



Newhaven Arts Growth Fund Grants Press Release

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PRESS RELEASE - Newhaven Arts Growth Fund Grants 2023

Theatre, music, heritage, young people and community: The Newhaven Arts Growth Fund seeds culture and creativity with grants for five local projects.

This is the second time that the Newhaven Enterprise Zone has funded an open access arts award and this year there were twice the number of applicants compared with last. The five successful grantees are some of the most exciting arts organisations working in Newhaven today.

This November, youth theatre group **Haven Young Creatives** will create *Newhaven Lights*, a one-day family festival which director Siou Hannam hopes will become an annual fixture. “This funding gives us an opportunity to come together as a community to celebrate winter time. Local artists will co-create a day of making lanterns and music, ending in a lantern procession that will light up the streets of Newhaven.”

Ignite Theatre will fund their Christmas production of Roald Dahl’s *James and the Giant Peach*. “Over three years the Ignite players have worked hard to bring professional productions to the local community at affordable prices” says artistic director Lisa Fairfield. This award allows them to build on their success.

Community arts organisation **Hospitable Environment** uses food and creativity to connect with local people through projects like the woodfired bread oven, and Soup & Social - their free shared meal and community conversation. Their award underpins the delivery of more opportunities and events in Newhaven through 2023 and beyond.

Ring in the New celebrates the restoration of Piddinghoe’s historic church bells. Composer Chris Moore (VOCES8) will collaborate with Tidemills Choir and Harbour Primary School to create a piece of music drawing on Piddinghoe’s stories gathered by student oral historians from Seahaven Academy. Project lead Ben May promises “a world premiere of aspirational and beautiful music” in Piddinghoe this July.

The final recipient is **Newhaven Festival**, now in its 6th year. Together with funding from Newhaven Town Council, Festival Director Rhoda Funnell is curating another diverse lineup including Bicycle Ballet, music at the Bandstand, and a Glyndebourne

Youth Opera event, plus a monthly What's On guide. Stay tuned at newhavenfestival.co.uk

The awards are funded by Newhaven Enterprise Zone, Newhaven's Creative Producer, Nick Stockman is excited for the year ahead. "I am so pleased that the Newhaven Enterprise Zone have invested in arts and culture in Newhaven by awarding grants through an open access fund. The selection panel have chosen a really inspiring range of ideas from a very high-quality field, and these projects and events are going to make a big contribution to the cultural life of the community this year. I can't wait to see these activities in action!"

NOTES FOR EDITORS

Instagram:

[@haven.youngcreatives](https://www.instagram.com/haven.youngcreatives)

[@ignitetheatre.company](https://www.instagram.com/ignitetheatre.company)

[@hospitable_environment](https://www.instagram.com/hospitable_environment)

[@newhavenfestival](https://www.instagram.com/newhavenfestival)

[@creativenewhaven](https://www.instagram.com/creativenewhaven)

Websites:

ignite-theatre.com

piddinghoechurch.org/bells-restoration

newhavenfestival.co.uk

newhavenenterprisezone.com/creative-newhaven

About BN9 and Newhaven Arts Growth Fund

Now in its second year, BN9 is a series of arts projects designed to develop the creative offer of, and reach underserved audiences in, Newhaven. It is a multi-strand series that aims to animate spaces, instil pride and involve the community. The programme includes supporting the Newhaven Art Space gallery in the highstreet, art in the public realm, and oversees the Newhaven Arts Growth Fund grant award scheme to fund locally-grown arts projects. The programme is resourced by the Newhaven Enterprise Zone, steered by the Creative Newhaven Working Group, supported by Towner Eastbourne, and produced by the Newhaven Creative Producer.

About Creative Newhaven

Creative Newhaven was formed in early 2021. The group comprises individuals and organisations from in and around Newhaven with an interest in developing the town's cultural offer. The group meets at least bi-monthly and publishes the minutes of its meetings, along with other helpful information on the CN webpage.

About Newhaven Enterprise Zone (NEZ)

Newhaven Enterprise Zone aims to deliver a new era for the town through quality, inclusive and sustainable growth. By 2030, its vision is for Newhaven as a thriving business destination, a major contributor to the regional economy and a re-energised harbour town. Launched in 2017 with initial support from Coast to Capital, Newhaven Enterprise Zone is a collaboration between the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Lewes District Council. With its transport links, an expanding and diverse economy and growing cultural scene, Newhaven offers great opportunities for businesses to thrive.

<https://link.edgepilot.com/s/515d961f/LipUxhwmm0mrnS7MA7h5qg?u=http://www.newhavenenterprisezone.com/>

About Towner Eastbourne

Collecting and exhibiting contemporary art for almost 100 years, Towner Eastbourne sits where the coast and the South Downs meet. Towner presents exhibitions of national and international importance for audiences in Eastbourne, the UK, and beyond, showcasing the most exciting and creative developments in modern and contemporary art.