

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**LIGHT UP THE NORTH TO RECEIVE ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND  
NATIONAL LOTTERY PROJECT FUNDING THROUGH TO 2025**

Light up the North (LUTN) network has announced that it will receive £157,500 from Arts Council England to continue their sector development work as the leading Light Festival network in England.

Abbe Robinson, Co-Chair of Light Up The North and Principal Arts Project Officer at Leeds City Council and Light Night Leeds said, “This funding recognises the impact of our network and festival partners, who have collectively reached audiences of over 8 million in the past two years. The extension of support through to 2025 will help light art festivals in the north continue to deliver higher quality programmes and tour ambitious new commissions to audiences in towns and cities across the region, whilst nurturing the talent of under-represented northern artists to create work at a national and international level.”

Collaboration is at the heart of the network and LUTN strives to share their knowledge across the cultural sector. In the coming year this funding will see the network develop a new Light Artist Directory, launch a series of webinars and talent development initiatives to support artists to explore new technologies and create compelling experiences for audiences.

An example of this is the recently announced SPARK programme which aims to nurture emerging artists working with light, through a bespoke package of opportunities provided by LUTN members and focused on increasing inclusivity and diversity in the sector.

This opportunity follows on from SHINE - which in 2023 sees the festivals joining together to award up to £10k funding to emerging artists working with light, to produce and exhibit new commissions at their 2023 light festivals.

Phil Hargreaves, Co-Chair of Light Up The North and Head of Creative Programmes at City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council said, “Over the next few years LUTN aims to cement itself as a recognisable festival brand with a reputation for best practice in the North of England. Success will depend on our collective expertise and creative leadership to face challenges together and forms new partnerships to ensure a sustainable future for our network”.

This year LUTN North welcomes two new members Wakefield Light Up and The Awakening in Hull to the network alongside Love Night Norwich as an associate member.

Jen Cleary, Director North, Arts Council England said “The Light up the North network has had huge success in enabling light festivals to develop their artistic ambition, innovate and collaborate thereby maximising the impact of investment and bringing the best new and contemporary light experiences to audiences across the North. This achievement can be seen in the growing popularity of Light Festivals as free, accessible and inspiring events that animate places and spaces and I’m delighted that we have awarded £157,500 through our National Lottery Project Grants programme to support LUTN to continue its development work.”

We would like to thank Arts Council England and all our partners.”

## Notes to editors

All enquiries, high-res images and further information please contact: [chair@lightupthenorth.com](mailto:chair@lightupthenorth.com)

## Light Up The North

Light up the North (LUTN) is a network of northern light festivals which have come together to share their collective expertise to support both the development of the partner festivals and the wider sector. Through regional, national and international networking and collaboration LUTN nurtures artistic ambition through artist and producer development, co-commissioning and joint fundraising.

The capacity and depth of cultural practice within the network enables LUTN to support emerging artists, explore technical innovations and create aspirational work to deliver a compelling offer for audiences.

Website: [www.lightupthenorth.com](http://www.lightupthenorth.com)

Twitter [@lutnorth](https://twitter.com/lutnorth)

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

Facebook [@LighUpTheNorth](https://www.facebook.com/LighUpTheNorth)

Newsletter: [Newsletter Sign Up - Light Up the North](#)

## Light up the North members and festival dates

### [Light Night Leeds](#)

12 – 13 October 2023

### [Lightpool Festival Blackpool](#)

20 – 28 October 2023

### [Light Up Lancaster](#)

2 – 4 November 2023

### [BD:ls LiT Bradford](#)

3 – 4 November 2023

### [Lumiere Durham](#)

16-19 November 2023

### [Light Night Wigan and Leigh](#)

16-18 November 2023

### [Wakefield Light Up](#)

17-19 November 2023

### [Barnsley Bright Nights](#)

24-25 November 2023

### [Nightfall Middlesborough](#)

29 Nov - 3 December 2023

### [Lightwaves Salford](#)

7-10 December 2023

### [Light Night Worcester](#)

14-15 February 2024

### [Illuminate Oldham](#)

24 February 2024

### [The Awakening Hull](#)

2024 Dates tbc

### [Newcastle Cathedral](#)

2024 Dates tbc

### [Light Up Lecester](#)

2024 Dates tbc

### [Love Night Norwich](#)

2024 Dates tbc

## SPARK Artist Programme 2023

SPARK is an opportunity for early career artists wanting to develop their practice in light based and digital work for light festivals. Across 2 weekends in November and December 2023, the project will offer up to six artists the opportunity to be supported through a bespoke programme of workshops, networking events and talks scheduled to compliment two LUTN partner festivals – Light Up Lancaster (2-4 Nov) and Lightwaves Salford (7-10 Dec).

Six artists, selected through an open call, will each be awarded bursaries of £300 to participate in the SPARK programme, with additional funds of up to £800 each, allocated to cover travel, accommodation and subsistence costs to attend Lightwaves Salford & Light Up Lancaster, where the programme of activity will take place.

Closing date for applications: 5pm, Friday 22 September

Apply here: [Spark Artist Programme 2023 - Light Up the North](#)

## **Arts Council England**

Arts Council England is the national development agency for creativity and culture. We have set out our strategic vision in Let's Create that by 2030 we want England to be a country in which the creativity of each of us is valued and given the chance to flourish and where everyone of us has access to a remarkable range of high-quality cultural experiences. We invest public money from the Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision.

[www.artscouncil.org.uk](http://www.artscouncil.org.uk)