



Manchester Craft & Design Centre

Annual Review
April 2022 - March 2023



40 YEARS AS A CRAFT CENTRE

This past year, we celebrated 40 years of our space's use as a creative hub. We undertook activities that will allow us to be a well-loved and active creative community for years to come.

Here are some of the highlights and ways you can be involved this year.



"I just love this place, what it represents and what it has done for creatives"





MAKERS

Studio Occupancy

- 18 of 19 studios filled
- 21 Resident Makers
- 11 Affiliates
- 6 Helpers



New residents

- Imprints of Earth (ceramics)
- The Fruit Moth (clothing & accessories)



Highlights & Celebrations

- Ella McIntosh: V&A exhibition
- Amy Wilkinson: Armature maker for Guillermo del Toro's Pinocchio
- 5 makers exhibited at Great Northern Contemporary Craft Fair

"I love the opportunity to support independent artists who create beautiful work"



CREATIVE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

North West Craft Network

- 46 members, 106 wider contacts
- 3 meetings
- At least 5 partnerships emerged in 2023 from the NWCN and 3 of resource sharing.

Maker Network

- 850 makers on mailing list
- 1 new online resource uploaded

Emerging Makers

- Took part in national development of T level qualification
- Member of Bolton University Industry Board
- MMU Graduate Award exhibition



Learn more about our support for makers and become more involved:

craftanddesign.com/maker-support/

"It's great that it's open Sunday today. I used to come as a child. I am now 40 years of age. I've brought my daughter today. She is enjoying the modelling clay."



VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers: 12 | Hours: 409

Contact us about volunteering:
www.craftanddesign.com/support-us/volunteer/

COMMUNITY

Our Community Hub is free and open to the public to enjoy informal craft activities, time with friends, or get some work done. In 2022-23, our monthly plant swaps became a popular gathering place for our neighbours. Due to its success, we launched a craft swap, expanding to include craft & chat sessions in 2023-24.

"We wish we had a place like this in Penarth/ Cardiff"

COMMUNITY EVENTS

40th Anniversary Celebration

Community Consultation

Autumn Fun Day

Clean Air Day

Plant swaps

Craft swaps

Kantos

"Lovely atmosphere,
nice how there
are pens and
paper to use"

JOIN US THIS YEAR

Craft Swap + Craft & Chat

2nd Saturday of each month

Plant Swap

3rd Saturday of each month

Sunday Makers Market

Check our schedule for free
workshops during our monthly
Sunday open day

craftanddesign.com/workshops



EXHIBITIONS



Joy Every Day

The 15th Annual Graduate Exhibition Award from Manchester Metropolitan University



Making Space

Our 40th Anniversary/ Community Consultation



Groundwork

16th Annual Manchester Metropolitan University Graduate Award Winners

BQ Bitesize

We welcomed our new café in December 2022.

We are so happy to have delicious coffee, wine, food, cakes and soup once again!



KATE DAY FUND

Kate Day led Manchester Craft & Design Centre for almost 15 years. Devastatingly, Kate passed away in June 2022. Kate was instrumental in developing ideas around maker development. Her shared vision included bridging the gap for recent graduates, community crafters, and amateur makers wishing to start up their own craft/applied arts business and offering support for those under-represented in the craft sector.

We aim to raise £40,000 in recognition of Kate and her ambitions for the craft sector in the North West. This fund will enhance opportunities for emerging makers from diverse backgrounds, giving vital support to the development of craft in the region.

Amount raised FY2022-23: £5,057

To support the fund,
please visit:

[craftanddesign.com/support-us/
kateday](https://craftanddesign.com/support-us/kateday)



VISITORS

We welcomed 112,058 people to the Centre, 46% higher than the previous year. Thank you!

We are committed to being a place where everyone feels welcome and can participate in craft. Feedback and demographic data suggest that while we continue to be a place that people love to return to over the years, our visitors this past year were younger and more ethnically diverse than average for cultural institutions in Manchester. Judging by the number of first-time visitors, you are also helping us move away from being a “hidden gem” into the welcoming community space you want to return to time and again.



"It was a surprise to find such a nice and quiet place with crafts surrounded by the crowd"

VISITOR DATA

- 55% visited for the very first time.
- 30% heard about us via word of mouth.
- Gender: 64% female, 32% male, 4% identify in another way.
- Age: 23% were 16-24. 24% were 25-34. 17% were 35-44. 14% were 45-54. 14% were 55-64. 8% were over 65.
- Ethnicity: 80% White. 20% Global Majority. (MCC Cultural Orgs: 91% White. 8% Global Majority)
- Disability: 9% D/deaf or disabled person, or have a long-term health condition.

"I love coming to the craft centre and always find it stimulating. I lived in Ancoats as a child"



COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

We curated a holding exhibition “Making Space” with memorabilia from the last 40 years and interactive questions and craft materials for visitors to engage with.

The community consultation questions and 40th Anniversary photographs gave visitors time to come together to reflect and dream with us.

Visitors took time to enjoy the craft materials, free activity sheets and additional seating. This created a welcoming atmosphere and led to people staying longer, exploring and interacting with the space.

A focused Public Community Consultation session created a good atmosphere for big dreaming conversations to happen. A mix of people attended. For some, it was their first visit. Everyone was eager to get involved with the activities and offered great insights on how to engage with new and diverse communities.



A Staff and Maker Community Consultation allowed us to come together as a team to discuss partnerships and how to engage with new audiences. The overall tone of this consultation was optimistic with exciting ideas being shared throughout the evening.

Two workshops with partners Venture Arts & 42nd Street resulted in a mix of outcomes including the need for different approaches to partnerships that respond to the specific needs of our partners' clients and participants.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ACCESS AUDITS

Environmental & Access Audits completed as the essential first steps for us to make improvements to the building, acknowledging that the two audits are interlinked in many ways.

In all cases, both short-term and long-term recommendations emerged that will inform our work over the next 3-5 years.



GET INVOLVED

Join our mailing lists

- [Newsletter](#)
- [Maker Opportunities](#)



Become a monthly supporter

We have launched a monthly supporter scheme. Easy to sign up for an amount that works with your budget. This means we can predict a certain level of monthly support to deliver our programmes like those outlined in this report.

"Manchester Craft and Design Centre is an important amenity for Manchester. I wish more towns and cities had similar"





Our team is always happy to have a chat with you about what we do. Feel free to stop by the office during opening hours. If you need to speak to a specific team member, we'll help you connect with them too.

@manchestercraft

www.craftanddesign.com

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