



The Cultural Spring

# A Creative People and Places project

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Covering two places / local authority areas – South Tyneside and Sunderland

Started in 2014

A consortium led project

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/creativepeopleandplaces>



# Phase One 2014 - 2017

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- University of Sunderland (lead body)
- The Customs House Trust (arts centre and NPO based in South Shields)
- The Music Arts & Culture (MAC) Trust, Sunderland



# Phase Two 2017-2020

University of Sunderland (lead body)

The Customs House Trust (arts centre and  
NPO based in South Shields)

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The Music Arts & Culture (MAC) Trust,  
Sunderland

Sangini (a women led grass roots charity)



# Phase Three 2020-2023

University of Sunderland (lead body)

The Customs House Trust (arts centre and NPO  
based in South Shields)

The Music Arts & Culture (MAC) Trust,  
Sunderland

Sangini (a women led grass roots charity)

The Cultural Spring Charity (joined January  
2021)



# New Programme 2022 -2025

- University of Sunderland (lead body)
- The Customs House Trust (arts centre and NPO based in South Shields) – stepping down March 2023
- The Music Arts & Culture (MAC) Trust, Sunderland
- Sangini (a women led grass roots charity) – stepping down March 2023
- The Cultural Spring Charity
- Young Asian Voices – joined April 2022



# The Delivery Team

3 FTE, with freelance support. Team of 7:

Ian Burn – Data and Admin Co-Ordinator (3.5 days a week)

Alexandra Marsden - Community Engagement Co-Ordinator (4 days a week)

Emma Scarr - Project Co-Ordinator (4 days a week)

Rob Lawson - Press and PR (Freelance, 3 days a month)

Si Beckwith – Audience Engagement Co-Ordinator (Freelance, 8 days a month)

Emma Biggins – Empty Shops Coordinator (Freelance, 8 days a month)

Emma Horsman - Project Director (4 days a week)



# Cultural Spring Steering Group

- Graeme Thompson; University of Sunderland (Chair)
- Ross Millard, Sunderland Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust
- Rob Lawson; Sunderland Music, Arts and Culture (MAC) Trust
- Kumareswaradas Ramanathas (Ram) Young Asian Voices
- Professor Yitka Graham; Head of the Helen McArdle Nursing and Care Research Institute, University of Sunderland
- Padma Rao; Sangini
- Kathleen Boodhai; Sangini
- Richard Barber; The Cultural Spring Charity
- Ian High; The Cultural Spring Charity
- Dianne Hutchinson; University of Sunderland
- Ray Spencer; The Customs House Trust
- Fiona Martin; The Customs House Trust
- Emma Horsman; Project Director
- Cllr Linda Williams; Sunderland City Council
- Cllr Joan Atkinson; South Tyneside Council
- Kati Whiteoak; Community Champion
- Sandra Naglis; Community Champion
- Diane Gray; Community Champion
- ACE Relationship Manager





# Challenges?

- Match funding requirement – trusts and foundations, without a legal entity and University turnover (led to Charity set up 2020)
- Conflicts of interest in early days of the project
- Succession planning
- PR in South Tyneside – role of Charity post March 2023



# Thank You

- <https://www.theculturalspring.org>
- Emma Horsman  
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