# Creative spaces open their doors to support Stoke’s high street

**6 September 2024**

Arts organisations, British Ceramics Biennial (BCB) and Framescape, opened their doors last Saturday (31 August) to the first of a series of creative days to support Stoke’s high street.

Funded by the government with support from Stoke-on-Trent City Council, ‘Open Source’ gives members of the public access to two professional studios with experienced digital and ceramic artists on hand to guide and support the creative activities.

Saturday’s event saw visitors exploring digital drawing techniques and making with clay, with further events planned on 30 November and 22 February 2025.

Stoke town centre is one of ten high streets taking part in the government’s [High Street Accelerators programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/high-streets-levelled-up-with-7-million-funding-boost) - to create partnerships that empower residents and community organisations to work together on long-term regeneration plans.

On the day, visitors made clay lions to decorate the windows of the BCB Studio, inspired by the lion sculptures that decorate The Crafty Lion pub across the street. They also learnt how to recycle clay and have a go at slabbing and extruding reclaimed clay.

At Framescape, visitors had the opportunity to explore the world of digital drawing with an experienced cartoonist, creating their own cartoon lion character.

Jo Mills, Studio & Community Programme Manager at British Ceramics Biennial, said: “I’d like to thank everyone that came along and supported our first Open Source event at the weekend.

“It was great to see visitors get creative with hands on activities that reflected the heritage of Stoke’s high street whilst building their skills and confidence.

“Our hope is that the events encourage more people into the town centre, supporting local businesses as well as raising awareness of two nationally significant creative organisations located on the high street.

“If you missed our first event, don’t worry – we have two more planned over the next few months.”

For more information, visit [What's On - British Ceramics Biennial](https://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com/whats-on/)

**ENDS**

For more information, please contact Lesley Seal, Communications & Audiences Manager for British Ceramics Biennial: [lesley@britishceramicsbiennial.com](mailto:lesley@britishceramicsbiennial.com)

## NOTES TO EDITORS

### Photos (credit Natalie Willatt)

[Visitors made clay lions to decorate the windows of the BCB Studio.jpeg](https://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com/app/uploads/2024/09/Visitors-made-clay-lions-to-decorate-the-windows-of-the-BCB-Studio_Credit-Natalie-Willatt-scaled.jpg)

[Visitors created their own digital cartoon character.jpeg](https://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com/app/uploads/2024/09/Visitors-created-their-own-digital-cartoon-character_Credit-Natalie-Willatt-scaled.jpg)

The [British Ceramics Biennial](https://www.britishceramicsbiennial.com/) (BCB) is an arts organisation based in Stoke-on-Trent with a vision of making change through clay.

BCB develops, sustains, and expands innovative ceramics practice and improves lives together with artists and creative communities. This is done by delivering an engaging year-round programme of artist commissions, learning and community projects, all of which feed into a festival of contemporary ceramics that takes place in Stoke-on-Trent.

BCB 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.

British Ceramics Biennial is proud to be an Arts Council England National Portfolio Organisation and is supported by Stoke-on-Trent City Council and Staffordshire University, alongside multiple project-based funders and sponsors.

[Framescape](https://www.framescapeedu.co.uk/) is a non-profit community project that is supporting, educating and inspiring current and future generations of digital and technical professionals in Stoke-on-Trent.

Framescape is committed to cultivating local talent in collaboration with private-, public- and third- sector partners, establishing The Potteries as a national and global hub for the createch industry.