

M4C Collaborative Doctoral Award

Project Title				
Beyond Evaluation: Legacy and the cultural ecosystem post-City of Culture				
LEAD INSTITUTION				
Name of HEI institution	University of Warwick			
Lead regional city	Birmingham <input type="checkbox"/>	Coventry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Leicester <input type="checkbox"/>	Nottingham <input type="checkbox"/>
PARTNER ORGANISATION				
Name of organisation	Coventry Biennial			
Website URL	https://www.coventrybiennial.com/			
THE RESEARCH PROJECT				
<p>Working with and on a dynamic organisation at a time of distinct change for both it and the city in which it is located, this project aims to provide key insight into future local, regional and national cultural policymaking.</p> <p>The project will provide an opportunity to reflect, beyond formal modes of evaluation, on the developing legacy of the City of Culture 2021 for Coventry's creative sector, using Coventry Biennial's on-going development as a live case study. In the wake of the successes of Glasgow (1990) and Liverpool (2008) as European Capitals of Culture, the UK's City of Culture competition was launched in 2009. Since then three British cities – Derry/Londonderry (2013), Hull (2017) and most recently Coventry have won designation as a UK City of Culture. This scheme is designed to use culture as a driver of significant local social and economic regeneration. Identifying evidence for such claims has become a key tenet of local and national policy making in the UK and beyond and City of Culture programmes include a significant accompanying programme of monitoring and evaluation to ensure that goals of this kind are met. One significant absence in this evidence relates to the long term consequences for cultural organisations themselves within the Cities of Culture. This includes evidence of the extent to which the short-term investment into and policy attention on a city's cultural ecosystem translates into longer term, sustainable growth opportunities for local institutions, creative organisations and artists, once the focussed strategic attention and funding that designation as a City of Culture brings moves on.</p> <p>Coventry Biennial is a social, political and critical platform for Contemporary Art, supporting and presenting innovative artistic practices in Coventry and Warwickshire to local, national and international audiences. Founded in 2017 as an artist-led and strategic response to the city publishing its 10-year cultural strategy and bidding to become UK City of Culture, we are an activist organisation which responds to the city's complex history, geography, built environment and relationships but we retain an outward looking perspective, ensuring that our programme has wider appeal, significance and impact. Building on the Biennial's foundational origins within the City's ten year cultural strategy, drawing insight from its extensive network of artists within the city and region and by observing and narrating its ongoing role as a mediator for creative and artistic activity with local, national and international reach, this project is well placed to provide valuable insight on how the legacy of Coventry 2021 is experienced by individuals and organisations in Coventry.</p>				
HOW TO FIND OUT MORE				

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