

# GRAND UNION

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## GRAND UNION LAUNCHES £3.25m FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN TO RENOVATE GRADE II LISTED BUILDING INTO A NEW ARTS SPACE FOR DIGBETH

- Grand Union Gallery and Artist Studios is working with Homes England to secure a new home, bringing Grade II listed building Junction Works in Birmingham back into use.
- Architectural Heritage Fund awards £25,000 to Grand Union to start development works towards the £3.25m capital project.
- Public invited to consultation meetings on Wednesday 2 May 12–3pm at The Custard Factory and Friday 4 and Saturday 5 May 12–2pm at Millennium Point.

Birmingham art gallery and artist studios complex Grand Union is launching a three-year project to bring a Grade II listed building on Fazeley Street, Digbeth, Birmingham, back into use, working with Homes England. If successful, they will transform the derelict Junction Works building into a new contemporary art gallery and artist studios.

Junction Works, a beautiful mid-nineteenth century building, is located in conservation area Warwick Bar, at the junction of the Grand Union and Digbeth Branch canals. It has been empty for several years after suffering fire damage in 2004. A public consultation will take place on Wednesday 2 May 12–3pm at The Custard Factory and Friday 4 and Saturday 5 May, 12–2pm, at Millennium Point, where members of the public can find out more details about Grand Union's plans for the building prior to submission of the planning application.

The campaign has received an early boost with a £25,000 grant from the Architectural Heritage Fund, and £150,000 from Esmée Fairbairn Foundation. The project is also being supported by Public Artist Limited, who are providing Grand Union with property development and project management expertise.

Grand Union opened in 2010, providing much needed high quality, affordable work space for artists and a public gallery that has built an international reputation for presenting cutting edge contemporary art and supporting artists at pivotal points in their careers.

The organisation is a vital part of a growing arts scene in the city which is attracting national attention. Arts Council England has recently invested in Grand Union, making them part of their National Portfolio 2018–2022.

Grand Union's Director, Cheryl Jones said "This is an extremely exciting and timely opportunity for Grand Union to put down firm roots in Digbeth. We will create a world-

class facility that enables us to support many more artists in the city, and a welcoming gallery where you can encounter some of the most interesting contemporary art being created in the UK today. Part of our programme will see renowned artists working alongside local people to find innovative ways of bringing the heritage of this important conservation area to life. We are very grateful to Architectural Heritage Fund and Esmée Fairbairn Foundation for their investment, supporting the development of this ambitious capital project”.

Karl Tupling, General Manager for the Midlands for Homes England, added: “We are pleased to be able to play a part in bringing this important listed building back into use. The Digbeth area of Birmingham is undergoing a transformation, with the investment in the HS2 Curzon Street station and wider redevelopment in the area that will see a mix of employment, retail and leisure development in the area, alongside infrastructure and new homes.”

ENDS

For all enquiries and images, please contact Cheryl Jones, Director, Grand Union  
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Notes to Editors:

1. The Public Consultation will take place on Wednesday 2 May, 12–3pm in The Custard Factory's reception area and on Friday 4 and Saturday 5 May, 12–2pm in Millennium Point's foyer. All are welcome to drop in and find out more detail about Grand Union's plans for the building, and to feedback, prior to a planning application being submitted to Birmingham City Council.

2. Grand Union is a gallery and artists' studios complex in Digbeth, Birmingham. It houses workspace for 22 artists and present a lively programme of contemporary exhibitions and events.

Grand Union connects people with contemporary art. It creates opportunities to access important and innovative art that encourages and enables professional development and collaborative thinking and learning.

Grand Union is a not-for-profit company limited by guarantee, generously funded by Arts Council England, Esmée Fairbairn Foundation and Birmingham City University.

Grand Union's current exhibition *Deeper in the Pyramid* by Melanie Jackson, features in Frieze Magazine <https://frieze.com/article/milk-story-regulation-and-control>

Grand Union, 19 Minerva Works, Fazeley Street, Birmingham, B5 5RS.  
Gallery open Wednesday – Friday, 12–5pm during exhibitions.  
Check [www.grand-union.org.uk](http://www.grand-union.org.uk) for details.

3. Homes England is the new housing delivery organisation that has been created to adopt a more commercial approach to respond to the long-term housing challenges facing this country. The new, expanded agency will play a far bigger role in investing in supply and intervening in the market to help deliver 300,000 homes a year by the middle of the next decade.

Homes England will act differently from its predecessor, bringing together money, land, expertise and planning and compulsory purchase powers to accelerate the supply of new homes and address affordability issues in areas of highest demand.

For more information visit: <https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/homes-england> or follow us on [Twitter](#).

4. Architectural Heritage Fund is the UK's leading heritage social investor. It provides grants and loans, alongside specialist advice and support, to promote community benefit and economic regeneration through the sustainable re-use of historic buildings, particularly in economically disadvantaged areas. It is the only specialist heritage lender operating in the UK.

For more information visit: [www.ahfund.org.uk](http://www.ahfund.org.uk)

5. Public Artist Limited is a Community Interest Company established to explore and develop connections between artists, arts organisations and the property industry. Focussed on enhancing links between the visual arts, enterprise and communities, PAL is working to redevelop locations that can improve cultural connections and community relationships.

For more information visit: <http://publicartistlimited.org/>