



“Our vision is to inspire communities in Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and NE Derbyshire to experience and get involved in the arts.”

First Art is a collective of four cultural and community organisations working within the former coalfields of NE Derbyshire and NE Nottinghamshire. Over the next three years, we aim to bring inspiring cultural experiences within reach of everyone in Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and NE Derbyshire.

Evidence shows that communities with culture, creativity and imagination are stronger and more resilient than those without, and we want people in these areas to benefit from this valuable relationship between a thriving community and the arts.

What do we talk about when we talk about art?

We want to inspire communities to watch, share and participate in the widest range of creative activities possible, whether it be live music, theatre, dance, film, poetry, literature, visual arts or other artistic ventures.

The important thing is that First Art is for the people of Ashfield, Bolsover, Mansfield and NE Derbyshire, and we invite residents of these areas to get in touch with us and help us to decide on what we bring to the area.



The Strands of First Art

First Art contains 5 delivery strands: Local, Touring, Go See, Young People and Commissioning, which will all feed into a range of flagship large-scale events.

Local - offering professional support to existing events and organisations, enabling them to enhance their artistic offer and reach.

Touring – providing new opportunities for community groups to welcome professional performances to their halls, schools and community centres, or, potentially, to tour their own work around the First Art area.

Young People – working in partnership with The Prince's Trust, we have developed an innovative course, Get Started with Digital Art, which has been designed to give disadvantaged young people the chance to learn more about the arts, gain confidence, develop new skills, and create and exhibit their work.

Commissions - inviting local, national and international artists to produce work specifically for the people of the First Art area. We have already enjoyed work by digital artist Mik Godley, poet Matt Black and rising stars of the UK photography world David Severn and Kajal Nisha Patel. Our first international commission, PORTRAIT, brought an innovative light-box photographic installation to the centre of Mansfield.

Go See - is a programme of visits to the best and most inspiring arts performances and cultural venues around Britain. We provide transport, subsidise costs and offer exciting extras – like guided tours, meetings with artists or interactive activities. We recently visited Derby Theatre, the Liverpool Biennial and the Royal Concert Theatre in Nottingham, with trips planned to see La Boheme at Buxton Opera House and the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. To see the full programme of Go Sees, visit our website.

By 2017, dozens of artists will have been commissioned to work on more than 30 local events and projects, to which we will have welcomed more than 40,000 people, local people will have stronger links with cultural facilities in Sheffield, Derby, Nottingham and beyond, and we will have laid the foundations for art, in all its guises, to play a central role in the future of these areas.

First Art is a Creative People and Places Project funded by Arts Council England.

How to Connect with First Art

Visit our website to: find out more about the project, view galleries of our commissioned work, find out about upcoming events and Go Sees, read our blog and sign up to be a member of the project. Becoming a member is free of charge, and it means that you will receive up-to-date news about all of our activity. You will also be invited to give your opinions on what you would like to bring to the area, and you will be entered into our annual prize draw – where you could win an iPad!

Follow us on social media: Twitter [@FirstArtProject](#) Facebook: [/CPPFirstArt](#)

www.firstart.org.uk



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**