



# Press Release

4 November 2022

## Yorkshire Sculpture Park has been offered funding as part of Arts Council England's 2023-26 Investment Programme

Recognising the significant role Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) plays in the UK cultural sector, the organisation will remain in Arts Council England's (ACE) National Portfolio. YSP has been offered £4,010,397 over three years 2023 – 26, which matches funding received for the last 12 years. This vital financial support will build on 45 years as a leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture in the UK. This investment will contribute to ensuring YSP can continue to bring world-class art to Yorkshire for a range of diverse communities to enjoy.

Working together to strengthen Britain's cultural sector, YSP is proud to be included in an impressive portfolio of organisations committed to ACE's *Let's Create* strategy to transform the country through culture. YSP, like other organisations in the sector, relies on vital donations and grants to continue operating. Since its inception, YSP has been devoted to widening access to cultural experiences, which for many people was a real lifeline during, and emerging from, the pandemic. YSP's unique synthesis of art and nature promotes physical, emotional and mental health that is vital to our individual and societal wellbeing.



Henry Moore, *Large Two Forms*, 1969. Courtesy Henry Moore Foundation. Photo © Jonty Wilde, courtesy Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Clare Lilley, Director of Yorkshire Sculpture Park, says:

*"We are relieved and grateful to Arts Council England for its continued support of Yorkshire Sculpture Park. As a standstill award, in real terms this represents a reduction in our funding but it nevertheless supports us in bringing exceptional sculpture to the UK, to care for this beautiful historic landscape, and to enrich the lives of hundreds of thousands of people who choose to visit every year. The award represents 17% of our annual income and means we can continue our engagement with local people whilst attracting visitors from around the country and overseas. YSP generates approximately £15m a year for the regional economy and so this investment from the public purse represents extremely good value. At a time when investment in communities in northern England is so vital and the economy so pressured, we feel fortunate to have continued support. Our hearts go out to those who have received unwelcome news today, despite serving their communities so well."*

YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum welcoming 400,000 visitors a year to see world-class exhibitions and sculptures sited in an 18th century 500-acre landscape. A sanctuary for visitors, YSP offers the freedom to enjoy and appreciate art and nature. Welcoming over 40,000 learners annually, three generations of people have been inspired to fulfil their creative potential here and we are committed

to serving future generations.

Pete Massey, Director Yorkshire and Northern Economy and Partnerships, says:

*"I'm delighted that we are continuing to fund Yorkshire Sculpture Park as part of our national portfolio. Celebrating its 45th anniversary this year, it attracts thousands of visitors each year to experience fantastic contemporary art and sculpture in the most beautiful setting. I look forward to seeing what they programme for the next few years."*

**-ENDS-**

## Notes for Editors

### Press enquiries

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Download images at [ysp.org.uk/press](https://ysp.org.uk/press)

### Listings information

Yorkshire Sculpture Park, West Bretton, Wakefield WF4 4LG

Near Wakefield and Barnsley – M1 Junction 38

+44 (0)1924 832631 | [ysp.org.uk](https://ysp.org.uk) | @YSPsculpture

Open seven days a week, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day

Book tickets at [ysp.org.uk](https://ysp.org.uk)

### Social media

Instagram and Twitter: @YSPsculpture

Facebook: @YorkshireSculpturePark

LinkedIn: Yorkshire Sculpture Park

#ArtWithoutWalls #YSPSculpture

### About 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](https://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 the bodies responsible for administering the Government's unprecedented Culture Recovery Fund. Find out more at [www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19](https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19).

### About Yorkshire Sculpture Park

Yorkshire Sculpture Park (YSP) is the leading international centre for modern and contemporary sculpture. Welcoming around 400,000 visitors each year, YSP is an independent charitable trust and registered museum situated in the 500-acre, 18th-century Bretton Hall estate in West Yorkshire.

Founded in 1977 by Sir Peter Murray CBE and since 2022 led by Clare Lilley, YSP is the largest sculpture park of its kind in Europe. It is the only place in Europe to see Barbara Hepworth's recently restored *The Family of Man* in its entirety, alongside a significant collection of sculpture, including bronzes by Henry Moore, important pieces by Phyllida Barlow, Roger Hiorns and Ai Weiwei, and site-related works by Katrina Palmer, Andy Goldsworthy, Alfredo Jaar, David Nash, Sean Scully and James Turrell.

YSP mounts a year-round temporary exhibitions programme including some of the world's leading artists across six indoor galleries and the open air. Recent highlights include exhibitions by Fiona Banner, Anthony Caro, Tony Cragg, Amar Kanwar, KAWS, Joan Miró, Henry Moore, Annie Morris, Giuseppe Penone, Jaume Plensa, Ursula von Rydingsvard, Sean Scully, Yinka Shonibare CBE, Chiharu Shiota, David Smith, Joana Vasconcelos and Bill Viola.

Across its 45-year history, YSP has worked with over 1,000 artists from more than 40 countries, on varied

projects from short-term residencies to major surveys. YSP supports artists at vital stages in their careers and is rare in having the accommodation, workshops and expertise to enable open-ended and risk-taking practice, giving artists space, time and support to think and to develop new ideas.

Over this time, YSP has sought to ignite, nurture and sustain interest in and debate around contemporary art and sculpture, especially with those for whom art participation is not habitual or familiar. It enables open access to art, situations and ideas, and continues to re-evaluate and expand the approach to considering art's role and relevance in society. Supporting 40,000 people each year, pre-pandemic, through YSP's learning programme, this innovative work develops ability, confidence and life aspiration in participants.

YSP's core work is made possible by investment from Arts Council England, Wakefield Council, the Liz and Terry Bramall Foundation and Sakurako and William Fisher through the Sakana Foundation. YSP was named Art Fund Museum of the Year in 2014 and awarded VisitEngland's gold accolade in 2021-22 for an outstanding visitor attraction.

### **Creative Case for Diversity**

Yorkshire Sculpture Park was founded in 1977 to enable fairer cultural access and opportunity and we are committed to being part of change towards a fairer world. We do not tolerate discrimination in any form and are proactive in our programme, policies and behaviours to address inequalities locally, nationally and internationally. We recognise that economic, social and cultural disadvantage is complex and intersectional and shape our activity accordingly. Diversity and equality are crucial to the arts because they release the true potential of our nation's artistic talent – from every background. At YSP, we support Arts Council England's mission – great art and culture for everyone. We share ACE's commitment to promote and embed diversity in our workforce and cultural programme. This is called the 'Creative Case for Diversity'.



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