

Envision – Youth Leadership in the Arts Conference

Empowering cultural organisations to champion
and develop the next generation of creative leaders.

Bradford Arts Centre

Thu 19 Feb 2026

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
9.15–9.45am	Welcome refreshments	Sangam Lounge
9.45am	Welcome remarks from our hosts Amaan Aslam (Bradford 2025 Youth Panel) Lucy Stephenson (Bradford 2025 Young Creative)	Theatre
9.55–10.25am	Keynote speaker 'Creating the right environment for young people to thrive.' Ned Glasier	Theatre
10.25–11.15am	PANEL 1 How to embed young people within the heart of your organisations. Arts Organisations sharing learning and best practice. Saoirse Teale – Youth and Community Associate Director at Common/Wealth Rachel Parry – Trainer at the Young Trustee Movement Archie O'Neil – Co Director at Creative Youth Sarah Christie – Children's Capital of Culture, Rotherham	Theatre
11.15–11.30am	Break	Sangam Lounge
11.30am–12.15pm	PANEL 2 – Youth Voice Opportunities matter – What Youth Leadership means to us. Diana Ozola – Young Creative at Bradford 2025 Xanthe Gutch – Youth Panel at Bradford 2025 Farhan Miah – Youth Panel at Bradford 2025 Thea Melton – Young Creative from Creative Youth Toby Boddy Playland Creative Engagement Practitioner at Artswork Sujani Sivasuthan – Youth Voice for Children's Capital of Culture, Rotherham	Theatre
12.15–1pm	Lunch Pledge making – So what are you going to do? How can you champion young people in your arts organisation? Curious Questions relating to Funding with Elisa Morris, Fundraising Manager at Bradford 2025. <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Finding funders to apply to.2. What you need to have prepared for funding applications.3. What a good application looks like.4. How to present an effective budget.	Cafe, Level 3

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
1-1.40pm	<p>WORKSHOP – Youth Voice in action Delivered by Artswork Creative consultation through to youth-designed interventions. Framework for youth-led activity, managing and supporting safely.</p> <p>Circle Discussions</p> <p>Circle 1 Ned Glasier The difference between youth leadership and intergenerational collaboration and accountability.</p> <p>Circle 2 Commonwealth Engagement and Youth Leadership on the 29% Festival.</p> <p>Circle 3 Creative Youth Embedding youth leadership: supporting young people into senior roles.</p> <p>Circle 4 Young Trustee Movement Changing the image of what a trustee looks like, by shining a light on the impact made by young trustees.</p> <p>Circle 5 Bradford 2025 Coproducting with young people and enabling change makers and leaders.</p> <p>Circle 6 Children’s Capital of Culture, Rotherham What happens when a community embraces the ideas of its children and young people, empowers them to lead, and supports them to co-create the future.</p>	Theatre / Hall
1.50–2.25pm	<p>WORKSHOP – Youth Voice in action Delivered by Artswork Creative consultation through to youth-designed interventions. Framework for youth-led activity, managing and supporting safely.</p> <p>Circle Discussions</p> <p>Circle 1 Ned Glasier The difference between youth leadership and intergenerational collaboration and accountability.</p> <p>Circle 2 Commonwealth Engagement and Youth Leadership on the 29% Festival.</p> <p>Circle 3 Creative Youth Embedding youth leadership: supporting young people into senior roles</p> <p>Circle 4 Young Trustee Movement Changing the image of what a trustee looks like, by shining a light on the impact made by young trustees.</p> <p>Circle 5 Bradford 2025 Coproducting with young people and enabling change makers and leaders.</p> <p>Circle 6 Children’s Capital of Culture – Rotherham What happens when a community embraces the ideas of its children and young people, empowers them to lead, and supports them to co-create the future.</p>	Theatre / Hall
2.35pm	<p>Young Person’s story/experience How Arts Organisations champion young people. Noor Jahangir</p>	Theatre
2.50pm	<p>Closing remarks from our hosts Amaan Aslam (Bradford 2025 Youth Panel) Lucy Stephenson (Bradford 2025 Young Creative)</p>	Theatre

Speakers biographies

Ned Glasier

Ned Glasier is a leading voice in co-creation and work with young people whose process is rooted in listening, collaboration and exchange. He was the founder and artistic director of Company Three, a multi-award-winning theatre company working with teenagers in North London. His work at Company Three included Brainstorm (National Theatre/BBC), When This Is Over (Yard Theatre) and The Coronavirus Time Capsule.

Having stepped down from his role at Company Three in 2024, Ned now works as an artist, consultant and trainer, supporting organisations to work in more purposeful and democratic ways with young people and communities.

Creative Youth

Creative Youth is a youth arts charity that creates futures through the arts for young people aged 5–30. Our venue, FUSEBOX, is the engine that drives our work: a space where ideas ignite and dreams are realised. Out of FUSEBOX, we deliver programmes that empower young people at every stage: an incubator to nurture social and artistic growth, springboards for career development, and platforms to showcase brilliant creative practice.

We make the arts more accessible to young people aged 5–30, with a focus on supporting those aged 16–30 to take the next step in their creative careers. While deeply rooted in Southwest London, we also work internationally through a growing network of global partners.

Our vision is a world where every young person—regardless of background—can harness the transformative power of the arts to shape their future and lead creative practice within their communities and beyond.

About Our Speakers

Archie O'Neill (he/him) joined Creative Youth in 2021 through a Kickstart placement, bringing a background in visual art to the team. He studied at the Courtauld Institute and has worked in public programming roles at Tate, the National Gallery, the British Museum and Dulwich Picture Gallery. Archie is passionate about supporting young people to access the arts, whether as a way to build community, springboard for their careers, or as a transformative experience. He became Co-Director alongside Daniel in 2023, having previously been Creative Youth's Community, Learning & Participation Manager.

Daniel Cartlidge (he/they) joined Creative Youth as Marketing Assistant on a Kickstart placement in 2021, bringing a background in arts marketing and theatrical production. Daniel trained at both the University of Leeds and Mountview Academy of Theatre Arts, where he received a BA (Hons) in History and a MA in Creative Producing. Artistically, he has a passion for exploring and highlighting underrepresented identities on stage and supporting emerging artists within the industry. Daniel became Co-Director, alongside Archie, in 2023, having previously been Creative Youth's General Manager.

Thea Melton (she/her) is a producer, actor/writer and photographer based in London. She recently trained in MA Acting at Mountview and previously studied Human Social and Political Science at the University of Cambridge. Her practice draws on Organic Intellectualism Theory, using theatre and visual arts to broaden participation and engagement in socio-political ideas among marginalised groups. Thea has been involved in artistic projects at Edinburgh Fringe, Cambridge Arts Theatre, Vault Festival, Royal Court, Theatre Peckham and Blue Elephant Theatre and is currently a Young Associate for The Lyric Theatre. Thea enjoys collaborating with Creative Youth in order to actively help widen young people's access to arts based opportunities and to gain further insight on how arts organisations operate.

Speakers biographies

Common/Wealth

Common/Wealth make site-specific theatre events that encompass electronic sound, new writing, visual design and verbatim. Our work is political and contemporary – based in the present day – the here and now. We make work that is relevant and addresses concerns of our times.

We seek out places to stage our work that are right in a community; a residential house, a boxing gym, places where people who might not go to the theatre might come to instead – we aim to make theatre for people who don't usually think it's for them, we're bored of theatre being for the middle classes and those that can afford it – we genuinely believe in theatre as an art form and the power it has. We think this should belong to everyone – as audience, participants and as protagonists.

Common/Wealth started working together in 2008 in a very DIY way with no funding, just access to massive buildings and networks of great people to collaborate with. On every project we seek to make something that will engage audiences in an encounter that pushes what theatre can be. We're not necessarily interested in traditional story-telling but in creating memorable, unexpected experiences.

About Our Speakers

Saoirse Teale is a director, theatre-maker and facilitator from Bradford who's work predominantly involves co-creating socially engaged and political theatre with communities, as well as delivering creative intervention in a variety of non-theatre settings. She is currently Youth & Community Associate Director at Common/Wealth where she manages an exciting youth programme including 29% Festival & Youth Theatre Lab, as well as directing productions including *Off Road* (2023) and *Still Waiting* (2024) and being Youth Cast Director for *Public Interest* (2025). Her other work has included co-creating theatre with children and teenagers as acting Youth Theatre Director at Leeds Playhouse and producing their wider Open Season Young People's Festival. She also directed *Mud, Water & Magic* which was an exploration of poetry, movement and storytelling with Good Chance Theatre & a local community cast. Currently, she is working with *Beyond the Margin* to establish a drama provision for young people who face barriers into the arts in Holmewood, who are working towards co-creating their own devised theatre production this Spring at the TFD Centre.

Lucy Stephenson

Whilst on placement, as part of the Bradford 2025 programme, I was matched with Common/Wealth. During my time at Common/Wealth I had the opportunity to work on a range of their projects. I started by assisting on 'Public Interest' working closely with the cast, crew and show hosts. It was amazing to see the show develop into a full production and getting to speak with JENGBA about the importance of educating people in the common law of Joint Enterprise.

I then moved over to preparing for the 29% festival where I facilitated sessions with a girls group at Highfield Centre Association in Keighley where we devised spoken word pieces related to the topic of 'Home'. We then filmed short clips related to the poems, then we showcased the video as the opening act of the 29% festival where I hosted the evening and introduced the programme. On the second day of the festival I managed the front of house, creating a welcoming environment for the young people attending. In the lead up to the festival I mentored 6 young performers providing them with advice, helping refine their content for the festival and planning their rehearsal time. This was such a great opportunity for me to apply my learnings from working with Common/Wealth and pass them to a new generation of young people in the arts.

Speakers biographies

Artswork

Artswork is a charity that empowers young people through creativity, so they can build a better future – for themselves and others.

We give young people the means to make an impact in their communities, amplify their voices and help them find creative solutions. We provide placements and pre-employment training that could unlock creative careers young people might never have imagined, and we provide training for other organisations through our professional development programme.

About Our Speakers

Annabel Cook is Deputy Chief Executive at Artswork, where she shapes strategy and partnerships to put creativity into the hands of young people, empowering them to build brighter futures. Joining Artswork in 2019 after a varied career that began as a professional actor and progressed through arts development, leadership roles at Ashcroft Arts Centre and Hampshire Cultural Trust, and a stint as a freelance consultant, Annabel brings a dynamic blend of creativity, strategic vision, and infectious energy to champion children and young people's engagement with arts and culture. She oversees a variety of programmes, helping to steer an organisation that is bold, values-driven and full of imagination. She's passionate about collaborative leadership, supporting brilliant teams, and building cultural opportunities that genuinely make a difference.

Toby Boddy is a Playland Creative Engagement Practitioner, supporting young people to develop confidence, creativity and ownership within Artswork's Playland programme. As a young person himself, he graduated from Kingston School of Art in 2024, working as a Student Producer within London's gallery scene and a Social Group Leader for Beyond Reflections before joining Artswork in 2025. As part of the Playland team, Toby leads and supports workshops, events and day-to-day engagement with young people, helping shape a welcoming and empowering creative environment. With a warm, collaborative approach and a growing portfolio of creative project experience, he brings energy, empathy and a strong commitment to youth focused creativity.

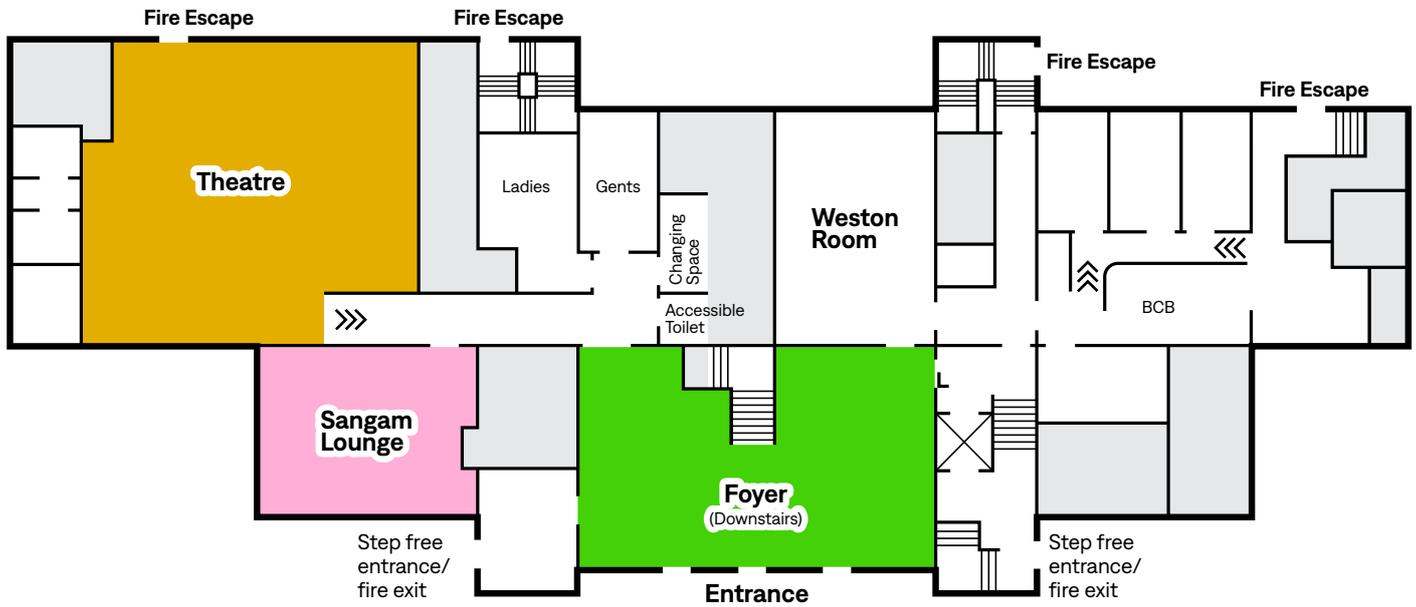
Young Trustees Movement

The Young Trustees Movement is a UK-wide movement that's been around since 2019. We exist to transform charity boards by growing and centering youth leadership. We do this through disruption and collaboration across the charity sector and beyond. When boards foster belonging and meaningful youth leadership is the norm for those most excluded, our work will be done.

Rachel Parry has over a decade of experience working in charitable organisations, with much of her career focused on delivering climate and sustainability training to university students and staff. She is deeply passionate about the non-profit sector and currently works in a freelance capacity, supporting organisations to thrive through operations support and training. Rachel is also a Trustee at the Conflict and Environment Observatory (CEOBS), an organisation working to reduce harm to people and ecosystems caused by armed conflict and military activities. Originally from South London, Rachel is now based in Leeds.

Venue map

Level 0



Level 2

