

## **EAST STREET ARTS SECURES PERMANENT HOME FOR LARGER-SCALE ART HOSTEL IN LEEDS**

Arts charity secures New York Studios for new Art Hostel for the city

New bigger site will be part of creative Complex in Mabgate alongside Patrick Studios and Convention House art and tech hub

£400,000 Arts Council England Capital Grant secured for art and tech hub

Leeds-based arts charity, East Street Arts is expanding its creative hub in Mabgate with the introduction of a permanent home for its pioneering social enterprise, Art Hostel.

With a combination of £570,000 investment from Unity Trust Bank and Key Fund, the creative organisation is set to start development work on the property, New York Studios, working with another raft of artistic talent to create a vibrant place to stay for visitors to the city.

The new Art Hostel will open in early 2019 and will be bigger than the current iteration which opened in 2016 on Kirkgate. The initial pop-up was intended to be a four year installation in the former seed warehouse but is now set to close at the end of 2018 due to development plans for its current building.

While it has been open, the Art Hostel has welcomed 9,813 guests to the city from 115 countries. A social enterprise, it is primarily run by volunteers with 34 beds in private, twin and shared dorms. Each of the rooms were created by artists from Precious Collective and Drew Millward to Edward Li with sponsorship from organisations including Awesome Merchandise, Hammersons plc and Thompson Brand. The new Art Hostel will offer more than 40 beds and start at £22 per person per night.

Currently in its 25th year, East Street Arts is dedicated to supporting artists at all levels, creating the space, time and resource for them to be innovative, pioneering and successful.

East Street Arts has another reason to celebrate as construction is well underway on the innovative new art and tech hub, Convention House. The charity has now confirmed a further £400,00 of investment from Arts Council England to bring the project to life.

Nicola Greenan, external relations director at East Street Arts said: "We have long championed Magbate and are absolutely delighted to bring the Art Hostel to the area next door to our home at Patrick Studios. Our vision for the original hostel was to create affordable accommodation in the city for creatives and tourists alike and we're extremely pleased with how successful it's been. Through our work there, we actively promote Leeds' cultural underbelly and DIY art scene - this is something we will continue in the new space at New York Studios. We're very excited to work with a new group of artists to develop the property."

Lindsey Podolanski, the chief operating officer of Unity Trust Bank, said: "We are really excited that our funding for the Art Hostel will go towards East Street Arts expanding their services. With positive economic and social benefits for the local artistic community, this truly worthwhile project is exactly the type of project that Unity Trust Bank is here to support."

Matt Smith, chief executive officer of Key Fund said, "We are delighted to have invested in such a great project, we have a long and successful relationship with East Street Arts. We are

delighted to be able to support such an exciting new project, building on our long and successful relationship with East Street Arts, we look forward to seeing the impact the Art Hostel will create.”

For more information about East Street Arts, go to: [www.eaststreetarts.org.uk](http://www.eaststreetarts.org.uk) and for details about Art Hostel, go to: [www.arhostel.org.uk](http://www.arhostel.org.uk) - you can also check availability in the current hostel and book your stay before it closes at the end of 2018.

## **ENDS**

For all press enquiries about East Street Arts, please contact Faye Knowles in the East Street Arts press office at [faye.knowles@esamail.org.uk](mailto:faye.knowles@esamail.org.uk) or 0113 248 0040.

## **Notes to editor**

For interviews with Nicola Greenan, external relations director at East Street Arts, please contact Faye Knowles: 07725 531096

## **Photo caption:**

Rhian Aitken, Art Hostel manager and Nicola Greenan, East Street Arts external relations director outside of New York Studios which is set to be transformed into a new Art Hostel.

Credit: Jim Fitton

## **East Street Arts**

East Street Arts is dedicated to making art accessible to all. We operate on an international scale, supporting artists at all levels and stages of their careers.

We sustain the alternative and challenge the norm through creating the space, time and resource for artists to be innovative, pioneering and successful. At the heart of our philosophy is developing unique, provocative and experimental environments for artists, residents, businesses and tourists to convene.

We occupy the places in which we live, bringing creativity, vibrancy and life to urban environments: from artistic commissions which reimagine public space to our portfolio of temporary and permanent arts properties.

Led by a dynamic trio of directors our property portfolio spans the length and breadth of the country providing artistic workspaces and studios, exhibition venues, community arts hubs and, most recently, the UK's first independent Art Hostel, creating a home-from-home for an international community of artists and curious tourists alike.

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

@eaststreetarts

@arhostelleeds