

Background to Leeds 2023

Leeds 2023 is the organisation set up to create a five-year, £35million cultural investment programme which will culminate in a new, city-wide international year of celebration in 2023.

Vision for Leeds 2023

Bidding for the title of European Capital of Culture in the footsteps of Glasgow in 1990 and Liverpool 2008 has proved a tremendous catalyst for a new cultural conversation in Leeds. Leeds 2023 is informed by the extensive and detailed research and work undertaken for our former bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023.

Allied with an ambitious new Culture Strategy from 2017 – 2030, the city's communities, artists, businesses and general public have come together in an unprecedented show of collaboration to spark a range of original and inventive ideas.

Our key principles are:

Leeds 2023 is an international cultural festival

Leeds 2023 is an international cultural festival which will harness the energy, creativity and momentum of our bid to be European Capital of Culture 2023. It will celebrate the cultural life of Leeds and bring the best global arts to our city.

Leeds 2023 will be for everyone

Leeds 2023 will connect us, celebrating all our diversity. Leeds 2023 will mean activity in all our communities that brings people together to watch, to listen and - of course - to take part.

Leeds 2023 will showcase world class culture

Building on our heritage of innovation and creativity, Leeds 2023 will transform Leeds into a global cultural city. It will help bring visitors, jobs, new skills and economic growth.

Leeds 2023 will invest in our children and young people

As an intensive creative education for the future, Leeds 2023 will have children and young people at its very heart. It will help develop their natural creativity, and prepare them to thrive in a future world of work and play which will be very different from the one we see today.

Leeds 2023 is not just for 2023!

The four year advance programme starting in 2019 will whet the city's appetite and prepare us for what is to come. A legacy programme will ensure the momentum will continue far into the future.

