

THE EXCHANGE
BLACKBURN

OUR VISION

**TO PLAY A SIGNIFICANT ROLE IN THE
FULFILMENT, WELLBEING AND
TRANSFORMATION OF BLACKBURN.**

OUR MISSION

**TO BRING THE EXCHANGE BACK INTO SUSTAINABLE USE
AS A VIBRANT AND DIVERSE VENUE AND TO DELIVER
ACTIVITIES WHICH INSPIRE HOPE, CREATIVITY AND
EXCELLENCE FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITIES .**

OUR VALUES

HONOUR

We treat others as we would like to be treated!
We recognise that each person is unique, has value and should be treated equally with dignity and respect

INTEGRITY

We always strive to do the right thing! We value honesty, openness, trust and personal responsibility in all our interactions, behaviour and practices

EXCELLENCE

We bring our best! We are committed to continuous improvement to create the best possible outcomes and face challenges with optimism

INNOVATION

We think and dream big! We are open to new ideas, embrace change and celebrate bold creativity.

EMPOWERMENT

We believe in people and their dreams! Creating an environment which helps develop and encourage each person to reach their full potential and achieve their ambitions.

TEAMWORK

We are stronger together! We value relationships, and encourage a spirit of collaboration, mutual support and fun"

OUR THEMES

Arts, Culture and Heritage

The Exchange is at the heart of Blackburn's cultural history. As an iconic, awe-inspiring building, providing one of the largest performance and exhibition events spaces in Lancashire, it will be a place to inspire, create, entertain and be entertained.

As a heritage site, we are at the core of Blackburn's cotton history and a visitor destination in the heart of the town's cultural quarter alongside Blackburn Museum and Art Gallery, Blackburn Library, The Making Rooms and The Bureau. We are part of Lancashire's story of cotton and canals, the industrial revolution and the Northern Powerhouse. We will provide a focus for place making, sharing and celebrating the stories that make up Blackburn's DNA as a borough of manufacture and creativity

We are contributing to the narrative of Blackburn by providing a beautiful space to showcase and exhibit the work of creators, manufacturing, making and makers.

Our affordable, accessible, modern spaces will be shared by performing arts societies, clubs and organisations looking for big spaces, open rehearsal rooms and studios. This will be where people of all ages and backgrounds can discover and develop performance skills, follow their dreams, meet and make friends and achieve their full potential.

Community and Cohesion

Cotton manufacturing is at the root of our history. Our heritage as The Cotton Exchange links us intrinsically with the diversity of communities and generations that make up the population of Blackburn with Darwen. The Exchange will be a place for projects that bring about cohesion, conversations and collaboration

We will be a focal point for our connected narratives.

This will become a place to share, learn and grow through volunteering and contribution. Alongside professional expertise, our volunteer development programme will offer opportunities, training and support which will provide a sense of worth. This will be where people of all backgrounds come together to make a difference.

The Exchange will become a building where people are valued, where change takes place and exciting things happen in communities. It will do this by linking economic regeneration, cultural renaissance and cohesion. We will pioneer a performance and exhibition centred community hub supporting the town centre and high street as a place to live, play, meet, collaborate, create and learn.

We will bring together stakeholders, where necessary taking the lead in community conversations. In partnership The Exchange development team will help to address the needs of the area and its people. We will play our part in identifying solutions, encourage and get involved in collaborative activities bringing about renewed hope and restore collective pride.

Health and Well Being:

The Exchange aims to become a venue which can host a variety of health and wellbeing organisations, programmes and workshops, including dance, fitness and wellbeing training and education events. We will work in partnership with Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council and other agencies in support of the local health and well-being strategy "Start Well, Live Well, Age Well".

Valuing and investing in our staff and volunteers, we will work to provide opportunities for people to be active, learn new skills, make friends, feel valued: resulting in an increased sense of self-worth.

We will create a healthy setting, which will enhance leisure and exercise, healthy lifestyles, self-care, reduce isolation & loneliness and promote wellbeing.

We will involve and therefore empower local communities, particularly disadvantaged groups.

Learning and Enterprise

The charity, Re:Source will run The Exchange as a commercially viable business, generating income through venue hire, ticketed events, merchandising, concessions and sponsorship for the ongoing running and maintenance costs of the building.

This astounding venue offers a unique blank canvas to showcase enterprise, commerce, manufacturing and industry with corporate partners.

The development of the building and its operation as a working venue aims to create employment and training opportunities with a range of partners including apprenticeship schemes and local colleges.

We will become a space for artistic installations and resident businesses encouraging creativity, artistic endeavour, growth and innovation.