



The Big Draw Press Release



Contact: Electricians' Shop, Trinity Buoy Wharf, 64 Orchard Place, London, UK, E14 0JY
T. 0203 758 4118 | E. press@thebigdraw.org.uk | W. thebigdraw.org | #TheBigDraw

Patrons:

Sir Quentin Blake | Lord Foster of Thames Bank | Ivan Harbour | David Hockney OM CH
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CBE | Posy Simmonds MBE | Bob & Roberta Smith (RA) | Millie Marotta | Emma Stibbon RA



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The Big Draw receives lifeline grant from Government's £1.57bn Culture Recovery Fund

The Big Draw has been awarded £65,141 as part of the Government's £1.57 billion Culture Recovery Fund (CRF) to help face the challenges of the coronavirus pandemic and to ensure they have a sustainable future, the Culture Secretary announced yesterday.

The Big Draw is one of 1,385 cultural and creative organisations across the country receiving urgently needed support. £257 million of investment has been announced yesterday as part of the very first round of the Culture Recovery Fund grants programme being administered by Arts Council England. Further rounds of funding in the cultural and heritage sector are due to be announced over the coming weeks.

As a result of the Covid-19 pandemic, The Big Draw has had the chance to innovate and provide more creative opportunities for engagement and rework the festival model to be more digitally accessible whilst still remaining engaging and participatory. This grant will enable the world's largest drawing festival to continue advocating for the interdisciplinary power of drawing to audiences around the globe whilst bolstering up the charity to ensure resilience, relevance and longevity.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden said:

"This funding is a vital boost for the theatres, music venues, museums and cultural organisations that form the soul of our nation. It will protect these special places, save jobs and help the culture sector's recovery.

"These places and projects are cultural beacons the length and breadth of the country. This unprecedented investment in the arts is proof this government is here for culture, with further support to come in the days and weeks ahead so that the culture sector can bounce back strongly."

Chair, Arts Council England, Sir Nicholas Serota, said:

"Theatres, museums, galleries, dance companies and music venues bring joy to people and life to our cities, towns and villages. This life-changing funding will save thousands of cultural spaces loved by local communities and international audiences. Further funding is still to be announced and we are working hard to support our sector during these challenging times."

Big Draw Director Kate Mason, said:

"It was with relief and thanks that we heard the news of our success with our bid to the recent Cultural Recovery Fund. These funds offer a vital lifeline. They afford The Big Draw the opportunity to re-build and enable the charity to invest in activities essential to our resilience and ability to meet the challenges of the pandemic. We are very grateful that our cultural value and significance has been recognised in this way."

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CONTACT

For further information, comments, images and interviews:

E. press@thebigdraw.org

T. +44 (0) 203 758 4118 | www.thebigdraw.org/launch-2020

#TheBigDraw #BigGreenDraw #ClimateOfChange #BigDrawTurns20

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Big Draw

The Big Draw is a visual literacy charity promoting the universal language of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, social and cultural engagement. The Big Draw (formerly *The Campaign for Drawing*) was launched in 2000 by The Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871 - becoming an independent arts education charity in 2006.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival – the world's biggest celebration of drawing. The Big Draw manages collaborative research projects, campaigns and educational conferences on visual literacy, digital technology and STEAM. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for each and everyone who wants to draw.

thebigdraw.org | Charity no. 1114811

The Big Draw Festival

Launched in October 2000, The Big Draw Festival has encouraged over **five million people** back to the drawing board. It has notched up **two world records** – for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number has risen to over 1,000, with **over 500,000 people** participating each year. What began as a one-day celebration of drawing in October 2000 in the UK, is now an annual month-long festival of drawing across the world.

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 Government and The National Lottery to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. www.artscouncil.org.uk

Following the Covid-19 crisis, the Arts Council developed a £160 million **Emergency Response Package**, with nearly 90% coming from the National Lottery, for organisations and individuals needing support. We are also one of several bodies administering the Government's **Culture Recovery Fund** and unprecedented support package of £1.57 billion for the culture and heritage sector. Find out more at www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19