

Media Information



Bradford district - UK City of Culture 2025

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Bradford district is the UK City of Culture 2025. This is a district built by entrepreneurs, shaped by an international community and a history of world-famous artists, performers, writers and musicians. Fiercely proud of its creativity, boldness and independence of spirit, Bradford's story is ready to be told and its storytellers come from all parts of the globe. This is Bradford's moment to showcase to the world what modern British culture looks like. This is where the magic happens. This is where the passionate young voices of the future will be heard.

Bradford District will be transformed by the UK City of Culture title for 2025. The district wants this recognition, and it needs it. It is key to unlocking the potential of all our people, leading to positive changes for everyone that lives, works and studies here. Our vision is to use arts and culture to fuel the social, economic and creative renaissance of our district; to make Bradford one of the most welcoming places in the UK where artists, producers, audiences and creative entrepreneurs can flourish. The title will support our commitment to tackling inequalities, to unleash the limitless imaginations of our young and diverse population and to evidence the positive changes that arts and culture can make in everyone's life; to change perceptions of Bradford in the UK and around the world.

Bradford is the UK's 6th largest city, twice the size of Hull which played host to UK City of Culture in 2017. Bradford is the youngest city in Europe (29% of its population is under 20 and nearly a quarter under 16) and it is one of the most diverse communities in the UK. Ours will be a district-wide bid with all parts of the district benefiting from the impact of a successful bid. Bradford

Metropolitan District covers an area of 141 square miles, across Airedale, Wharfedale and the Worth Valley as well as Bradford city and the towns of Keighley, Bingley, Ilkley, Haworth, Saltaire and Shipley.

Bradford's youthful population, its wonderful historic buildings and breathtaking natural landscapes, its history of independence, of 'doing things differently', of progressive social reform and its spectacular cultural heritage all offer a powerful launchpad for a UK City of Culture celebration in 2025 that could ONLY happen in Bradford.

The UK City of Culture designation (which happens once every four years) has had a dramatic once-in-a-generation impact on previous host cities. Successful past UK Cities of Culture (Derry/Londonderry 2013 and Hull 2017) have seen significant new investment as a result of winning the title. Securing the designation has attracted new inward investment, dramatically increased visitor numbers, greater participation in arts and cultural activities, created new jobs and new opportunities for skills development for young people and helped transform the reputation of the cities that have previously held the title.

Bradford's credentials for hosting the title in 2025 are impressive. The district is home to outstanding large-scale venues including the **National Science and Media Museum**; the former **Odeon**, currently being transformed into a 4,000-seat music venue '**Bradford Live**'; the exceptional **Alhambra Theatre** overlooking **City Park**, the Grade II listed **St George's Hall**, which recently underwent a £9.5m restoration; the **Bradford Industrial Museum**; **Impressions Art Gallery** and the unique **Peace Museum**, the only accredited museum of its kind anywhere in the UK.

Bradford's cultural riches span the district with the internationally-renowned **Salts Mill** in Saltaire (home to the largest permanent collection of David Hockney paintings in the world), as well as Ilkley's **Kings Hall** and **Winter Garden**; **Ilkley Manor House** art gallery and education centre; the **Brontë Parsonage Museum** in Haworth; the spectacular **Cartwright Hall**, **Bolling Hall** and the **Cliffe Castle Museum** in Keighley.

Bradford recently celebrated the 10th anniversary of being named the first **UNESCO City of Film** and has a cultural heritage that includes international artists, writers and musicians including **David Hockney**, **Frederick Delius**, **JB Priestley**, **Andrea Dunbar**, **AA Dhand** and **Zayn Malik** amongst many others.

Based in the district are: England's largest learning disability theatre company, **Mind the Gap**; one of the largest and most inclusive festivals in the UK, **Bradford Literature Festival**; the regeneration mavericks **Brick Box**; intercultural arts hub **Kala Sangam**; the female-led political theatre collective **Common Wealth**; **Freedom Studios**; **Dance United Yorkshire**, **Fuse Art Space**; **Cecil Green Arts**; **Artworks**; **Playhouses** in **Keighley**, **Bradford** and **Ilkley**; the cutting-edge **Theatre in the Mill** at the **University of Bradford**; the world-famous **Black Dyke Band** in Queensbury; **Ilkley Literature Festival**; **Bingley Little Theatre**; **Idle & Thackley Little Theatre**; **Tranquil Productions**; **Tech Styles International**, one of the largest annual celebrations of Hip Hop in the world; **Clean North Crew**, one of the UK's leading breakdance crews; the third UK city to host the world's largest network of social entrepreneurs, **Impact Hub Bradford** and the new **Keighley Creative Space** has ambitious expansion plans as part of the Towns Fund proposals.

The district is also home to a thriving community of independent local festivals, an outstanding collection of 30 libraries, dozens of community and voluntary arts organisations and a vibrant community of independent artists, producers, writers, poets, dancers, photographers, film-makers and other arts practitioners. In January 2022, Bradford Council's museum strategy for the next decade revealed plans for a new multi-million pound city museum which could join the District's four other Council run museums.

In May 2021 a bold ten-year cultural strategy for Bradford district was announced. '[Culture Is Our Plan](#)' sets out ten ambitious targets to be met by 2031 with a cultural renaissance at the heart of the decade-long programme, which aims to harness the youthful diversity and entrepreneurial strengths of the district. With support from City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council, Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the strategy puts investment in cultural activity as a key priority for the area, connects it to the district's future prosperity and confidence, and fuels Bradford district's bid to become the UK's City of Culture in 2025.

PwC moved to the city in 2019 and named Bradford 'most improved city' in its Growth for Cities Index, driven by jobs, skills and work life balance. In 2020, The Sunday Times named Bradford district in the 20 best places for business in the UK. In January 2022 – Bradford was named by an independent report as the city offering the most potential from the levelling up agenda. Channel 4 said they chose the region for their new HQ specifically because of the unique opportunities presented by Bradford and in March 2022, 'The Unit', launched in the city as a major new resource for Bradford's filmmakers, backed by Channel 4.

The district is also set to benefit from a number of major cultural capital projects currently underway including a new 4,000 capacity music venue, Bradford Live, due to open later in 2022; the £23 million flagship Darley Street Market including a 750-capacity venue; the National Science and Media Museum's new galleries and the Transforming Cities £50 million public realm enhancement programme.

Bradford 2025 has already supported a number of incredible projects including Summer Unlocked – a fantastic programme of free cultural events including theatre, music, film, acrobatic displays on the canals, poetry in car parks and vibrant street-art, through to the Bradford is LIT light festival and the spectacular Borealis light show which saw more than 20,000 people come into the main city square last year. Bradford 2025 also supported 'The Mills Are Alive in Manningham' - an epic projection show on the iconic Lister Mills which brought to life the past, present and future of Manningham in a visual and audio spectacle combining music, audio stories, film and photos. It also collaborated with Bradford Council's Youth Service to send 100 young people across the district to Coventry to experience the current UK City of Culture. These events offer just a glimpse of what is to come in 2025.

What will the City of Culture status mean for Bradford?

A City of Culture designation brings considerable long-term benefits including increased employment, new investment, enhanced skills, renewed pride, greater cultural capacity and more opportunities to participate in arts and cultural activities.

Bradford is the youngest city in the UK. It has also been named the best city in the UK to start a business. It has a rich heritage and a diverse population.

The UK City of Culture designation for Bradford in 2025 will give the city a platform to tell the UK and the world what is on offer, to change the perception of the city nationally and internationally and build pride in the district. The City of Culture bid has already attracted significant local support with 73% of local people already supporting the bid in a recent Telegraph & Argus poll.

Bradford's UK City of Culture bid has already generated an energy within the district, giving rise to new collaborations, connections and creative conversations. It will connect arts and cultural activities with our outstanding heritage sites across the district, the built environment, our glorious natural landscapes and the huge range of progressive voluntary and social organisations working in education, in health and wellbeing and environmental activities across the district.

The UK City of Culture 2025 designation will:

- Bring major social, economic and regeneration benefits to the district
- Improve the quality of life and wellbeing for people who live, work and study here
- Give Bradford a unique opportunity to change the narrative of the district, providing a platform for the voices and experiences of its many communities and cultures
- Encourage and promote a more sustainable cultural sector; bring new professional opportunities in the arts, cultural and creative industries for people already here, and attract world-class international artists and collaborators to the district
- Bring increased opportunities for people who want to get involved in arts and cultural activities to gain new skills, discover new experiences and share them with others
- Create a lasting legacy of more visitors, new jobs in tourism, and help revitalise the city centre evening economy
- Change the story about Bradford and challenge the perceptions of a city that has laid the foundations for modern society in Great Britain

Who is delivering Bradford's bid?

Bradford Culture Company was set up to manage the bid for UK City of Culture. Similar structures were put in place in Hull and Coventry where significant external funding was secured even before the title was awarded.

Bradford Culture Company involves both the creative sector and community voices and is working with the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council and the University of Bradford who are Strategic Partners of the bid.

Bradford Culture Company is led by artist, producer and broadcaster Shanaz Gulzar (Chair) and Richard Shaw (Director) who has held prominent positions at several of the UK's leading arts, cultural and media organisations including the British Film Institute; the National Theatre; English National Ballet, the Royal Opera House and Lion Television.

Board:

- **Brendan Brown** - Chief Executive - Airedale NHS Foundation Trust
- **Mary Dowson** - Chair of Bradford Community Broadcasting
- **Richard Emmott** - Yorkshire Water, Director of Corporate Affairs
- **Nicola Greenan** - Bradford Council, Lead for Cultural partnerships
- **Shanaz Gulzar** (Chair) - artist, producer and TV presenter
- **Stuart McKinnon-Evans** - Chief Finance Officer at the University of Bradford
- **Adeeba Malik CBE** - Deputy Chief Executive of the QED Foundation. Awarded the MBE for her work with ethnic minorities and businesses and the CBE for services to community cohesion.
- **Sabbiyah Pervez** - Communities Reporter, BBC Look North
- **Kamran Rashid** - Chief Executive of Impact Hub Bradford and board member of the Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership (LEP)

Bradford 2025 Steering Group:

- **Zulfiqar Ahmed** - The LEAP
- **Syima Aslam** - Bradford Literature Festival
- **Phil Barker** - Assistant Director (Sport and Culture), Bradford Council
- **Cllr Russell Brown** - Bradford Council
- **Eleanor Clyde-Evans** - University of Bradford
- **Alex Croft** - Kala Sangam, Cultural Voice
- **Al Dix** - 509 Arts
- **Mark Dobson** - Advisor to Bradford Council
- **Mary Dowson** - Bradford Community Broadcasting
- **Rosie Freeman** - The Brick Box, South Square
- **Nicola Greenan** - Lead for Cultural Partnerships, Bradford Council
- **Shanaz Gulzar** - Artist, producer and TV presenter
- **Nabeelah Hafeez** - Bradford Stories Festival
- **Cllr Susan Hinchcliffe** - Leader of Bradford Council
- **Humayun Islam** - BEAP Community Partnership
- **Munaza Kulsoom** - Bradford South Asian Heritage Month
- **Lettie McHugh** - Artist/writer, Haworth
- **Anne McNeill** - Impressions Gallery
- **Riaz Meer** - Keighley Creative
- **Helen Meller** - Brontë Parsonage Museum

- **Raj Parmar** - Sunrise Radio
- **Jo Quinton-Tulloch** - National Science and Media Museum
- **Kamran Rashid** - Impact Hub Bradford
- **Sarah Thomas** - Ilkley Manor House, Ilkley Arts, Ilkley Cultural Cooperative
- **Geetha Upadhyaya** - Leeds Beckett University
- **Tanya Vital** - Actor/presenter

Convener: Engagement and Inclusion Reference Group - **Cllr Richard Dunbar**

Convener: Research Advisory Group - **Professor Marcus Rattray**, University of Bradford

The bid would not be possible without collaborating with the many cultural organisations and businesses active throughout the district:

- Bradford Culture Company is working closely with Bradford's **CULTURAL PLACE PARTNERSHIP**, formed in 2019, chaired by Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of the Council. It currently involves the University of Bradford, Bradford College, representatives from the cultural sector (nominated by Bradford Cultural Voice), Bradford 2025, the LEAP as well as Arts Council England and the National Lottery Heritage Fund.
- **UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD** is a Strategic Partner in Bradford's UK City of Culture 2025 providing essential resources to support the bid as well as specialist expertise in research and evaluation activities and programme planning. Bradford 2025 also has the support of other major higher education facilities including **Bradford College, Shipley College** and **Keighley College**.
- A consortium of Bradford organisations and artists, led by Theatre in the Mill, was recently named as one of two new national pilots for the Arts Council England's producing projects; **BRADFORD PRODUCING HUB** has received £1.5m to develop local talent and boost the city's ability to produce new work.
- **THE LEAP** (Arts Council England's ten-year [Creative People and Places](#) programme of cultural activities, launched in 2020) based in Bradford aims to get more than 100,000 local people engaged in the arts in wards where opportunity for arts engagement and participation are currently low and to help communities shape a new cultural programme for the district.
- The city's growing, dynamic independent cultural sector is also feeding into the bid through the **BRADFORD CULTURAL VOICE** comprising hundreds of professional arts companies, individual artists and agencies engaged with culture throughout the district. The forum is coordinated by Brick Box.

Private sector backing will be central to Bradford's bid and many already have put their weight behind the bid, including:

FOUNDING PARTNERS

- Emerald Group Publishing
- Telegraph & Argus (LOCALiQ)
- Rushbond PLC
- Morrisons
- The Broadway, Bradford
- Bradford Bulls
- Jinnah Group
- Group Alfa

BID CHAMPIONS

- ITC
- Platinum Partnership Solicitors
- Bombay Stores
- Regency Hall

BID PARTNERS

- CityFibre
- Exa Networks
- Schofield Sweeney
- Bradford City Football Club
- My Lahore
- Muse Developments
- Arup
- Bradford BID
- Welcome to Yorkshire
- Naylor Wintersgill
- Expect Distribution
- Great Victoria Hotel
- Yorkshire Building Society
- Balfour Beatty
- Faithful+Gould
- Sovereign Health Care
- West and North Yorkshire Chamber of Commerce

Comments from spokespeople

Shanaz Gulzar, Chair of Bradford 2025 Steering Group: *“This fantastic result is down to the ambition, belief and hard work of thousands of people across the district who were behind our bid. We are thrilled that Bradford district has been chosen as the next UK City of Culture. This is a huge opportunity to celebrate our extraordinary cultural heritage and for our young, diverse population – who have been so involved in shaping our bid – to become leaders and changemakers and begin a new chapter in our story. Bradford has been overlooked and underestimated for so long – it’s now our time to shine.”*

Councillor Susan Hinchcliffe, Leader of Bradford Council, said: *“We’re delighted that our district has been recognised in this way. Being UK City of Culture brings with it so many opportunities for people not only in terms of creativity and culture, but also for employment, attracting inward investment, boosting the local economy and opening up opportunities for young people to enhance their skills. The way that people from across the district have got behind the bid*

and the confidence people are now starting to show, the Bradford district has started to come to life like never before."

Nicola Greenan, Bradford Council's Lead for Cultural partnership: *"The arts has been one of the sectors most adversely affected by Covid-19, and yet can play a vital role in supporting our economic recovery, uplifting our communities and providing a catalyst for change across our district. We can't wait to showcase the brilliant cultural offer that makes Bradford such a vibrant and special place."*

West Yorkshire Mayor, Tracy Brabin: *"I am absolutely delighted that the Bradford district will be the UK's City of Culture in 2025. No city deserves this more. The entire year will be a fitting showcase for the incredible cultural and artistic talent in this amazing city. The City of Culture judging process has also helped us to highlight the breadth of talent and the vibrant cultural offer throughout West Yorkshire. There's no doubt we have some of the finest creative and cultural talent, events, festivals, and destinations anywhere in the UK."*

Kamran Rashid, Chief Executive and co-founder Impact Hub Bradford and member of Bradford 2025 Steering Group *"The UK City of Culture 2025 title is an enormous opportunity for both my home city and the wider district to do something quite extraordinary and show the UK and the rest of the world what Bradford has to offer. As the UK's youngest city and one of the most diverse communities in the whole of the UK 2025 isn't just a chance for us to celebrate our fantastic arts and culture in 2025, it's also the chance to make real changes way beyond the year itself for the long-term benefit of everyone who lives and works here. Bradford's time has come!"*

Professor Rattray: *"It's an amazing result, all the stars aligned for us. As we move from the bidding process to delivery, the University of Bradford remains central, with the impact of our year as City of Culture being revealed over the next 10 years at least. As a civic university, we are committed to people's prosperity and health and to ensure that the Bradford district will get the best benefit from our year of culture."*

"It means showing that Bradford is a brilliant place to live, work and study. Part of our remit will be to evaluate the long-term impact of the bid, because we know from the precedent set by Liverpool that some of those benefits take a while to come through, so we need to be there for the long haul."

Syima Aslam, Bradford Literature Festival and member of Bradford 2025 Steering Group: *"This is an immensely important opportunity for Bradford that could galvanise the city and create a legacy that impacts the life chances of future generations. Bradford is a vibrant hub of creativity, art, film, theatre, poetry and passion, a city filled with stories. The importance of culture in bringing people together, in providing a space in which these stories can be told, and in doing so, raising aspirations, discovering new talent and developing new skills cannot be understated. Bradford Literature Festival looks forward to working with the City of Culture team to create a programme that truly represents the people of this city: colourful, complex, powerful, straight-talking, diverse and always uniquely Bradford."*

Professor Shirley Congdon, Vice-Chancellor, University of Bradford: *"Vice Chancellor of the University Professor Shirley Congdon said: "We are honoured to have won the City of Culture 2025. As a university, we are proud to be a strategic partner of the Bradford bid. This will be a game changer for Bradford and it will enrich the lives of everyone in the city and district by exposing more people to cultural events, which act as a catalyst for change and investment. This will create opportunities for our students and staff to get involved, it will raise the profile of the city and the university."*

Zulfiqar Ahmed, Director of The Leap and member of Bradford 2025 Steering Group: *"As the UK's youngest city and one of the most diverse, the competition is a once-in-a-generation*

opportunity for Bradford to develop an inclusive and dynamic creative programme that helps put this remarkable district on the cultural map.”

Backing Bradford's bid

Bradford's bid is already generating excitement, with a growing number of influential and creative people with a connection to the district, giving their support to the bid.

Steven Frayne/Dynamo. Magician. Bradford born: *“Bradford is where my heart is and has always been a hidden gem; a place filled with magic and wonderful people. The city is often forgotten by the rest of the country and I believe it's time to shine a spotlight on our future dreams. That's why I'm so proud to back this bid for Bradford to become the UK's next City of Culture in 2025. Having seen first hand the hard work, passion and commitment of the local community, I really believe that this is our time.”*

Natalie Gavin, Bradford actress known for 'Line of Duty', 'Ackley Bridge' and 'Gentleman Jack': *“Bradford means so much to me. It's not just where I'm from, it's the place and the people that inspire me. Whether it's the open moors or the estates of the city, I've always felt part of it. I think that now is absolutely the right time for everyone to pay attention to Bradford, to see it how those who call it home do, and let themselves feel curious and excited about how much Bradford could do as UK City of Culture. I'm right behind the bid to make it happen.”*

Bana Gora, Founder and Chief Executive, Muslim Women's Council: *“Muslim Women's Council wholeheartedly backs Bradford's bid to be UK City of Culture 2025. I am very proud of our city, its culture is truly diverse and unique in so many ways thanks to its residents from many backgrounds. Winning the title would showcase the city's talent and bring a much-needed positive boost along with national recognition for Bradford.”*

The Rt Revd Toby Howarth, Area Bishop of Bradford: *“As Bishop of Bradford, I'm strongly backing the 2025 bid. This is a city that buzzes with youth, faith and global reach. We have a voice that defies prejudice and deserves to be heard.”*

Daniel Lee, former Creative Director, Bottega Veneta, Italy. Bradford-born, attended Dixons City Academy: *“I am immensely proud to stand by Bradford on its journey to becoming City of Culture 2025. Bradford shaped who I am, it is a city full of unique creative talent, and unifying cultural experiences, which should be shared with the world.”*

Roger Marsh OBE DL, Chair of Leeds City Region Enterprise Partnership and NP11: *“We're proud to back Bradford's bid to become UK City of Culture, a status which has helped generate millions of pounds of inward investment for previous host cities. Bradford's diversity, vibrancy, and rich heritage make it the perfect choice. Being City of Culture would have a transformational impact on Bradford and the wider region, bringing considerable long-term benefits including increased employment, new investment, new skills, and a renewed pride in the city for those who live and work here.”*

Roger Mosey, former head of BBC television news and Master of Selwyn College at the University of Cambridge: *“I've lived and worked in various cities in the UK and I am completely convinced that the atmosphere and the culture of Bradford are unique. It's about the mix of heritage and youth: a city that has experienced tough times but also has a sense of humour and a good heart.”*

Henri Murison, Director at The Northern Powerhouse Partnership: *“As a Northerner, and a resident of one of Bradford's network of towns, I know what a positive impact it would have for the*

place I call home – the nation's youngest city, and one of its most diverse, to be given this opportunity. After Coventry in the Midlands, I believe firmly that the Northern Powerhouse should be securing the 2025 winning city, which would demonstrate the government's commitment to Levelling Up. I know those across the city will be backing the bid, and the level of public support it will attract will strengthen the case for why it is worthy of being Capital of Culture in 2025."

Sandy Needham DL, Chief Executive of the West and North Yorkshire Chamber: *"Bradford has a great cultural offer. We believe that businesses thrive in places with a good quality of life, as well as jobs, and the culture and opportunities in work and leisure really matter. The Bradford Chamber is in Little Germany and when we have visitors from elsewhere, they are always pleasantly surprised to find wonderful architecture, theatres, the National Media Museum and a warm welcome. It is great too to have the Cartwright Hall Art Gallery and Park, Salt's Mill and the Bingley Five Rise Locks, which are exceptional places to visit so close to the city centre."*

Zahabia Naveed, part of the Engagement & Inclusion Reference Group for Bradford2025: *"I want to show the whole of Bradford, the city and the countryside, and Bradford's diverse culture to the UK. It's the youngest city in Europe and I think it is important for people of my age to support it, as I hope it will bring many young people opportunities. I enjoy making the most of the local area where I enjoy BMXing, walking, cycling and working on the allotment I share. I would like to see lots of different types of culture included from Bhangra and Indian music, to rap and grime, BMXing of course, and the very big Desi Chai explosion that's happened in Bradford in the last two years."*

Diana Orzola, Freedom Studios Youth Board: *"Bradford is a city of bright things: streetlights, and people. The bright people of Bradford need a fresh canvas to show off their beautiful cultures; winning City of Culture would let us do that and so much more!"*

Adil Rashid, Cricketer plays for Yorkshire and England, part of the squad that won the 2019 Cricket World Cup: *"When people come together to play sport, or watch it, that shared experience is amazing and it stays with you. It's the same with cultural events and I am one hundred per cent behind the team, proud to put my name to Bradford's bid for City of Culture in 2025."*

Kully Thiarai, Creative Director and CEO of Leeds 2023 Year of Culture: *"Bradford is the place where I discovered the power of the performing arts and its ability to shine a light on new and different stories that help us connect and understand our world better. Seeing a very young dance company at Theatre in the Mill was joyous and awe-inspiring. That company was Phoenix Dance from Leeds showcasing the formidable talent of its founding black dancers. We want Leeds 2023 Year of Culture to be a launchpad for Bradford's success, and we are already collaborating and exploring ways in which we can maximise our mutual commitment to culture, creativity and our communities for the benefit of everyone. Together we will do all that we can to ensure West Yorkshire becomes the cultural powerhouse that we know it is!"*

Lloyd Thompson, Director of Tranquil Productions & Tech Styles International: *"There's so much talent in Bradford and this is an opportunity to create a stronger future for our city. It's a dream of mine that Bradford will have the infrastructure to support the skills and talents of our young people, creating jobs in the cultural sector that will help transform people's lives for the better. I pray that the City of Culture will create the opportunities and changes we hope for and will be a major milestone for Bradford."*

Madani Younis who forged his theatre career in Bradford and is now **Chief Executive Producer The Shed, New York:** *"The confidence that Bradford gave me is why I stay true to that city today. That city for me is the best of who we are as a country and that is not said enough, it represents the potential of what our country is and can be. It is our differences that we celebrate, it's our differences that make us whole, it's our differences that make this moment of declaring our bid to be UK City of Culture, so tangible. That Bradford will bid to become a City of Culture to me is no surprise. It's about time."*

Key competition milestones

In July 2021, Bradford district 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.

Eight longlisted locations were announced by the DCMS in October 2021 and include Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon, Bradford, Cornwall, County Durham, Derby, Southampton, Stirling and Wrexham County Borough.

Four shortlisted places were announced on Saturday 19th March including Bradford, County Durham, Southampton and Wrexham County Borough.

Bradford was named the winner on 31st May 2022.

Further information

Images: Download images which represent Bradford's cultural landscape [here](#) and [here](#)

Press releases: Download all recent press releases on Bradford 2025 [here](#)

Video: View a short film [33 seconds] to mark the shortlist announcement by local filmmaker Jack King [here](#)

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