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This year has been one of the most transformative in Make CIC's journey so far.

The purchase of our building on Argyle Street – now home to Make Hamilton – was a landmark moment and you'll find it woven throughout this report. It secures a permanent base for creativity and community in the heart of Wirral, which has been our goal over the last decade.

I'm proud that, alongside that process, we delivered some of our most ambitious commissions to date, expanded our reach and continued to support hundreds of makers, freelancers and small businesses to turn their passions into prosperity.

While these milestones are important, what really matters is how they reflect our core purpose: to create places where people and ideas thrive. Whether through our spaces, programmes, or partnerships, we remain rooted in the belief that creativity, collaboration and local pride are powerful forces for change.

As we look ahead to the next chapter, we do so with strong foundations, a clear vision, and a brilliant community around us. I'm incredibly proud of what we've achieved together this year – and even more excited for what's to come.

Thank you for being part of it.

Chief Executive Make CIC



This annual report comes at a defining moment in Make CIC's story – a year that not only marked significant growth, but has also laid the foundations for our next chapter.

Our new Argyle Street home stands as a powerful symbol of what Make is all about: investing in people and places to unlock creativity, community and

As someone passionate about the regeneration of Wirral, the power of creativity, and the value of socially driven business, I feel deeply aligned with Make's mission. It's a privilege to support an organisation that blends purpose with action, and one that is so clearly rooted in the communities it serves.

Alongside delivering some of our argest commissions yet, the team ontinues to champion the maker novement, support independent enterprise and reimagine what local egeneration can look like.

As Make CIC moves from its first ten years into the next, I'm excited to work with the Board, team and wider networ to ensure we grow with care, integrity, and ambition, always putting people and place at the heart of what we do

Thank you to everyone who has made this such a landmark year – not least to our multi-skilled and hard working team

Rafael Willisch Chair of the Board, Make CIC

What is Make?

Mission

Make CIC's mission is to help people turn their passion into prosperity.

Make provides services; supports people; facilitates resources and networks in order that people can live happy, healthy and prosperous lives.

Vision 2030

Make CIC is a thriving, sustainable social enterprise that empowers people and communities to create, collaborate, and prosper within our hubs and beyond.

Make is a CIC, social enterprise, and arts organisation

We are a profit-for-purpose organisation that exists to support artists, makers, and our wider community. As a Community Interest Company, we reinvest profits into our spaces, events, and networks to benefit the local creative community, not private shareholders. As a social enterprise, we trade to create social value working with and for our community to enhance the places where we live and work. As an arts organisation, we champion the power of creativity, arts and culture to bring people together, regenerate places and improve lives.





people who wish to take part.

We are sustainable

We are a financially and commercially sustainable organisation that balances social impact with economic resilience. We champion environmental sustainability through how we trade, manage spaces, and deliver services.

Our services are impactful

Make CIC is recognised for its accessible spaces, resources, networks, projects, and services that empower creativity and enterprise.

We exemplify social value

We are an influential exemplar of social impact - recognised for how we create, measure, and demonstrate social, environmental, and economic value for our communities.

We run a secure, well-managed

We own and manage a welcoming and secure portfolio of creative spaces and places - both within our own hubs and by supporting others to activate and manage buildings, land, and property in their communities. We are committed to keeping spaces affordable and accessible to sustain grassroots creativity and enterprise.

We demonstrate excellent governance

We are a resilient, well-managed organisation with transparent governance, meaningful community involvement, and clear accountability.



The Team



Liam KellyChief Executive
Officer

Responsible for Make CIC's strategy, finances and stakeholder relations.





Kirsten Little
Chief Operations
Officer

Looks after the Make team, residents, members, volunteers and beneficiaries. Kirsten is also Artistic Director of our Made by Make commissions.

Credit: Wes Storey



Rosie O'Sullivan

Impact and Funding Manager

Leads on measuring Make CIC's social impact and securing funding to support our programmes, spaces, and community.

Credit: Wesley Storey



Amy Higham

Marketing and Communications Manager

Manages social media channels, website, newsletter and internal and external communications. So if you see something online from Make, it's most likely from Amy!

Credit: Amy Heycock



Alison Ashton Community Manager

Responsible for onboarding new residents and members across two of our sites as well as managing all enquiries and looking after our community of makers and the spaces they inhabit.



Mia Tagg

Community Manager

Responsible for Make Huyton village, including our hire space "Make on the Corner". Mia looks after our community of makers and the maintenance of the building.



Eddy Kelly

Maintenance and Repairs

Maintains and repairs facilities and equipment, conducts routine maintenance, troubleshoots issues, and implements preventive measures for optimal functionality and safety.



Joel Murray

Bookings and Hires
Manager

Manages all bookings and hires across our three sites as well as planning and delivering our growing events programme.

Board Members







Rafael Willisch
Chair of the Board

Jane Leah

Sally-Anne Watkiss

Mike Turner**

**non voting board member (co-opted board member) supporting on estates and capital projects.

Make's board provides independent oversight, strategic advice and guidance to the team making sure we operate in the best interests of our community. Our board members reflect our community – they're creative and they're makers, bringing social business skills and property expertise.

"As Make CIC moves from its first ten years into the next, I'm excited to work with the board, team and wider network to ensure we grow with care, integrity, and ambition."

Rafael Willisch,

Comings and Goings

To Kate Lucv

After six wonderful years as Chair of Make CIC's board, Kate Lucy's term came to an end at the start of 2024. For most of the past decade at Make, Kate has guided the executive and non-executive team, supporting, challenging and championing the work the organisation has done. Everyone involved with Make agrees Kate's stewardship was exemplary. She has been an extremely effective Chair, and an unwavering champion for the work Make CIC does with its community. Kate will be missed and the Make team wishes her all the best with her next chapter.



And to Alison James

This year, we said goodbye to AJ, our Programme Manager and former Enterprise Manager, as she moves on to an exciting new role at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority. AJ will be supporting the newly established Music Hub, bringing high-quality music education to children and young people.

Welcome to Rafa

In July this year we welcomed Rafael Willisch as the new Chair of Make CIC's board. Rafa has a distinguished background in local and international business, which includes time as Managing Director of FINSA UK, and as a Non-Executive Director of Woodside Area CIC.

Rafael has been an avid supporter of Make CIC over the past several years. As MD of FINSA he worked with Make CIC to commission the first client project to build a bespoke display stand for a conference. This was the kernel that later became what we now called Made by Make.

Rafael's personal interest in the regeneration of Wirral; the maker movement; and his business experience make him the perfect person to take up the role as Make CIC moves from the first ten years, to the next.

Real Living Wage and Fair Employment Charter

Make CIC is proud to be both a Real Living Wage employer and a signatory of the Fair Employment Charter, reinforcing our commitment to fair pay, inclusive practices, and creating secure, decent work. By ensuring that all our team and contracted artists and makers earn at least the Real Living Wage, we contribute to building stronger, more inclusive communities while fostering sustainability and equity. Our dedication to fair employment extends to providing opportunities for professional growth and creating a supportive, respectful work environment. These commitments align with our core values of social impact, community prosperity, and advancing positive change within the arts and creative sectors.

"I really love Make. Every individual makes an amazing difference and a solid contribution to the community. Make CIC connects artists to opportunities. The idea behind the organisation works in practice, individuals are able to thrive and focus on their abilities and excel in their craft. As the owner of a young business, I couldn't imagine setting up my business anywhere else but Make Huyton Village. The way Make promotes artists and businesses, is beneficial to the whole creative community" <<<<<<<<

Photo credit:

Kirsten Little (COO)

The Make CIC board (L to R): Liam Kelly (CEO); Mike Turner; Jane Leah; Sally-Anne Watkiss; Rafael Willisch (Chair),

Owner of "Once Upon a Plant" Make Huyton Village



2024-2025 in numbers



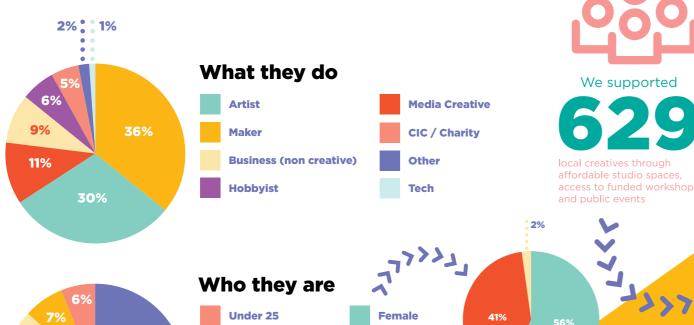
Our community of interest

25-34

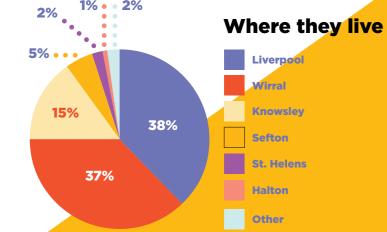
35-49

50-64

65+







35%

17%

34%



Non-binary

home to 180+ artists, makers, and socially trading businesses.

- **60** new residents
- 5 new members in the workshop

- Hamilton 81%
- 35% of our residents have been

to 1 team

attended **35** classes

member

new team member Over **462** people

Year at the LCR Culture and Creativity Awards and Regional Event of the Year at the National Outdoor Events Association Awards

Won 2

awards!

Arts Organisation of the

through paid creative Make's oldest beneficiary is

building on Argyle Street - a permanent home for Make Hamilton

We delivered funded workshops





Wirral **Borough** of Culture

2024 was a defining year for the Wirral with creativity, community and culture taking centre stage as Borough of Culture. For us, it was a chance to amplify the role of public art in everyday life, deepen community connections and help shape a legacy to resonate beyond the calendar year, by creating moments of joy, discovery and connection through public art and collaborative projects.

Liverpool ONE Shopping Extravaganza

Made by Make partnered with Liverpool ONE to create three festive installations for its November shopping extravaganza. Staying true to our commitment to sustainability, we reimagined previous commissions, infusing them with festive cheer and transforming them into magical new installations.

The wintery installations were on display at Liverpool ONE across the festive period and enabled children to post a letter to Santa (and receive a response), or snap a photo with the Frosted Throne or Enchanted Toy Box.



Cherry Tree Shopping Centre

During the festive season, Made by Make brought a sprinkle of magic to



Liscard's Cherry Tree Shopping Centre. Two of our most beloved installations from the Taylor Town Trail were repurposed to create a festive moss-covered baby grand piano and giant candy cane lips, bringing together creativity, sustainability and Christmas sparkle.



The 7ft-high butterfly installation created for the Taylor Trail found a new temporary home at the New Ferry Butterfly Park during Wirral's Borough of Culture year. Nestled among native planting, it became a serene, site-specific moment, fusing art, ecology and place.



Floral Pavilion

A collaboration with the Floral Pavilion Theatre as part of its Peter Pan panto season saw us create an immersive photo opportunity for the theatre lobby, transporting guests to the magical world of Neverland. Another repurposed Liverpool Loves Taylor trail piece, the Peter Pan-inspired throne (previously our 'Midnights' installation) invited audiences to step into the story.



More repurposed pieces from Liverpool Loves Taylor made their way to Birkenhead Market. creating festive photo opportunities for the Christmas season.



Williamson Art Gallery

We were proud to contribute to Di Mainstone s mesmerising Subterranean Elevator exhibition, a landmark commission at the Williamson Art Gallery. Collaborating with our residents Xyleia, we designed and built a brand-new installation that complemented Di s vision and offered audiences a tactile, layered experience of the show.









Liverpool City Council Awards

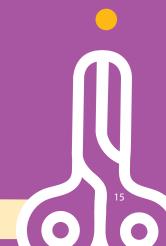
Made by Make was commissioned by Liverpool City Council to design and create awards for its annual staff awards. The designs incorporated the council's logo, with the Liver Bird featuring in eight bespoke designs. The awards were created in our Innovation Lab at Make Huyton Village.





Ecotricity - Expedition One

Expedition One, powered by Ecotricity, demonstrated how live entertainment can lead the way in climate action. Commissioned by Culture Liverpool and Liverpool City Council, we worked with local makers, residents and sustainability advocates to design and construct stage signage and a lounge setting to encapsulate the event s eco-conscious mission, with every element crafted to minimise waste and maximise impact.



Our Spaces

Make Hamilton 2.0

In July, Make Hamilton moved into its newly renovated, permanent home on Argyle Street – a major milestone in Make's journey. The transformation of the former Riverside Housing headquarters into a vibrant creative hub was made possible through funding from the Town Deal, which is bringing up to £25 million to support the regeneration of Birkenhead. This new space strengthens Make's role in the town's regeneration as part of the Leftbank Collective, with a particular focus on revitalising Argyle Street.

In the first half of the year the building work was completed after undergoing a complete strip-out. The new space was expertly fitted out by local contractors, Kimpton. The fit-out included renovating and creating new rooms to provide studio spaces with updated electrics, painting, and partitions. The first two floors now feature open-plan workspaces for artists, makers, and creatives, along with private studio spaces. An inviting new reception area with a café space and bar has also been built, alongside two versatile rooms for workshops, meetings, and events, which are available for hire.

The relocation has doubled our available space, creating even more opportunities for Wirral-based creatives to become part of our vibrant community. Since July, we've welcomed 20 new residents to Make Hamilton 2.0, alongside the majority of our existing residents who made the move from our previous building. By the end of the year, the new space had reached



full capacity. Our current residents include a diverse mix of artists, jewellery makers, fashion designers, fellow social enterprises / community organisations and Alison McGovern MP's constituency office.

The Make Hamilton launch event hosted hundreds of people, keen to get a first glimpse of our new space. Speaking at the launch, Alison said "I hope you get a sense that this is an area that is moving on, that is doing creative things and I couldn't be more proud to be a part of that."



Make Huyton Village exemplifies how Make CIC is reimagining town centres and high streets by embedding accessible, creative spaces at their heart.

In 2024, Make on the Corner, our meanwhile-use workshop and exhibition space in Huyton Village, enabled us to expand our programme of public workshops.

Two fully-funded series, Winter Wellness and Textile

Transformations, brought communities together through engaging, inclusive and creative activities.

This year also marked the launch of Once Upon a Plant, a new independent retail venture at Make Huyton Village. Curated by Agnieszka, a passionate plant merchant, the shop offers a curated selection of houseplants, botanical accessories and handmade homewares, alongside gifts crafted by our resident makers. Open four days a week, it has become a vibrant addition to the high street and a new platform for local creatives.

Throughout the year, Make Huyton Village has supported a wide range of micro-businesses and independent creatives, many of whom are based in Knowsley. Strong local partnerships and a loyal community underpin its success.



Make North Docks

Make North Docks is Liverpool's largest creative and maker community. This year has seen consistently high demand for studio spaces, with an average of 93% occupancy across the year. Make North Docks is home to makers from a range of disciplines – from woodwork and ceramics to digital fabrication.

This site remains a vital anchor for creative industry growth in the city and continues to attract new collaborations with local partners and institutions. It defined itself as Liverpool's Cultural Workshop in 2024 with the creation of a number of high profile commissions (i.e. Taylor Town). The hub has consistently high demand for larger making

space: as many of our residents' businesses grow, their need for additional space increases. The area's regeneration moved forward with Everton's new stadium opening in February 2025, which is set to see increased footfall and interest in the Ten Streets area.







Programme

This year, Make CIC's creative programme evolved to reflect both the growing interests of our community and the diverse needs of the people we serve. Our programme took on new forms and expanded its reach, offering a vibrant mix of opportunities for people to connect, create, and build skills. Highlights included the hugely successful Taylor Swift-themed creative workshops, which engaged fans from across the region (and world) as part of the Liverpool Loves Taylor celebrations. The year also saw two fully funded workshop series delivered at Make Huyton Village and additional programme in our Innovation Lab.

Winter Wellness Workshops

With support from a Winter Wellness Grant from Knowsley Council, Make delivered a programme of fully-funded creative workshops at Make on the Corner. The programme offered a welcoming space for both adults and children, combining creativity with community connection and a hot meal for every participant.

All ten workshops, which included wood carving, tie-dye, and mosaic making were fully booked almost immediately, with many sessions building waiting lists. Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive: 85% reported a boost in wellbeing after attending, and 90% awarded the workshop content a 5-star rating.

Participants described the sessions as having a "great delivery, great quality resources, friendly staff, and warm atmosphere," with others praising the "lovely atmosphere in class and relaxed style of teaching."

Innovation Lab

Our Innovation Lab at Make Huyton Village has continued to thrive as a space for learning, creativity and skill development. Both residents and staff have enhanced their digital fabrication skills, with residents now regularly using the lab's 3D printers and laser cutter to bring their ideas to life.

This year, we delivered a series of hands-on workshops that proved hugely popular. Our Introduction to Laser Cutting workshop sold out, with participants creating their own festive-themed decorations. We also ran an Introduction to 3D Printing workshop, where attendees designed and produced personalised 3D-printed keyrings.

These activities have helped embed new technologies into everyday practice, empowering participants to experiment, innovate, and build confidence in digital making.





"Moving to Make North Docks proved to be a game changer for our business. Initially seeking a practical workshop to build fitted furniture, having outgrown on-site joinery, we found much more than just space. The vibrant community of creative and skilled individuals at Make inspired a shift in our approach, allowing for a more thoughtful and steady workflow. Having a dedicated studio has brought efficiency, organisation, and a greater enjoyment to our craft, moving us away from the constraints of small spaces and on-site juggling.

"Beyond the practical benefits, the collaborative spirit at Make has been invaluable. Working with others, particularly Made by Make, has pushed us in exciting new directions and fostered a strong connection to the local creative community. The supportive and energetic atmosphere, where sharing advice and tools is commonplace, makes Make North Docks a truly special place. Joining this community was one of the best decisions for our business and personal growth and we're excited for what the future holds."

Greg and Zoe Eleen, Xyleia Make North Docks "As a resident of Make Hamilton, the new space on Argyle Street feels like a game-changer for local creatives. I now have the space to grow my craft away from home and really focus on expanding my work. Being part of a community of fellow makers and creatives is incredibly inspiring – it's a place where we can all share ideas and collaborate. The expanded facilities and permanent home mean we can thrive without the uncertainty of temporary spaces, and it's exciting to be part of a supportive environment."

Hannah Gerrard, Rexy Studio Make Hamilton

Community Success Stories



Pyromancy Productions

Make Huyton Village

This year, Pyromancy Productions experienced major growth, securing Knowsley Council funding to deliver its Freedom and Flow project, bringing performance-based workshops into community settings. It also received National Lottery funding to run creative workshops across the local area, began delivering their own sessions at Make, and gained a contract to work with residents in emergency housing. As enrichment providers for the HAF programme, the team also launched their own local community group and welcomed two volunteers from the Make community. Moving into a private studio allowed them to focus more on programme development and reduce reliance on part-time work. Alongside this, they continued to deliver regular fire and LED performances with character walkabouts, and Phaedra was commissioned by Made by Make to design and create awards for for Liverpool City Council's staff awards.

Aura Living, Bored Now Ceramics & Nora Pottery Make North Docks

This collective of ceramicists expanded into a second studio space in 2024, enabling them to increase workshop delivery, boost production capacity, and grow their income through both sales and classes. The additional space allowed each maker to scale up their creative practice while reaching more participants and customers.



Comics Youth Make Hamilton

One of our resident community businesses, Comics Youth significantly expanded its programme in 2024, supporting 632 children and young people through creative and literacy-focused activities. Following notable funding successes and increased access to meeting space at Make Hamilton, it has grown its offer and reach to even more young participants, With an enhanced capacity and a strengthened presence, Comics Youth continues to make a meaningful impact through accessible, youth-led creative programmes.



Make Hamilton

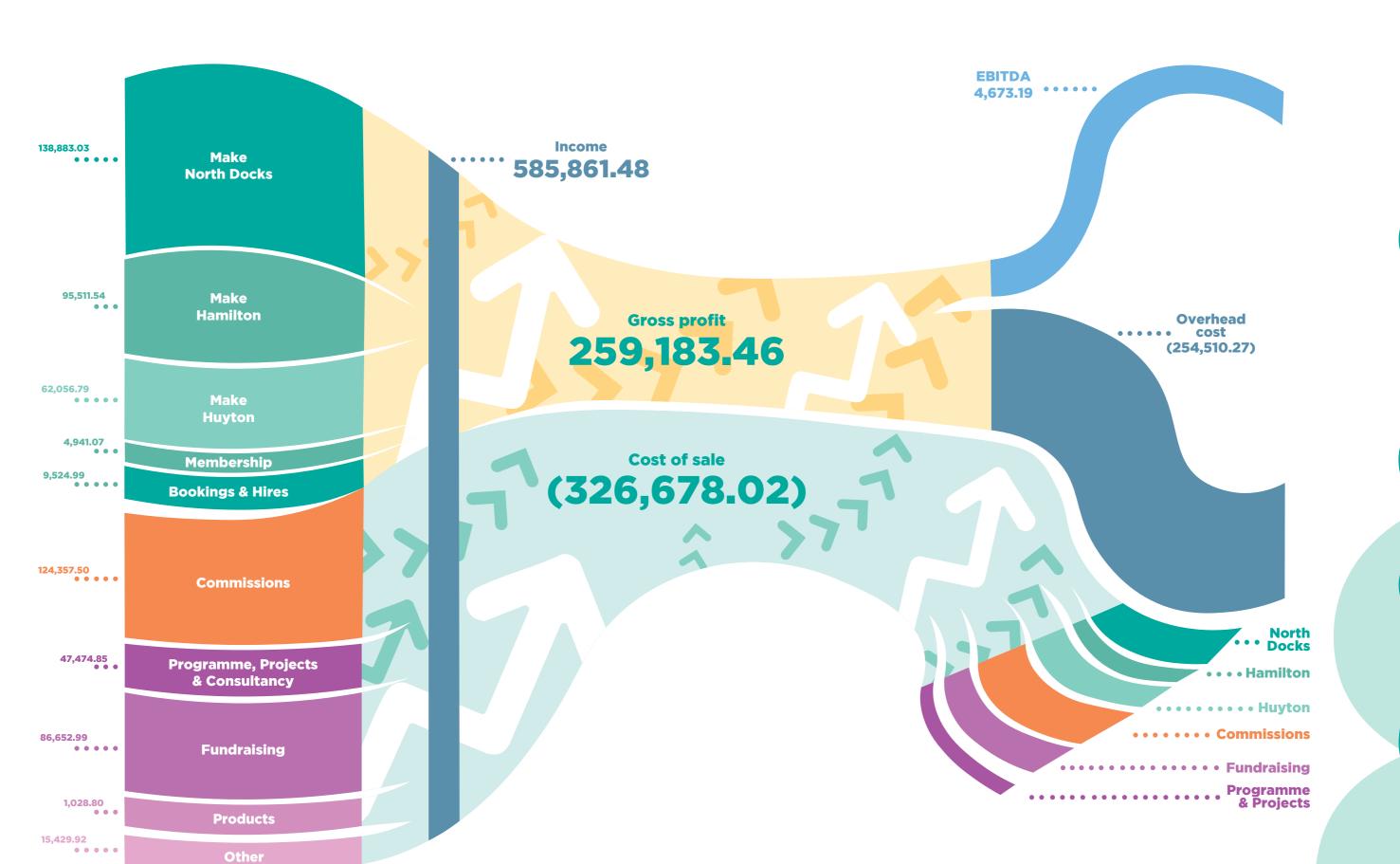
An independent puppet maker, Hannah has used her first-ever dedicated studio space at Make Hamilton to develop and grow as a self employed creative. In 2024, one of her videos went viral, dramatically raising her public profile and expanding her audience. The stability and resources of the studio enabled her to scale up production, take on new commissions and reduce her reliance on part-time work. Make Hamilton has provided a supportive environment for Rexy Studio to experiment, collaborate with other makers, and transform her craft into a sustainable creative enterprise.



Hamster Productions



A LEGO stop-motion animator, Josh premiered his latest film Loch Ness 1303 at FACT in November 2024, to coincide with St. Andrew's Day. The film, which took 80 weeks and over 20,000 photographs to complete, is a remarkable achievement and the first project produced completely in his North Docks studio. Josh collaborated extensively with fellow residents, drawing on the maker community for voice-acting, set design, and prop creation, a testament to the power of creative collaboration at Make. Loch Ness 1303 went on to win the 2024 Bricks in Motion "Best Animation" award, and the "Audience Choice Award" at Liverpool's Horizon Film Festival. The film is currently screening at independent film festivals around the world. In addition to his filmmaking, Josh, a physicist, was also commissioned this year to work on a new science documentary "Dark Matter Hunters" in collaboration with the Royal Society and several universities, further expanding his creative portfolio.



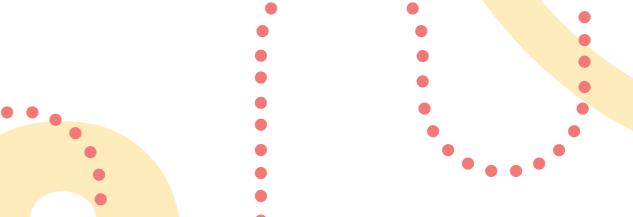
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Make Hamilton

In Wirral, we'll continue playing an active role in the regeneration of Birkenhead as part of the Leftbank Collective. A key focus will be the development of the Argyle Independent Quarter, a growing creative cluster that celebrates local character and supports independent business. We'll take forward the next phase of Make Hamilton, including the launch of a café, the transformation of the top floor into further workspaces and studios, and working with Wirral Met College to bring education into the community.







Made by Make

Building on the success of this year's Made by Make commissions, Make is strategically focusing on expanding our resources for impactful and sustainable projects in the coming year. Our aim is to deliver commissions that create lasting positive change within communities and prioritise opportunities for reuse and recycling. We are committed to further engaging Make's residents and the wider local community, harnessing their diverse skills to enrich our growing client offerings. Through profiling this work, and the talents of the local workforce involved, Made by Make will help elevate the region's reputation as a stalwart of creativity.



Make North Docks

As this hub approaches ten years, it has established itself as Liverpool's Cultural Workshop. In this cluster many of the creative outputs for the city are conceived and created, from film and TV locations, festivals and live music, to the fabrication of experiences and installations which are seen across the region, nationally and internationally. We will address a consistent and high demand for more making space in Ten Streets and secure Make North Docks for the next decade as Liverpool's Cultural Workshop, where collaborations and innovation grows the creative economy of the city.

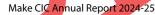


Make Huyton

Make is committed to the ambitious plans underway with Knowsley Council to revitalise Huyton village centre. Our contribution to this regeneration of both the village and the wider borough includes establishing a permanent home for Make in Huyton Village. This anchor within Knowsley will provide security for our organisation and the surrounding community, solidifying the vital role of creative and cultural spaces in Huyton and Knowsley, and bring the town to life as a cluster for the creative economy and a destination for arts and culture.







Acknowledgements

And we'd like to thank everyone who's supported us:

Adding Value, Brimstage Brewery, Britannia IT, Callister Trust, Compost Works CIC, Culture Liverpool, Ecotricity, Eureka Science and Discovery, Gather, John Lucy (our fabulous beekeeper), Key Fund, Kimpton, Kindred, Knowsley Council, LCR Connects, Liverpool City Council, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Liverpool ONE, Livv Housing, Magenta Living, Met Quarter, MRWA, our wonderful garden volunteers (Seb, Mary and Bob, amongst others), Roberts Recycling, Wirral Council, Wirral Mencap and Wordscape.

"I've been at Make Huyton Village now for six months.

Make has given me the opportunity and space to grow as a person and artist, from the resources available to us and the community here. Before joining Make, my depression and anxiety were at an all time high – now I enjoy and anxiety were and having a safe supportive space to go."

Make Huyton Village Resident

Make.

The story doesn't end here: makecic.org/contact-us/







in

@make.cic