Step Up Manchester
Community Engagement Artists Opportunities

The Organisation
Step Up Manchester is the new place-based giving scheme for Manchester, primarily focusing on the neighbourhoods of Ancoats, Beswick, Clayton and Openshaw.

Step Up brings people together from within the community to maximise on our human potential, energy, skills, and resilience for the benefit of local people.

Our aim is to connect people in order to enable ideas to flourish and to support giving, whether of time, money, resources, or expertise.

We will support and develop new projects led by the community which boosts overall health and wellbeing of the place.

We look to support ideas that encourage people to **STEP UP, STEP OUT** and **STEP INTO ACTION**.

The Brief
Step Up Manchester is searching for local artists to design and deliver creative approaches to community engagement. We’re looking for ideas that inspire community spirit by appealing to people’s imagination.

We want to capture what people love about their neighbourhoods with the ambition to stimulate, inspire and generate ideas for projects from local people.

We want artistic engagement to grow the seeds of community ideas into live projects that are supported through place-based giving.
We’re thinking **bright, bold, and brave** activities that really draw people in, building on connections from existing community groups.

**Plans on Hold**
The coronavirus pandemic has put some of our big plans on hold.

We hoped that Step Up’s launch would go off with a bang through a series of artistic events, exhibitions, visual displays and activities taking place at the heart of neighbourhoods with hands on, face to face involvement from our residents.

We recognise that Covid-19 presents significant challenges to the kind of community activity we first envisioned. While there are barriers, months of lockdown also mean that **it's more crucial than ever to make people feel connected to their community.**

We are appealing for local artists to work with us to overcome the barriers Covid-19 presents and bring Step Up to life.

We know that many people in our communities are digitally isolated, so we’ve brainstormed some examples of things people can do alongside Government guidelines from the comfort of their own garden, street, balcony or front door:

- guerrilla gardens,
- creating window planters for neighbours,
- scarecrow competitions,
- DJ street parties,
- bingo,
- exercise classes.

If you have ideas of other activities to boost camaraderie and community spirit, we’d love to hear from you.
The M-Wagon
Last year we commissioned a local artist to create the M-Wagon, a bicycle powered Step Up Chat Room which would pop up across Ancoats, Beswick, Clayton and Openshaw.

The aim of the M-Wagon was to tour neighbourhoods, build conversations with local people and uncover bright ideas for the local area.

We would like the M-Wagon to be incorporated in some of your creative ideas to engage the community.

Interested in the project?
To request our recruitment pack or for an informal conversation about the brief, please email hello@stepupmcr.org or call on 07879 531649.

Go to www.stepupmcr.org for more information and to see the projects we’re stepping up for.