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**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



**Wigan  
Council**



## MAKE. BELIEVE.

### *‘Opening the Door to the Magic of Imagination within our Communities’*

## ✦ CALL OUT FOR YOUNG CREATIVES

### The Turnpike Gallery Creative Community Programme April 2026

The Turnpike Gallery is looking to recruit **8 young people aged 16–25 living the borough of Wigan** to join **Make. Believe.** - a 4 days behind-the-scenes creative adventure where you will help transform our gallery entrance into a magical, welcoming and unforgettable experience.

As part of this project, we are inviting designs, ideas, and imaginative concepts from young people who would like to shape the look and feel of this transformation.

You don't need to be a professional artist, just someone with imagination, enthusiasm, and a desire to help create something special.

#### How It Works

1. **Submit your idea** through our open call – see details below
2. Our team will review all submissions.
3. A selection of young people and ideas will be invited to take part.
4. Selected participants will join Make. Believe collaborating with artists and the Turnpike to bring the chosen concepts to life.

This is your chance to:

- ✦ Learn new creative skills
- ✦ Work alongside a professional artist
- ✦ Take part in a commission which forms part of a major gallery exhibition
- ✦ Explore sustainable making techniques
- ✦ See your ideas come to life in the 2026 Make.Believe. exhibition

If you're curious, imaginative, and ready to help re-enchant the Turnpike Gallery, we want to hear from you!

## 🌟 What is Creative Community?

Creative Community is our group for young people in Wigan & Leigh who want to explore creative careers, learn new skills, and be part of the Turnpike Gallery's programme. As part of Make. Believe. you will help design and curate an artwork trail that transforms the entrance and staircase into a magical journey for visitors.

## 🌟 What is MAKE. BELIEVE?

MAKE. BELIEVE. is a two-year Arts Council England funded project celebrating the creative imagination of our communities. A celebration of wonder, storytelling, possibility, and the art of believing in something bigger.

The project weaves together three strands of activity across Wigan & Leigh, culminating in the Make. Believe. exhibition in the Turnpike Gallery opening on 9th May 2026.

## 🧑‍🎨 What Will I Be Doing?

You'll be working alongside artist **Jamie-Lee Wainman**, whose practice focuses on transforming discarded plastics into striking installations. Jamie will guide you through a variety of experimental making techniques and support you as you help reimagine the gallery entrance. This is a key space in the foyer of the Turnpike Centre that introduces visitors to the Make. Believe. theme and sets the tone before they enter the exhibition.

You'll also have the chance to meet and collaborate with **Sophie Mahon**, the lead artist for the Make. Believe. programme and exhibition.

### You will:

- Work with artist Jamie-Lee to explore sustainable processes using waste plastic and recycled materials
- Develop and refine your ideas as a team
- Bring your designs to life during two full making days
- Help shape a visual entrance point for visitors to the exhibition

There are five spaces to be redesigned at the entrance of the Turnpike Gallery. We would like you to propose ideas for these areas. As part of the project, you may only have the opportunity to focus on one area, but we encourage a variety of ideas to bring to the project. Ideas do not yet need to be finalised, as you will be working as a team to create a complementary and cohesive exhibition. We are looking for evidence of creative, sustainable, and innovative ideas.

### 1. Entrance ground floor

Create visually engaging signage or artwork on the stairs to lead visitors up to the Gallery.

### 2. Wall Planter

We're bringing back planters (with live plants) and are looking for a quote/text which celebrates nature and the magic inspired by the Make. Believe. themes.

### 3. Handrail ledge

We see this space as an opportunity for storytelling as you travel up the stairs. We are looking for an idea of words or images that tell a narrative up the banister ledge relating to the Turnpike gallery or the Make. Believe. project.

### 4. Stairwell and landing walls

Create hanging artwork (such as banners or on panels) which invites people to wonder about the spirit of Make.Believe.

### 5. Welcome Wall (first floor)

Reimagine the top-of-stairs 'welcome' wall, inspired by and complementing Mark Titchner's *Always Be Happy* mural – both its imagery and typography.

Your ideas don't need to be finished or perfect, just imaginative, ambitious, and rooted in creativity and sustainability.

Themes include (but are not limited to):

- ✦ Creative imagination
- ✦ Ethereal landscapes
- ✦ Enchantment & wonder
- ✦ Woodland & nature
- ✦ Hidden stories & magical places

### When & Where

Sessions take place **on 7, 9, 14 and 16 April** at The Turnpike Gallery, Civic Square, Leigh WN7 1EB

You must be available for **all sessions in April**.

### Session Plan:

- Workshop 1 7<sup>th</sup> April: Meet the group & share ideas - 4-6pm
- Workshop 2 9<sup>th</sup> April: Finalise ideas for a cohesive exhibition - 4-6pm
- Workshop 3 14<sup>th</sup> April: Making Day 1 - 3-8pm + tea
- Workshop 4 16<sup>th</sup> April: Making Day 2 - 3-8pm + tea
- 9<sup>th</sup> May: Exhibition Opening! 🎉

### Cost

Absolutely free.

Snacks provided.

We can help with travel costs if needed just let us know.

### Who Leads the Sessions?

Artist **Jamie-Lee Wainman** is a brilliant maker, workshop leader, and accessibility advocate. As a disabled and neurodiverse artist, Jamie brings insight, warmth and a deep understanding of inclusive creative practice.

## **How to Apply**

Submit **up to two A4 pages** by **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March** telling us and welcome submissions that could include:

- Sketches
- Written concepts
- Mood boards
- Digital designs
- 3D ideas
- Anything that communicates your vision

Please also include:

- Who you are, what you do, where you live
- Your ideas for the project, with some illustrations/visuals and materials
- Why you'd like to take part and how you think you would benefit

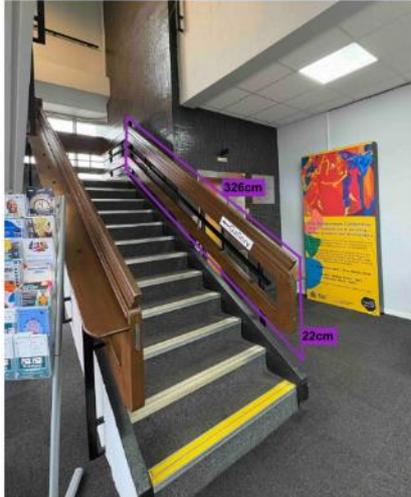
You can find more about the Make. Believe. project here:

 <https://www.theturnpikegallery.org.uk/Projects/Make.-Believe..aspx>

Questions?

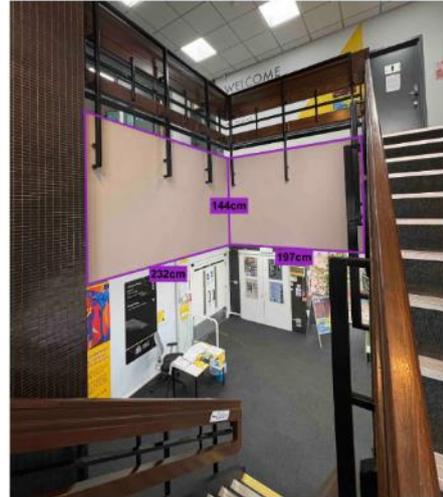
 [theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk](mailto:theturnpikegallery@wigan.gov.uk)

**See images and dimensions of the Turnpike Gallery entrance and stairs below:**



**Entrance Ground Floor**

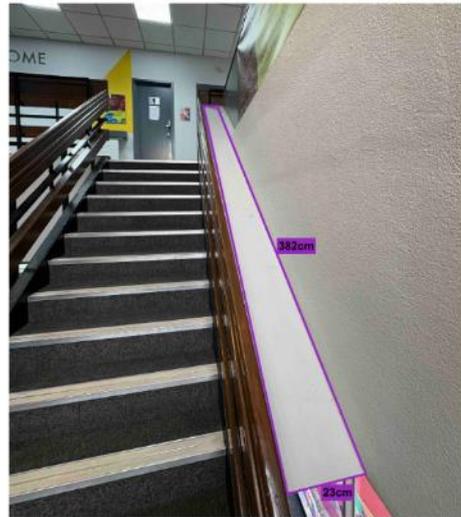
**Make sure your design proposals are to scale with the dimensions of each area highlighted in the photos**



**Stairwell and landing walls**



**Wall planter**



**Handrail ledge**



**Stairwell and landing walls**



**Welcome wall**