

LOWRY 25

**YEARS OF
CREATIVITY**

LOWRY ANNUAL REVIEW 2025



**Celebrating
25 Years
of creativity**

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**Julia Fawcett CBE,
Lowry Chief Executive**

LOWRY AT 25

Twenty-five years ago, Lowry opened its doors with a bold vision: to bring world-class art and culture to Salford and to create a space where creativity could thrive for everyone. Today, as we enter our 26th year, we look back with pride. Not just at the performances, exhibitions, and milestones, but at the countless stories of lives touched, communities connected, and imaginations ignited.

Last year's 25th anniversary was more than a celebration; it was a testament to what happens when ambition meets collaboration. When culture is taken seriously as a force for growth and connection and regeneration. And mark it we did! From the launch of **LOWRY 360**, our new immersive experience of LS Lowry's **Going to the Match**, to world-class theatre on our stage from long-standing and cherished partners National Theatre with **Dear England**, we honoured our heritage while embracing our future. We welcomed new audiences, deepened relationships with our communities, and reaffirmed our commitment to accessibility, sustainability, and inclusion.

My personal highlight was **Gods of Salford**, a show that saw 25 young people come together to reimagine a Greek myth through the lens of Salford's working-class spirit. The show itself achieved 5 star reviews and standing ovations, but it was more than making a show together, it was building "together" a community of shared moments, lived experiences and love for the work and the process. It was life-changing for some of those involved, and it represented exactly what we set out to achieve in our birthday year. Putting young people and our communities at the heart of what we do.

The past 25 years have taught us that creativity is not a luxury, it is a lifeline. It brings joy, sparks dialogue, and builds bridges across difference. As we look ahead, we do so with renewed determination: to keep pushing bounda-

ries, to champion artists and young people, and to ensure Lowry remains a home for everyone.

Thank you to our audiences, artists, partners, funders, and the incredible team of staff and volunteers who have made this journey possible. The next chapter begins now and together, I know we will make it extraordinary.



Julia Fawcett CBE
Lowry Chief Executive

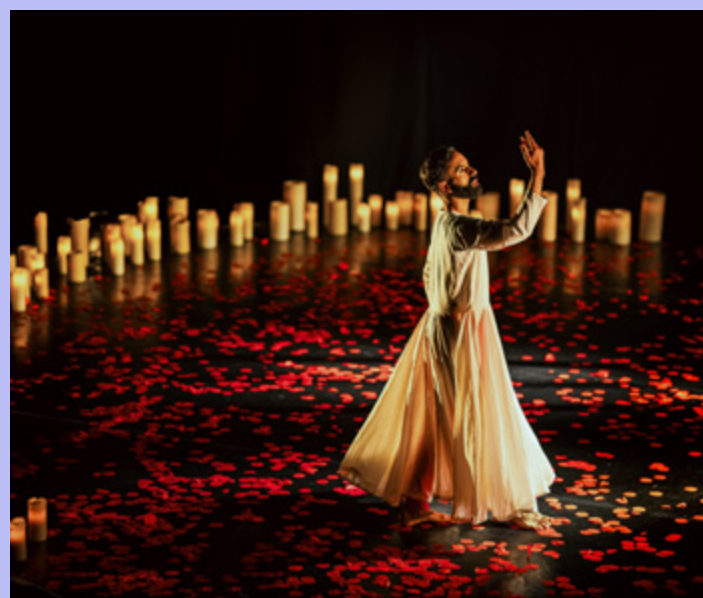


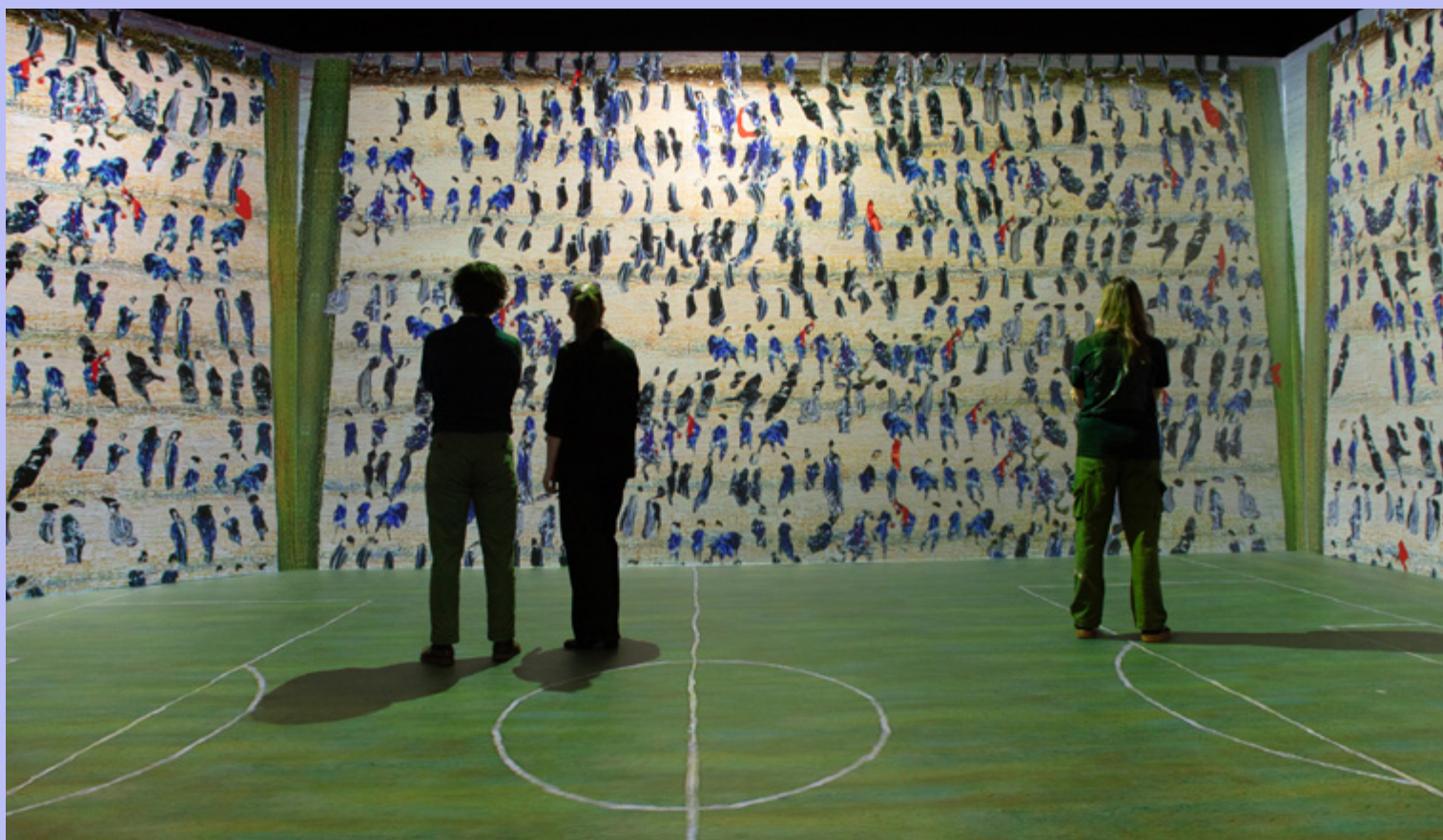
Our 25th year saw thousands of personal moments that reminded people why art matters. Our birthday year brought the very best of Lowry to life; bold, brilliant, and rooted in our community. Audiences were invited to step into a programme that celebrated who we are: a home for exceptional performance, local talent and stories that reach far beyond our building.

A major highlight was Olivier Award-winning play **Dear England**, direct from National Theatre. A testament to our relationship as partner companies, this gave our audiences the chance to experience a powerful and joyous production that showcased National Theatre at its best.

Live at Lowry brought together some of the nation's best comedy talent, with 500 Salford residents given tickets for free as a thank you for being part of our journey.

Song of the Bulbul, a Lowry co-commission with Aakash Odedra Company, embodied our commitment to diversity, cultural exchange, and bringing international stories and performers to our Salford stages, offering a stunning evening of dance, poetry and live music inspired by Persian culture.





We launched **LOWRY 360**, a new, digital immersive experience that invites visitors to step inside the world of LS Lowry like never before. Developed in collaboration with Barcelona's celebrated immersive studio Layers of Reality, and supported generously by AL Philanthropies, LOWRY 360 wraps audiences in the buzz of a Saturday afternoon matchday; the familiar crush of fans, the anticipation in the air, the ritual of heading to the ground together.

Unlike any other immersive experience of its kind, LOWRY 360 is not only free for everyone to enjoy, but also gives visitors the opportunity to immediately step in front of the real thing, to see this masterpiece with fresh eyes and new perspectives. 14,868 people experienced LOWRY 360 in the first month alone, and over the year 105,208 people experienced it.



Lowry Turns 25, a National Lottery Heritage Funded project, gave us the opportunity to explore and celebrate our heritage, the creativity and communities at the heart of Lowry. **Together We Create** funded 11 Salford Community groups to celebrate their own culture and heritage through artistic outputs and events, **One Lowry, Many Stories** captured the voices and memories of over 40 people through oral history interviews which inspired four new artistic commissions, and **Lowry Legacies** explored LS Lowry's relationship with Salford, its people and Lowry itself through Lifelines: An LS Lowry lecture delivered by Manchester born writer Jeanette Winterson CBE, and new research by Dr Tosh Warwick.

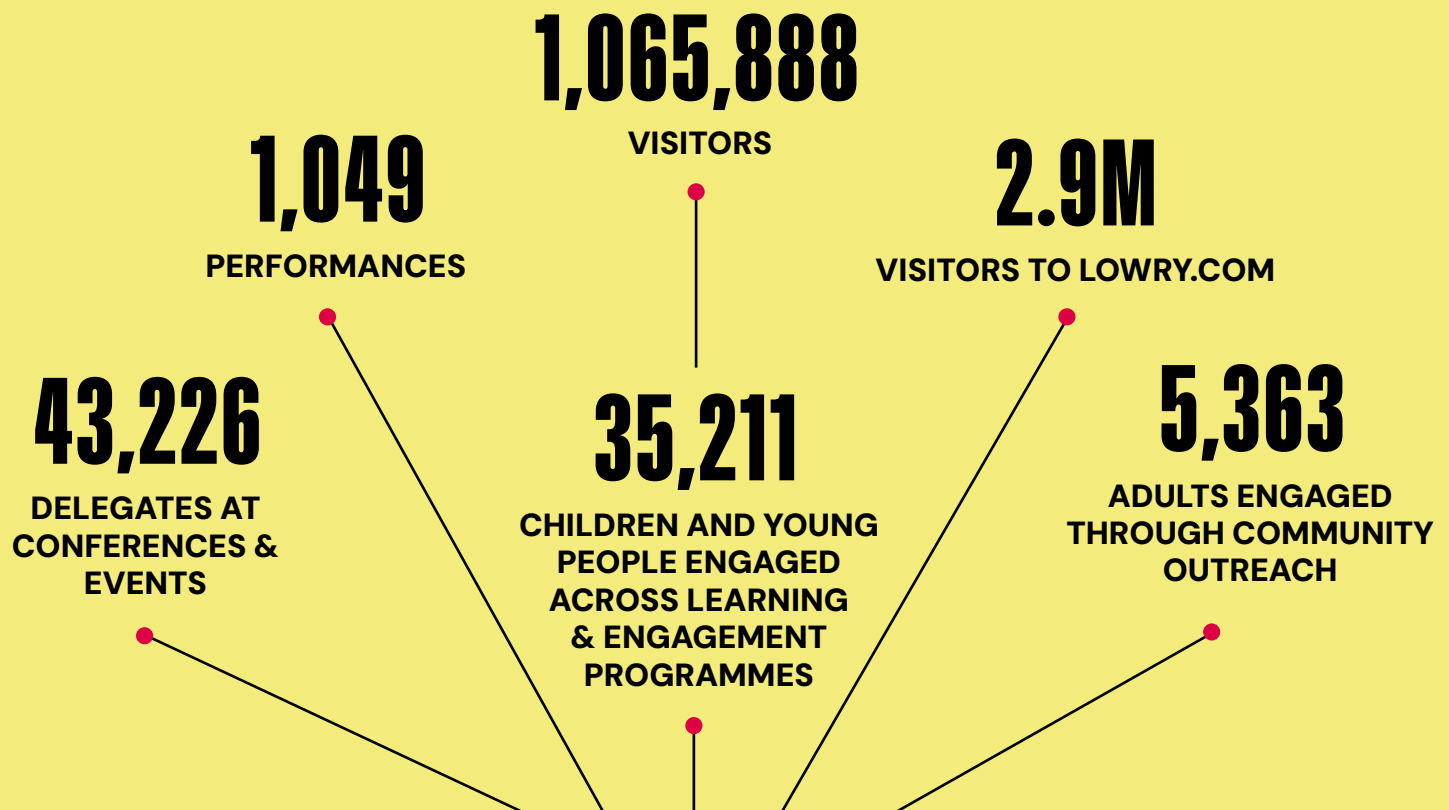


Over 20 young people from across Salford formed a new company to work with **Not Too Tame** on **Gods of Salford**, a commission inspired by ancient mythology and the city they call home. Drawing on their own experiences, the group created an ensemble piece performed three times in the Quays Theatre, with an excerpt shared at the House of Lords as a powerful call to action on the importance of access to culture for young people. As a legacy, we launched **Lowry Collective**, a new company of 25 young people aged 16–24, working with artists from **Sixth House** (part of Lowry's Artist Development programme) to create a new piece of high quality, ambitious work.

Artist Assembly: Shaping the Future of Artist Development, brought together 70 artists and industry colleagues from across the UK including the Creative Director of Chichester Festival Theatre, the Director of Theatre Green Book, and representatives from Arts Council and MMU, to explore future models of support. Outcomes included recognition that space for

artists isn't just physical, but time and permission to experiment; the need to support artists collectively, through peer networks and collaboration; sustainable ecosystems that include practical tools like prop and set directories, alongside long-term support structures; celebrating artists' creative energy and adaptability, while needing to embed care and wellbeing at the heart of artist development. We will use these discussions to feed into regional and national conversations to ensure we continue to take a leading role in developing a healthy and thriving ecosystem to support artists.





THE YEAR IN NUMBERS



CREATING EXCEPTIONAL EXPERIENCES

This year our stages and galleries came alive with bold ideas, big imaginations and the artists who make it all possible, bringing rich stories and powerful emotions together in memorable shared experiences for our audiences.

BIG TITLES AND CROWD-PLEASERS:

Rich in story, character and ambition. **Shark Is Broken** honoured the Jaws anniversary with sharp wit; **By Royal Appointment** celebrated Anne Reid at 90 with heart; and the world premiere of **Ideal**, starring Johnny Vegas, brought fresh Northern storytelling to our stage. We hosted **Frantic Assembly's** gripping **Lost Atoms**. Musicals delivered a year of big hits and bold new voices. **Chicago** lit up our stage, **Unfortunate** charmed with anarchic fun, global sensation **SIX** kept audiences buzzing.



SPOTLIGHT ON:



Operation Mincemeat is the best-reviewed show in West End history, Olivier Award-winning, Tony Award-nominated and a smash hit on both

sides of the pond, following a hugely successful Broadway transfer. And it all started here, in our Studios. SpitLip, the company behind the show, began their journey as part of Kill The Beast, Associate Artists on our Artist Development Programme. We supported SpitLip in the early stages of the development of Operation Mincemeat, which was first shared with audiences at a scratch night in our Studios. In 2025, the company announced a world tour of the show, premiering right here in Salford, where it all began. In February 2026, the show made a triumphant homecoming to sell out audiences, marking a full circle moment encapsulating the importance and urgency of Lowry's mission to support new talent to make and create new work – from Salford to the world.

BOLD AND CHALLENGING:

We continued to champion the best in international Circus with daring, inventive work. **Upswing's Showdown** (a co-cocommission) thrilled audiences with its energy and imagination; **Nordic Council** brought fresh international perspectives; and **How A Spiral Works** showcased boundary pushing artistry across borders. **The Kook Ensemble's Sand** reinforced their reputation as leaders in contemporary UK circus – fearless, expressive and utterly engaging.

A HOME FOR DANCE:

Dance offered some of the year's most unforgettable moments. **Quadrophenia** arrived with swagger and grit from Sadler's Wells; **Acosta Danza's Nutcracker** blended classical artistry with Cuban energy; and **New Adventures** drew audiences into the smoky intrigue of **Midnight Bell** and the theatrical pulse of **The Red Shoes**. Our partnership with Birmingham Royal Ballet shone through **Cinderella** and the heavy metal thrill of **Black Sabbath**. Internationally, **Contemporary Korea: Han:BETH** stretched what dance can be, while emerging British voices like **Becky Namgauds** made their mark with **The Heat**.

We deepened our relationship with **Opera North**, while marking a major milestone: **English National Opera's debut Northwest performance** with **Albert Herring**. A first for the region, and a proud moment for us as a home for ambitious opera.

SHARED EXPERIENCES:

Our family programme grew in reach and ambition, helping new work take flight. Alongside these, **Smeds and Smoos**, **The Enormous Crocodile**, and **Little Bear** created a joyful Christmas season made for all ages. **Mischief Theatre** delivered festive mayhem with the world premiere **Christmas Carol Goes Wrong**. And to close the year, **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe** delivered a sell out Christmas run, pure joy for audiences of all ages.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Square Eyes by Camille Walala was the first in a new series of international commissions for Lowry's unique Promenade Gallery. A spectacular high-impact display of colour and geometric shapes, it playfully mirrors the panorama of MediaCity that it overlooks. Walala is a French multi-disciplinary designer whose work has been seen across the world.



The fact that the exhibition was free. It's very rare that any exhibition is free and for my husband and I taking our two grandchildren it made a huge difference.



Visitor to **Quentin Blake and Me**

Quentin Blake and Me, a huge free family exhibition exploring the work of one of the world's most famous children's book illustrators. Blake has written or illustrated over 500 books, working with authors including Roald Dahl and Michael Rosen. His iconic illustrations have vividly brought to life some of the most recognisable characters in children's fiction, from *The BFG* to *Scrooge*. The exhibition featured over 100 original artworks, alongside fun interactives, animations, games to play, opportunities for children to write and draw their own stories and more free activities across the building.

BACKING BOLD IDEAS AND NEW VOICES

A thriving cultural and artistic ecology needs investment in the people whose vision and ambition will shape the future of culture and creativity. And at Lowry, we are proud to do just that.

CO-PRODUCTIONS AND COMMISSIONS:

We don't just present incredible work, we make it too. Lowry plays a role in creating new, high-quality touring work to reach national audiences, including the next generation of audiences through beloved family titles. This year, **The Koala Who Could** and **A Squash and a Squeeze** brought imaginative storytelling to younger audiences. It also enables us to amplify unheard voices and tell untold stories through fresh, bold writing. **Black Power Desk** and **Lil Miss Lady** spotlighted fresh writing and untold stories. Building on a long and successful partnership, Lowry Associate Artists **Thick & Tight** won a UK Dance Award for **Natural Behaviour** (co-commissioned by Lowry and Battersea Arts Centre) which was named The Guardian's #1 dance show of 2025.



The Guardians of Living Matter was an interdisciplinary exhibition by artists John-Paul Brown and Sophy King that imagines an alternative and radical future. Commissioned as part of Lowry's Artist Development Programme, it was supported by Henry Moore Foundation, University of Salford, the School of Digital Arts at MMU, HOME and Royal Exchange Theatre.

Lightwaves Salford 2025 demonstrated Lowry's commitment to backing bold ideas and nurturing new voices across the light-art ecology. Through co-commissions with Light Up the North, RHS Bridgewater, Emergency Exit Arts and national partners, artists at different stages of their careers were supported to develop ambitious public-realm works such as **Our Town**, **Stitching Light** and **Molecular Clouds**. The festival's technical infrastructure and collaborative production environment enabled artists to experiment with scale, digital media and complex environmental design.



EXPLORE AND TEST:

Scratch Nights X Climate Hope, co-curated with artists Sophy King and John-Paul Brown, supported four seed commissions across theatre, dance and live art. Championing artists to expand how we think and talk about the climate crisis – opening up space for future hope, imagination and ideas – while giving artists a low-risk, high-support environment to test new work with audiences. **From Venice With Love** showcased new work by six Greater Manchester artists created in response to their month at the 2024 Venice Biennale as part of the British Council Fellowship Programme, supported by Lowry, Venture Arts and Manchester Metropolitan University.

FRESH TALENT AND NEW VOICES:

We welcomed a new **Developed With** cohort of Northern artists working across theatre, dance, musical theatre, stand-up comedy, puppetry and interdisciplinary practice. The cohort includes

Aarian Mehrabani, Beka Haigh, John-Paul Brown & Sophy King, Lewys Holt, Louiseanne Wong, and Stephen Hyde & Ella Langley.

Year one of our **Artist Development Advisory Groups** brought together 10 independent artists from across the UK. Through 56 hours of discussion and insight, artists helped shape our approach to artist development, informing priorities including language, impact, and regional disparities in support.



It's been powerful to witness an institution actively listening to artists. I now better understand the challenges – and potential – of navigating institutional support.



Artist participant, Artist Development Advisory Group

PARTNERSHIPS AND THE NATIONAL ECOLOGY:

We are proud of our role in strengthening the national ecology of creating and touring new work, through purposeful partnerships and sector-leading practice. Our tour of **The Severed Wing** enabled housebound disabled artist Corinne to perform live for the first time, prompting a forthcoming DASH symposium to drive better support for housebound artists. **Platform+** premiered four new hip hop dance theatre works, opening up clearer routes between local artists, Lowry and future touring partners, and helping grow Greater Manchester's hip hop and street dance infrastructure.

Our **Creative Producer Development Programme**, delivered with HOME, Z arts and Stage One, supported 16 producers to expand their skills and networks, contributing to a stronger and more connected producing community across the region. As a partner in Battersea Arts Centre's **Making Waves**, we commissioned leading artists including Lucy McCormick and Krishna Isthia to develop significant new small and mid scale work with ambitions to tour nationally and internationally.



SPOTLIGHT ON:



The support from Lowry was really strong - not just from the Artist Development team but from meeting people across different departments. Feeling listened to, having time and space, and knowing there was a real commitment to the work made all the difference.



**Sixth House Member
and Hothouse participant**

Hothouse was our programme supporting the development of a new theatre company in Greater Manchester, providing 6 artists with vital space to create, collaborate, and develop new work in a supported environment. The artists formed Sixth House and made their debut at Lowry with two sold-out performances of **LIVES** in our Studio Theatre. This process provided the kind of opportunity that artists had been searching for – one that allowed them to create ambitious new work while feeling supported at every stage.

Sixth House are Lowry's Resident Company for 2025–26, enabling them to continue developing ambitious new work and deepen their connection with audiences and the wider Greater Manchester ecology.

CREATIVITY THAT CHANGES LIVES

Art changes lives. This year we have found even more ways to reach and engage people in transformative, enriching experiences, helping them find their voice and shape their story.

VOLUNTEERS:

Our Volunteers have been at the heart of Lowry since we opened, including 19 Volunteers who have been with us since the very beginning. As one of the largest cultural volunteer programmes in the country, **334** Volunteers take on a range of roles helping audiences and visitors. Our Volunteers value being able to give back to the community, supporting arts and culture, being part of a team and forming friendships.

This year Volunteers worked on 1,293 shows, delivering 87,716 hours of volunteering.

Ages range from 17 to 95 and this year our younger demographic has grown from 2% to 6.5%. A third of the team are from Salford, engaging our local community, and giving them the opportunity to be part of something which delivers such impact for the city. From midwives, to teachers, engineers to social workers, podiatrists to retired police officers and even a gymnastic coach, our volunteers have lots of amazing skills that they bring, including being trained in BSL and speaking different languages.

CENTRE FOR ADVANCED TRAINING IN DANCE:

This year 75 young people accessed high-quality prevocational training, supported by 53 grants, including 18 new grant holders. Every graduating student progressed to higher education in September 2025. Engaging young

men remains a priority, strengthened through tailored workshops, school partnerships, teacher CPD and our work with **Company Chameleon**, with a third of new students male.

Our **CAT dancers** had a standout moment performing at The National Lottery's Big Night of Musicals at the AO Arena. Ten talented young dancers showcased two Disney dance pieces to an audience of 12,000 and a national TV audience, supported by choreographer Gary Lloyd.



SPOTLIGHT ON:



Max, a care-experienced young person was a member of Backstage and Onstage Theatre Makers ensembles. Interested in all aspects of technical theatre, he also took on a lead role in **Gods of Salford**, where he impressed the company's Artistic Director. Max was one of two participants awarded a bursary to join the young company in Not Too Tame's production of *A Christmas Fair*, with Oldham Coliseum. Max is now considering a career in the creative industries.



I would confidently take both Max [and R] directly into a professional company. In fact, I have already put them forward for professional auditions, and both have gone directly to producers for television projects; an achievement that is highly unusual at this stage of a performer's career... They embody the ethos I believe in as an artist: dedication, humility, discipline, and integrity.



**Jimmy Fairhurst, Artistic Director,
Not Too Tame Theatre**

THEATRE MAKERS:

951 participants took part in free youth theatre programmes for young people from Salford. Some joined the Gods of Salford company, while others shared their work Through the Portal for family and friends at Lowry. Three members of the 24–25 Backstage cohort progressed to technical theatre studies at Pendleton College, and a new cohort completed two halfterm intensives exploring technical theatre and stage management. Participants will take up placements across Lowry performance groups, including Theatre Makers in Walkden and the onsite Lowry Ensemble, who are developing *Brainstorm*, to be shared in June 2026.

As NEET levels continue to rise across Salford, Lowry's **YOUTH EMPLOYABILITY & SKILLS PROGRAMME** remains a vital part of the city's solution. In 2025, we supported **113** young people through work placements, paid opportunities, creative careers sessions and weekly workshops. Through the YES Hub, participants took part in podcasting workshops with broadcaster and poet **David Scott**, and four young people progressed into paid placements with teams across Lowry.



Thank you for giving me a second chance – some people don't.



**Young participant, Youth Employability
& Skills Programme**





14 young people took part in an intensive week with the King's Trust, exploring backstage creative skills with five artists. For many, it was their first time at Lowry, culminating in an unforgettable experience watching Dear England and taking part in an exclusive backstage tour.



I learnt lots of new interesting stuff like stage management, light, set design and sound. I had lots of fun learning new and interesting things!



Young participant, King's Trust Project

Lowry's SOCIALLY ENGAGED ARTS programme places creativity at the heart of care, removing barriers so young people across Salford facing complex challenges can take part in regular, longterm creative activity. This year, we relaunched our visual arts and drama drop-in groups as 'nurture' groups, responding to the ongoing need to prioritise early interventions in mental health and wellbeing, strengthening our role as Creative Health specialists in the city.

Colourful Perspectives and Drama Drop In provide first-step, welcoming, trauma-informed spaces where young people can express themselves, build confidence and support their wellbeing. The groups are open to young people with neurodivergence, mental health challenges, additional social, emotional or behavioural needs. Referral routes include CAMHS or social services, easing the pressure on overstretched services, sharing our methodology and best practices.

Programme highlight: In April, Connections, an exhibition by the Colourful Perspectives group, was displayed in Lowry's Copley Community Cases. The launch brought together over 30 people to celebrate work across clay, digital media, collage, painting and sketching, exploring the connections that shape young people's lives, from friendships and music to art, culture and community.

“

**I cannot overstate
the difference you and the
other team members are
making to O's life...
She hasn't managed school
today but she's painting in
her sketchbook...
Your art group is the one
thing that is keeping her
going. She really values it...
She feels like she actually
belongs somewhere.**

”

Parent



SPOTLIGHT ON:

Dawit Toomay, winner of the first Sir Rod Aldridge Trailblazer Award first engaged with Lowry through the Young People at Risk of Homelessness programme. Dawit showed a keen interest in photography and a creative flair of storytelling through images and video. Since winning the Sir Rod Aldridge Trailblazer award, Dawit has been given new photography equipment including a professional standard camera, a computer and editing software, giving Dawit the ability to take quality photos and edit images efficiently and to a high standard. Dawit has also joined the Socially Engaged Arts freelancer team as a Support Practitioner for two groups, as a meaningful role model to the participants and an invaluable and rewarding member of our team.

CULTURE ROOTED IN COMMUNITY

We are Salford and proud. And whilst Lowry sits in the heart of Salford, Salford is at the heart of everything we do. This year we found more ways to take our programme beyond the walls of our building out into the community, and for those communities to shape and inspire our work.

In 2025 **We Invented the Weekend** focused on strengthening community bonds across Greater Manchester through a Summer Community Programme. Working with Salford-based duo MikeSian Studio, we co-developed Department of the Perfect Weekend, inviting residents to imagine and visualise their “perfect weekend” to inform future community-authored public artworks. Through 12 creative sessions with 8 VCSE partners we reached 150 residents aged 8–80 who created over 600 artworks. Participants included Age UK, Community Little Hulton, LGBTQIA+ Youth, HerStory and Talk About It Mate. This creative work will directly shape co-designed public artworks and participatory activity for the **We Invented the Weekend Festival in 2026**.



The silent disco was by far the best experience. Myself and my 15 year old daughter just danced for over 30 minutes and it was such a special bonding moment. Loved walking around the quays seeing the different lights. We never go to the quays and it was magical



Visitor, Lightwaves 2025

Lightwaves Salford 2025 strengthened Lowry’s connection with communities across MediaCity and The Quays, engaging more than 3,700 participants through interactivity, co-creation, local partnerships and student collaboration. **Stitching Light** worked with Bangladeshi women to share migration stories, while **Our Town** wove local voices and memories into an interactive artwork celebrating 25 years of Lowry. Salfordians co-created the playlist for **Happy As The Day Is Long**, reflecting joy and belonging in the city. Student commissions with the University of Salford and the Academy of Live Technology enabled young creatives to exhibit new work. Free travel, accessible tours and hyperlocal outreach ensured inclusive participation.



COMMUNITY GROUPS:

Lowry's Community-Groups create welcoming routes into art and culture for Salford residents who have faced barriers to participation. Community Creators explore visual art, curation and creative engagement, cocreating workshops, events and exhibitions for local people. This year, they took part in supported visits to galleries and festivals including Factory International, Yorkshire Sculpture Park and Lightpool Festival in Blackpool, and in July presented **Our Salford, Our Lowry** in the Copley Community Cases — an exhibition inspired by LS Lowry work and the lived experiences of the group.

Show Selectors discover and programme live performance for their communities, visiting venues, learning how work is made, and bringing performances to parks, shopping centres, schools and social spaces across Salford, sharing the joy of live performance on people's doorsteps.



You get lots of ideas and you get to discover yourself in the process, things that you never knew you were capable of doing. We can encourage one another, you can help one another, you can support one another... It's good for the mind. It's good for the mental wellbeing.



Participant, Community Creators



LEARNING & PARTICIPATION:

Lowry has long understood the importance of creativity in education and in shaping little minds as they grow. **Lowry Creative Families** takes fun, creative early years experiences directly out into the community. This year we delivered 127 free specialist-led, early years sessions at community settings across Salford, featuring music, movement, storytelling, play and creativity. Working in partnership with Libraries, Family Hubs, Community Cafes and housing associations we reached 3,278 children under 5 and their care givers. Families enjoyed watching a performance of **Little Bear's Christmas Lights** by Colour the Clouds in December 25. This was the first experience of live theatre for over 98% of the children – hopefully the first of many independent visits to enjoy everything Lowry has to offer families.

This year our school's outreach programmes have delivered over 1,000 hours of free activity to schools across Salford and 300 children attended performances of **Coming to England**, **Pig Heart Boy** and **Stick Man**.



536 hours of Creative Writing outreach sessions were delivered to 50 Key Stage 2 classes through Lowry's **Creative Writing Challenge**, kindly supported by Beryl Jones and Trevor Jones. 24 talented young writers from across Greater Manchester then had the chance to perform their poetry, short story or script, at The Creative Writing Challenge's celebration event on the 14 July 2025, which was a celebration of the limitless imaginations and creativity of children.



Copley Children's Creative Arts Programme, supported by the Copley Family, engaged 10 Salford Primary schools in 500 hours of workshops exploring visual art, mindfulness and drama. This year's winner of the Copley Prize was Sophia, age 10, whose dynamic and modern take on LS Lowry's scenes of every day bustling towns will hang proudly in our Lowry collection for a year.

SPOTLIGHT ON:

Lowry worked in partnership with Royal Manchester Children's Hospital and Alder Hey Children's Hospital to live stream four performances of **The Smeds and The Smoos** direct from the Quays Theatre into hospices and hospital settings for children and their parents/carers to watch together, giving them a shared moment of magic making special memories together in difficult circumstances. Lowry teams and hospital play teams onsite brought the production to life, with activities, fun and warmth. New for this year, we welcomed families from The Christie Hospital with children undergoing the groundbreaking proton beam therapy to a special VIP event at Lowry. Families enjoyed a picnic, arts and crafts, watching a performance of **Stick Man** alongside meeting the characters and cast of the production.

OUR VALUES AND WHAT WE STAND FOR

EQUITY, DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION:

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion sits at the heart of Lowry's mission, shaping what we present, how we work and the change we champion with our communities. Our refreshed EDI Strategy, to be published in 2026, will strengthen our commitment to a culture of belonging across staff, volunteers, artists and audiences. This year, colleagues and volunteers took part in practical EDI training including Deaf and Dementia Awareness, Suicide Prevention and Access. Our Onvero Talent Inclusion and Diversity score rose from 52% to 84%, we began work towards Attitude is Everything accreditation, and we achieved Disability Confident Level 2 status.

We also marked key moments with our communities, celebrating events such as Lunar New Year, Black History Month, Pride, LGBTQ+ History Month and Mental Health Awareness Week, partnering with KOOK dementia friendly café and joining the Manchester Pride Parade alongside the cast of **Unfortunate**.



ACCESS AND AUDIENCES:

Lowry aims to remove barriers to attendance for groups who are underrepresented in our audience. Two community ambassadors promote

special offers for shows and exhibitions with specific appeal to communities and work with Lowry to improve our service with input from the community for example by offering a prayer room and appropriate food to break their fast during Ramadan. They regularly visit disabled people's organisations to promote our access offer, and hold workshops and consultation events with disabled visitors.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY ACTION:

This year we made further progress towards our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2038, in line with Greater Manchester's ambitions. Across our bar, restaurant and coffee shop, we keep things local, seasonal and sustainable with choices which care for our planet and support local farmers. All the meat and fish we purchase and more than 90% of ingredients we use in the Restaurant menu are British. We use Wild farmed flour, using regenerative farming methods, and all our pulses, grains, seeds and nuts are farmed using agroecological practices, a sustainable farming approach. An edible wall now grows herbs and salads in our restaurant, alongside trials of plantbased, environmentally certified cleaning products.

Beyond our kitchens, we've introduced digital signage and energy saving Passive Infra Red sensors to reduce consumption across the building, lowering both emissions and costs. But we can't do it alone; our new **Green Rider** launched this year for visiting companies and artists, sets out our shared commitment to sustainable practice alongside recommendations to help support our mission.

Here are just some of the highlights we are looking forward to in the coming year

LOWRY'S FLAMENCO FESTIVAL **SAT 13 — TUE 30 JUN 2026**

Two very different evenings of authentic Flamenco. In Baile Sonoro, acclaimed dancer and choreographer Olga Pericet blends tradition and innovation (13–14 Jun), whilst Tierra Bendita takes us on a journey through Andalusia, the birthplace of flamenco (30 Jun).

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL **FRI 21 AUG — SUN 13 SEP 2026**

A co-production with Lowry and Hope Mill Theatre and the UK's first non-replica production, based on the hit Disney Channel Original movie. The Lyric theatre will be completely transformed into an immersive basketball court, with on stage seating and an extended stage.

JOLLY CHRISTMAS POSTMAN **FRI 04 DEC 2026 — SUN 03 JAN 2027**

Our first ever Christmas co-production. A family show based on the book by Janet and Allan Ahlberg. Co-produced with Royal & Derngate, Northampton where it had a hit run in 2024–25.

CURTAIN UP **SAT 18 APR — SUN 21 JUN 2026**

New artists commissions, including new work by celebrated German artist Ulla von Brandenburg, feature at the heart of this dynamic visual arts exhibition celebrating the shared human experience and elevated emotions that connects us in while we are watching performances.

WILD THINGS **SAT 18 JUL — SUN 01 NOV 2026**

Our summer family exhibition, featuring iconic children's book illustrations and buildingwide activity, reinforcing Lowry as a leading destination for families through integrated exhibitions and productions including Dear Zoo and In the Night Garden.

WE INVENTED THE WEEKEND **SAT 06 — SUN 07 JUN 2026**

Back for 2026. Over the 6 – 7 June, Salford Quays and MediaCity will be buzzing with over 200 free activities in the UK's most ambitious, creative, original and fun-filled festival in a celebration of free time.

LOWRY YOUNG THEATRE **MAKERS CELEBRATION SHOWCASE** **SUN 14 JUN 2026**

On Sunday 14 June, performers from Lowry's Young Theatre Makers will present their final pieces to audiences in the Aldridge Studios, with technical theatre and stage management by members of the Backstage company. The performance will begin with a 'curtain raiser' from the offsite group based in Walkden, before the in-house Lowry Ensemble will perform Brainstorm, a fascinating exploration of the development of adolescent brains. The piece is based on an original production performed at the National Theatre in 2016, and developed using a framework designed to support youth theatre groups to devise and perform their own versions of the show.

HOW'S YOUR HEAD? **FRI 31 JUL — SAT 01 AUG 2026**

Comedy stand up show How's Your Head (working title) by Developed With artist Aarian Mehrabani will open in the Studio end of July before a run at this year's Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Resident company Sixth House's new show COW about the BSE crisis is scheduled to open in the Studio in Autumn – more details to follow.

FUNDERS

Arts Council England
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volunteer team, our Show Selectors
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for their time and enthusiasm.***

LOWRY

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