

The Mighty Creatives lead the fight to put young people at the heart of cultural recovery

The Mighty Creatives' latest campaign has gathered over 300 signatures in support of its 'Save the Arts' campaign for the East Midlands, which calls on the government to put young people at the heart of cultural recovery.

13th August 2020, Leicester, UK – The Mighty Creatives, the leading cultural education charity in the East Midlands, has responded to the recent announcement from HMG about the £1.57bn emergency support package for the arts and heritage sectors in England with a new campaign. The campaign calls on artists, creative professionals, MPs and supporters in the East Midland's public and private sectors to sign the letter. Addressed to the Rt. Hon. Oliver Dowden (HM Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport), the letter highlights the great work that individuals and organisations deliver for young people in the region.

So far, the campaign has collected more than 300 supporters from the arts, education, health, voluntary, public and private sectors: these include Lord Christopher Smith (former Culture Minister under Tony Blair); Peter Soulsby (Mayor of Leicester); Scott Knowles, Chief Executive of East Midlands Chamber of Commerce; Katie Cresswell, School Business Manager of Alfreton Nursery School; and Fadzie Murena, a Nurse within the NHS.

The letter thanks the government for its imagination and ambition in supporting the arts and heritage sectors with its £1.57bn Emergency Support Package. It also raises concerns over the government's aim to support the nation's 'crown jewels', predicting a risk that regions outside of London will be overlooked when it comes to allocating funds.

Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, The Mighty Creatives recognised several crucial needs in the region: child poverty was rising, school budgets were under pressure, waiting lists for mental health services were unacceptably long, and services supporting families and protecting children from abuse and neglect were at breaking point.

The charity's programme of delivery for young people had already been developed and scheduled in direct response to these needs. In response to Covid-19, The Mighty Creatives developed a range of support packages for children and young people, including (but not limited to):

- [Mighty Hub of Creativity](#) – a centralised hub of free creative resources and activities to empower young people to celebrate creativity at home.
- [Youth Cultural Life Fund](#) – awarding over 70 bursaries to young people (totalling £25,000) to develop creative solutions and support entrepreneurial young arts leaders.

- [Sector Support Grants](#) – emergency funds to support cultural sector organisations and individuals during the Covid-19 pandemic, to ensure they continue delivering services to vulnerable children and young people in the East Midlands.
- [Let's Create packs](#) (funded by The National Lottery, with additional support from Crafts Council and Art Fund) – delivery of creative packs for children most in need of support, particularly those without reliable digital access.
- [Digital Development Grants](#) – grants of £4000 available to support organisations and individuals in the East Midlands to trial and test ideas around digital delivery across a 12-month period.

Nick Owen, CEO at The Mighty Creatives, comments:

“The growth of the campaign over the last couple of weeks has been hugely encouraging. It's been especially encouraging to see that many people from across the political divide and across society as a whole are prepared to state their support for artists working with children and young people: the real jewel in the crown of our country's heritage. Without investment into their lives today, there will no culture tomorrow.”

To view The Mighty Creatives' letter to government and signatories of the campaign, or to show your support, visit our [website](#).

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About The Mighty Creatives

Established in 2009, [The Mighty Creatives](#) is a charity which has transformed the lives of children and young people through arts, culture and creativity. Based at the heart of the cultural quarter in Leicester, our beneficiaries are children and young people from birth to 30 years old across the East Midlands.

We work in partnership with children and young people, key funders and sector partners to champion, develop, deliver and grow:

- services that can be scaled up, demonstrate reach and result in significant and measurable cultural and social impacts
- inspiring opportunities for children and young people to engage with arts and culture
- investment in children and young people's own creative skills, knowledge and practice
- capacity in the cultural and education sectors to support the infrastructure of the region
- programmes of cultural and creative education regionally, nationally and internationally
- models of practice which ensure that the creative voices of children and young people are at the heart of all our programmes.

For other press and media enquiries please contact Bethany@themightycreatives.com or call 0116 2616 834