

Craftspace[©]

Making for Change

mac Birmingham / Impact Hub
4th-8th April 2016



Young people using craft to change their communities

Handmade badges embroidered with statistics and metal bricks engraved with quotes. Craftivism combines craft and activism and Birmingham based arts organisation Craftspace have invited young people to spend a week creating their own craftivist campaigns about issues that are important to them. Making for Change is a social action training programme for 16-25 year olds running at mac birmingham from 4th -7th April 2016. The campaigns will be shared at a showcase event at Impact Hub, Birmingham on Friday 8th April 6.00pm -8.00pm.

Using carefully targeted unusual handmade objects can make messages more distinctive and effective. The young people will be inspired by talking to craftivist artists such as Sarah Corbett and will use 'big data' and statistics to create work using textiles, metal, wood and paper alongside professional artists.

Making can improve wellbeing. It can help you to stop and reflect, block out negativity and learn resilience. By exploring making in relation to issues young people can also start to become changemakers themselves develop their making skills and build confidence. They also have the opportunity to gain an arts award and develop wider employability skills.

More details in the project blog www.makingforchange.craftspace.co.uk .

'The programme is an exciting way to be introduced to craft and to learn about how you can tackle inequality in society. Many young people lack any opportunities to be creative and find the idea of social action overwhelming. Making for Change will enable more 16 – 25 year olds to develop the making skills and confidence to make a difference. 'Sarah Lopez Craftspace Learning and Engagement Apprentice.

ENDS

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Notes to Editor:

Craftspace is a charity creating opportunities to see, make and be curious about exceptional contemporary craft. We are based in Birmingham and work collaboratively regionally, nationally and internationally. We build relationships between artists, people and organisations and encourage the sharing of ideas, skills and knowledge. We have 30 years' experience and continue to learn, push boundaries and challenge ideas. Craftspace initiates artistic programmes which stimulate creative excellence, critical thinking and understanding of contemporary crafts in the widest social and cultural contexts.

Making for Change is part of an on-going exploration by Craftspace into the contribution that craft can make to young people aged 16-25. In this programme we are particularly interested in exploring how craft can be used as a mechanism for social change, how we can develop young people as change makers and how craft can add social value. We are working in partnership with the University of Birmingham School of Education to conduct some research around these themes.

The Making for Change pilot is being led by Craftspace' creative apprentice Sarah Lopez in order to fully ensure that the work is youth-led and incorporates a youth voice in all stages of development. Sarah who started work with us in April 2016 has recently been shortlisted for Young Apprentice of The Year.

Funding

Making for Change has been funded by Awards for All, WA Cadbury and Unity Trust Bank and is supported by mac Birmingham.

Craftspace receives funding from the Arts Council as an Arts Council England National Portfolio organisation.

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Craftspace 



Supported using public funding by
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William A Cadbury
Charitable Trust

