

NORTH LANDS CREATIVE RECEIVES FUNDING SUPPORT FOR NEW CREATIVE COMMUNITY HUB

**Press Release Contact: Marketing Team, North Lands Creative
+44 (0) 1593 721 229 | marketing@northlandscreative.co.uk**

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North Lands Creative have been devising a host of imaginative ways to help to reduce social isolation and improve the mental health and wellbeing of Caithness residents going forward. To support this, North Lands Creative is excited to announce that building work has now commenced across our campus to create our new Creative Community Hub. The programme of works will lead to a much improved modern facility for the benefit of the local community with welcoming spaces to enjoy creative arts and includes a community café, dedicated disabled toilet with baby change facilities and a gallery and makerspace.

Director, Karen Phillips commented:

"Even if we don't consider ourselves to be particularly artistic, most of us like to create in one way or another, whether this means drawing, gardening, or cooking food that brings us comfort. Because using the arts for self-expression can be incredibly empowering and can promote healing we are delighted to be working with so many partners and artists to improve our facilities. The refurbishments will create a Creative Community Hub is great news and we look forward to sharing our ideas with the community over the next few months as part of celebrating 25 years in the village of Lybster."

Our plan is to encourage the local community to use the buildings to meet socially, make friends and not feel isolated. The new spaces give the community access to more creative spaces and activities on their doorstep. The upgrading of the Alastair Pilkington Studio and Quatre Bras sites along with a new community café and makerspace is welcomed.

We are inviting the community to a series of online open evenings this summer to discuss our ideas where the North Lands team can show how the new layout will bring improved access and much needed additional resources. It is anticipated that all of the works will be completed by the end of the year.

If you would like to be involved in the new creative community hub, please let us know by emailing **community@northlandscreative.co.uk** and join us for our virtual open evenings. These online events will give you the opportunity to meet and hear from staff and ask questions and find out more about our exciting future programming that could involve you!

Since opening in 1995, North Lands Creative has been a distinctive and special place, and an important resource as a Centre of Excellence for Glass, the arts and for audiences in the region - as well as being a significant force in the national and international glass world.

Director Karen Phillips added

"As we look forward to our 25th Anniversary, I'm delighted to welcome the support of government, community and third sector funding. Their generous support will enable us to complete the redevelopment and renovation of our facilities by improving our digital capabilities as well as the development of our physical spaces, which will create new opportunities for our region and create a vibrant meeting place for all."

The support we have received from our funders demonstrates their commitment to North Lands Creative and our place in the cultural life of Caithness and nationally. I wish to thank them, and Creative Scotland, for all they have done to ensure we have so much to look forward to in the years ahead and I cannot wait to welcome back our artists, audiences and visitors to enjoy and experience all that we have to offer."



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OPENING
NOV 2021

maker space

MEET, CREATE
SOCIALISE

North Lands Creative is strengthening our commitment to community education through our new Maker Space, library and creative learning hub. The maker space will provide open access to a full range of artistic / design equipment and technology. A place for learning and connection, the Maker Space will bring people together and encourage skills sharing and collaboration within a safe and inclusive environment.

This space is for you, and we want you to be part of it. Join in the discussion and share your ideas with us at info@northlandscreative.co.uk

hello

We look forward to welcoming you back into our spaces. Here's an update of what's going on behind the scenes.

We'd love to hear from you! Get in touch with us at: info@northlandscreative.co.uk

01 spaces

North Lands Creative is undergoing developments on campus to:

- Further increase our commitment to inclusive spaces and wheelchair accessible infrastructure.
- Improvements to our accommodation to aid towards a safe & secure environment for visiting artists.
- Implementation of extra hygiene measures, social distancing & handwashing facilities across campus.

02 community

We are committed to enabling access for our wider community through

- Increasing & improving our public access spaces through the development of our new café, gallery space and community garden.
- Strengthening our commitment to community education through our new Maker Space, library and learning hub.
- Physical and virtual community arts programming, open days and family activity.

03 activity

North Lands Creative is re-introducing activities step by step and will be monitoring for further adaptations. If all goes as forecast we are working towards:

- Highland Culture Collective Artist in Residency with Lyth Arts Centre - July 2021
- Assembly, North Lands Creative at Venice Glass Week - September 2021
- Launch of Creative Hub, Café, Gallery & Maker Space - November 2021
- ISGNE AiR November 2021 & February 2022 / International AiR February 2022
- Glass Lives Week - February 2022