



↑ Photo by Karol Wyszynski

# Shared Ground: The Our Patch Gathering

Wed 25 Feb 2026  
Bradford Arts Centre

**Our Patch** is a major creative programme from Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture's engagement programme, celebrating 2025 in community centres, halls, and parks across all 30 wards of the district. Together, we've helped people learn new skills, make meaningful connections and discover their inner artist through our free, co-produced, community creativity programme. Since launching in 2024, we've worked with more than 150 community partner organisations, and over 30,000 people have actively taken part in the Our Patch programme.

Our Patch is funded by The Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and The National Lottery Community Fund. We extend our thanks to all players of the National Lottery.

Find out more about [Our Patch](#) on the Bradford 2025 website.

brought to you by **OUR PATCH**  
a UK City of Culture project



# Schedule

## → The Our Patch Exhibition, Café (Level 3)

Visit the Our Patch exhibition, featuring a collection of artwork, sculptures, photos and more from a range of Our Patch projects from our communities.

## → Chill out space! Hosted by People's Care Movement

Throughout the day in meeting room 2, People's Care Movement is hosting our chill-out space. Here, there is no pressure. Be yourself, rest, share, and listen to music on headphones, kick back and relax with the PCM newsletter, and connect to yourself and others.

## → Children's Programme

The People's Care Movement are providing a creative and caring space for children during the day. If you would like more information, please get in touch.

## → Quiet and Prayer Spaces

Prayer spaces and a quiet space are available. Please ask a member of staff for more information.

## → Fasting Friendly

We are a fasting friendly event. Food will not be provided during the day, but please feel free to bring your own. You can eat and drink in the main hall during breaks. There are plenty of cafe's and take aways nearby. You are also warmly invited to join us for our evening Iftar at Bradford Cathedral.

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
From 9.30am	<b>Arrival and Sign in</b>	Foyer
10–10.15am	<b>Welcome and Introduction to Our Patch</b>	Theatre
10.15–11.15am	<b>PANEL 1</b> <b>Being Bradford: How Our Patch has responded to place.</b> Meet the five Our Patch Producers who each worked in one of Bradford's constituency areas – Bradford East, Bradford South, Bradford West, Shipley, and Keighley and Ilkley – each with its own distinctive landscape and people. – Gaby Lees (Chair) – Gemma Hobbs – Maddy Allen – Ritesh Biswas – Samina Ali – Shazia Bibi	Theatre
11.15–11.30am	<b>Break</b>	
11.30–11.45am	<b>Kirsty Taylor – performance</b>	Theatre
11.45am–12.45pm	<b>PANEL 2</b> <b>Our Critical Friends</b> A panel with a wealth of knowledge and experience who have each got to know Our Patch and the Our Patch team. They will reflect on the impact of socially engaged practice and what can be learnt from working at this scale. – Shanaz Gulzar (Chair) – Adrian Sinclair – Anni Raw – Dawn Cameron	Theatre
12.45–1.45pm	<b>Break - don't forget to visit our exhibition in the Cafe on Level 3.</b>	

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
1.45–2.30pm	<b>SESSION 1</b> Please select one of the below workshops.	
	<p><b>1a) Dan Mallaghan and Suzanne Longley</b>  <b>What stays after the project ends? How socially engaged practice lives on – working with neurodiverse artists at NEET.</b>            Explore the journey of building a public Arts Trail in Northcliffe Woods, in collaboration with Northcliffe Environmental Enterprises Team (NEET).</p> <p>This conversation reflects on how socially engaged practice can be designed with what comes after in mind – How can work continue once the artist steps away? Together they reflect on how long-held dreams were unlocked, what has stayed with the learners at NEET, and how enabling capable people has shaped lasting practice for the organisation.</p>	Theatre (capacity 60)
	<p><b>1b) Natasha Joseph and Natasha Brown</b>  <b>Stirring Connections, Building Community: The Travelling Spoon Project</b>            The Travelling Spoon used food as a starting point for creative, socially engaged practice. This session will offer reflections, learning and practical approaches demonstrating how making and sharing food from around the world, built trust, encouraged participation and created meaningful conversations and understanding across cultures.</p>	Hall (capacity 60)
	<p><b>1c) Curious Communities Research Project</b>  <b>How could creative curiosity improve funding and evaluation systems?</b>            Working alongside a researcher, a dancer, a storyteller, a filmmaker, a theatre director, and an actor, each co-created a project with their communities. At the same time, they explored how their socially engaged practice was in many ways a method of research in its own right. So, what are the benefits of bringing creative and research practitioners together and combining their practices?</p>	Weston Room (capacity 30)
	<p><b>1d) Creative Flare</b>  <b>Make me a Rag Doll: Exploring Identity through Creativity</b>            Join Creative Flare, local artists from Bradford West, for a hands-on workshop. Make Me A Rag Doll explores identity through sewing, drawing, and storytelling, expressing and defining how we see ourselves. Building on the artists' own experiences this project considers how race and identity can impact engagement. Watch a short film, and make your own rag doll whilst exploring your identity and sharing your own stories.</p>	Studio 3 (capacity 12)
<p><b>1e) People's Care Movement</b>  <b>People's</b>            Art can bring a beautiful uncertainty to the world as it is, and the future we can make together; the rest is up to the people. Discover how we are creating a movement that is: by the people, for the people, based on our values, and encompassing diversity of stories and ways of being. Expect to hear stories, share stories, and reflect on trusting the people.</p>	MR1 (capacity 15)	
2.30–2.45pm	<b>Break</b>	

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
2.45–3.30pm	<b>SESSION 2</b> Please select one of the below workshops.	
	<p><b>2a) Zoe Katsilerou</b>  <b>Live Performance Work in Specific Community Contexts</b>            Join artist and facilitator Zoe Katsilerou to explore how live performance work is made with and for specific communities. We'll discuss how live performance can offer opportunities to explore key concepts, connect people and services, and build relationships and partnerships. This conversation uses a specific project as an example of socially engaged arts practice and explores how live performance can cultivate connections and access to support.</p>	Theatre (capacity 60)
	<p><b>2b) Nicola Murray and Sara Robinson</b>  <b>Baggy the Backseat: Getting Lost, Taking Risks, and Finding New Ways to Belong</b>            Creative Practitioner Nicola Murray in conversation with Sara Robinson, Mental Health Engagement Lead, Bradford 2025. 'Baggy the Back Seat' supported young people to create their own adventures. From gift-wrapping potatoes to unexpected conversations on buses, the project encouraged teenagers to move through the city differently, embracing curiosity, risk and the possibility of getting lost. Hear how socially engaged practice can mean knowing when to step back and allow participants to find their own ways to engage and learn, to re-imagine their place in the city and discover themselves in the process.</p>	Hall (capacity 60)
	<p><b>2c) Emily Parkin, Kerry Wright and Kayle McCoy</b>  <b>Creativity on the Doorstep - Collaborative Practice in Communities</b>            This workshop explores how creative practitioners from different disciplines — including spoken word, storytelling and visual arts — collaborated to design and deliver unique creative workshops rooted in community life. Working beyond traditional venues, the practitioners brought their practice directly into neighbourhoods and, in some cases, literally to people's doorsteps in Bradford South.</p>	Weston Room (capacity 30)
	<p><b>2d) Creative Flare</b>  <b>Make me a Rag Doll: Exploring Identity through Creativity</b>            Join Creative Flare, local artists from Bradford West, for a hands-on workshop. Make Me A Rag Doll explores identity through sewing, drawing, and storytelling, expressing and defining how we see ourselves. Building on the artists' own experiences this project considers how race and identity can impact engagement. Watch a short film, and make your own rag doll whilst exploring your identity and sharing your own stories.            (Please note: this is a repeat of session 1d, above)</p>	Studio 3 (capacity 12)
	<p><b>2e) People's Care Movement</b>  <b>Care</b>            Care lives in everyday acts between neighbours, strangers, family, and community... when we pay attention, care is overwhelmingly seen and celebrated. Care is human nature.</p> <p>And yet, care is not here - we don't always feel it from and towards each other, and especially in systems, institutions, and the way our world is organised. In this session, through games and conversation, you can explore these issues and experience how listening, belonging, and care are at the heart of our approach.</p>	MR1 (capacity 15)
3.30–3.45pm	<b>Break</b>	

TIME	ACTIVITY	LOCATION/ROOM
3.45–4.30pm	<p><b>SESSION 3</b> Please select one of the below workshops.</p> <p><b>3a) Alex Dunlop and Kirsty Taylor</b>  <b>The Slow Work: Persistence as Creative Practice</b>  A reflective conversation on the value of staying put. Drawing on experiences of working in spaces that might easily have been abandoned under a more outcome-driven, approach, this session explores what can emerge when artists commit to process over product. Kirsty and Alex will discuss what it means to persist: to trust slow, uncertain beginnings; to remain open when participation unfolds differently than expected; and to recognise how creative purpose can shift over time.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3b) Natasha Joseph, Amy Bairstow, Natasha Brown and Ruth Agbolade</b>  <b>Walls That Speak: Murals, Place and Participation</b>  This panel explores collaborative mural-making as socially engaged practice. The speakers share insights into creating work rooted in place, identity and local stories, alongside their experiences of collaborating with other creative practitioners across projects. A reflective and experience-led session for anyone interested in place-based, participatory practice and the realities of making community-led art in public spaces.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3c) Alison McIntyre and Andy Hill (Bradford Producing Hub), and Katie Shepherd</b>  <b>Ask For It!</b>  What support do we all need to do our work well? Join this session for a discussion around what we need, how we communicate those needs, and how we advocate for others. We will be looking to develop tangible ideas that can empower us to take action.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3d) Shazia Bibi</b>  <b>Who Decides? Power, Trust, and Collaboration</b>  Drawing on examples from my own experience as a producer for Our Patch, this session frames shared power as an ongoing, relational practice rather than a fixed outcome. Through guided reflection, open dialogue, and practical tools, participants will be invited to examine where power shows up in their own work, how trust is built (or challenged), and what collaboration can look like in practice.</p> <hr/> <p><b>3e) People's Care Movement</b>  <b>Movement</b>  A family friendly session - Children taking part in today's PCM Children's Programme are welcome to join us for this session with their parent/ carer. Imagine if everybody could participate in the making of the world we live in! Imagine if we could disrupt hierarchy, rigidity, and division! Imagine if we could move with flexibility, flow, and understanding that there are multiple identities and experiences within any group or individual! Enjoy playful movement activities and find out what's next for the People's Care Movement...</p>	<p>Theatre (capacity 60)</p> <p>Hall (capacity 60)</p> <p>Weston Room (capacity 50)</p> <p>Studio 3 (capacity 20)</p> <p>MR1 (capacity 15)</p>
4.30–5.45pm	<p><b>We invite all attendees to join us at for an evening celebration and community Iftar.</b>  <b>Networking/Marketplace of care:</b>  Stalls and creative activities focussed on wellbeing and care.</p> <p><b>SUNSET</b></p>	Bradford Cathedral
5.45–7.30pm	<p><b>Community Iftar</b> – shared meal featuring a Nasheed Performance by Anya Khan and Laiba Khan</p>	

# Speaker Biographies

---

## **Gaby Lees, Our Patch Project Lead**

Gaby has a background in socially engaged practice as a visual artist, curator, and educator, and has held producing roles at York Art Gallery, the Yorkshire Museum, Barnsley Museums, and the British Library in Leeds. She has a Master's Degree in Art Conservation and completed the Clore intensive leadership course in 2019.

## **Rebekah Weatherby, Our Patch Coordinator**

Rebekah supports the team of Our Patch Producers and Creative Practitioners working across the district. Rebekah is passionate about making art accessible and supporting artist wellbeing and practices. Her background is in community music making, and she plays and teaches piano. She has previously worked in online music education and is adept at making systems and processes to help everyone deliver to the best of their ability.

## **PANEL 1 – Being Bradford: How Our Patch has responded to place**

### **Gemma Hobbs, Our Patch Producer – Keighley & Ilkley**

Gemma is a creative placemaker and curator in Keighley, supporting grassroots activity and the development of the town's creative infrastructure.

*"Working with socially engaged creative practitioners has been a real joy. Their care for communities, alongside creative excellence, has won hearts and minds and sparked all of our imaginations. Through Our Patch, I've also seen the strength of grassroots networks across surrounding towns and villages, where creative community work is an essential part of everyday life. Somehow, we have to keep funding this work; there is so much hope in it."*

### **Maddy Allen, Our Patch Producer – Shipley**

With a background in youth work and community development, Maddy has spent more than eight years with Choose Love, working in frontline and leadership roles in Northern France and the UK, supporting grassroots organisations to deliver humanitarian aid, advocacy and services to refugees and asylum seekers. In previous roles, she has delivered high-quality contemporary dance projects with young people in the youth offending system and with children at risk of child sexual exploitation.

### **Ritesh Biswas, Our Patch Producer – Bradford South**

Ritesh previously worked at Just IT as Head of Growth & Partnerships, supporting IT professionals' careers through apprenticeships and training. Prior to that, he was Head of Student Recruitment at Corndel College in London and has also worked in NHS recruitment. In his spare time, he enjoys football, weight training, and various other sports. He is interested in mentoring and has volunteered as a Youth Mentor with the Bradford Youth Offending Team.

### **Samina Ali, Our Patch Producer – Bradford East**

Samina works part-time for Bradford Council's Neighbourhood Team as a Ward Officer in Bradford East. She brings her experience in project management and has also taught as a tutor in Adult Learning at Bradford College. She's interested in exploring a range of creative practices, from hands-on arts activities to community events that bring people together. She enjoys experimenting with cooking, engaging in creative wellbeing activities, and continuing to expand her artistic skills.

### **Shazia Bibi, Our Patch Producer – Bradford West**

Shazia is a cultural producer deeply passionate about cultural enrichment and motivated by the profound impact the arts can have in shaping societies, fostering unity, and celebrating the rich diversity of cultures and diasporas. She has experience as a producer across theatre, film, and visual arts, which has given her a broad perspective on creative collaboration. Shazia believes that collaboration and transparency are essential, as they create meaningful, interactive experiences for teams, stakeholders, communities, and audiences alike.

---

# Speaker Biographies continued

## PANEL 2 – Our Critical Friends

### **Shanaz Gulzar, Creative Director, Bradford 2025 (Chair)**

Shanaz Gulzar has emerged as a prominent leader in the UK cultural sector. With a strong commitment to the arts and to creating work that pushes the boundaries of cultural expression, she is known for her creative vision and has delivered ground-breaking projects nationally and internationally.

Her screen credits include working with the BBC to present the documentary *Hidden Histories: The Lost Portraits of Bradford* and bringing a contemporary artist's perspective to the Yorkshire landscape in *Yorkshire Walks*.

Alongside her creative practice, Shanaz is an experienced public speaker and panel contributor, regularly invited to speak on culture, creativity, place, identity and the role of the arts in social change at conferences, festivals and industry events.

In her capacity as Creative Director at Bradford 2025, UK City of Culture, Shanaz is leading a transformative cultural renaissance, with initiatives that celebrate artistic innovation, diversity and community engagement. She oversees the leadership and direction of Bradford 2025 alongside Executive Director Dan Bates.

### **Adrian Sinclair, Union Arts**

After an early start in rugby, engineering, activism, dance and theatre, a bunch of us started Heads Together Productions back in 1986 to combine creative expression with purposeful impact. Our projects have ranged from synchronised swimming to innovative urban transformations, including laying six hundred square metres of turf on a street that led to national policy change and a £60 million government programme.

In 2014, we established Chapel FM, East Leeds' first-ever arts venue, through a two-phase £1.6m chapel conversion. Since 2019, I have coordinated UNION: The Northern School for Creativity and Activism, offering reflective, coaching-based professional development to participatory artists and activists across the north of England, supporting over 130 professionals in early- and mid-career, and recently 25 UNION Elders. We were also really pleased to support the Bradford 2025 Our Patch initiative by providing a series of reflective training opportunities for the creative producers and artists involved.

### **Dr Anni Raw, Independent Evaluator**

Anni has been active in community and participatory arts for 35 years, initially as a singer/community musician. Anni's Doctoral thesis explored community-based participatory arts practice ('social practice') with 40 expert practitioners in the UK and Mexico across the spectrum of artform disciplines, producing an interdisciplinary articulation of the creative mechanisms catalysing change in this practice. She has developed specialisms in evaluation practice, reflective practice, creative dialogue tools bridging language divides, creative learning systems and toolkits, and academic and non-academic research and analysis using a range of qualitative approaches. She continues research and publishing, presenting her work within and beyond the academic world.

### **Dawn Cameron, Independent Evaluator**

Dawn Cameron has attained a Master of Arts degree in Social and Public Policy and in Creative Writing. She is currently in her second year of a PhD at the University of Leeds, focusing on formulations of 'race', place and culture-led regeneration in the operationalisation of Bradford City of Culture 2025. Dawn is Director of Cameron & Ltd, a research and evaluation company specialising in arts, culture and heritage projects that seek social and cultural change. She has extensive experience in audience development, leadership programmes and evaluation, and has led major public research projects for organisations including Creative People and Places and the Royal Literary Fund. She is a trustee of Red Ladder Theatre and Out of Many People, and regularly chairs literature events.

# Speaker Biographies continued

## Performers and supporters

### **Kirsty Taylor, Our Patch Creative Practitioner**

Kirsty Taylor is a writer and educator who tells powerful stories of people, class, and community through poetry and performance. She is the creator of Front Room Poetry and writer of *Cashy C's: The Musical*. In 2024, she was awarded the Kay Mellor Fellowship and has since been developing new work for stage and screen. In 2025, she opened Bradford's City of Culture with her words, dramaturgy, and performance in *Rise*, in front of over 20,000 people, and continues her work in the community, engaging and championing people and her hometown.

### **People's Care Movement**

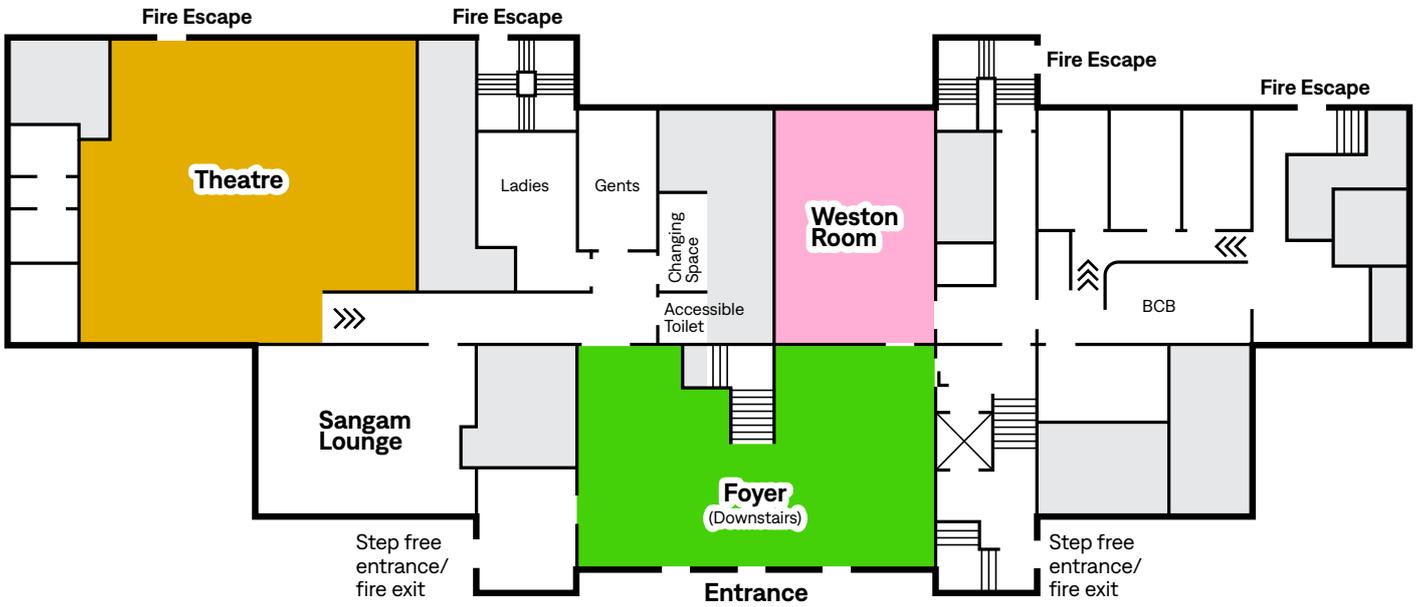
The People's Care Movement was brought together in 2025 by Josie Tothill working as an Our Patch Creative Practitioner.

*"Rooted in Bradford, we are a collaborative group of people with lived connections to care, including through being disabled and neurodivergent, migrants, carers, parents, children, and people who are excluded from care, and affected by inequality and discrimination. We use our lived connection to care to create more caring and inclusive communities, including thorough experimental gatherings, offering caring and creative activities, public conversations and events, and finding accessible ways to explore and take actions on issues that affect us."*

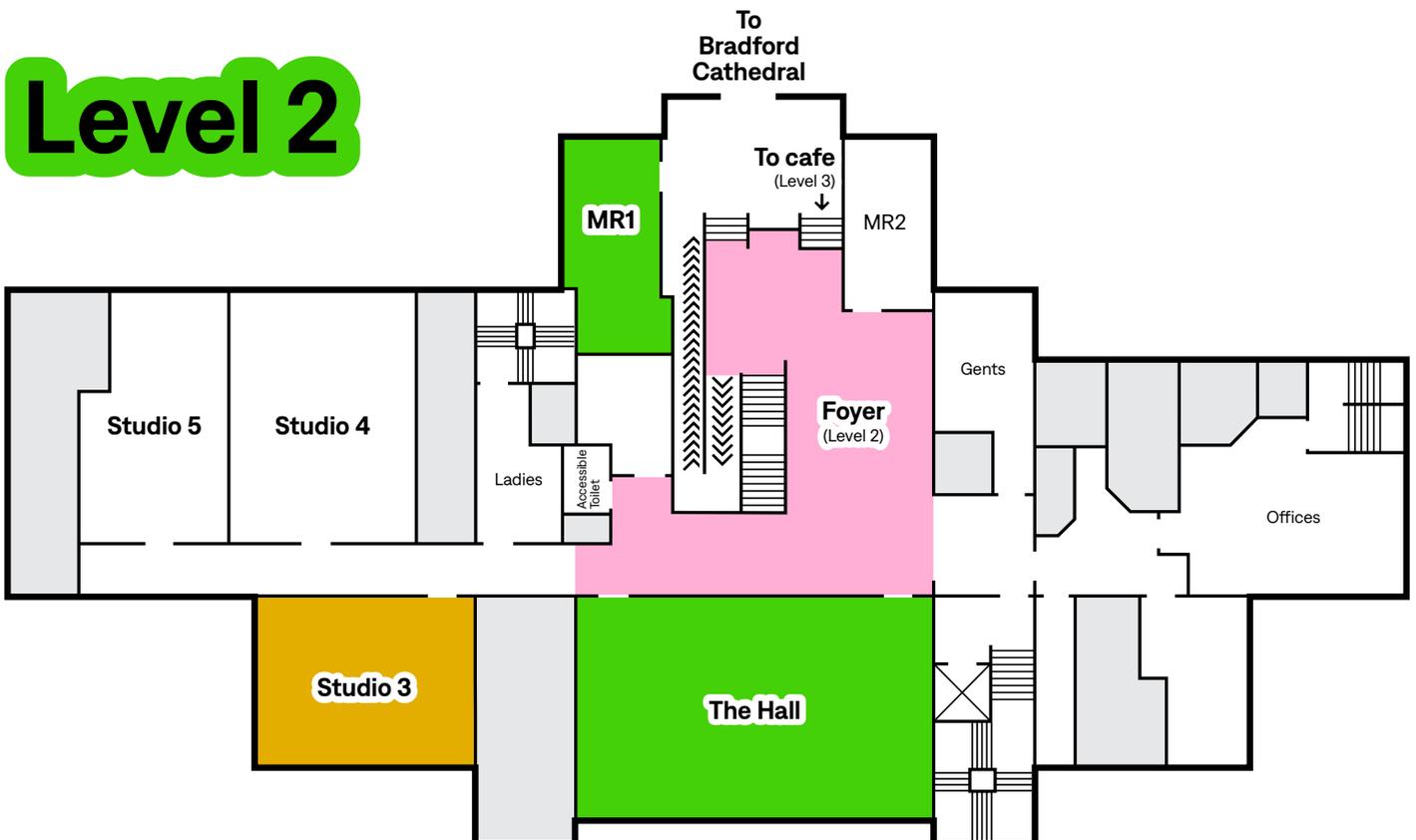
Social practice artist, Josie Tothill, will be joined by members of the People's Care Movement to offer three interactive workshops. The workshops explore core elements of the socially engaged process that brought the movement together and are themed around the words that make up the name *People's Care Movement*. You are welcome at all three sessions, or enjoy any session as a stand-alone activity.

# Venue floor plans

## Level 0

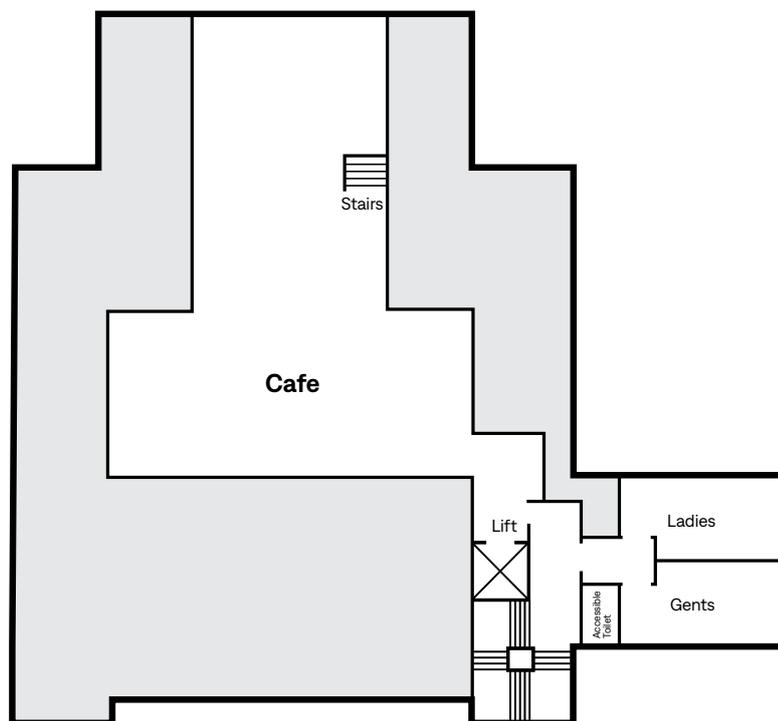


## Level 2



# Venue floor plans

## Level 3



### With thanks to the producers and creative practitioners of Our Patch:

Abida Hussain  
Ahseem Yousuf  
Aimee Grundell  
Alex Dunlop  
Amy Bairstow  
Amy Brook  
Andy Vaines  
Beccy Durham  
Becky Hutchinson  
Bob Smith  
Carys Bose  
Claire Rookes  
Creative Flare  
Christine Sefton  
Dan Mallaghan  
Danny Hardaker  
Duncan Burnett  
Emily Parkin  
Emma Bairstow  
Eyarun Nessa  
Farzana Khan  
Gaby Lees

Gemma Hobbs  
Hafsah Naib  
Hamzah Khan  
Hannah Butterfield  
Helena Dowsland  
Hope Shooter  
Jane McDonald  
Jae Depz  
Jenny Jones  
Jill Adamson  
Josie Tothill  
Joyce Nga Yu Lee  
Karol Wyszynski  
Katie Shepherd  
Kausar Mukhtar  
Kayle McCoy  
Kemmi Gill  
Kerry Wright  
Keyhan Modaressi  
Kirsty Taylor  
Lauren Batty  
Lisa Naylor

Lorna Hampton-Bowes  
Lorrett Mcintosh  
Louise Rayner  
Lucy Stephenson  
Lucy Rhodes  
Lynsey Barwick  
Maddie Coelho  
Maddy Allen  
Morgan Thomas  
Moss Sheikh  
Musarat Raza  
Nabeela Ahmed  
Natasha Brown  
Natasha Joseph  
Nathan McGill  
Nicola Murray  
Nicola Storr  
Paula Taylor  
Pishdaad Modaressi  
Punjabi Roots  
Rachel Cambell  
Rachel Clarke

Rebekah Weatherby  
Richard Dunbar  
Ritesh Biswas  
Rozina Tariq  
Ruth Agbolade  
Samina Ali  
Sarah Fearne  
Shane Durrant  
Shazia Bibi  
Sian Atkinson  
Stephanie Warrender  
Suzy Ellwand  
Tom Warrington  
Tracy Tough  
Tricia Arthur Stubbs  
United Art Project  
Uzair Khan  
Zahabia Naveed  
Zareena Bano  
Zoe Katsilerou