



For Immediate Release

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SCOTLAND TO WELCOME DEDICATED ‘STREET ART DISTRICT’ THANKS TO NEW FUNDING SECURED BY SWG3

***£540,000 granted to the venue by Scottish Government’s Regeneration Capital Grant Fund
and William Grant Foundation***

SWG3, one of the UK’s leading arts venues, renowned globally for its annual Street Art festival, Yardworks, has been awarded over half a million pounds to develop a brand new pocket of the city dedicated solely to street and graffiti art forms.

Designed to provide a creative hub for artists of all levels, ages and background, the new area forms part of broader plans to transform immediate areas surrounding SWG3 and the Clydeside, elevating the area of Yorkhill for locals and visitors to the city.

Once complete, the new Street Art District will provide a purpose-built home for street art, providing space for hundreds of artists to create work. The area will also feature large-scale productions on wall space, as well as a dedicated training programme for community groups.

Gaz Mac, SWG3 Studio Director and co-founder of Yardworks, said: “We’re extremely grateful for this funding, which is a vital step towards increasing recognition for all street-based art forms across Scotland. We’re thrilled to be able to provide a platform where artists can not only share their experiences and produce amazing works, but grow their employment prospects in the creative industry, develop their skills, and gain confidence, which is especially important amongst those from disadvantaged backgrounds.

“It will also have a real impact within the local community, allowing us to continue our work with young people facing economic disadvantage, as well as working towards SWG3’s wider plans for regenerating the area.”

A £500,000 grant awarded by the Scottish Government’s Regeneration Capital Grant Fund, and an additional grant of £40,000 from the William Grant Foundation, will be used to create the Yard Works Studio at the SWG3 complex, as well as to help turn the Glasgow Riverside Innovation District (GRID) into a colourful new street arts district, linking the Riverside communities of Partick, Yorkhill and Govan.

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NOTES TO EDITORS

The Yard Works Studio

The first of its kind in the UK, the Yard Works Studio will offer a purpose-built home for street arts, providing space for hundreds of artists to create work in, as well as using the art form to support social change through Yardworks' extensive community work.

As well as a heated workshop complete with a 12m high wall for the creation of large-scale artworks, specialist equipment including extraction and ventilation and flexible working spaces for artists, youth and community organisations. With a glazed wall at the front, the activities in the building will animate the street, letting people travelling through Eastvale Place see inspiring artworks being created.

A New District

Significantly, the Yard Works Studio will act as a catalyst for transforming GRID (Glasgow Riverside Innovation District) into a striking graffiti and street arts district. Linking the disconnected communities of Partick, Yorkhill and Govan, the project will see gable ends illuminated with new, large-scale murals, creating an open-air gallery trail and attracting visitors to the area.

In addition to supporting creative industry career paths and nurturing skills in those furthest removed from the job market, the project will provide leadership for communities to revitalise their neighbourhoods through street arts.

Funding

The Yard Works Studio will be owned and operated by Clydeside Initiative for the Arts (CIA), the founding charity of the SWG3 complex. The generous grants from both the Scottish Government's Regeneration Capital Grant Fund and the William Grant Foundation are a significant step towards a capital fundraising target of £750,000, and SWG3 and Yardworks are now seeking further sources to support the project.

Yardworks

Founded in 2016, the Yardworks project has been instrumental in the explosion of Glasgow's street arts scene. Recent years have seen murals popping up across the city, transforming grey, neglected underpasses, railway arches and buildings into colourful attractions. It has also played host to four Yardworks Festivals - one of the largest outdoor legal graffiti festivals in Europe. With the majority of the festival taking place outdoors, the Yard Works Studio provides much needed indoor space for artists to thrive when the Glasgow weather isn't so kind.

Yardworks also provides employment, commissions, skills development, training and mentoring for a core community of around 80 artists, the majority of whom come from disadvantaged areas across Glasgow.

Through its growing Street Arts Community Programme, Yardworks has galvanised this community in a productive way, enabling their work to have a positive regenerative impact on communities. Most recently, this has included a new partnership with Govan Housing Association, which will work to engage young people with street arts and graffiti, commissioning murals in the local area and involving young people in the creation of this exciting creative district for the city.