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## British Ceramics Biennial Calls for Volunteers Support

This autumn the UK's largest ceramics festival, the British Ceramics Biennial (BCB), will return for the fourth time to Stoke-on-Trent for six weeks from 26 September to 8 November 2015.

The festival team is now on the look out for up to fifty dedicated volunteers to help deliver the programme of exhibitions and events on the lead up to and during the festival.

This unique opportunity offers a chance to get behind the scenes at a major festival, and work with some of the industry's leading figures. There are a number of volunteer roles available to support the core festival team including marketing, exhibition support, guided tours, assisting with workshops, and invigilating exhibitions.

All volunteers will be provided with full training, reasonable travel expenses and flexible hours to suit, based at the former Spode factory in Elenora Street, Stoke.

Iain Cartwright, Executive Director said: "Volunteers are an essential part of the BCB Festival and we couldn't deliver it without their help and enthusiasm. Since our launch in 2009, BCB has worked with over 150 volunteers who have generously given their time and expertise."

The British Ceramics Biennial is a platform for new ideas, works and fresh approaches to clay; the festival celebrates the best in contemporary ceramics through an exciting programme of new exhibitions, installations, activities and special events. This year's BCB will offer a truly interactive experience, giving visitors the chance to get clay under their fingernails.

Anyone interested in becoming a volunteer should download an application from [www.britishceramicsbiennial.com](http://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com) Volunteer co-ordinator Katie Leonard will be contacting all potential volunteers on **Friday 26 June**.

### Ends

For further press information, please contact [zoe@britishceramicsbiennial.com](mailto:zoe@britishceramicsbiennial.com) or call 07737 918728

### Notes to Editors

#### **About the British Ceramics Biennial:**

The British Ceramics Biennial is a prestigious cultural event, taking place in Stoke-on-Trent from 26 September to 8 November 2015. This six-week long festival will present work from the UK's leading contemporary ceramic artists in a series of new exhibitions and special events in the city, embracing the heritage of Stoke-on-Trent as the home of British ceramics, and celebrating the city's creative edge as an international centre for excellence in contemporary ceramics.



The British Ceramics Biennial launched in 2009 as a five-year initiative of residencies, fellowships, commissions, education and enterprise projects from 2009 to 2013 with a major festival every two years. BCB is intended to be a catalyst for regeneration in the region and to create a platform for innovation and excellence celebrating the best in current ceramic design, both nationally and internationally.

The Biennial draws on the historical strengths of the past in championing new future directions for the city.

The Biennial works in partnership with organisations and individuals in the museums, cultural industry, business, education, community and voluntary sectors across the city in the development and delivery of projects with a particular focus on public engagement.

The festival and supporting Engaged programme will not only highlight and raise the profile of the many ceramics industries still working in Stoke-on-Trent, but will also create commissioning and exhibition opportunities for local ceramic artists as well as national and international artists.

**British Ceramics Biennial funders:**

The British Ceramics Biennial Ltd is funded by Stoke-on-Trent City Council, Arts Council England and Paul Hamlyn Foundation

**BCB Sponsors:**

Staffordshire University, Johnson Tiles. Materials and Equipment Sponsor Potclays

**BCB Partners:**

Appetite, B arts, Contemporary Applied Arts, Craft Potters Association, Mitchell Arts Centre, North Staffordshire Regiment, Spode Museum Trust and The Potteries Museum & Art Gallery

**Media Partner:**

Ceramic Review

Coverage on BBC Radio Stoke

**The Clay Foundation:**

A new cultural agency and registered charity for Stoke-on-Trent configured into three core components:

- Artists' programme of commissions and residencies, developed in partnership with education culture, industry and community sectors in the city
- British Ceramics Biennial – realising the vision for the 2015 and 2017 festivals
- Ongoing community & education programme

