

ANNUAL IMPACT REPORT 2025-26



FUTUREYARD



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	2
BOARD WELCOME	4
LIVE PROGRAMME	6
LIVE AUDIENCE	8
OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD	10
TALENT + SKILLS DEVELOPMENT	
SOUND CHECK	12
PROPELLER	14
CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE	
MOSH TOTS	16
NEW NOISE MUSIC CENTRE	18
FYX SCHOOLS	20
BUILD OUR FUTURE	22
ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY ..	24
OUR TEAM	26
IDEA	27
SUPPORTERS + PARTNERS	28

INTRODUCTION

CRAIG G PENNINGTON, CO-FOUNDER AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Future Yard was founded on the belief that music can change the world. But, this change can only come when we reimagine music as a transformational opportunity; to positively impact the lives of local people and tell a different story about what our town means in the world.

The pages of this Annual Impact Report tell a story of transformation. But not speculative transformation. **Transformation that works.**

As I write this, our building shakes disconcertingly; not to the rumble of heavy bass from the live room below – a reassuring, regular occurrence – but to a piling rig bludgeoning steel into the earth outside our office window. Building Our Future just got very real. The footprint of our new 600-cap venue is taking shape and a structure is beginning to emerge from the soil, like a metallic, high-definition sibling of the rustic, pallet-formed garden venue that played such a central role in shaping what Future Yard is today.

Come Autumn 2026, this section of earth will host the next chapter in our journey, as we're empowered to host more shows, by higher-profile artists, creating more opportunities for emerging talent, alongside expanding our training programmes and education work.

It's exciting and humbling in equal measure.

Humbling, when we consider that more than 400 individuals have pledged financial support for the project so far, as part of our **Build Our Future** campaign. Kickstarted in March, the campaign has raised over £100,000 to date and vividly demonstrates the power (and generosity) of our community in action.



The physical transformation that our venue is undergoing will secure an expanded Future Yard, **unlocking the power of music to create a better future for local people, for generations to come.** Transformation that works.

Blended with the rumble of heavy machinery comes the animated and excitable chatter of 150 primary school children emerging from a double decker bus on Argyle Street, as a school trip descends on the venue.

Over the past year, we have been working with 12 local schools, seeking to redefine what music education at primary school can be. 3500 children across these

schools have had the opportunity to blend inspiring classroom learning, through our innovative new **Turn Up The Volume** music curriculum, alongside life-changing live music experiences. The visit today is one of many, and blends practical music making activities with an insight into careers within our industry.

Over the coming year, we'll be expanding this provision into more local primary schools, unlocking the power of music to build confidence, spark children's imagination and connect classroom learning to the real world of music and the creative industries.

We believe that every child should have the opportunity to learn music and perform on stage. These school trips are many children's first taste of a live music venue, and bring the Turn Up The Volume lessons they enjoy in school to life, in a real live music setting. Working in partnership with our local music education hub,

we're transforming what music education in school can mean for kids in our town.

Again, transformation that works.

This year the Leftbank Collective – a group of organisations comprising Future Yard, Open Door Charity, Make CIC, Start Yard and Make It Happen – have established the Birkenhead Culture Partnership; a network specifically to bring together our town's creative organisations, collectives and artists. Given the breadth of Birkenhead's creative energy and the role our culture

is playing within the regeneration vision for our town, we believe a well-connected, collaborative, creative sector is essential to realising the opportunity.

And the timing couldn't be better, with Birkenhead Culture Partnership coming together to shape a vision for our home to become the UK's first Town Of Culture.

“TRANSFORMATION THAT WORKS”



Supported by Wirral Council, the application to the national scheme set out an unapologetic vision which celebrates our town's off-beat identity; we are the 'other' place, the town on the left bank, the dark side, the place where the interesting things happen.

Clearly we want – and expect – to win. **Birkenhead is, after all, the centre of the creative universe.** But, if it transpires that we don't, the very act of forming the Birkenhead Culture Partnership, of committing to collaboration, has the potential to transform the role culture plays within our town. With programmes such as Pride In Place emerging to support community-led development, this collective approach is more important than ever.

Again, transformation that works.

We are proud of the journey we've been on and the successes that have been realised so far. As our model has grown, it has changed, it's adapted, it's catalysed based on the situations we've found ourselves in. As we move into our sixth year, we're more confident than ever that **community music venues such as Future Yard work. We believe there should be one in every town in the country.** Given the challenges communities are facing across the UK, they are needed more than ever before.

We've long believed in the concept of 'Do It Together', as a collective, bottom-up cousin to the much cherished punk mantra of 'Do It Yourself'. Across the pages of this Annual Impact Report you'll discover the full breadth of partnerships and collaborations with organisations, artists, communities and individuals that make Future Yard what it is. This isn't the work of any one individual. By coming together we are – all of us – creating something truly unique.

This is what Do It Together looks like.

This is transformation that works.

The Future Is Birkenhead

Craig

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

What a (literally) ground-breaking year as we continue to deliver our mission "to positively transform both Birkenhead and the nature of what a UK grassroots music venue does, based on the founding principle that music can change the world"!

This is evidenced by the remarkable facts, figures and stories throughout this report, which directly reflect the brilliance and dedication of the whole 50+ Future Yard team.

As Chair though, I'd like to focus more strategically on what has been a pivotal period in terms of laying the foundations for the metamorphosis now underway, as Future Yard transitions from a start-up into a commercially sustainable enterprise and anchor institution (albeit one still with growing pains and big further ambitions).

To this end, we have streamlined our governance and evolved our departmental structure in advance of further intended organisational transformation, while diligence and focus across all business units have equally led to a much more robust financial position.

Innovative, fun, and in some cases life-changing cradle-to-career learning provision remains a mainstay, band clubs have been added, and, significantly, Future Yard is now independently delivering accredited Liverpool City Region skills training. In tandem, our education offer has grown exponentially with comprehensive new proprietary music curriculum materials that have gone down a storm and led to active partnerships with 12 Wirral schools, paving the way for many more across the wider LCR.

Future Yard's pioneering model has gained further national recognition for both social impact and transferability, and we are now partnering beyond our own region to revitalise other places. We similarly continue to blaze a trail towards Net Zero in 2030 and will become one of the first UK music venues to achieve this.

And of course, as always, the music has been magic and monumental across every genre!

Personal highlights include Sarathy Korwar, Cerys Hafana, Kantos Choir, and bounce maestros Omega Nebula, plus the Sugarhill Gang and Black Uhuru mega-gigs as the last hurrahs in our beloved garden before a ceremonial "burning down the house" bonfire. Which brings me to *Build Our Future...*

Having navigated the complexities of design, procurement, and planning, the £3M *Future Yard 2.0* investment programme to expand our learning and studio spaces PLUS create an additional 600-capacity venue is now in full swing. This will be truly transformational, not only in future-proofing our facilities and being able to attract a whole new level of artists, events and performances year-round, but also for our staff, learners, partners and local community, including more free neighbourhood tickets for residents.

Our phenomenal crowdfunding campaign has already raised over £100K towards the £150K target, with more exclusive offers to come before a series of spectacular gigs mark the new venue opening in the autumn with a bang. And for those mourning the loss of our outside space, we have a plan, but that's for another time!

There are also plenty of positives linked to Future Yard's broader place-shaping purpose. Birkenhead town centre's regeneration and the *Borough Yard* urban village have notably progressed, plus £25M Birkenhead Waterfront plans unveiled alongside major Combined Authority investment in and around Woodside ferry terminal. Future Yard is also integral to

Birkenhead's compelling UK Town of Culture bid, new Wirral Culture Strategy, and £6.75M LCR Music Futures innovation programme, while the £20M Birkenhead Pride of Place programme is now getting into gear, and Birkenhead Park's UNESCO World Heritage Site bid also advancing...

This year's achievements are all the more remarkable given the innumerable challenges overcome behind the scenes, so a huge THANK YOU from the whole Board to all Future Yard's fantastic staff, and equally to all our brilliant artists, funders, donors, learners, community champions, contractors, customers and other supporters for all your efforts!

Despite troubling times home and abroad, the coming year is going to be an absolute humdinger as Future Yard scales up in every way, and within the exciting, dynamic, wider local and Liverpool City Region context. So please join us on our journey, we very much look forward to working, partnering and growing with you. The Future is Birkenhead!



John Whaling
Chair, Future Yard CIC





LIVE PROGRAMME

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

190 events featuring...

644 bands and artists

425 local artist performances

48 external promoters
(28 from Liverpool City Region)

1 new Gig Panto

“Future Yard have been a great collaborator for Oyé - and we've partnered on a number of shows with the venue, most recently reggae legends Black Uhuru. We see the value in this partnership, allowing us to take more African and Caribbean sounds to the Wirral, and helping develop new audiences for both organisations.”

David McTague, Africa Oyé - Head of Marketing & Partnerships

Nothing compares to seeing an artist live, it's a transformative experience both for the artist and audience. We believe in sharing our platform with as wide a group of artists as possible, providing inspiration and opportunities for all. This year we worked with more artists than ever...

Any year that starts with a Lambrini Girls show is going to be a wild ride. From punk rock new and old, through dance, rock, folk, psychedelia, hip hop, comedy and cabaret to dub and reggae there was something to inspire wherever you looked in the last year.

The last summer of our garden saw a few more for the history books, with Black Uhuru packing out our outside space before heading to Glastonbury, followed by The Sugarhill Gang bringing a classic block party to Birko. Our annual Future Now event returned to our home stages with an incredibly powerful performance from Pussy Riot.

It was a year of progress bringing even more diverse events to Birkenhead, from roaring laughter at Josh Jones and Louise Young's stand up, to the first Recovery Fest, a full day of celebration for people who have overcome substance abuse, alongside fundraising for refugee charities with Clementine Arts first Beats Beyond Borders Festival.

November was our busiest month in terms of attendance and number of shows since we opened. With four sold-out shows in the month, a fire and light spectacle for families and a range of genres covered, this particular month proved that Future Yard is an established home for live music in the region and on the UK touring circuit.

The KLF returned for their latest People's Day Of Death event, with a huge ceremony in Birkenhead Park alongside an Afterlife Party back on Argyle Street. 2025 culminated in our first ever gig pantomime, welcoming young and old for Robin Hood and her Merry Men's Hoodstock '25.

Onomatoposter returned as our annual January kickstart to live gigging, with a riotous set from Pulled

Apart By Horses amid the screen print exhibition; followed by another packed Independent Venue Week with performances ranging from hip hop activists, Drag Race superstars and acclaimed jazz artists.

We ended the year with the announcement of our new second venue, coming in Autumn 2026. We celebrated this huge milestone in the only way we know - by throwing a huge, 48-hour musical show, showcasing all of the incredible musicians we've worked with in the Liverpool City Region over the years, ranging from The Zutons's Dave McCabe to stars of the future from our New Noise programme. This ensured that we ended another great year dancing, singing and laughing while looking to the future, as always.

“Grassroots venues aren't just rooms with a PA, they're the research and development pipeline for the entire UK music industry. Places like Future Yard in Birkenhead do the heavy lifting, nurturing local talent, training the next generation of sound engineers and stage managers, and providing the kind of community infrastructure that can't be replicated by arenas or streaming algorithms.”

Review of Antony Szmierek's show in Dork Magazine



LAMBRINI GIRLS PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS PIGS EEK
A MOUSE SPACE MANCHESTER COLLECTIVE BLACK UHURU
CASSIA SCIENTIST GRUFF RHYS ADULT DVD LOS BITCHOS
PUSSY RIOT: RIOT DAYS THE SUGARHILL GANG BROWN
HORSE OBIE TRICE CKY THE UNTHANKS OPTIMO (ESPACIO)
OZRIC TENTACLES WESTSIDE COWBOY JAMES YORKSTON
MAD PROFESSOR BAGA CHIPZ CORTO ALTO FAETOOOTH
ANTHONY SZMIEREK DAMIEN DEMPSEY TTSSFU

To find out more about our upcoming shows, head to futureyard.org or by scanning here



LIVE AUDIENCE

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

29,500 total audience

13% from **CH41/CH42** - our immediate local neighbourhood

30% from areas of **high social deprivation***

54% from **Wirral**

£1.2m direct **economic impact** in local area

72.2% say their visit has **positively changed their perspective of Birkenhead**

*as defined by lowest 20% on IMD data

Live music is nothing without the fans and Future Yard's audience of music lovers turned out in force during 25/26, making it our biggest year yet, with 29,500 ticket holders coming to gigs over the 12 month period.

Our total audience attendance numbers rose modestly in the 25/26 period, split across our live programme, non-ticketed events, studios, family work, schools activity and general footfall. As our reputation continues to grow, nationally and locally, this growth reflects not only a strengthening venue, but a strengthening story for Birkenhead too. 50% of our surveyed audience said they would not otherwise have come to Birkenhead if it wasn't for attending a show at Future Yard, demonstrating again the power that a live music venue can have in bringing people into a place.

During the year, Future Yard welcomed 29,500 ticket holders to live music events. Using Music Venue Trust's economic impact methodology, whereby every £10 spent on a ticket generates a further £17 of expenditure in the wider local economy, these audiences are estimated to have generated approximately £601,800 of additional spending in local businesses. Combined with spending at Future Yard itself, this represents a direct economic impact of £1.2million for the local area.

We are able to continue building our programme in part because the core of our audience remains remarkably consistent. We continue to serve a vibrant community of gig-goers across Wirral, Liverpool City Region and beyond, with a slight increase in the number of attendees coming from Wirral this year. CH41, CH45 and CH43 were the postcode areas with the highest number of attendees across the 12 months, showing the continued strength of our local audience, from our immediate neighbourhood out across the borough. And if you count areas like Ellesmere Port, Neston and Chester alongside the Liverpool City Region, over 80% of our attendees live locally.

Once again, it matters that people are coming to Birkenhead to engage with that culture, including the fifth of attendees from outside of the local area.

Visibility matters. It changes how people see the place, and how the place sees itself.

We have also seen a slightly younger skew to our audience this year, with 11% of attendees aged under 25 when taking into account Mosh Tots shows, our first ever Gig Panto and partnerships with Wirral Met, St Anselm's, Hilbre High School and Wirral Grammar. This is an important shift. We want Future Yard to be a place where people can begin their musical journey early, whether that is a first gig, a school performance, a family show, or a young person stepping into a venue that feels open and relevant to them.

Loyalty remains one of the strongest characteristics of our audience, with a high percentage of returning customers continuing to come back across the year. That loyalty doesn't just speak to the quality and breadth of our programme. It is about belief. Our audience shares our passion for having a venue in Birkenhead on the live touring circuit, understands what that means for the town, and helps carry that message far beyond the building.

"Future Yard is the best thing to happen in Birkenhead for as long as I remember. Keep up the great work!"

Audience survey





“I go to Future Yard every year to see Love with Johnny Echols, and other gigs in between. Absolutely brilliant venue, great artists, sounds, beers, service and vibes. Best of all it’s a non-profit community-led venue that provides so many opportunities for young people, creatives and technicians, with all profits reinvested into new opportunities, contributing to the wider regeneration of Birkenhead. What’s not to love?”
Google review

To find out more about our upcoming shows visit futureyard.org or by scanning here



OUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

Rooted in Birkenhead, we continue to strengthen our connections with local people and organisations, ensuring that the communities closest to Future Yard benefit directly from our work.

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

1514 free tickets distributed through our **Neighbourhood Tickets Scheme (NTS)**

11 new organisations in the **Neighbourhood Champions Group**, bringing the total to **32**

52% of individual NTS signups from **CH41/42**

10% of children and families attending Mosh Tots from **CH41/42**

82% of NTS users said the scheme had a **positive impact** on their lives

Residents of Birkenhead and Tranmere, Bidston and St James, and Rock Ferry, which fall largely within the CH41 and CH42 postcodes, are some of our closest neighbours. These wards experience some of the highest levels of social and economic deprivation in the UK, ranking within the most deprived 0.3% nationally according to the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation. Because of this, people living locally can face additional barriers to accessing live music and cultural events.

We prioritise CH41 and CH42 to make sure the people in the community where we are based benefit directly from what we do. There are 266 individuals signed up to the Neighbourhood Ticket Scheme, with over 50% of these living in CH41/42. Nearly 40% of signups come from other areas across the Wirral including Rock Ferry, Prenton, New Brighton and West Kirby, showing that the scheme is also supporting access to live music and culture across the borough.

This year we fully formalised our community partners into the Neighbourhood Champions Group (NCG). This group includes a mix of local organisations who distribute our free Neighbourhood Tickets, provide community insight, collaborate on outreach projects, and help us to have a strong two-way dialogue with people in our community. During 2025/26, 11 new organisations were onboarded to the NCG, including North Birkenhead Development Trust, Wirral Change and Autism Together.

We also held the first Neighbourhood Champions Group Forum, a chance to bring these organisations together to update them on our current programmes and activities, and give them a chance to offer feedback and suggestions on the work that we're doing. Feedback from this included the need for physical



Neighbourhood Tickets. We created these and trialled them during a community action day in partnership with Regenda Homes. Through doorstep conversations with local residents about their experiences of the area, we were able to offer free tickets while strengthening our understanding of local needs.

“There is a genuine desire from Future Yard and their team to make Birkenhead a better place. Their free ticket scheme is something that really has a positive impact on the local area. We know that our community regularly has access to free music and events. This gives many people access to the arts that wouldn't ordinarily be afforded to them.”

Make It Happen, Neighbourhood Champion

“I've only recently joined but it was really good. I wouldn't have been able to go out with my friends without it.”

NTS Feedback Survey Respondent

CASE STUDY

MAGGIE, NTS RECIPIENT

“When Future Yard first opened I thought it wasn’t for me. I’m sober, I hadn’t been to a gig for a very long time, and I’m on benefits. Then Compañeros told me about the Neighbourhood Ticket Scheme. I couldn’t quite believe it! For me it’s been an eye-opener, it’s completely changed my life and opened up a world of different music and experiences. I moved here before the pandemic and was very isolated, with no family or close friends nearby. Through Future Yard I’ve met people, found a community and built connections that have become a real part of my life. When I first moved to Birkenhead, community groups were my first port of call and Future Yard has become the pinnacle of that.”

To find out more about our Neighbourhood work, visit futureyard.org/partner-neighbourhood or by scanning here



TALENT + SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

258 participants engaged across programmes

297 half-day training sessions

343 supported **work experience** shifts on live events

90% reported **increase in skills and understanding** of professional roles



SOUND CHECK

Sound Check is the launchpad for the next generation of live music professionals. In 2025/26, our largest ever cohort stepped into real venues and real shows, gaining hands-on experience. Now, as an Independent Training Provider, we're building even bigger pathways into the industry.

Sound Check is where Future Yard opens the doors of the live music industry and lets people step inside.

This is not simulated training. It is real shows, real crews, real pressure and real responsibility inside a working grassroots venue. Participants learn live sound, lighting, stage management and production by doing the job, supporting actual events at Future Yard and partner venues across the region.

In 2025/26, Sound Check delivered 297 half-day training sessions and 343 live work experience shifts, placing participants directly into the running of live events. Across Bootcamp cohorts and wider delivery, 258 people engaged with the programme, building technical skills alongside a deeper understanding of how the live music industry works day to day.

This year also marked a major step forward for Sound Check, as Future Yard moved into our next phase as an Independent Training Provider. This shift has strengthened the programme's position, allowing us to design and deliver training that is fully embedded in venue practice, while creating clearer pathways into employment, volunteering and ongoing industry engagement.

Evaluation continues to show strong impact across cohorts, with the overwhelming majority of participants reporting increased confidence, improved technical ability and a clearer understanding of professional roles within live music. Crucially, this is not learning in isolation. Participants are working alongside active crews, artists and production teams in real environments where every shift matters.

This year we introduced an 'Industry Day' as part of the programme, where participants meet a range of live events professionals and employers from across the sector. They hear first-hand about career journeys, gain insight into what working in the industry really involves and take part in interviews and informal conversations with potential employers. A number of alumni have gone on to secure paid work with visiting organisations, building clear pathways into employment and laying the foundations for future careers in the live music and events industry.

Sound Check remains a genuine gateway into the industry. Alumni are progressing into touring crews, venue roles, freelance production and further study, taking their experience of real-world live environments into real careers.

At its core, Sound Check exists to prove that the live music industry is not something to observe from the outside. It is something you step into, learn and become part of.

"Sound Check gave me more than training. It gave me real experience in real venues, working on real shows with real crews. I learned by doing the job, standing alongside professionals, and seeing exactly how live music actually runs from the inside."

Sound Check participant

THE FUTURE IS BIRK

CASE STUDY

CHRIS

Chris joined Sound Check with low confidence and self-esteem, but a clear interest in live music. At the start, he was quiet and hesitant in sessions, unsure of his place in the environment. Over time, through consistent hands-on experience at real Future Yard events, that began to change.

Working alongside crews on live shows, Chris developed practical skills in live sound and production, building confidence shift by shift as responsibility increased. He became more integrated within the group, forming strong peer relationships and starting to trust his own ability in high-pressure live settings.

As his skills grew, so did his ambition. Chris began taking on more active roles in events, stepping forward rather than standing back, and proving himself in real-world conditions where decisions matter in real time.

He has now progressed into working across multiple live environments as a sound engineer, turning early uncertainty into a clear, working pathway into the live music industry.



To find out more about Sound Check visit soundcheck.futureyard.org or by scanning here



TALENT + SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

23 local artist headline shows

50 bands/artists engaged with **mentorship or workshops**

66% of all performances on our stages were by **local artists**

250 artist projects used **studio facilities**



PROPELLER

PROPELLER delivers vital support to local artists through mentorship and performance opportunities, helping musicians to develop their live show alongside professional skills and building audience awareness, vital elements needed to take the next step on a career within music.

PROPELLER's focus this year has been clear: helping local artists become live-ready. In a modern music industry where recorded music, live performance, audience development and financial sustainability all have to work together, a great live show is more than just a milestone. It is a vital part of building a successful artist project.

Future Yard is well placed to support this journey. Our team books, markets, produces and delivers live shows every week, working across grassroots, emerging and nationally touring artists. Passing that knowledge on to local musicians is a core part of our mission. Through PROPELLER, we help artists think strategically about their live activity, understand their audience, sharpen their plans and make their shows as strong, ambitious and fruitful as possible.

Across 25/26, 23 local artists presented headline shows at Future Yard, including Tender Claws, alright (okay), Holy Pictures, Sunda Blue, The Shipbuilders, April Moon and YUNGKIDWESTCOAST. These shows are key moments in an artist's development, giving them the opportunity to step up, test ideas, grow their audience locally and experience what it takes to lead a night in their own right. At the same time, 66% of all performances on our stages were by local artists, demonstrating how deeply artist development is embedded within our live programme.

We worked with more than 50 artists on mentorship, workshops or development plans throughout the

year, helping them build joined-up strategies that bring recorded work and live performance together for maximum impact. The group-led demo listening sessions and songwriting programme sessions were popular additions to the peer-centred activity. And our studio facilities continued to provide a vital base for this work, with 250+ artist projects using the space to rehearse, write, practise, experiment and shape ideas that could then play out on our stage.

Future Yard also continued as a key partner in PRS Foundation's Talent Development Network, while hosting successful mentorship sessions for more established local musicians to support bids into PRSF's PPL Momentum Accelerator fund. This combination of national partnership, local knowledge and practical venue expertise makes PROPELLER a powerful hub for the next generation of live-ready artists.

"Future Yard has been a genuinely transformative space for me, both creatively and personally. As an artist, I've benefited hugely from the opportunities, training and sense of community Future Yard has built – from developing my songwriting and confidence, to feeling part of something much bigger than myself."

Helen Maw



“I’ve played at the venue a few times over the last four years, as support for Pleasure Island and Holy Pictures, part of Gruff Rhys’ festival in 2025, and Future Yard’s local Sunday sessions. And I’ve been part of the PROPELLER programme, with mentor 1-2-1s and sessions. I have just received the Liverpool PPL Momentum Accelerator funding to record and release my next EP coming in 2026, this will be an opportunity to play the new EP to a new audience before its release.”

Zara Smile

To find out more about Propeller visit propeller.futureyard.org or by scanning here



CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

22 live Mosh
Tots Gigs

1,093 children
attended

1,374 parents
and carers
attended

28% of attendees from **communities**
that represent the region's
most deprived areas



MOSH TOTS

Our Gigs for Kids series is the first step on the Future Yard musical journey, transforming our venue into a gig space built just for under-8s. Through music-making, dance and play, children get their first taste of the joy, buzz and togetherness of grassroots music culture alongside their families.

Mosh Tots continues to prove that you're never too young for your first gig.

At Future Yard, we believe live music should belong to everyone, and Mosh Tots creates a space where the next generation can experience the excitement, energy and community of grassroots music culture from their earliest years. Through live performance, dancing, singing, instrument exploration and creative play, families are invited into the world of music in a way that is accessible.

This year, Mosh Tots welcomed more than 2,400 audience members through a programme of regular gigs. Attendances continued to grow, with many events performing close to capacity and special events attracting families from across the Liverpool City Region. The programme has become a much-loved fixture in Future Yard's calendar, creating a community of returning families who see the venue as a place where they belong.

Each week, we also help lucky young moshers celebrate their big day, with our famous Mosh Tots Birthday Parties.

Mosh Tots is also a key part of Future Yard's wider, creative cradle-to-career pathway. For many families, it provides their first connection to the venue and often acts as a pathway into other Skills + Learning opportunities as children grow older. Whether discovering an instrument for the first time, watching a live band up close, or simply feeling confident enough

to dance in front of a crowd, children are developing positive relationships with music that can last a lifetime.

By creating authentic live music experiences for young audiences, Mosh Tots is helping build the future audience, artists and communities that grassroots music depends on.

"Mosh Tots captures what Future Yard is all about: breaking down barriers, bringing people together and making live music accessible from day one. For many children, this is their first experience of a gig and the beginning of a lifelong relationship with music."

Mosh Tots survey respondent



“From first dance moves to real encounters with live bands, Mosh Tots creates the kind of formative musical moments that stay with people. It’s not just about entertaining young audiences, it’s about nurturing the future of our music community.”

Mosh Tots survey respondent



To find out more about Mosh Tots visit futureyard.org/mosh-tots or by scanning here



CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

34 young people engaged across the year

100% reported **increased musical skills and confidence**

29% of participants from communities within the **20% most deprived areas nationally**

10% of participants from **CH41 and CH42**



NEW NOISE

Every Saturday, young people aged 13–17 take over Future Yard to plug in, explore music, try out being in bands, write songs and play what they love in a real live venue. New Noise is where the next generation of music makers begin their journey.

New Noise sits at the heart of Future Yard’s commitment to building the next generation of musicians; not in theory, but in practice, inside a working community music venue.

This is not classroom music. It’s rehearsal rooms filled with ideas, live stages being tested for the first time, amps turned up, songs built from scratch, and young people finding their sound in real time. Designed for 13–17 year olds, the programme gives participants the space to step into music culture properly and start to see themselves as part of it.

This year marked a major shift for New Noise. Following a full curriculum redesign, the programme returned with a sharper focus on songwriting, performance and the real-world skills behind how bands actually form, rehearse and grow. Across 30 Saturday sessions, young people developed as musicians and collaborators, building confidence week by week through making music together in a professional venue environment.

As the year progressed, that early experimentation turned into full performances. Young people stepped onto the Future Yard stage in front of peers, families and the wider community, many for the first time. The impact was immediate, with clear growth in confidence, creativity and ambition. Every participant reported increased musical skills and self-belief over the course of the programme.

More than a weekly session, New Noise is becoming a gateway into the wider Future Yard ecosystem. It

connects young people directly to live music culture, opening up pathways into further opportunities and a deeper sense of belonging within the local scene.

By placing young musicians inside a real venue from day one, New Noise helps shape a future where the Liverpool City Region’s music scene is built by the people already stepping onto its stages.

“New Noise is Future Yard in action. It takes young people out of the idea of learning music and puts them inside the reality of making it: writing songs, forming bands and performing in a real venue where music actually happens.”

New Noise Parent





CASE STUDY

JESS (anonymised)

Jess joined New Noise with a genuine interest in music but very low confidence. In the first week, anxiety meant they left early and felt unable to take part, with only minimal guitar experience. A move to bass guitar became the turning point. Something clicked, and Jess began to settle into the space, slowly finding their voice within the group.

From there, their confidence grew quickly. They became an active part of rehearsals, contributed creatively, and helped shape the identity of their band. They invested in their own instrument and began practising outside of sessions.

Jess now writes lyrics, performs on stage, and has played live at Future Yard twice. They regularly attend gigs for inspiration and work alongside more experienced musicians, holding their own in a real band environment.

To find out more about New Noise visit futureyard.org/nnmcc or by scanning here



CHILDREN + YOUNG PEOPLE

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

12

Wirral primary
schools engaged

2,646

children engaged
in curriculum
activity

48

teachers
supported through
CPD and training

30

live music learning
experiences delivered
across schools

“For staff, this has been a real game-changer. The support, resources and delivery model have built confidence across the team, with every member of staff reporting a positive impact on their ability to teach music. Pupils are more engaged, lessons feel more dynamic, and music has become a highlight of the school week, sparking curiosity, participation and a much stronger sense of creativity and enjoyment across the classroom.”

Laura Horton, Bedford Drive Primary

FUTURE YARD X SCHOOLS

Our innovative new scheme takes the thrill of Future Yard's live room into the classroom, with bold, modern music education delivered in primary schools through curriculum learning, band clubs, instrumental teaching and live music experiences.

Future Yard x Schools is where music education collides with the exciting world of real live music venues giving young people new and inspiring opportunities to realise and pursue their passion.

Through our Turn Up The Volume primary school pilot programme, we have taken live music culture directly into primary schools, not as an add-on, but as a core part of how young people experience, create and understand music. In 2025/26, we partnered with 12 local primary schools to deliver weekly, in-class music curriculum lessons across Key Stages 1 and 2. So far, this work has reached over 2,600 children through curriculum delivery and over 3,300 through exciting live music experiences. Alongside this, 48 teachers were supported through CPD, strengthening confidence, consistency and long-term delivery in schools.

The pupils have experienced real live bands performing in their school hall, taken part in interactive workshops, and discovered how music can be a part of their lives. Music is learned by doing, with creativity, collaboration and expression at the centre of every session.

Our curriculum now includes over 80 high-quality, interactive lessons and continues to grow, supporting schools with structured, progressive learning that connects singing, playing, composing and performing into a single journey. Cross-curricular learning is embedded throughout, using music as a catalyst to deepen wider understanding and engagement across subjects.



A defining strength of this year has been the live music offer. Delivered by practising musicians and educators, pupils experience music in action, seeing and taking part in real performance environments that mirror the energy of a live venue. This is enhanced by enriching experiences such as school trips to Future Yard, whole-school live experience days, and a final celebration festival where pupils perform for families and their community in a real gig setting.

Alongside this, band clubs are growing in schools and at Future Yard, where young people take those concepts experienced in the classroom and learn instruments together as part of a band. These sessions don't just teach music, they turn it into experience, building confidence, identity and ambition in real time.

Turn Up The Volume is reimagining what music education can be. It is a direct connection between classrooms, communities and our venue, giving young people the chance to learn music, live it, and step onto the stage to share it.

“Going to Band Clubs has been really influential on how children feel as people, we have more children that want to get involved in our choir, whereas before they weren’t as interested in singing. It’s helped the wider culture and given them opportunities they wouldn’t have had before.”

Shaun Leathers, Co-op Academy Portland



CASE STUDY

GAYTON PRIMARY SCHOOL

Future Yard has had an incredibly positive impact on our school community, inspiring creativity, confidence and a genuine love of music. Pupils are so engaged that many now write and share their own songs independently, while staff feel more confident delivering high-quality music lessons. We have also seen more children choosing to continue their musical journey beyond the classroom.

BUILD OUR FUTURE

Our community-powered crowdfunding campaign, launched to help build our next chapter – a new 600-capacity venue, alongside studios and learning spaces – unlocked a spirit of togetherness that will allow us to bring more positive change to Birkenhead.

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

£100K raised via Crowdfunder and connected activities

420 pledgers

48-HR continuous live show fundraiser

53 artist performances across 48-Hour Party People

1 large digger

“Future Yard is worth supporting on so many levels. It is an amazing venue with a huge spread of acts and linked exhibitions. It also provides great mentoring for other aspects of the music scene. Onwards and upwards.”
via Crowdfunder

In March 2026 we announced plans for the next chapter of Future Yard’s story, asking our incredible community to join us to Build Our Future. The ambition was clear: to expand our current building, adding a new 600-capacity live venue, alongside studios and learning spaces, creating more room for music, opportunity and positive change in Birkenhead.

This expansion will be transformational for our work. A larger live room will allow us to bring more nationally touring artists to Wirral, support bigger and more ambitious local shows and create a stronger financial foundation for Future Yard to keep growing. New studios and learning spaces will give more artists, young people and community groups the room they need to rehearse, learn, create and develop. It is a building project, but it is also much more than that. It is about what becomes possible when a community music venue has the space, facilities and confidence to fully meet its mission.

The ask to our community was simple: help us Build Our Future together. We launched a Crowdfunder to raise the remaining 5% of funds needed to make the project happen, setting a £150,000 target and inviting people to play their part. The response was powerful. 420 pledgers backed the campaign, helping us raise £95,321 through rewards, donations and acts of extraordinary generosity. Supporters claimed merch bundles, made straight donations, and secured their place on the Supporters Wall in the new venue, with their name immortalised as a Future Yard Star.

As well as our existing community of gig-goers, Mosh Tots mums and dads, fellow music lovers and ex-pat Wirralians, the wider music community was also behind our project: Music Venue Trust provided vital match funding support of £10,000, alongside generous

backing from partners, supporters and friends of the organisation. A series of limited edition online prize draws have added further to the fundraising efforts.

The campaign also unlocked a brilliant wave of community fundraising. Our CEO Craig took on his Tour De Independents bike ride, visiting independent venues from Leeds to Birkenhead and championing the grassroots music ecosystem that Future Yard is proud to be part of. Super-fan Andy ran the Mersey Tunnel 10k with a guitar on his back. Board member Mike ran the Liverpool Half Marathon. Local punk group Valkyrie, students at Wirral Met College, hosted their own show at the venue to raise funds, showing exactly why this next generation of artists matters.

The campaign reached its peak with 48-Hour Party People, a continuous 48-hour live show staged on the day we broke ground on the building work for the new venue. Across two days, 53 artists performed in support of the campaign. The Zutons’s Dave McCabe kicked things off, with sets from Michael Aldag, Two Tonne Machete, Flower Show, Zara Smile, News From Neptune and many more following. There was a special Mosh Tots performance, as well as young people from New Noise and Band Clubs showing their talents, with hardy overnight and early morning DJ sets keeping things ticking. Grace Inner Bliss’s morning yoga was a welcome chance to take a breath.

It was chaotic, joyful, ambitious and deeply Future Yard. A celebration of everything we do, and of the people, musicians and creatives who make this community music venue so special. We are hugely grateful to all of the supporters who contributed to this campaign, proving the perfect justification for the journey we are on.

The future is coming.



“Future Yard is critical to the culture of Birkenhead and the Liverpool area - I have been fortunate to see many great artists in there and they have been really kind to me and let me work in there too. Birkenhead is a much better place for Future Yard.”
via Crowdfunder

To find out more about our Build Our Future campaign visit futureyard.org or by scanning here



SUSTAINABILITY

25/26 AT A GLANCE...

0 emissions from electricity use

3rd consecutive year of reductions in gas emissions

10% increase in artist sustainable travel use through **Plug + Play** initiative

70 participants in our annual **POP Climate Conference**

“Future Yard are leading the way in sustainability in live music events from their roadmap, first published in 2022, to the development of training programmes for the sector. MusicFutures are delighted to be partnering with them on a number of initiatives that stand to have a significant impact on the carbon footprint of live music events.”

Rachel McLean - LJMU, MusicFutures

Our sustainability work puts climate justice at the forefront of our mission. By setting the standard for decarbonising a music venue, and developing a clear pathway to reaching net zero, we are working to realise our vision of a sustainable Birkenhead.



Eight months on from the launch of our Net Zero Roadmap, we are continuing to lead the work of sustainability in the music industry. In November, we set out our plan for achieving net zero – a 100% reduction in our energy, waste and water emissions by 2030, and in everything else, including audience travel and supply chain, by 2035.

This year, we have designed a method to measure our supply chain impact – tracking the impact of food and beverage products, their packaging and transport – becoming one of the first arts organisations in the UK to do so. While this has technically increased our impact by 51% from last year, it is an incredibly important milestone for reaching net zero; we now have a complete picture of the impact of the venue’s value chain, and later in the year this will form the basis of a reduction plan.

Across 25/26, we continued the success of Future Planet, our annual programme of activity that engages our audiences with climate action. In May, we hosted the second edition of Sustainable Travel Month,

partnering with Merseyrail to offer visitors to the venue free train travel. In the summer, Wax + Gears, our pedal-powered, off-grid music festival, featured a headline performance from local avant-pop trio artist Stealing Sheep. In November, POP3 convened the culture industry once more, bringing leading thinkers, nationally significant organisations and grassroots practitioners together to explore the climate debate.

We don’t only want to create a sustainable venue, but a sustainable place in Birkenhead, and a sustainable business model for the music industry. Our collaborations – from our partnership with Ecotricity, powering the venue through renewable electricity; our part as a hub venue in EarthSonic Local’s artist residency programme; or our work over the last year to become a Carbon Literacy trainer – form part of a broader picture, in which we are helping to put climate action at the top of the local and national agenda, and realising our vision that the future is a green Birkenhead.

CASE STUDY

EARTHSONIC LOCAL

In 2025, Future Yard hosted EarthSonic Local, a series of workshops designed to inspire young people to develop climate change knowledge and music production skills. Using local nature sounds to understand and tell the story of climate change and issues affecting loss of biodiversity, participants learnt how to record, sample and archive sounds, with the opportunity to create, release and showcase new music.

“Nature/environment had always been about written text and data to me before, this project taught me to tell the story with music.”

EarthSonic Local participant

“It shows that music can have meaning and purpose to the rest of the world and can bring light to places or animals that are endangered.”

EarthSonic Local participant



CARBON CALCULATIONS 25/26

SCOPE 1 - DIRECT EMISSIONS

Emissions that occur from sources in our building, in this case gas powered heating.

7.1 TONNES CO₂E

A further reduction of 350kg CO₂e in 2025/26, which represents a third consecutive year of reductions in gas emissions.

SCOPE 2 - INDIRECT EMISSIONS

Emissions related to the production of electricity off-site, which is used at the venue.

0 TONNES CO₂E

Through Ecotricity’s renewable energy supply, 70,000kwh of electricity usage is completely emissions free.

SCOPE 3 - INDIRECT EMISSIONS

All remaining indirect emissions in the venue’s value chain, including audience travel, waste, water and wider supply chain.

74.2 TONNES CO₂E

Operational Impact: waste, water, staff travel, digital footprint – **6,704.31KG CO₂e**

Supply Chain Impact*: including food and beverage products, packaging and transport – **34,049.4KG CO₂e**

**Calculated for the first time*

Travel Impact: including audience, artists and staff – **33,438.33KG CO₂e**

“Our partnership with Future Yard is a great example of what’s possible when sustainability sits at the heart of live music. From powering their Birkenhead venue with 100% renewable energy to collaborating on key initiatives, we’re showing how practical, collective action can help decarbonise the sector. Together, we’re demonstrating that live music doesn’t have to come at an environmental cost, and helping lead the shift towards a more sustainable, low-carbon future for the industry.”
Jane Fielder-Scrivens - Ecotricity

TOTAL CARBON FOOTPRINT
2025/26 ACROSS SCOPE 1,2 & 3:
81.3 TONNES CO₂E
WE HAVE RECORDED AN **INCREASE OF 51%** FROM LAST YEAR, DUE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A SUPPLY CHAIN IMPACT FRAMEWORK – A KEY MILESTONE IN OUR PLAN TO ACHIEVE NET ZERO.

OUR TEAM

Our people are at the heart of everything we do. We are proud to have a young, diverse and inclusive workforce made up of music lovers who bring great passion to our life-changing work.



Future Yard has evolved over the past six years and currently we have 49 team members delivering our work, split across staff on payroll and freelancers.

Our team is predominantly young, with 85% of staff under the age of 35. We believe this reflects our commitment to investing in and developing the next generation of talent. We actively create opportunities for staff to grow their skills and pursue professional development in areas that interest them, whether directly related to their current role or not.

We are particularly proud that 90% of our current event production team – including engineers, event managers and box office staff – are graduates of our Sound Check programme. This demonstrates the long-term impact of our talent development pathway and enables us to maintain a passionate, skilled and motivated workforce that consistently delivers live events to the highest standard.

Our workforce is broadly balanced in terms of gender, with a non-male majority. 48% of our team identify as female, 43% as male, and 9% identify as non-binary or prefer not to say. We are also committed to creating an inclusive workplace where people feel comfortable expressing their identities. Across our team, 51% identify as heterosexual, 29% as bisexual and 20% as gay woman/lesbian, queer, or prefer not to say.

We recognise and value the diversity of lived experiences within our workforce. Over a third of our team (35%) identify as neurodivergent, while 5.4% identify as Deaf and/or disabled or have a long-term health condition. We continue to work towards ensuring our workplace is accessible, supportive and responsive to individual needs.

MEET ONE OF THE TEAM...

ADAM McCANN

"I joined Future Yard in 2022 working as a bar tender. Being in this environment, around the people, and working at the shows gave me the opportunity to express an interest in live sound. I took part in the Sound Check course early 2023 and began mixing shows in June of that year.

Following that I have worked on a massive variety of events – from gigs with local bands I've watched grow into seasoned pros, to international legends like Black Uhuru, Arthur Brown and Melt Banana; as

well as festivals, raves, comedy shows, weddings, conferences and more. Working on all of these events has given me the skills and confidence to start working as a freelance sound engineer – a career I'd always wanted to be in but had never found a road into.

Last summer I applied for, and successfully secured, the role of Technical Production Manager at Future Yard – looking after all the technical requirements for our shows, maintaining the venue's equipment and managing the production team. Since then I have overseen productions for the massive K2 People's Day Of Death event in Birkenhead Park,

the 48-hour non-stop fundraiser show, and I am currently co-ordinating the sound and lighting installations for our new venue.

Joining Future Yard has been a life-changing experience and has put me on a path I could never have dreamt of. This is the kind of place I wish had existed in Birkenhead when I was growing up here. I'm so proud to be part of a venue that gives back so much to the people of Birkenhead and has a positive effect on both the local and national music scene, thanks to the hard work every member of the Future Yard team puts in every day."

I.D.E.A

Inclusivity, Diversity, Equity and Accessibility (I.D.E.A.) is central to the work we do at Future Yard. It is not just policy, it is something people should feel. I.D.E.A. is a living commitment – one that will grow through action, learning and the voices of the people we serve.

As a community music venue rooted in Birkenhead, we exist to harness the power of music to make positive change in our town, create life-changing opportunities and shape a new music future.

We know music can create belonging, joy, confidence, opportunity and connection. It can open doors, change perspectives and help people imagine more for themselves and their future. **But we also know that access to music, culture, careers and creative spaces has never been equal.**

Too many people still face barriers – financial, physical, cultural, social or systemic – that can stop them from feeling welcome, taking part or progressing.

We have developed an I.D.E.A. framework that sets out how Future Yard will actively build a more inclusive, diverse, equitable and accessible organisation. The Future is for Everyone!

Within this framework we have developed six pillars that turn our I.D.E.A. commitment into clear areas of focus. They show where attention, investment and action are needed to create lasting change across Future Yard. Together, they provide a practical structure for making progress, measuring impact and keeping inclusion at the heart of how we grow.

Each pillar looks at a different part of the organisation – from our programme and people, to our audiences, partnerships, systems and learning. Each has

a particular focus; whether it be an individual's experience of Future Yard, the opportunities we make available to them or how accountable we are as an organisation, each of them matter.

The approach is designed to create mutually reinforcing priorities that work together. Progress in one area helps unlock progress in another, creating stronger foundations for the whole organisation. To keep this framework meaningful, it must remain active. We will review it regularly to understand progress, respond to learning and strengthen our ambitions over time.



THE FUTURE IS FOR EVERYONE

Our ethnic profile is reflective of the local area, with 94% of colleagues identifying as White British or White Irish. We remain committed to promoting equality, diversity and inclusion in our recruitment, retention and development practices.

Our team also reflects a broad range of beliefs and personal circumstances. 70% identify as atheist, while 14% have primary or secondary caring responsibilities alongside their work. We recognise the importance of supporting colleagues to balance work with their wider commitments and responsibilities.

Together, these characteristics contribute to a workforce that is passionate, representative of the communities we serve and committed to delivering meaningful impact for young people and communities.



SUPPORTERS + PARTNERS

We are deeply committed to working in partnership with a vibrant network of local, regional and national partners from a range of sectors. These partners are fundamental in supporting the delivery of every aspect of our work - we couldn't do it without them!

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Future Yard's local community working is anchored within our **Neighbourhood Champions Group**, a collective of 32 (and growing!) local charities and third sector organisations who support the delivery of our free neighbourhood ticket scheme, alongside access for local communities into our programmes. The network includes **Argyle Community Fitness, Autism Together, Companeros, CYPMHS, Forum Housing, Gautby Road Centre, Hatch, The Hive, Involve North**

West, Juno CIC, Koala North West, Make it Happen, Men Too, Neo Community, NBDT, One Wirral, Open Door, Paul Lavelle Foundation, Pilgrim Street Drop In, Positivitree, Salvation Army, Spark, Spider Project, WEB Merseyside, Tomorrow's Women, Wirral Care Leavers, Wirral Change and Wirral Talking Therapies.

Magenta Living's valuable support has uplifted programmes and activities across Future Yard including Sound Check, New Noise and Mosh Tots. We've reached Magenta residents through our schools programme and network of Neighbourhood Champions, improving access to music and culture for local people.

Regenda Homes have been an ongoing supporter, helping us expand the reach of the Neighbourhood Ticket Scheme and our training programmes, providing us access to community training, and will be playing a key role in our

upcoming **What Does Music Mean To You?** project, with a goal to build strong, supportive and inclusive communities.

Through our collaboration in the **Leftbank Collective** and leading role in the **Argyle Independent Quarter**, we work in direct strategic partnership with **Make CIC, Start Yard, Open Door Charity** (and their new Joy project) and **Make It Happen Birkenhead.**

BUSINESSES

We're proud to work in partnership with a range of local and national businesses who support our work around key priorities. **Ecotricity** are longstanding supporters of our sustainability work, sharing our ambition to decarbonise the live music industry and create a pathway to NET Zero.

Argyle Satellite's contributions have funded 300 Neighbourhood Tickets for local people. Argyle have also supported the venue during our Build Our Future

campaign, helping to raise awareness of events through their wide-reaching network of customers. **Kimpton** provided ongoing support around our infrastructure.

See Tickets support for Build Our Future has also been vital in the development of our new second performance space alongside **Sennheiser**, who have supported technical production at the venue since 2021.

Support from the legal teams at **Bates Wells** and **Bird&Bird** has been hugely valuable during the development of our capital building project.

CULTURAL ORGANISATIONS

In March 2026, Future Yard established **Birkenhead Culture Partnership**, a network of arts organisations, collectives and artists shaping the next chapter in our town's creative story. A **40-strong group of partners** including **Ron's Place (WACCLT), Make CIC, Joy/Open Door, Birkenhead Park,**

Big Heritage CIC, Williamson Gallery and **Eureka** have come together to support Birkenhead's bid to become the UK Town of Culture.

We are an active member of the **LCR Culture Network**, sitting on Strategy and I.D.E.A Sub-Groups, which see us working strategically alongside organisations such as **Liverpool Philharmonic, Everyman, National Museums Liverpool, FACT, Biennial, dot-art, Heart Of Glass** and over 60 others from across the city region.

This partnership working has seen us collaborate on direct programme and live events with **Tate Liverpool, Milap, Africa Oye, Luma Creations, Manchester Collective** amongst others, with a number of exciting collaborations in planning for the coming year.

MUSIC SECTOR

As a founding member of the **Liverpool City Region Music Board**, Future Yard was created as a response to







the needs of the city region’s music ecology. Chaired by Jon Collins (CEO at **LIVE**, an organisation representing the UK’s £6.1bn live music sector to UK Government), the board includes key organisations (and Future Yard champions!) such as **Adlib, ACC Liverpool, Sound City, Positive Impact, Kempston Street Studios, BBC Introducing, The Narrative, 24 Kitchen Street, Pagoda Arts** and a range of vital industry voices. Future Yard also sits on sub groups specifically focussed around the development of local live venues and music education.

Our live programme sees us work with a range of local and national promoters, including **DHP, Form, Kilimanjaro, 471Events, Moolakii, Boot Music, Evol** and numerous others.

Launching in February 2025, Future Yard is a partner on **MusicFutures** a bold new five-

year UKRI Creative Cluster led by the University of Liverpool, in partnership with Liverpool John Moores University, and core sector partners ACC Liverpool, Adlib and LIPA. MusicFutures has supported new approaches and initiatives across Sound Check and our sustainability work.

Future Yard works closely with **Music Venues Trust** and is a member of **Music Venues Alliance**, an association of UK Grassroots Music Venues that works together to create the best live music network in the world. MVT directly supported Build Our Future with invaluable matchfunding this year. We have participated in **Independent Venue Week** since 2021.

Youth Music have been a consistent and vital supporter since the early days, working with us during COVID-19 on early incarnations of our programmes and supporting our emergence out of the pandemic via their Recharge Fund.

We are a member of **PRS Foundation’s Talent Development Network**, a collective which brings together organisations working at the frontline of talent development across the UK – ensuring transformational support is available to a broad range of music creators based in the UK working at any career level and in any genre.

EDUCATION

We have longstanding relationships with **Wirral Met College, Liverpool John Moores University** and the **University of Liverpool**, all anchored on our commitment to provide valuable, innovative learning and placement experiences for young people who are embarking on careers within the music sector.

This year we have launched our **Future Yard x Schools programme with 12 local Primary Schools**, who are piloting Turn Up The Volume; a new, Future Yard music curriculum in their schools, alongside a blend of unique live music experiences and extra curricular opportunities. This work is also supported by **Love Music Trust**, the Music Education Hub lead organisation for Wirral.

We’ve also worked closely with **UK Music**, supporting their Creative Careers Week initiative, which has seen Future Yard visit a range of local secondary schools.

SOCIAL INVESTORS

Future Yard has been fortunate to work with some true innovators in the social investment space. As well as providing affordable, patient investment, they are principally

interested in the social impact our work creates. **Figurative** are a longstanding partner who helped facilitate us to buy our building back in 2021. **Kindred** have been with us since Future Yard was just an idea, supporting the Wirral New Music Collective project back in 2017 and **Key Fund** have provided integral support.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

As a partner within the Birkenhead Regeneration Framework, we have an ongoing, collaborative partnership with **Wirral Council**, as we seek to support the regeneration of our town.

Alongside this, **Liverpool City Region Combined Authority** and Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham, are longstanding supporters of our work. Specifically via the SIF music sector programme which provided support for our artist development and learning programmes, but more recently with Skills Bootcamps supporting our Sound Check programme.



FUNDERS

Future Yard is an **Arts Council England** National Portfolio Organisation and we are incredibly grateful for the support from **Paul Hamlyn Foundation** and **Esmée Fairbairn Foundation**, who support the delivery of our core work.

The Community Foundation For Merseyside have been a consistent champion of our programmes, specifically via **Merseyside Violence Reduction Partnership** support and we were hugely grateful to **Wirral CVS** for their support via the Step Up Fund.

During the last 12 months, our Sound Check programme has been supported by the **VOLA Youth Guarantee** and **SWAPs** as we look to provide pathways into employment within the live music sector to young people currently out of work and education.

GET INVOLVED!

Partnership is at the core of all we do and who we are.

We’re always keen to work with new organisations to support all aspects of our mission and activities. If you would like to explore how we could work together, please get in touch via partnerships@futureyard.org

THANK YOU FOR ALL THE SUPPORT

Adlib



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



**COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
FOR MERSEYSIDE**



**ecotricity
Business**



Figurative



KIMPTON



**METRO MAYOR
LIVERPOOL CITY REGION**



Liverpool City Region
// Music Board



**MUSIC
FUTURES**

**MVT
Music Venue Trust**



**YOUTH
MUSIC**



THE
FUTURE IS
BIRKENHEAD