



## **Project awarded £100,000 from The National Lottery Heritage Fund to explore stories of migrant diasporas**

Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC has been awarded a £100,000 grant by The National Lottery Heritage Fund to record stories and create three heritage-based photographs, reimagining local South Asian narratives collaboratively with participants from the Walsall community.

Made possible by National Lottery players, the exciting heritage project titled Paths You Walk will work with a variety of locally based organisations including Caldmore Community Garden, Walsall Library Archive, Walsall College, The New Art Galley Walsall, Walsall Council and Urban Hax, to revitalise Walsall's 1960s heritage through compelling photographic images. Each image will undergo meticulous preparation, involving deep consultations and an estimated timeframe of 3-4 days per image. We have also been collating various oral testimonies in relation to the great move to Walsall in the 50's and 60's. This has been sourced from Walsall Library and other collection points. We are also collecting new testimonies from Caldmore Community group seeking the richest preserve of untapped stories that we can find.

Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC feel the experiences of these and newer migrants are integral to the region's social history. However, their stories have been largely excluded from mainstream culture and history. Their aim is to advocate for the preservation of the collective heritage and deepen the appreciation of the diverse communities within the region.

By involving the community, including students and volunteers, and leveraging archival materials, the project aims to depict the struggles, hopes, and resilience of those who shaped the region. The project's legacy will be upheld through accessible deposits of interviews, images, and records, ensuring these stories remain an inspiration.

The project also offers a great opportunity for not only local people to work on a professional production set but also provides local students from Walsall College with hands-on experience and creating original artwork inspired by transcriptions.

In working with communities as cast and crew, they will reduce social isolation and improve the local artistic environment, enabling greater community cohesion and fostering pride and empowerment.

The project culminates in exhibitions at The New Art Gallery Walsall, Caldmore Community Centre and Walsall Library where it is hoped the project will serve as a beacon, illuminating the rich tapestry of Walsall's cultural heritage.

**Billy Dosanjh: Creative Director of Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories**

**CIC said:** "As a team, we're delighted to take our organisation's ethos and heritage love into the Walsall community to elevate missing stories and inspire participants to aspire. This is a landmark commission for the CIC and we are grateful to The National Lottery Heritage Fund for confidence in our work and ideas, and National Lottery players for making this funding possible."

ENDS

**Notes to editors**

**About Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC**

Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC is a not-for-profit organisation. We are an art production house that reframes the cultures and experiences of empire workers through the mediums of moving image, fine art photography, and site specific immersive experiences, all led by stories in the BlackCountry.

**About The National Lottery Heritage Fund**

As the largest dedicated funder of the UK's heritage, The National Lottery Heritage Fund's vision is for heritage to be valued, cared for and sustained for everyone, now and in the future as set out in our strategic plan, Heritage 2033.

Over the next ten years, the Heritage Fund aims to invest £3.6billion raised for good causes by National Lottery players to bring about benefits for people, places and the natural environment.

The Heritage Fund helps protect, transform and share the things from the past that people care about, from popular museums and historic places, our natural environment and fragile species, to the languages and cultural traditions that celebrate who we are.

The Heritage Fund is passionate about heritage and committed to driving innovation and collaboration to make a positive difference to people's lives today, while leaving a lasting legacy for future generations to enjoy.

Follow @HeritageFundUK on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram and use #NationalLotteryHeritageFund [www.heritagefund.org.uk](http://www.heritagefund.org.uk).

**Further information**

For further information, images and interviews, please contact Billy Dosanjh at Reimagining Industrial Migratory Stories CIC on 07738 912086 or [reindmigs@gmail.com](mailto:reindmigs@gmail.com) or visit the CIC [website](#).