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NEWS RELEASE

no embargo

£249,000 awarded to Stourbridge Glass Museum in the Black Country from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme

- Stourbridge Glass Museum in Wordsley is to benefit from a share of £24.2 million through Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme
- They will invest in new solar panels, air source heating, LED light replacements, and innovative glassmaking equipment, in a race to pursue net zero, alongside an exhibition of glass art related to climate change.
- Awards from Arts Council England's Capital Investment Programme go towards building works and the purchase of equipment and other assets to improve access, seize on technological opportunities and reduce environmental impact.

Stourbridge Glass Museum will receive £250,000 from Arts Council England, thanks to its Government-funded Capital Investment Programme, as announced today.

After a devastating year which left the Museum with energy bills that were treble where they are now, the Museum has pushed forward with its pursuit of net zero, in all its operations including artists demonstrations.

They have six artists-in-residence, a team of dedicated volunteers, and are continuously showcasing the work of contemporary glass artists from the UK and internationally, as well as housing one of the best collections of antique glass in the world, showcasing the 400 year glass making history in Stourbridge.

They are using eco-friendly marketing materials, exhibition screens and recyclable panels, hosting a shop that utilises pre-loved glass objects and now are embarking on a new journey that sees old radiators replaced, solar panels installed, new LED lights in the gallery spaces and eco-friendly equipment installed for glassmaking demonstrations.

This funding will enable the museum to continue providing high quality creative and cultural experiences for visitors and new, exciting events and opportunities for people of all backgrounds and abilities to get hands on with glassmaking and other arts and crafts.

The Capital Investment Programme supports the Arts Council's mission to ensure communities across the country have the infrastructure where creativity for everyone can thrive.

Alexander Goodger- Museum Director said:

"We are extremely grateful to Arts Council England for this funding which will enable us to forge ahead with becoming more eco-friendly, efficient and innovative, through our exhibitions and artworks, through the running of the museum and by teaming up with our artists-in-residence. It's going to be an amazing year!"

Allister Malcolm - Glass Artist-in-Residence said:

"We are excited to be racing towards net zero! We have partially made the shift from fossil fuels and now we are zooming towards all electric, with 100% renewable energy - a first for a UK glass studio."

Darren Henley, Chief Executive, Arts Council England said: "This infrastructure investment will help a whole range of different cultural organisations across England to flourish, increasing opportunities for people to enjoy creatively excellent cultural events close to where they live. It's particularly important that we're making this happen in communities where cultural investment has historically been low".

Peter Knott, Midlands Area Director at Arts Council England said:

"Our Capital funding is an investment in buildings and equipment that organisations need to deliver great art and culture in their communities.

"We're delighted to award £249,000 to the British Glass Foundation to help them reduce their environmental impact and increase the opportunities available for artists and visitors.

"Their studio works with some of the UK's leading contemporary glass artists and is a home for emerging talent. The building improvements will enhance the experience for artists, including those at the start of their career, meaning Stourbridge's international reputation for glass blowing can continue to develop for many years to come."

Lord Parkinson of Whitley Bay, Minister for Arts, Heritage and Libraries, said:

“Cultural venues enrich our lives, and it’s vital that their infrastructure matches the excellence of the creative work that goes on inside them.

"Our funding is helping both to create new venues and to adapt existing ones to make them more accessible, helping to deliver the Government’s plan to make sure that everyone, no matter where they live or what their background, has access to excellent, life-changing cultural opportunities.”

For further information please contact:

Duty.press@artscouncil.org.uk

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Notes to editors

British Glass Foundation (BGF) and Stourbridge Glass Museum

The British Glass Foundation is an independent enabling body bringing together all relevant glass and cultural organisations and private individuals, in a common aim to protect and save the glass, archive and technical collections formerly held at Broadfield House Glass Museum; to ensure their future display to the public, their continuing access for research and their on-going promotion. Working alongside a collective of key partners and sponsors, the British Glass Foundation www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk is the prime facilitator behind the creation of the new Stourbridge Glass Museum www.stourbridgeglassmuseum.org.uk

Contact bgf@britishglassfoundation.org.uk

Allister Malcolm Glass

Over more than a decade, locally trained Allister has established himself as one of the most prolific glass artists of his generation with a high level of expertise.

His work is now admired worldwide with examples of his talents represented in Museum collections in the USA, UK and Europe. He operates from the Hot Shop in the new Stourbridge Glass Museum and as a Trustee of the British Glass Foundation was instrumental in its creation. He continues to be involved in its development as a world-class facility housing the internationally renowned Stourbridge Glass Collection. <https://www.allistermalcolm.com>

Contact Allister at ajmalcolm@me.com

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. From 2023 to 2026 we will invest over £467 million of public money from Government and an estimated £250 million from The National Lottery each year to help support the sector and to deliver this vision. (www.artscouncil.org.uk)



www.britishglassfoundation.org.uk

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