Supporting Bradford’s heritage beyond City of



Meet our Mothers participants. A collection of treasured family recipes and stories from across Bradford were compiled into a cookbook for Bradford 2025 UK City of Culture. Credit: Andrew Benge.

We’ve awarded nearly £1million to new projects in the area to ensure it remains a place with heritage at its heart.

Bradford’s time as UK City of Culture – which we awarded £4.95m – laid the foundations for long-term transformation. The landmark year created opportunities for local people to get involved in cultural activities, learning and heritage-led regeneration. It's estimated that more than three million people were involved in the celebrations.

The new grants awarded to organisations across the district will empower them to further celebrate Bradford’s identity and connect people to their past.

Explore the projects

Hidden Threads: Revealing the Heritage of South Asian Muslim Women in Bradford

Much of the traditional textile heritage carried by women who settled in Bradford from the 1960s remains undocumented and largely absent from formal archives and public heritage spaces. With a grant of £160,000, Better Communities Bradford will work with South Asian Muslim women to record and represent their heritage through oral histories,

photog



Better Communities Bradford exhibition, featuring traditional South Asian textile and embroidery skills.

Bradford Community-led Heritage

Community organisations will be able to bid for grants between £500 to £10,000 to showcase the cultural traditions, knowledge and skills of Bradford's diverse communities dating from the 1940s to the present day.

The project, led by The Leap, was awarded £249,974 and will culminate in the Bradford Heritage Festival in summer 2027 featuring all the successful applicants. Zulfiqar Ahmed, Executive Director at The Leap, said: "This investment enables The Leap to support communities across our district to take an active role in preserving and presenting their own heritage."

Glen and Moor: Nature Connection at Bracken Hall

Local communities, volunteers and schools will be at the heart of shaping a new exhibition at Bracken Hall Countryside Centre. With £87,915 funding, Baildon Town Council will provide visitors with an opportunity to connect with local wildlife and landscapes.

Julia Babbitt, Bracken Hall Manager, said: “This is exciting news for Bracken Hall. This project will enable more people to discover the Bradford Pennine Gateway National Nature Reserve through the new exhibition, connect with nature on their doorstep, and understand how they can help care for its nationally important habitats.”



A wellbeing walk on Shipley Glen. Credit: Matt Radcliffe.

Beehive Shelter Rejuvenation

Wilsden Parish Council will restore the Beehive shelter at the heart of Wilsden village with the help of a £26,793 grant. Created from the remains of the now demolished Wilsden Co-operative Store, the shelter takes its name from a carved stone beehive motif displayed in its interior. As well as the repairs, the project will deliver engagement activities with local school children and residents, and record memories of the Co-operative Store.

Collections Reimagined: Preserving Our Past, Protecting Our Future

Bradford District Museums & Galleries hold a significant collection spanning art, social history, industrial heritage, world cultures, archaeology, photography and natural sciences. However, its external stores, where around 40% of the objects are held, are unfit for purpose. With £175,040 funding, Bradford Council will seek to determine the most appropriate and sustainable long-term solution to store and safeguard the collections.



Our funding will help preserve valuable collections. Credit: Phil Jackson.

Ongoing transformation in Bradford

Following the end of the 2025 title year, the organisation behind the celebrations continues to operate as Bradford Culture Company driving further culture-led regeneration across the district.

Its ongoing heritage projects include a new 18-mile Pennine Gateway Trail connecting Bradford's National Nature Reserve, a short film about the district's rural spaces and the publication of a new book by photographer Victor Wedderburn that explores Bradford's African Caribbean communities in the 1980s.

With our continued investment, Bradford Playhouse is being transformed into a safe and inspiring creative space fit for the future.

Our commitment to help places thrive

In our latest three-year delivery plan, we set out our ambitions for heritage including our support for the successful UK Town of Culture 2028 and City of Culture 2029.

If you've got an idea for a project, explore our available funding.



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Bradford-based dancers representing a mix of cultures come together to mark the opening of Bradford Arts Centre. Credit: Guzelian.



ise to the challenge of a large capital project

Street artist NeSpoon has created artwork on the streets of Bradford, as part of BD: Walls.



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Exhibition and collection items on display in the new building at Salt Mills. Credit: The Peace Museum.

Bradford’s unique museum exploring peace moves to Saltaire