdurham.co.uk)

Admission to The Bowes Museum is £16.00 for local members (residents of County Durham and Darlington), £18.00 for members (residents elsewhere), £19.00 for a day ticket, £20.90 for a day ticket including gift aid. Under 18s, full time students and carers are free.

As a registered charity (number 1079639) The Bowes Museum needs to generate more than half of its income each year to care for the historic collection, buildings and parkland. Your donations are vital to that work. Visit [thebowesmuseum.org.uk](https://www.thebowesmuseum.org.uk) support for more information.

## **About NAS**

Established in 1983, NAS has been at the forefront of leadership development in the arts and culture sector for four decades. Its mission is to build and support a diverse community of arts and culture leaders who drive inspiring change for the future. In addition to leadership development, NAS offers coaching and a powerful network to arts and culture leaders at every stage of their careers. NAS has trained and supported more arts and culture leaders than any other organisation in the field. Learn more at [www.artstrategies.org](https://www.artstrategies.org).

## **About Derby Museums**

Derby Museums is an independent charitable trust operating three museums: the Museum and Art Gallery, the Museum of Making, and Pickford's House. It cares for the cultural heritage collections on behalf of Derby City Council for the people of Derby. Derby Museums has the finest collection of work

by Joseph Wright of Derby, the 18th-century artist of the Enlightenment and is 'Designated' by Arts Council England as a collection of national significance. Visit [derbymuseums.org](http://derbymuseums.org) to find out more.

### **About Into the Light**

The Into the Light programme aims to drive long lasting growth in County Durham's cultural sector, through a transformative programme of creative collaborations.

It will cultivate talent, widen access to creative education, enhance the skills of the cultural workforce, and break down barriers to working in the creative industries.

The three-year programme will support over 100 creative commissions, create nationally significant performances and theatre-making in the heart of our communities, inspire children and young people, invite visitors to explore our unique mix of culture, science, and heritage, and deepen our understanding of our place in the world.

Into the Light is delivered by Durham County Council in partnership with Beamish Museum, The Bowes Museum, Durham University, Ensemble '84, The Forge, No More Nowt, Northern Heartlands, Redhills CIO and TIN Arts. Culture Durham is a key stakeholder, representing the broader cultural sector.

It is funded by Durham County Council, the National Lottery through Arts Council England, the UK government through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and Durham University.

To find out more, visit [culturedurham.org.uk/into-the-light](http://culturedurham.org.uk/into-the-light)

