



CULTURAL INSTITUTE REVIEW



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

£9m

Research income supported by the Cultural Institute

3

Cultural Institute Fellows in Arts & Science

40

Organisations consulted for new co-developed taught modules

35

Cultural Institute-funded projects between researchers and partners

22

Cultural Institute-funded student internships with research projects

65

Arts Fundraising & Philanthropy Fellows accredited through University of Leeds

2

Cultural Institute collaborative doctoral awards with partners (2018 start date)

£2m

Income through Arts Council England NPO to the Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy Consortium

£462k

Income from AHRC for 7 collaborative doctoral awards with Cultural Institute partners (2019 start date)

6,732

Attendees at Cultural Institute events

41

Artistic commissions

135

Cultural Institute events

“The Cultural Institute develops cutting-edge relationships, techniques and breakthroughs to drive arts and culture to deliver benefit for all.”

SIR PETER BAZALGETTE

FRONT PAGE: KAT AUSTEN, CULTURAL FELLOW IN ART AND SCIENCE, CULTURAL INSTITUTE
THIS PAGE: PARKINSON BUILDING, UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS



PROFESSOR FRANK FINLAY, DIRECTOR, CULTURAL INSTITUTE



Welcome to this review of the principal activities of the Cultural Institute since its launch at the end of 2016. The following pages showcase some of the ways we have contributed to the strategic ambitions of the University of Leeds by using arts and culture to connect our academics and students with the wider world.

The Institute’s specialist team brokers, facilitates and manages the University’s key partnerships with the arts and culture sector and the creative industries. This benefits the radically interdisciplinary research and innovation of academics across our schools and faculties, helping to generate impact and action, and reach larger and more diverse audiences. We have had a significant hand in securing new funding in a research landscape increasingly focused on complex “challenges”, be they to drive progress and innovation that will create opportunities for businesses and sectors across the UK, or to provide solutions to the “wicked problems” facing global society.

For our students, we enhance their life chances by “co-producing” a range of learning and experiential opportunities with our cultural partners, which can build their

knowledge and skills and equip them to succeed in a rapidly changing world. We are pleased to have delivered continuing professional development to practitioners, including via new, digital modes.

Our campus is alive with creative expression in a city and region with a growing reputation as a national centre for the creative and cultural sector. The new collaborations and partnerships we have forged with artists and arts organisations have animated the cultural life around us. Engagement with artists has also informed the methods and approaches of our researchers and teachers in exciting and novel ways. We are especially pleased to be playing a significant civic role in the Council’s ambitious plans for “Leeds 2023”, a project which over a four year period will enrich the city region’s cultural offer, widen engagement, contribute to

urban regeneration and inclusive growth, and greatly strengthen relationships and connections between people and places.

Partnership is at the heart of our work, and the achievements shared in this review would not have been possible without the enthusiasm, support and hard work of our partner organisations, artists, students, and colleagues. Finally I would like to acknowledge the support of our various funders, particularly the AHRC and Arts Council England, as well as the incredible generosity of donors who have supported our Cultural Fellows.

I very much hope that you enjoy reading about how we are helping to enrich research, spark innovation, enhance student opportunity, widen participation and engage a broader public through cultural collaboration.

PROFESSOR FRANK FINLAY,
DIRECTOR



TRANSFORMATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Collaboration is at the heart of everything we do. We identify areas of mutual benefit to create sustainable, long-term relationships with the cultural and creative sector. We enable and support partnerships between researchers at the University of Leeds and creative professionals to enhance our research, boost our cultural engagement and build skills for students.

Through our activities, we hope to fundamentally transform the work of the University and of the cultural sector, catalysing new practices for co-production of knowledge, and engagement with creativity and the arts.

Our partners can expect the following benefits:

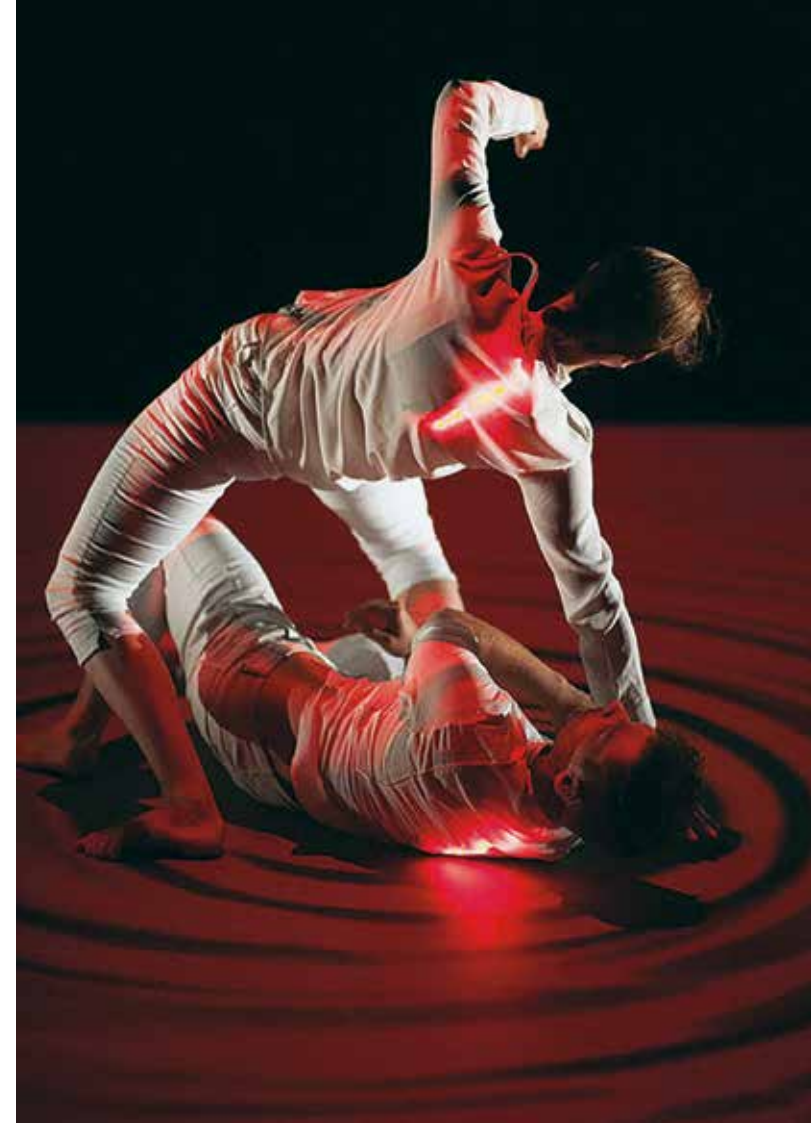
- Networking and professional access to research-intensive academic staff
- Advice and support
- Reaching new audiences
- Raised profile
- Access to facilities
- Professional development opportunities
- Access to funding routes



CULTURAL INSTITUTE SYMPOSIUM ON ARTS AND HEALTH



SAMUEL HERTZ, DARE ART PRIZE WINNER 2017, WITH DOMINIC GRAY, PROJECTS DIRECTOR AT OPERA NORTH AND PROFESSOR JOHN LADBURY, DEAN OF THE FACULTY OF BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES



'TRANSMISSION', BY DARE CULTURAL FELLOW BECS ANDREWS

ENRICHING EXISTING RELATIONSHIPS

In a recent report, the Cultural Institute was cited as a critical factor in the continued success of our sector-leading DARE partnership with Opera North.

DARE has resulted in over 200 projects, including new externally-funded research, innovative artworks, enhanced skills and leadership in the arts sector, as well as new audience engagement activity for both organisations. Both internally and by funders, DARE has led to increased recognition of the direct contribution cultural partnerships can make to the depth and success of the University's research activity.

Since the launch of the Cultural Institute, new programmes have been established, such as the DARE Art Prize, which challenges artists to work with academics in our science faculties on new approaches to the creative process. The DARE Liberty Lectures bring ever more impressive national and international public intellectuals to the city.

"DARE has facilitated a way for both institutions to spread our wings, and to have more impact in other sectors."

ALICE PARSONS, HIGHER EDUCATION MANAGER, OPERA NORTH

USING ARTS TO BUILD INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Researchers at the University of Leeds are working in partnership to investigate how the arts, heritage, and human rights education can support youth-centred approaches to civil society building in Cambodia, Colombia, Kosovo, Rwanda and South Africa.

Changing The Story is a four-year, multidisciplinary project between universities, international non-government organisations, artists, grassroots civil society organisations and young people across the world.

Funded by the Global Challenges Research Fund, the project aims to evaluate practices of civil society organisations working with young people in 'post-conflict' settings, in order to build strong institutions that can support communities to deliver sustained social justice.

The Cultural Institute played a key role in the development of the £2m bid, by brokering all-important relationships between researchers and the British Council. We continue to support the project's development and management.

Working at the intersection between the arts, humanities and social sciences, and crossing a broad range of disciplines (including languages and cultural studies, arts practice, film, history, post-colonial studies, cultural policy, anthropology, social policy, development studies, education and law), this project is forging new ways

of utilising arts and humanities research for practical international development projects with a lasting legacy.

Most recently, a film made by the project's principal investigator, Professor Paul Cooke, has been shortlisted for the Arts and Humanities Research Council's prestigious Research in Film Awards (2018) as well as being shown at a number of international film festivals.

CHANGINGTHESTORY.LEEDS.AC.UK

CHANGING THE STORY RESEARCH PROJECT



PIONEERING RESEARCH

The University of Leeds has an international reputation for the cutting-edge research which its outstanding people and world-leading facilities generate. Excellence in research is increasingly dependent on partnerships and collaboration.

The Cultural Institute offers a single gateway to information, support and practical advice to connect external partners with academics in the University from all disciplines, inviting them to contribute new ideas and expertise to projects, from their inception right through to bids for external funding that support our collaborative work.

Our varied programme of Creative Labs, workshops, showcases, competitions, awards and prizes helps us nurture these connections.

“I hadn’t realised that my collaborator’s research would fundamentally shift how I think about making art, and who I want to make it with. It’s really anchored my practice.”

ELLIE HARRISON, ARTIST, THE GRIEF SERIES

ELLIE HARRISON © MATT ROGERS HTTP://GRIEFSERIES.CO.UK



INVESTIGATING THE INTERSECTION OF ARTS AND HEALTH

Our strategic research focus brings together researchers from across the University of Leeds with creative practitioners to explore approaches to humanity’s most pressing questions around arts, health and well-being.

At the University of Leeds, researchers are exploring approaches to arts and health from an astonishing diversity of fields, including sports science, medical humanities, history of medicine and impact-orientated humanities research with arts partners. Through our research focus, we are sparking collaborations with a range of cultural partners in order to harness this wealth of activity.

In June 2018, over 120 delegates attended the Institute’s inaugural ‘Arts & Health’ symposium. Researchers from ten academic schools rubbed intellectual shoulders with artists, creative and cultural sector professionals, public health practitioners and third sector organisations. Keynote speakers included Sir Alan Langlands, former CEO of NHS, Ian Cameron, Director of Public Health at Leeds City Council, and Rob Webster, CEO of South West Yorkshire NHS Foundation Trust.

As well as providing support to spark future work in this area, the Cultural Institute has collaborated on the submission of evidence to the City’s Health and Wellbeing Board, successfully urging them to adopt the recommendations of the 2017 All Party Parliamentary Report on arts and health. We will contribute to the City’s strategy in this area, and jointly establish a new city-wide arts and health network for academics, arts organisations and health sector professionals.



ROB WEBSTER, CEO, SOUTH WEST YORKSHIRE NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

CULTURAL RESEARCH IN A DIGITAL WORLD

Immersive technologies – including augmented, mixed and virtual reality – are radically changing the ways we process information and interact with the world, with implications for the creative economy and cultural experiences.

The Cultural Institute is working with leaders in immersive technologies research based at the University of Leeds to connect entrepreneurs, businesses and researchers, and develop practical applications for the technology.

With the Centre for Immersive Technologies, we are helping to broaden access to the nation’s culture and heritage by supporting changes in the delivery of entertainment and journalism, providing critical perspectives, and using immersive technologies to address social challenges.

Virtual Holocaust Memoryscapes is an ambitious project led by Dr Matthew Boswell, Associate Professor of Contemporary Literature and Culture, aiming to develop immersive, interactive, virtual environments to allow future generations to engage with difficult histories.

VIRTUAL HOLOCAUST MEMORYSCAPES RESEARCH PROJECT



leeds.ac.uk/culturalinstitute

LEADING INNOVATION IN THE CREATIVE ECONOMY



FASHION DESIGN FACILITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

Future Fashion Factory is a multi-million pound investment from the AHRC's Creative Clusters fund to transform the fashion sector's capacity for creative innovation.

Academics in textile design at the University of Leeds will lead a new phase of research and development for the fashion industry, working with some of the UK's foremost brands to explore and develop new digital technologies that will revolutionise design processes for high value, luxury fashion.

Instrumental to the project is the Cultural Institute's ability to engage with creative industry partners, including micro-businesses and SMEs in Leeds and the surrounding region. We will develop Creative Labs and deliver a 'Yorkshire's Textiles Heritage Fund' to ignite and

incubate new industry-led developments. Partners include Yorkshire Textiles, the Royal College of Art, Burberry, Abraham Moon & Sons, and the British Fashion Council.

The project, which faces the Industrial Strategy of the UK Government, will also address skills gaps for the fashion industry, devising new fashion undergraduate and postgraduate fashion design programmes at the University of Leeds, alongside industrial apprenticeships which develop and combine students' art, design, science and technology skills.

CREATING SPACE FOR UNEXPECTED COLLABORATIONS

Leeds Creative Labs is the name of our pioneering programme to harness the skills and talents of both academics and creative innovators, to spark fresh ideas and make surprising connections.

Artists, arts professionals and researchers who have taken part in the programme have gone on to produce an astonishing diversity of concepts and outputs. They have created new artistic works and digital platforms, developed new teaching practices and innovative research methodologies, and secured significant external funding.

Leeds Creative Labs pair creative professionals with our researchers in any discipline. The initiative supports, inspires and encourages artists and researchers to innovate and take risks.

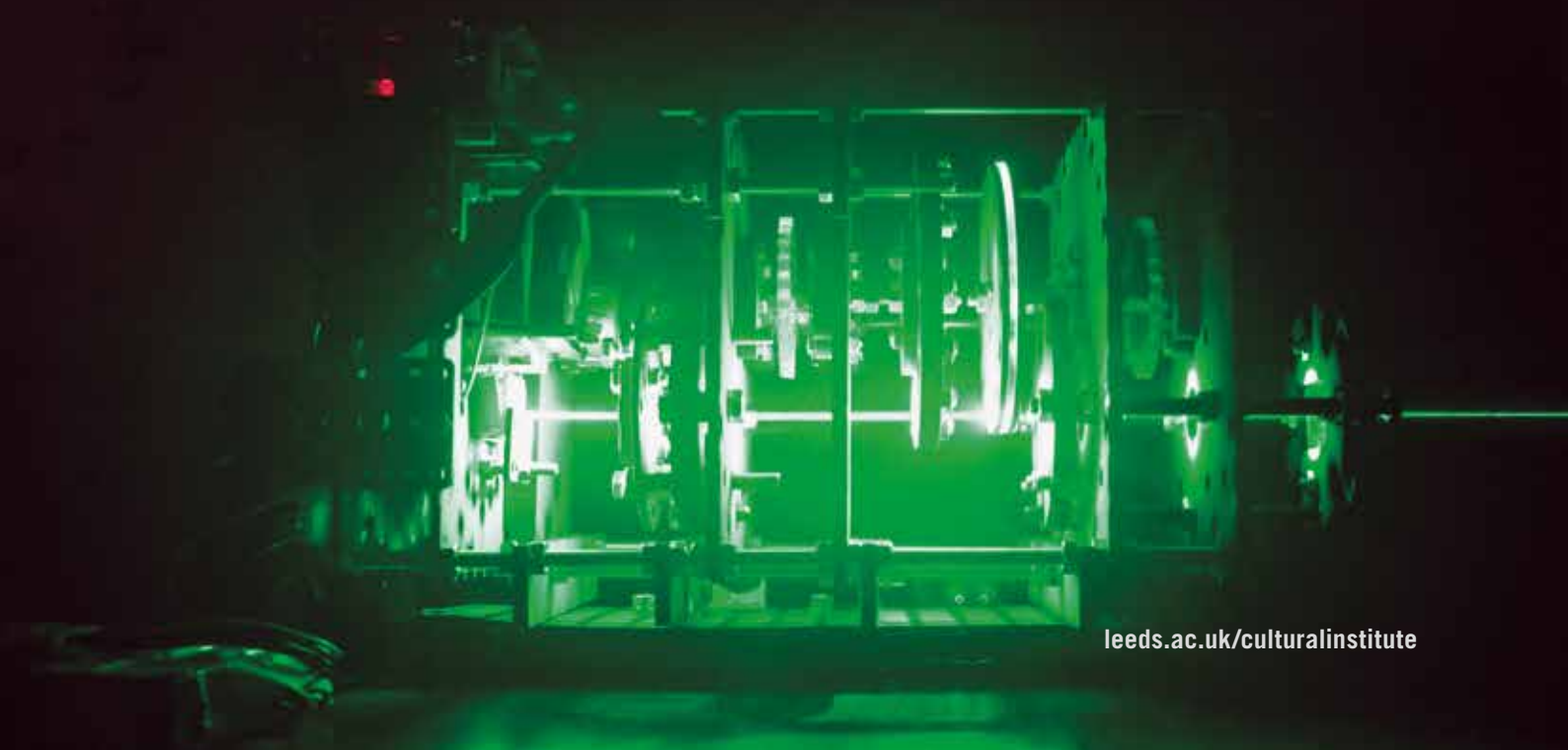
Participants are not required to respond to a specific brief; rather they enter into the experience on an equal footing, and have the rare freedom to have an unstructured "space" in which to explore and create ideas together.

We have secured funding from Arts Council England to research current practices in other organisations and build an international network of similar 'Lab' schemes, which offers a platform to showcase models of creative collaboration, provoke new thinking and share best practice. We presented the outcomes of this research in Liverpool in November 2018.

"Leeds Creative Labs gave me an opportunity to experience something I wouldn't in any other context. Without boundaries, we could create something new."

DR TERRY KEY, READER, SCHOOL OF CHEMISTRY

HIGH-POWERED LASERS USED BY ARTISTS DURING LEEDS CREATIVE LABS



BUILDING SKILLS AND OPPORTUNITIES

We value rich experiences achieved through learning with partners, and the contribution they make to informing engaged and talented graduates. Opportunities include volunteering roles, in-curriculum placements with industry partners, paid internships and collaborative doctoral awards.

The Cultural Institute supports professional development for practitioners. Our acclaimed International Summer School in Arts Fundraising and Leadership was developed in partnership with the Arts Fundraising and Philanthropy Consortium and funded by Arts Council England. A massive open online course (MOOC) for Effective Fundraising and Leadership in Arts and Culture was launched in 2017, attracting over 3,500 learners. We will build on this success by launching a sector-focused Leadership for Growth executive course in 2019.

BHAVISHA KUKADIA, ARTS FUNDRAISING AND PHILANTHROPY FELLOW



'SHAPING STUDENT LEARNING' CONSULTATION WORKSHOP WITH CULTURAL PARTNERS

CO-CREATING STUDENT EDUCATION

We are leading the development of new, interdisciplinary learning and teaching models through co-created programmes with our partners to address the needs of the cultural and creative sector, and enhance student employability.

Following open consultations with a broad range of employers and partners, we co-devised a new postgraduate taught module 'Engaging the Modern City' working with Opera North and East Street Arts. Launching for the first time in 2018/19, this innovative module engages students in a year-long relationship with partner organisations. It connects their learning to a shared research project, benefiting cultural organisations and enabling students to develop skills that employers will value.

"Without the Cultural Institute's established networks and dedicated project management support, the opportunities for our students would have been vastly reduced."

DR BEN WALMSLEY, POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH TUTOR,
SCHOOL OF PERFORMANCE AND CULTURAL INDUSTRIES

CREATIVE TALENT: THE NEXT GENERATION

Incubating the Future will define a creative curriculum for the city to develop the next generation of cultural and creative industry leaders.

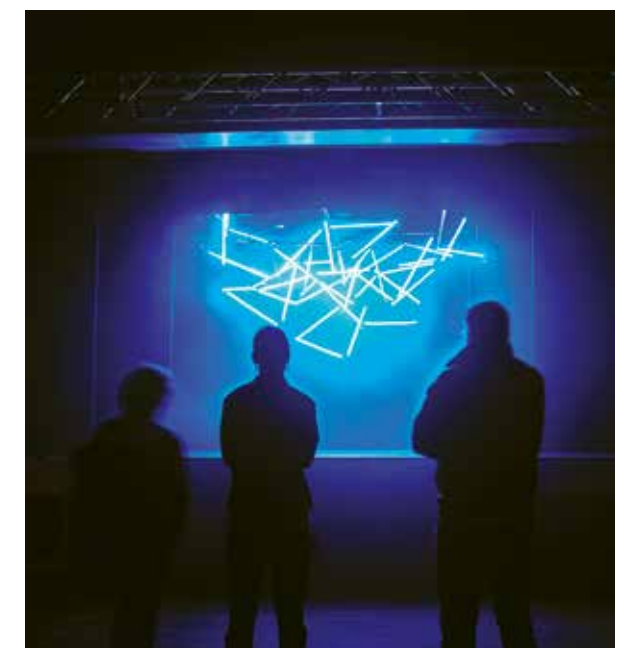
Incubating the Future is an ambitious, city-wide programme to support the development of the next generation of cultural leaders in Leeds.

The programme will be a catalyst for external investment and a focus for culture-led economic growth via investment in young people's creative skills development, strengthening their leadership of cultural policy and production in the city.

The Cultural Institute has developed a partnership with Leeds City Council to deliver the programme as a key part of a shortlisted £5.5m bid to the DCMS Cultural Development Fund.

Working across the city with partners in education, the local community and creative and cultural industries, the programme will develop new community-based learning programmes and forge new routes for access to industry and sector-focused leadership development for young people, particularly those disadvantaged by social class and mobility.

The Cultural Institute will provide research leadership, enabling reflection and critical engagement with the challenges facing the city in developing a diverse workforce and a stronger creative economy. The research will provide a platform for evaluating innovative solutions and inform ongoing programme- and practice-development. We aim to create a legacy of evidence-based policy-making within the city, as well as building the national and international profile of Leeds as a centre for excellence in place-based cultural and creative sector development.



AUDIENCE ENGAGEMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS DURING LIGHT NIGHT



WIDENING CULTURAL ENGAGEMENT

The Cultural Institute promotes and integrates the University's outstanding cultural attractions, creative resources and performance and exhibition spaces, in order to increase participation with the University's rich creative community.

We work with University stakeholders to increase the visibility of our cultural offer, acting as a crucial broker between corporate services, academic departments and arts professionals to ensure a coordinated approach to cultural activity on campus.

We also work with students, practitioners and academic staff to increase engagement with our intellectual profile through city-wide events, such as Leeds International Piano Competition, Leeds International Festival, Leeds International Film Festival, Leeds Digital Festival, and Yorkshire Sculpture International. Our partnership with Ilkley Literature Festival has resulted in a record-breaking number of events featuring University of Leeds researchers. We also partnered on the Words in the City festival, widening cultural engagement across the region.

“There was such an exciting and interesting range of authors from the University of Leeds speaking at the Festival this year – from the internet and democracy to translating Shakespeare into Arabic and the history of tweed – it really showcased the breadth and depth of all the University has to offer, and all the speakers had a very enthusiastic response from the audience.”

RACHEL FELDBERG, DIRECTOR, ILKLEY LITERATURE FESTIVAL



CELEBRATING CREATIVITY, HERITAGE AND INNOVATION

Yorkshire Year of the Textile 2016-17 was an initiative led by the Cultural Institute to celebrate the heritage of textiles in the region, and focused on creative development, innovative commissioning and new partnerships.

Funded by Arts Council England, Yorkshire Year of the Textile enabled us to commission textile and public art interventions, literary and performance strands with textiles as their theme, and events aimed at all ages and open to all. Over the year, eight exhibitions were staged, with 41 new artistic works and 39 separate events at a number of cultural organisations across the county.

34 artists across a range of disciplines and career stages contributed to the programme, which also drew on the skills and experience of University of Leeds researchers.

The project permanently enhanced not only the public art landscape of the University of Leeds, but also its relationships with partners and artists. Following the success of the project, the Cultural Institute has continued to broker new relationships with a diverse range of artists and cultural organisations.

“The project significantly progressed my drawing practice ... it proved to be a very stimulating and rewarding experience and has led me to consider other public engagement projects.”

DEBORAH GARDNER, VISUAL ARTIST

YORKSHIRE YEAR OF THE TEXTILE DISPLAY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

NEW PLATFORMS FOR ARTISTIC PRACTICE

The Academy of Cultural Fellows embodies our ambition to support and develop emerging creative talent in a variety of different art forms, placing artists at the heart of the University. Cultural Fellows are practising artists who are embedded within our institution and are given precious time to experiment, to interact with researchers, cultural partners and students – and to create bold new work.

As well as the Cultural Institute's own Fellowships in Arts and Science, award-winning poets Helen Mort, Vahni Capildeo and Malika Booker have held Douglas Caster Fellowships in Poetry, hosted by the University of Leeds Poetry Centre. Sculptor Dominic Hopkinson is artist-in-residence at the School of Mathematics, and Lawrence Molloy is artist-in-residence in the Museum of Science, Technology and History of Medicine.

MALIKA BOOKER, DOUGLAS CASTER CULTURAL FELLOW IN POETRY 2016-18

ARTISTIC APPROACHES TO SCIENCE RESEARCH

Cultural Institute Fellowships in Arts and Science support international artists in exploring emerging technologies and scientific discoveries.



KAT AUSTEN TAKING MEASUREMENTS OF ARCTIC WATERS

Three international artists were appointed to collaborate with scientists, creating new work at the cutting-edge of arts/science collaboration.

Kat Austen is a new-media artist and interdisciplinary researcher creating digital media, sound, video and sculptural works. She focuses on understanding our decision-making in terms of our relationship to the environment, with a particular concern with climate change.

In October 2018, Kat presented the premiere of *The Matter of the Soul I Symphony* at the Howard Assembly Room. The multi-media piece seeks to engender empathy with the process of dispersal and transformation in the Arctic region, interweaving narratives of human migration and the movement of water from ice to ocean.

Christophe de Bezenac and Dave Lynch are Leeds-based artists and makers who are working together to explore how arts/science practice can fundamentally transform academic thought. Dave, an artist, director and inventor, works internationally at the intersection of art, science, business and technology, involving large-scale interactive installations and performances. Christophe is a composer who has performed at world-class venues and festivals in the UK and Europe, and is also a postdoctoral researcher in cognitive neuroscience.

Dave and Christophe said: "We're excited to be working with the Cultural Institute at the University of Leeds on such an unusual project, bringing together researchers from different disciplines to share scientific research through virtual spaces."

INTERNATIONAL PROFILE FOR LEEDS' CULTURAL OFFER

Since the launch of the Cultural Institute, the University has strengthened and enriched its existing relations with cultural and creative organisations, recognising the value of connecting higher education with creative arts.

We have reimagined our partnership with the Leeds International Piano Competition in 2018, which has allowed new audiences to experience one of the most important classical music competitions in the world. A hugely expanded programme has transformed the competition into a city-wide celebration of the piano, with extensive public outreach and education. For the first time, talks, masterclasses and performances were hosted at the University alongside the competition heats. Other activity included the inaugural Leeds Piano Festival and the Leeds Piano Trail, featuring work by University students.

medici.tv's extensive coverage, supported by the University of Leeds reached international audiences in more than 3,700 cities in 140 countries. Millions more enjoyed the finals on BBC Radio 3, which broadcast live from the Town Hall.

LEEDS PIANO TRAIL ACROSS THE CITY FOR LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION



leeds.ac.uk/culturalinstitute

OUR PARTNERS

- British Council
- Creative England
- East Street Arts
- Eureka!
- Henry Moore Institute
- Ilkley Literature Festival
- IVE
- Leeds 2023
- Leeds Carnival
- Leeds International Film Festival
- Leeds International Piano Competition
- Leeds Museums and Galleries
- Leeds Playhouse
- Marks & Spencer
- National Science and Media Museum
- Northern Ballet
- Opera North
- Phoenix Dance Theatre
- Royal Armouries
- SAA-uk
- South African Holocaust and Genocide Foundation
- Thackray Medical Museum
- The Hepworth Wakefield
- The National Trust
- The Tetley
- Transform
- Yorkshire Dance
- Yorkshire Sculpture International
- Yorkshire Sculpture Park

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