



LEEDS
PIANO
TRAIL

#LeedsPianoTrail AUG 17 - SEPT 16 2018

The piano designed by Matthew
Wood and installed by University
Pianos is part of a series of free
Leeds Piano Trail.

Support Provided by
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BRANCH

ISSUE04

A LEEDSBID
PUBLICATION

FREE

WELCOME TO BRANCH

Brought to you by LeedsBID (Leeds Business Improvement District) to keep the city centre community informed about plans, projects and investments in helping to make Leeds a great place to live, work, play and do business.

Our aim is to encourage people to branch out, explore and experience what is on offer to them in the city.

Enjoy reading this issue.

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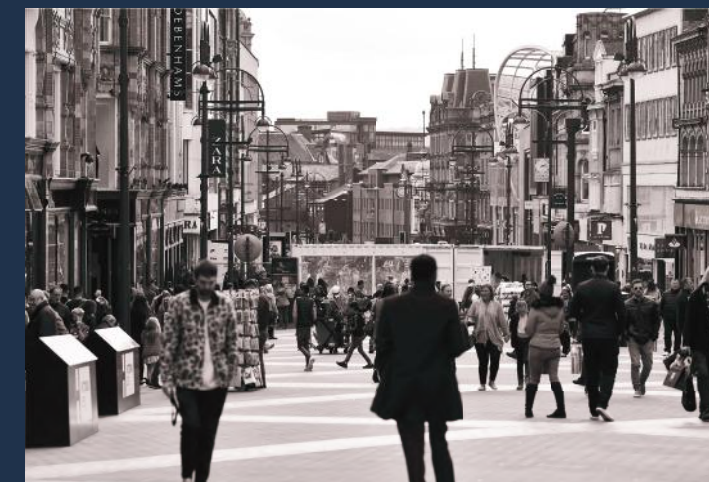
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HELP TO MAKE A BIG CHANGE

A new collaborative city-wide campaign is helping to make a big change to the lives of those in need on the streets of Leeds city centre.

Big Change aims to raise awareness, inform, educate and engage people in ways to help those in need on the city centre's streets by bringing individuals and organisations together to donate effectively. A new alternative giving campaign for Leeds, it provides a central online resource enabling both offers of and appeals for help, connecting charitable organisations, businesses and people with a way to make donations of money, time or items.

Big Change focuses on the provision of those essential everyday items, which are often unfunded and that may seem small but can make a big change - such as a bus pass, the deposit for a flat and the basics to furnish it or the provision of clothing for an interview. It also enables people to offer their time for skills support or more practical assistance with an hour to help here or there.

Big Change aims to make a real and positive change to those who may find themselves on the street, by working with local charitable organisations and support services to address people's individual circumstances and needs. Detailing more than 65 charitable organisations which work across the city, information about existing support is more readily available in the one place as well as detailing how people can help them directly. All those listed have the opportunity to access funding and donated items and resources.

It also highlights the wider support services engaged in working with those in genuine need on the streets of Leeds city centre and will illustrate how donations can help to make a real difference to individual lives.

"Big Change is a new city-wide collaboration to bring businesses, organisations and individuals together to help make a real difference to those who are in need on the streets of Leeds city centre." It creates an opportunity for Leeds collectively to make 'a big change'."

Andrew Cooper, LeedsBID Chief Executive

hello

Since Launching Big Change

Since its launch in October 2018, Big Change Leeds is getting the city behind it to provide practical support which can make a real difference. People and businesses in the city are getting involved, making those essential donations that can help make a change to someone's life by supporting a move away from on-street life. Alongside the first major pledge of £10,000 from Integrated property service provider RFM Group, there has been assorted fundraising events and reverse advent calendars proved popular over the festive period in helping collect basic everyday items.

Around 40 parcels containing toiletries and non-perishable foods donated by staff at Shulmans LLP, on Wellington Place, went to help the work of Basis Yorkshire and Neruka's Soup Kitchen.

"We wanted to support Big Change because homelessness is an issue that we are all aware of however it can be difficult to know where to start or how to help people," explained Daniella Colton, of Shulmans.

"With Big Change, we felt there was a real opportunity for our business to help local individuals – and the great thing is that it is so easy to get involved. You can contribute time and/or items or raise money on a regular or ad hoc basis, and Big Change will help co-ordinate."

Boots, Ernst & Young and Ward Hadaway are among other city centre businesses which have also pledged their support to Big Change as well as individuals coming forward to volunteer essential hours to help where it is needed.

RFM Group CEO Ian Flanagan, who along with staff at the firm, is supporting the campaign and urging others to do so. "Big Change really is a campaign that could make a significant difference to the city of Leeds," he said. "It's a great time to come on board and commit time, money or your expertise to help make a difference to those in need.

Together even small change can make a Big Change." With news of the first £25,000 reached, funding via several charitable organisations operating in the city has enabled that provision of potentially 'life changing' items including replacement birth certificates, bus passes to enable travel to appointments, new clothing and shoes and starter packs for moving into accommodation.

"Big Change really is a campaign that could make a significant difference to the city of Leeds."

Getting involved is easy – simply visit www.bigchangeleeds.co.uk where you can see the three key ways to help – either making a financial donation or registering items or time you have available. Help those in need make a big change by saving up any loose change and making a one-off or more regular donation on-line, get together with friends or colleagues to organise a fund-raising event or activity (for example a LeedsBID office cake stall raised £50), or offer to help share your skills and knowledge with those who might benefit through one of the local organisations listed on line.

"Our £10,000 donation was made to help kick start the campaign but we will continue to support Big Change and have pledged to help in a number of ways, from monthly staff salary contributions to offering my time as a mentor to ex-street users who are looking to get back into long term meaningful employment and housing."

Ian Flanagan, RFM Group CEO

Bottom Left: Martin Dickson, LeedsBID Head of Marketing presenting 'Big Change' at the campaign's launch event

Bottom Right: Ian Flanagan, RFM Group CEO pledging £10,000 in support of 'Big Change'





Above:
Still image from the 'Big Change' campaign animation produced
by Hungry Sandwich Club

“The need to involve the general public and the business community in tackling street based activity in the city of Leeds is vital. Big Change is an exciting opportunity to help connect, mobilise and engage many people that inhabit the city centre so they can support many vulnerable people.”

Dave Patterson, Unity in Poverty Action (UPA)

Big Change forms part of a wider cross city partnership approach across Leeds to address on-street issues in the city along with the new Street Support Team and the Leeds Homeless Charter.

STREET SUPPORT TEAM

The Street Support Team is an integrated, multidisciplinary team which use a case management system to ensure those people with the highest levels of need receive bespoke support and relevant safeguards and, where appropriate, enforcement. The team aims to reduce the numbers of those rough sleeping in Leeds city centre and tackle issues such as begging and anti-social behaviour among street users.

LEEDS HOMELESS CHARTER

The Leeds Homeless Charter brings together commissioned services from a range of providers including the council, grass-roots groups operating on the street and businesses as well as people with lived experience to help develop a set of principles and actions to tackle homelessness in Leeds.

STREET SUPPORT NETWORK

Street Support Network is a central online resource, connecting people and organisations to end homelessness together.

It makes it easier to find help and give help. It is currently active in several locations across the UK including Liverpool, Portsmouth, Southampton and Manchester, which launched the Big Change Manchester campaign in December 2015.

Simply visit www.bigchangeleeds.co.uk where you can see the three key ways to help – either by making a cash donation, or registering items or time you have to donate.



IN CONVERSATION WITH...

In this issue, Eamon Fox of Knight Frank and Simon McCaskill of Leeds Boost discuss their shared vision of what work might mean in the future.

One of the fantastic things about LeedsBID is the privileged position it holds: connecting people that might never cross paths.

Simon McCaskill creates and delivers workshops for Leeds Boost, the digital-skills training project created by LeedsBID for levy-paying businesses in the city. He is a Google European Masterclass Trainer, speaker, digital aficionado, and passionate exponent of using tech to improve future work-life balance.

Eamon Fox is a partner at global real estate consultants Knight Frank, a LeedsBID steering group member, and a specialist in commercial property. Through his work, Eamon has pushed for the evolution of the traditional office environment.

Simon and Eamon share a vision of what 'work' should be, so seeing this connection, these two kindred spirits were introduced by LeedsBID in anticipation of prompting an interesting dialogue. Two meetings later, the pair get together again to talk productivity, technology, and workspace...

| In Conversation With...

AT RRADAR OFFICES

Eamon meets Simon at the offices of rradar, a law firm located in Platform. As soon as they're swiped in, it's clear that this isn't a "normal" legal office: to the right a ping pong table and space invaders machine and ahead graffiti art on the office walls.

"This is what I'm talking about. You'd expect this in a software firm, not lawyers!" says Eamon.

Eamon uses rradar as an example of a new, alternative work-space. Every corridor in Platform leads to a bespoke realm, each designed precisely to the tenants' requirements. "I'm really proud of what was achieved here," Eamon continues. "There was a long debate about losing a whole floor for the communal Lounge, but I'm glad the decision was made to be brave. It is these open spaces that sell a building and make it so attractive to tenants. Employees are no longer fixed to a desk – they can work on a sofa, standing up, or even in the open.

Eamon explains that over the last decade, he has seen a real shift in the mindsets of landlords and tenants regarding what a work-space should look like and how it is best utilised.

"This is an extremely exciting time," adds Eamon. "More has been done in Leeds in the last three years to radically review the work environment than I've seen in the last 15. Someone said to me recently, if you want to see what an office of the future looks like, stand in a university. Hierarchy is becoming a thing of the past."

"Home-working used to be a real buzzword after a backlash against traditional work environments. The home can really work for some professions and for those who don't mind spending time on their own. Yet, often it's the social, collaborative aspects that can be lacking."

Eamon Fox, Global Real Estates Partner

THE MODERN OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

Simon interjects, "I've read that by 2020, Millennials will make up half of the workforce. Surveys have shown that environment is now the number one driver over salary for young people, which is really interesting. Employers realise that to capture the best talent, it has to be on the terms of the recruits."

"A good example is PwC who were in the media recently after launching a new scheme. It allows some new recruits to work the hours they want in a bid to attract skilled people who don't want to be tied to traditional 9-to-5 hours. Firms recognise that they need to differentiate themselves to stay competitive."

This is where Simon gets animated. Anyone who has spent time with Leeds Boost will know of their utopian vision of getting Leeds to a "4x4" working week – working four hours a day, four days a week, while getting the same salary. As revolutionary as that seems, other countries have been successfully using models like this for years. Retention, productivity, and profit are all tangible benefits of alternative working, and given that the UK now has the longest working hours in Europe (an average of 9) and yet very poor productivity, it's not as crazy as it first seems.

"Some of the bitesize training we offer through Leeds Boost is about digital hacks that increase productivity and squeeze more out of the day. Unbelievably, we spend an average of 3 hours 15 minutes a day just on emails and only 15 minutes on lunch breaks. By working slightly smarter, it's amazing how much time can be saved." So, as Simon pushes on as an advocate of technology in the workplace and Eamon the aspirational work environment - both with the agenda of achieving career well-being - how do they both live up to their own standards?

"Through Leeds Boost, we meet a lot of busy people in the city, but it was clear that the work Eamon does is on another level. Wow is he busy! There are clearly so many challenges and pressures in the property industry," says Simon. Eamon admits that Simon did set him some tasks and exercises to help him analyse his workflow, but ironically has been too busy to complete them.

"As for me," continues Simon, "I aim to do whatever I can to work smarter with my time, however, alongside the Leeds Boost project I also run Google masterclasses too... Let's just say, there's always more improvements to be made!!"

Bottom:
Eamon Fox, Knight Frank Global Real Estate Consultants Partner
Simon McCaskill, Leeds Boost Founder



THERE ARE LOTS OF WAYS TO HELP PEOPLE IN NEED ON THE STREETS OF LEEDS. GET INVOLVED & HELP MAKE A LASTING CHANGE TODAY

BIG CHANGE

BIGCHANGELEEDS.CO.UK

GET INVOLVED!

BECOME A MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AIDER

Today, stress, anxiety and depression are said to be the biggest causes of sickness absence in society. The Centre for Mental Health reported that mental ill health is responsible for an unbelievable 91 million working days lost every year and costs UK employers an estimated £34.9 billion each year. Thankfully, more employers are starting to understand both the ethical & business benefits of nurturing a mentally healthy environment and embracing a broader duty of care to their staff.

Leading by example, LeedsBID recently became one of the first not-for-profit organisations in the city to provide mental health first aid training for ALL of its staff. The training was delivered by approved mental health first aid instructor Tara Powell of Inclusive Minds Ltd. The programme covered the basics of mental health including challenging stigma, common mental health issues, personal wellbeing, and supporting those who may be experiencing a mental health issue. Through a mix of presentations, group discussions, and workshop activities, all LeedsBID staff have completed this half-day fundamentals programme.

Vicki Freestone, Business Executive at LeedsBID, said: "At LeedsBID, we all work as one team and provide a variety of front-line services, so breaking the stigma of mental health and becoming more accessible is vital."

Having trialled the training courses in-house, LeedsBID is now working in partnership with Inclusive Minds Ltd to signpost levy payers to the courses endorsed by Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) England. Several LeedsBID levy paying businesses have already benefitted from the initial rollout, including representatives at Lloyds Banking, MEPC, Dirty Martini, Equifax, St John's Centre and Anthropologie.

Dates for two-day Mental Health First Aider training are as follows: 17th-18th April; 11th-12th June; 14th-15th August and 23rd-24th October.

For more information about the training, please contact: vicki.freestone@leedsbid.co.uk



Bottom:
Vicki Freestone,
LeedsBID Business Executive



CITY CONNECT

Getting more people cycling and walking is a win-win, bringing benefits for organisations as well as individuals.

Support to get started is available from the West Yorkshire Combined Authority's £60m CityConnect programme which is helping organisations boost the numbers of people travelling by bike or on foot.

People who travel by bike tend to take fewer days off sick, arrive feeling more alert and are more productive, while walking has been found to help reduce stress and the risk of preventable diseases and inspire creativity.

Through the CityConnect programme and in partnership with others, the Combined Authority is not only building new cycling and walking routes and improving existing infrastructure, it also offers a range of free services.

CityConnect's Bike Friendly Business scheme, which has been running since August 2016, offers employers expert advice and grants of up to £5,000 to encourage more staff to commute by bike, with bronze, silver & gold accreditation for those going the extra mile. Grant funding has been used to install bike parking and providing pool bikes and cycle training, with CityConnect's "Bike Friendly Businesses" seeing a 25% increase in cycling.

More than 20 organisations, which are levy paying businesses of the Business Improvement District, have enrolled in the scheme - from Opera North and Northern Ballet to John Lewis & Partners and Sky Betting & Gaming - with numbers across West Yorkshire exceeding 200 with nearly 60 of those accredited. Wellington Place, which is one of CityConnect's silver Bike Friendly Businesses, is also a CityConnect Walk Friendly Workplace.

Emily Ingham, Travel Plan Coordinator for Wellington Place, said: "Our work with CityConnect reflects our culture of encouraging and enabling staff to travel more sustainably, as we strive to make the site a cycling and walking friendly environment. We put people first and know that being active is a key way of improving workplace wellbeing."

Whinmoor resident Annika McDonald, who is an Online Marketing Executive at Kaplan Open Learning based on Grace Street, started cycling to work earlier this year, following the opening of the latest section of CityConnect's Bradford Leeds Cycle Super highway between Seacroft and the city centre. "I feel stronger, fitter and healthier than ever before, I'm saving money & doing my bit for the environment. Every day I feel like I have accomplished something and it's a great way to clear my mind and shake off the stresses of the day."

Cllr Kim Groves, Chair of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, said: "We know encouraging more of us to travel by bike or on foot not only boosts people's health and saves individuals money, it also brings wider economic and environmental benefits, which is why we want to make cycling and walking a natural choice for short, everyday journeys."

Find out how CityConnect can help your organisation at cyclecityconnect.co.uk/makeyourmove.

Bottom:
Find out how CityConnect can help your organisation at: cyclecityconnect.co.uk/makeyourmove



THE AMBLER CLUB

If you have not come across it, the Ambler Club is a creative working space, housed in a most unique building by what is the city's finest green space.

Situated in St Paul's House overlooking Park Square, it is financial consultancy firm Sedulo's era-inspired space paying homage to the building's 140-year history and 'a nod' to the company the firm acquired in 2018, Leeds-based accountancy practice, Bartfields. Sedulo are fast approaching their first anniversary of business in Leeds city centre after launching in the city last April (following the acquisition in February).

The Ambler Club features a Gatsby-inspired bar and entrepreneur-themed boardrooms which have all aptly been named after four inspirational entrepreneurs -The John Cadburys chocolate filled suite, The Bill Gates suite, the tennis-based Fred Perry Suite, complete with table tennis table and sports memorabilia, and the Bartfields boardroom, paying homage to the former founders of the ninety-year-old practice.

However, the building which the Ambler Club finds itself encapsulated within - the Hispano-Moorish St. Paul's House - is draped in the memories of the man behind some of Leeds' most iconic buildings. The Ambler Club name comes from Leeds-born architect, Thomas Ambler. Ambler was renowned for promoting the housing reform for the working class and shot to fame for his design talents over one hundred years ago.

Ambler was the brains behind some of the city's most recognisable Grade II listed buildings, including St James's Hall in New York Street and Alf Cooke Printworks in Hunslet Road, which is now part of Leeds City College's Printworks Campus.

Operating as an event space, The Ambler Club has hosted a number of corporate seminars, team meetings, charity and networking events including a Munich-inspired Oktoberfest, Rugby League and Empowered Women panel chats with some of the North's most influential entrepreneurs and numerous networking events.

The space is also home to the company's workforce, offering a relaxed atmosphere for staff and clients to work and socialise, with office perks including daily offerings of breakfast & afternoon tea.

Find out more about Sedulo and its most unique club at: <https://www.sedulo.co.uk/>

Bottom:
Inside The Ambler Club creative workspace



AMBITION: LEEDS

Nurturing talent and ambition in the heart of the city

Settling into the city is an exciting new addition to the Leeds retail and hospitality landscape, created in response to the sectors' recruitment, training and development needs. Ambition: Leeds, housed in the heart of the city centre in City Exchange, Albion Street, is an innovative, employer-led training centre putting the needs of the sectors first.

While retail experiences a constantly shifting landscape, retail and hospitality are still the two largest private-sector employers in the city.

This innovative project is designed to support the collaboration between businesses and educators addressing the complex and changing skills needs of the retail and hospitality sectors. Supporting existing staff to improve and expand their knowledge and skills, it will in turn improve service standards and business performance. This approach will also help attract and retain new talent to the sector.

Ambition:Leeds is a joint project between Leeds City Council, Landsec and LeedsBID, created in response to demand from retailers looking for skilled recruits to join their workforce. It is the result of two years planning and research into the resourcing and skills challenges faced by local businesses. It brings together a range of established and well-respected education partners in Leeds City College, Leeds Beckett University and The Source Skills Academy to deliver bespoke retail and hospitality training under one roof.

Programmes are for those already working in the retail and hospitality sector or for those with aspirations to do so, with the aim of providing easy access to seamless training and 'at a glance' progression routes delivered by a range of providers.

The combination of courses ranges from entry-level, apprenticeships and masterclasses to aspirational higher-level and degree programmes alongside accredited courses, in key areas including customer service, HR and finance to leadership & management.

Ambition:Leeds Manager Dianne Wainwright said establishing and maintaining strong employer engagement was key in ensuring Ambition:Leeds supported the sectors.

"We want employers to have a direct influence on the training we offer, keeping activity relevant and value-adding."

Dianne Wainwright, Ambition: Leeds Manager



**SINCE LAUNCHING
AMBITION: LEEDS**

Since launching in October 2018, collaboration with employers has been taking place at various levels and includes the establishment of an Employer Board featuring representatives from city centre hotels, retailers, restaurants, bars and Leeds Markets. The Board meets regularly to drive forward the Ambition:Leeds project, overseeing the operational business and monitoring the quality of delivery, progress and achievement.

Work is ongoing with the Leeds Hospitality & Venues Association (LHVA) to establish an effective route into schools to showcase career opportunities in the hospitality sector plus scheduling of a series of masterclasses including cocktail making and knife skills for those currently working in the industry.

Other key work has included preparing young people for employment, developing materials to support the careers strategy that will underpin the advice and guidance available across the sectors and tackling some of the urgent skills needs allowing businesses to get ahead in the digital world.

There has been successful training delivered in partnership with the Prince's Trust, looking at helping young people into employment while supporting retailers with Christmas recruitment. The short 'Get Into' programme saw 16 young people complete three days of intense activity, which resulted in nine securing employment with Trinity Leeds retailers - Boots and New Look.

In addition, one participant gained a work placement at The Queens hotel. Going forward, Ambition:Leeds and the Prince's Trust will be joining forces to connect more young people with jobs and career opportunities with 'Get Hired' events, connecting employers in the LeedsBID area with young people who are "work ready."

Consultation with businesses across the sector has indicated that investment in the skills development of leaders and managers is vital to ensure people have the talent and ability to respond to the changing shape of the sector.

"Ambition:Leeds provides a great opportunity for employees to access the education, skills and training to help them on the path to a successful career, and for employers who are looking for high calibre candidates with hands-on experience."

Andrew Cooper, LeedsBID Chief Executive

**AMBITION OPPORTUNITIES
AVAILABLE IN 2019 INCLUDE:**

- From bitesize digital training and first aid to mock employment tribunals and business management masterclasses
- Development of a Boot Camp for Leadership & Management combining training sessions, workshops, coaching sessions and networking events to deliver a bespoke, Leeds-centric approach
- A programme for unemployed people from the local community to improve their prospects with support sought from employers in the city to help craft the content of the scheme and offer interview opportunities

Ambition:Leeds hosts Leeds Retail Conference Thursday 28th March, The Queens Hotel, 8.15-11am

Free conference looking at changing consumer behaviour and the impact on the consumer economy in Leeds. With a focus on innovation, industry representatives will look at what the Retail and Hospitality sector in Leeds can do to help maintain a strong position

If you are interested in finding out more about opportunities through Ambition:Leeds please visit: www.ambitionleeds.co.uk or contact dianne.wainwright@ambitionleeds.co.uk

Bottom:
Andrew Cooper, LeedsBID Chief Executive
Dianne Wainwright, Ambition: Leeds Manager



BROUGHT TO YOU BY LEEDSBID

The thermometer of change in Leeds currently has a very high reading. Looking around the city, we see developments and regeneration at every corner.

The station roof is currently undergoing an overdue make-over; there is a new regional government hub underway in Wellington Place; Leeds Playhouse, Opera North, Leeds City College and the city's universities all have construction underway and Channel 4 is setting up home here – making Leeds a rapidly changing city and certainly an exciting place to be.

Many of the 900+ levy-paying organisations we represent are very familiar with our work in the four years since our inception; other stakeholders may not be as aware of the catalytic role LeedsBID plays. The annual £2.5m investment we receive goes back into the city to create impactful experiences from: the introduction of our welcoming street teams to the creative use of experiential activities and the addition of new standout events within the city. Business Improvement Districts are one solution to bringing businesses together to make a real impact - as is evident in Leeds. And we are seeing the growth of BIDs across Yorkshire, with Bradford and Harrogate among the most recent additions. By working collaboratively to improve the economic centre of our towns and cities, we can start to shape and change our high streets and city centre places on which we all rely.

Coming together to help make a positive change is evident in a new campaign launched in Leeds, with LeedsBID, businesses, charities, the local authority and community groups getting together to support bigchangeleeds.co.uk

Together let's make a 'Big Change', demonstrating how in Leeds we can come together for collective good to make a lasting change and a real difference.



Andrew Cooper
Chief Executive, LeedsBID





Above Left:
1 of 12 decorated pianos dotted across the city

Above Right:
A young visitor on the piano trail at play

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL PIANO COMPETITION 2018

LeedsBID played an instrumental role in showcasing the Leeds International Piano Competition 2018, one of the world's foremost music competitions, to new audiences both near and far.

Helping the city celebrate the piano like never before, the BID joined forces with competition organisers, The University of Leeds and business partners to bring twelve beautifully decorated pianos to iconic locations across the city for people to play and enjoy on the Leeds Piano Trail.

The pianos, supplied by Leeds-based Besbrode Pianos and decorated by local artists, art students, schoolchildren and community groups, were available for amateurs and professionals to play and hosted pop-up performances by competitors and celebrity guests. The BID also helped deliver the World's Smallest Concert Hall hosting daily programmes of free events and transformed Leeds Town Hall stairs into giant piano keys for the competition finals.

The orchestra of new events and activities helped increase awareness, interest and participation with this world-renowned triennial event, and has left a legacy of pianos throughout the city centre which are here to stay for people to enjoy and play.

MADE UP LEEDS

Thousands flocked to first ever 'Made Up Leeds' festival, which brought together some of the biggest names in the city's retail scene to put Leeds on the map as a make-up capital of the UK.

The two-day event saw former Made in Chelsea star Georgia 'Toff' Toffolo host a talk at Trinity Leeds, with other guest appearances from Love Island stars Kaz Crossley and Alexandra Cane, male beauty vlogger Lewys Ball, and E4's Body Fixers star Danny Richo.

All of the events were free to attend, with additional talks/tutorials from drag queen star Michael 'Gisele' Allan, celebrity hairdresser Andrew Barton, international make-up artist Ruby Hammer MBE, and make-up artists Shaheen Kauser and Sanna Nosheen – known as Mummillion and Lookamillion.

The inclusive, city-wide festival boasted more than 110 individual offers from 90 cosmetics stores, franchises, restaurants and bars, including John Lewis, Harvey Nichols, Debenhams, Boots, Trinity Leeds, The Merrion Centre, St Johns Centre and The Light.

Bottom Left:
Shaheen Kauser & Sanna Nosheen, Make-up artists during 'Made Up Leeds' event day two

Bottom Right:
Lewys Ball, male beauty vlogger during event day one



THOUGHT BUBBLE

For one week in September, the city centre was animated by over 500 international comic artists, illustrators, and storytellers with the return of **Thought Bubble**, the largest sequential-art festival of its kind in the UK. This homegrown festival, now in its 12th year, attracts creators, publishers, retailers and fans, turning Leeds into comic capital for a week, with support from LeedsBID.

It boasted a packed week of interactive events and exhibitions, culminating in a giant 2-day comic convention. Headlining the guest programme was award-winning comic writer, novelist and screen-writer Warren Ellis - a legend of the comic industry. Joining the stellar line-up were Charlie Adlard (The Walking Dead), Greg Rucka (Wonder Woman) and Victoria Ying (Frozen, Moana) and events such as Women World Builders at Leeds Arts University showcased the world's top leading female artists.

Bottom Left:
Thought Bubble Comic Convention

Bottom Right:
Mike Winnard's 'Common Ground'



A CITY LESS GREY

The final artistic installation of the LeedsBID / East Street Arts award-winning **A City Less Grey** project was unveiled on Harper Street.

Mike Winnard's 'Common Ground' installation has taken pride of place on the side of New York House, in Kirkgate, and depicts the two words in the numerous languages spoken in Leeds while also encapsulating local, historical, and cultural iconography - such as flags, plants, and animals. The artwork sits alongside other pieces across the city including the epic 'Athena Rising' mural by NOMAD Clan painted on the east side of the Platform building by Leeds Station.

'A City Less Grey' has been a catalytic project, animating the city and engaging communities through a series of art installations. Spanning 22 months, it has seen several artists leave a lasting impression in the city centre including Sovereign Square, Vicar Lane and Briggate. As a result of A City Less Grey, the Sunday Times proclaimed Leeds the country's "capital" for street art (20 August 2017); in June 2018, the art project won the awards for best use of arts, culture or sport in placemaking at the national Planning Awards in London. Plans are now underway for Phase 2 of the project, with East Street Arts and LeedsBID looking at more statement pieces throughout the city centre.

LEEDSBID SHOWCASE

LeedsBID Showcase took place on 11 October at Leeds College of Music's contemporary complex at the heart of the city's Cultural Quarter.

The well-attended annual event gave levy payers, key partners and interested parties the opportunity to hear more about the impact LeedsBID has brought to the city over the past year and find out about the innovative and exciting projects planned for the year ahead. There were live performances by the talented students of Leeds College of Music before an expert panel of speakers including LeedsBID Chief Executive Andrew Cooper, Professor Cathy Parker, Chair of the Institute of Place Management, Simon McCaskill, Head Digital Masterclass Trainer at Leeds Boost, and Jon Wakeman, Artistic Director of East Street Arts...

Bottom Left:
Jon Wakeman, East St Arts Artistic Director

Bottom Right:
The Covasettes performing at The ARIAS 2018



ARIAS/SEGUE

October saw the national radio and audio industry expo, **Segue** [Seg-way], and the prestigious **ARIAS** (Audio & Radio Industry Awards) return to Leeds.

With the ongoing support of LeedsBID, The Radio Academy brings big industry names, brands and headline acts into the city over a two-day period for a series of speeches, masterclasses and networking opportunities before hosting its star-studded awards ceremony in the city.

The ARIAS, at first direct arena for the third year, saw hosts, DJs Melvin Odoom and Pandora Christie, introduced the awards, with winners including Ronan Keating, Jamie Cullen, BBC Radio 1 and BBC Radio Leeds taking Best Local Station of the Year, while guests enjoyed high voltage performances by Tony Hadley, Sophie Ellis-Bextor, State 808, Poppy Ajudha, and The Covasettes.



CHRISTMAS IN LEEDS

Visitors to the city centre were treated to a number of show-stopping Christmas trees which sprung up in new locations for **Christmas in Leeds 2018**. Featuring a standout giant walk-through, colour-changing tree on Briggate and other statement trees in Dortmund Square, St Peter's Square, Granary Wharf and outside first direct arena.

The adornment of innovative lighting in key locations also shone a light on some of the city's much-loved iconic buildings - Holy Trinity Church and the Queens Hotel Leeds while Park Square, Sovereign Street and Bond Court were given a festive glow from a series of lit wintry blooms handcrafted from recycled packaging sourced from Leeds businesses, and inspired by the textures of frost, ice and snow.

People could also see the city in a whole new light with a special interactive treasure hunt which provided a fun, interactive and engaging way to experience Christmas in Leeds while reuniting a present with its owner

PURPLE FLAG

It was a great start to 2019 with Leeds remaining a fine shade of purple after retaining its **Purple Flag status** for the third successive year. The prestigious award recognises the city's excellence in managing its evening and night time economy and celebrates the on-going work to ensure that visitors can have a fun and enjoyable evening out.

Assessors acknowledged the strength of collaboration in the city by a wide range of partners which includes LeedsBID, Leeds City Council, Business Against Crime in Leeds (BACIL) and West Yorkshire Police who are involved in the day-to-day management of the city's evening economy.

Top Left:
LED 'Pixel Tree' located in the centre of Briggate during Christmas In Leeds 2018

Top Right:
Purple Flag marketing collateral

BBBIG IDEAS

BBBIG IDEAS is back in 2019 with LeedsBID and Bettakultcha presenting these innovative and fun networking sessions featuring passionate people talking about the things they love, hate and find interesting. Events have a topical, pertinent theme with a number of speakers on the same bill, each one filling a five-minute slot while adhering to three simple rules: 20 slides, 15 seconds each slide and no sales pitches.

Free to LeedsBID levy payers, get involved by taking to the panel or just come along to listen, exchange ideas and information and kick-start new relationships across all sectors of the city. Find out more and register for a place visit the LeedsBID Eventbrite page ([leedsbid.eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com)).

LEEDS INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL 2019

Pink is back with the **Leeds International Festival (L19)** hitting the city from 2nd-12th May. This leading metropolitan festival of new ideas and innovation led and fully-funded by LeedsBID, L19 will be divided into a CORE programme and an OFF programme. CORE will gather world-leading creators, innovators and thought-leaders to disseminate the most pioneering new thoughts and discuss the world of tomorrow. The OFF programme meanwhile offers up an international platform to up-and-coming and underground voices, showcasing and amplifying creativity and diversity and curating a vibrant and experimental programme of citywide fringe events.

As well as holding events in venues across the city, L19 will have two dedicated sites – The Village and Discovery Zone.

Visit: leedsinternationalfestival.com to keep up-to-date with the latest news, programme and ticket announcements.

Bottom Left:
Neon sign displayed during festival

Bottom Right:
Various summer events and programmes



SUMMER IN THE CITY

Summer in the City will again be a bright affair whatever the weather with LeedsBID bringing a host of pop-up events, activities and the ever-popular deckchairs to the working week. Going from strength to strength, this annual initiative aims to encourage people out of the office to make the most of their lunchtimes in the city. Keep a lookout for further details announced nearer the time.

Keep up-to-date with all LeedsBID events and activities at: leedsbid.co.uk

20 Slides / 4 Speakers
5 Minutes / Much Debate
#BBBIGIDEAS

For more information or to purchase tickets
Please visit: WWW.LEEDSBID.EVENTBRITE.COM/

Wednesday 27 February	Fantastic Plastic
Thursday 02 May	Food For Thought (Bring Your Own)
Wednesday 19 June	It's Not About Me
Thursday 26 September	Reinvention
Wednesday 27 November	What Is Success?

IN OTHER NEWS...

EAST STREET ARTS SECURES HOME FOR ART HOSTEL

Leeds-based arts charity, **East Street Arts** is expanding its creative hub in Mabgate with the introduction of a permanent home for its pioneering social enterprise, Art Hostel.

The creative organisation, with investment from Unity Trust Bank and Key Fund, is set to start development work on the property, New York Studios, working with another raft of artistic talent to create a vibrant place to stay for visitors to the city.

The new Art Hostel will open later in 2019 and will be bigger than the temporary pilot iteration which opened in 2016 on Kirkgate. The initial pop-up was intended to be a four-year installation in the former seed warehouse but came to an end in December 2018 due to development plans for the building.

Currently in its 25th year, East Street Arts is dedicated to supporting artists at all levels, creating the space, time and resource for them to be innovative, pioneering and successful.

Nicola Greenan, external relations director at East Street Arts said: "We are absolutely delighted to bring the Art Hostel to the area next door to our home at Patrick Studios. Our vision for the original hostel was to create affordable accommodation in the city for creatives and tourists alike and we're extremely pleased with how successful it's been. Through our work there, we actively promote Leeds' cultural underbelly and DIY art scene - this is something we will continue in the new space at New York Studios. We're very excited to work with a new group of artists and room sponsors to develop the property."

The charity is looking to collaborate with organisations to create the hostel rooms and interested parties should contact external relations director, Nicola Greenan at: nicola@esamail.org.uk

For more information about East Street Arts, go to: www.eaststreetarts.org.uk and for details about Art Hostel, go to: www.arthostel.org.uk

Bottom:
Director & Rhian Aitken, Arts Hostel Manager
Nicola Greenan, East St Arts External Relations





LEEDS: CRADLE OF INNOVATION AVAILABLE TO BUY

For centuries, Leeds has nurtured economic, social and cultural innovation. Leeds people brought in new products and processes during the industrial revolution and are leading today's digital revolution.

Read all about it in Leeds: Cradle of Innovation – a 284-page book supported by LeedsBID which weaves together many of the city's stories of pioneering thinking and action: engineers, commercial and social entrepreneurs, scientists and technologists and contributors to the visual and performing arts.

John Barran created ready-made clothing, Matthew Murray built the world's first locomotive and Louis le Prince shot the world's first moving images on Leeds Bridge. Contemporary innovators include Laura Wellington, award-winning designer and co-founder of Duke Studios, digital entrepreneur Adam Beaumont and Larry Gould, founder of translation company, thebigword.

There are amazingly varied examples of creativity, curiosity and determination, all beautifully illustrated. Written, designed and printed in Leeds, this book makes our fabulous city seem even more impressive.

Available to buy - hardback £45.00 and softback £35.00 direct from www.cradleofinnovation.org, from Waterstone's, Albion Street, Leeds LS1 5JS and from reception at 46 The Calls, LS2 7EY.

Above: Book titled 'Leeds: Cradle of Innovation' available to purchase from various outlets

COMPASS FESTIVAL 2018

Compass Festival bursts onto the streets of Leeds every other November, bringing incredible live art and interactive encounters to cultural venues, civic buildings, local businesses and the city's streets. 2018's was the best festival yet, with an incredible 10 days (16th-25th November) of astonishing live art and interactive encounters across Leeds by national and international artists.

Highlights included a day of live animal trials in the courtroom at Leeds Town Hall where practicing barristers argued for and against two accused dogs and an American signal crayfish, and an audio journey along the River Aire on a specially chartered Leeds Water Taxi. A record-breaking 13,300 people took part in 13 projects during the festival, which produced three new exhibitions, two publications, one film premiere and hundreds of live encounters, with almost 100 partners working with Compass to bring these projects to life.

Compass, supported by LeedsBID, is a very special festival embedding artists in the city and working closely for many months with participants to create unique encounters.

There are big plans in the pipeline for the next two years, with festival organisers on the lookout to form new partnerships with businesses to host and support festival events. Individuals also interested in supporting Compass, through the "Friends of Festival" group, can get in touch at info@compassliveart.org.uk

Bottom: Compass Festival event displaying live animal trials in Leeds Town Hall Courtroom

See all events: www.compassliveart.org.uk/festival



Forge Recycling

City centre recycling service makes an impact

A city-centre commercial waste and recycling collection service introduced to help save businesses money while enhancing street aesthetics is making an impact.

The trade waste service introduced by LeedsBID working in partnership with Leeds-based Forge Recycling is delivering on its aims to increase and improve recycling while helping keep business costs down.

There is a steady growth of businesses coming on board; close to 100 have signed up to what is the only seven-day service available in the city centre; businesses are seeing an average cost saving of 20%, with prices held for a second year.

The annual waste contract, which is available to businesses who pay a BID levy (mandatory or voluntary), has been designed so that the more businesses who opt into the service, the more money they all save, ensuring that prices stay low over the lifetime of the contract.

Businesses are choosing a wider range of recycling services from Forge, and recycling rates are up overall with over 45% of waste segregated by businesses before collection. There is then further off site separation for re-use/recycling by Forge before residual waste goes for incineration, with zero to landfill, which is key to Forge Recycling's business.

Forge offers the full range of recycling from mixed recyclables, cardboard, food waste and glass bottles – and has recently extended the service to include the only paper cup collection in Yorkshire.

Forge can recycle paper tea, coffee and hot chocolate cups and paper cold drink cups of all sizes and shapes. They supply pink 'cup collection bag', which can be filled with empty paper cups only (no lids, sleeves, liquids, or other general waste) which are collected from premises on a scheduled collection service when they are full.

“Our annual costs have reduced, with prices capped for a period of time so we can budget for the year without the fear of significant price increases”.

David Hartzig, The Cosmopolitan General Manager

HOW ARE FORGE HELPING

Since the introduction of the service in October, Forge have collected over 200,000 cups – with the equivalent of 159,000 cups having already been sent for recycling. Recycled cups create a high quality paper fibre which can then be transformed into all manner of paper products, from paper shopping bags and packaging, to writing paper.

Millions of paper cups are thrown away across the UK each day, ending up in landfill or being incinerated. Forge Recycling's Paper Cup Collection Service is tackling this problem one cup at a time so why not get involved and save money, save trees and help reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

The LeedsBID/Forge service offers an excellent collection service record – an average 97% for first time collections, with any missed collections picked up within 24 hours – meaning less waste is visible on the city's streets. Collections are timed to ensure trade sacks and loose waste are not left out overnight, and as a local provider, there's the added benefit of a low carbon footprint.

Businesses already benefitting from the bespoke daily total waste management service include the Merrion Centre, Northern Ballet and the Cosmopolitan Hotel. Northern Ballet changed to Forge Recycling nine months ago from one of the major companies and are now seeing around a 35% saving on their mixed recycling and general waste services.

Do you know what happens to your waste?
Do you need a bespoke service that is more frequent and/or offers more options on waste streams?

**Get in touch with Forge Waste & Recycling on:
0345 5050 905 or leedsbid@forgerecycling.co.uk**

Bottom Left:
Andrew Cooper, LeedsBID
Chief Executive
Karen Butler, LeedsBID
Head of Place Management
Harvey Mills, Forge Recycling
Co-Founder

Bottom Right:
Forge recycled cups transformed
into various paper products



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**Welcome
to Leeds.**

