



Spirit of Manchester Awards 2023

Thursday 5 October 2023, 7pm – 10pm

King's House Conference Centre, Manchester



Spirit of Manchester 2023

The 11th Spirit of Manchester Awards were held at King's House Conference Centre on the evening of Thursday 5th October 2023, starting at 7pm.

Hosted by Mike Wild (Chief Exec), Mike was joined on stage by the Lord Mayor (Cllr Yasmine Dar) and Martin Preston (Deputy Chief Exec at Macc)

We ran a hybrid event, thanks to Macc staff and the AV team, 1400 people watched the livestream via YouTube on the night. King's House Conference Centre was full to capacity with 304 people in the room. By running a hybrid event, this allowed the opportunity for those in the room and watching online to vote for the winner of each category via Slido.

Watch the livestream: bit.ly/SpiritOfMcr23



LGBTQ+ Tables

As is now a tradition with the naming of tables at the Spirit of Manchester, this year we honoured prominent LGBTQ+ past and present figures connected to the city of Manchester.

Each table displayed information on the LGBTQ+ figure in the form of a word description, photo and awareness date with many of the individuals we honoured invited and attending the event itself.

Read each bio here:

bit.ly/LGBTQProminentFigures

What did you have to say?



thecjowen I am so deeply humbled to have been honoured at @mcrcommcentral's Spirit of Manchester Awards today. This year they named the tables at their event "after LGBTQ+ advocates who have made a significant difference and impact across the city of Manchester," and I am so touched that they included my name on their list. I don't know if I deserve this, but it is so affirming to know my work is seen and it has encouraged me to work even harder to earn such recognition. A huge thank you to @rosegreen.adventures and everyone at #SpiritOfMCR23, I am so incredibly grateful.



Daniel Taylor Learning & Development @DanielT_LnD · Oct 5 ...
Loving how @McrCommCentral is demonstrating its commitment to equality with the table cards at the #SpiritofMcr23 awards which feature out and proud LGBT+ mancutians



ruth #RefugeesWelcome @rwelford1 ...
Honoured to be on the @CheddarGorgeous table at #SpiritofMcr23 hearing all the amazing stories of volunteers doing amazing things across the city #manchester #collaboration

CELEBRATING MANCHESTER'S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

16 JULY: INTERNATIONAL DRAG DAY



DAME GRACY GILES

Dame Gracy (February 1954 - 11 March 2021) was well known in Manchester as a stalwart activist and community member in the Gay Village. Gracy was a dynamic activist for gay rights and for people living with HIV, a drag artist, and a beloved community member who was instrumental in organising gay resistance and pride in Manchester, and supporting the fight for HIV provision and against stigma.

Friends, family, and members of Manchester's LGBTQ+ community came together on Friday 8th April 2022 to celebrate and honour the life of Gracy. The event was both a celebration and a memorial, and included a timeline of Gracy's life and LGBT activism in Manchester, readings from friends and family, two fantastic short documentary films about Gracy made by Jemma O'Brien, plus poetry, conversation, music, drinks and social time.

CELEBRATING MANCHESTER'S LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY

APRIL: LESBIAN VISIBILITY WEEK



KEIRA & AIMIE LAWLOR-SKILLEN

Kiera and Aimie Lawlor-Skillen are co-founders of Feel Good Club, a brand that is on a mission to normalise the conversation around mental health and feelings in general.

Starting from an Instagram page and the development of hand-printed merchandise they opened Feel Good Club Manchester, their flagship coffee shop and bar. Here they serve up a whole load of feel good vibes along with coffee, brunch, cocktails and full bar. The space is a warm and welcoming community which aims to normalise conversations around mental health, while offering a safe space for everyone regardless of how they identify. Alongside this, they run weekly live streams on Instagram around mental health and self-care – with guests ranging from fitness instructors to wellbeing coaches.

Through both the online platform and coffee shop, the couple's goal is to spread happiness and equip their community with the tools to become the best versions of themselves.

Lord Mayor

Councillor Yasmine Dar

The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Councillor Yasmine Dar, joined Spirit of Manchester 2023 to highlight the importance, dedication and celebration of the VCSE sector in supporting vulnerable communities in Manchester.

The Lord Mayor presented each shortlisted nominee and winner with a certificate and had her photo taken with each organisation/individual.

We thank the Lord Mayor for joining in with our celebrations!



[@LordMayorOfManchester](https://twitter.com/LordMayorOfManchester)

"Grateful to attend #SpiritOfMcr23 awards, honoring the remarkable efforts of our #VCSE groups & #volunteers. A big shoutout to @McrCommCentral for a delightful evening spotlighting the compassion and excellence in our city. #CommunityLove"



What did you have to say?

On social media



HideOut Youth Zone @HideOut_YZ · Oct 9
Spirit of Manchester Awards 2023 🐝

...

The trophy is now up in the office!! Still over the moon to have won a Spirit of Manchester Award under the Community Cohesion category 🏆

Please have a watch of the video that was shared on the night 🍷

[#SpiritofMcr23](#) @McrCommCentral



Eve Holt @evefranchisholt · Oct 5

...

If you need a top up of hope & inspiration search [#SpiritofMcr23](#) & fill ya boots.

❤️ It's the stories & smiles that get me, people coming together, caring for each other & making good stuff happen.

🌱 Stats are powerful too, like fact there's 162,000 volunteers in Mcr & growing.



Becky Bainbridge (She/Her) ⚡ @BBainbridge2021 · Oct 5

...

A lovely reminder this evening to stop, look up, and look around at the incredible work that happens because of the [#VCSE](#) sector in Manchester.

[#SpiritOfMcr23](#)



dr julian skyrme @julianskyrme · Oct 5

...

As a proud trustee of [@McrCommCentral](#) - Manchester's VCSE sector support organisation - tonight's [#SpiritofMcr23](#) awards are the highlight of my year. The very best Mancunian humanity on display. Thanks [@LordMayorOfMcr](#) for coming and 🍷 to [@MikeWildMacc](#) for fronting it all.



Sandy Koujou @EffectSandy · Oct 5

[#SpiritofMcr23](#) Great event showcasing the voluntary sector. A wonderful display of the good work from various community members and organisations. Go Mancunians 😊 Yes we can 🍷👍👍👍 [@cahn_uk](#)



Eve Francis
5 October at 22:43 · 🌐

...

Community, pride, humility, inspiration, love, belonging, cooperation, commitment... 🌟

The [#SpiritofMcr23](#) awards providing the perfect reminder of what really matters. We really do have more in common than that which divides us.

Lovely to see everyone. ❤️

Your night

In photos





Nominations and shortlisting

This year's Spirit of Manchester Awards had 13 categories, two of which were decided in advance by the judges – these being one of our newest categories, Young Volunteer of the Year Award, and the Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Voluntary Sector.

Nomination submissions opened in March and required a 200 word description along with their application. Closing in May, we received our largest of nominations to date, sitting at 180.

Our team of six judges deliberated and chose three nominations from each category to shortlist. All shortlisted nominees were informed and asked to produce a one minute film showcasing their nomination. Macc offered a range of support, including filming and editing training. All films form part of the voting process for the winners on the night.

View the shortlist: bit.ly/3rCGQ6B

Watch all films: bit.ly/SpiritVideos23

Meet the judges



From left to right: Elaine Unegbu, Ben Watkins, Jez Myers, Nickala Torkington, Robert Nieri & Sarak Perkins

Winners

Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Kiva Frischman

Shortlisted: Lil Luckham & Pat Walsh

Volunteering Team

Winner: MASH Volunteer Team

Shortlisted: Emmie's Kitchen & The SPACE Group Manchester

Volunteer Involving Organisation

Winner: Caritas Cornerstone

Shortlisted: W.E.L Safe CIC & Revive CIO



Young Volunteer of the Year

Winner: Emmie Narayn Nicholas

Tackling Inequalities

Winner: Mustard Tree

Shortlisted: Young Identity & Derek Jarman Pocket Park Volunteers, Pride in Ageing and LGBT Foundation

Inspiring Campaign

Winner: Respect for All

Shortlisted: SEND Together (Caritas Shrewsbury) & SPICE Group at Future Directions CIC



Winners

Creative Community Spirit

Winner: The Whitworth Still Parents

Shortlisted: Silver Screen Dreams Project & Christina Jones

Partnership and Collaboration

Winner: Homeless House

Shortlisted: Afrocats & Castlefield Clean and Green and Friends of Sackville Gardens



Trustee/Committee Member of the Year

Winner: Mohamed Egeh

Shortlisted: Matthew Johnson & Brian Johnson



Service User Involving Organisation

Winner: Future Directions CIC

Shortlisted: Booth Centre & Manchester Refugee Support Network

Social Economy Champion

Winner: Sofra Mcr

Shortlisted: BEE Adventures CIC & Chorlton Bike Deliveries

Winners

Community Cohesion

Winner: HideOut Youth Zone

Shortlisted: Lingua.GM & Manchester City of Sanctuary

The Dr Sylvia Sham Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Voluntary Sector

Winner: Peggy Connarty (Irish Community Care)



Trophies

ELLA MCINTOSH

Thank you to the talented Ella McIntosh for designing and creating the trophies again for this year's Spirit of Manchester Awards.

Ella McIntosh is based in the Manchester Craft and Design Centre and specialises in contemporary pewter metal work.



www.ellamcintosh.co.uk



ella@ellamcintosh.co.uk



Raffle

For this year, we decided to hold 2 raffles to allow everyone to participate and be in with the chance of winning one of the fantastic donated prizes!

Through having an in-person raffle at the event, and an additional online raffle that stayed open past Spirit of Manchester, we managed to raise....

£1209.00

for our Spirit of Manchester Fund! Thank you to everyone who purchased a ticket and congratulations to all who won a prize!

Read about our Spirit of Manchester Fund grants:
bit.ly/2023CostOfLivingGrants



With thanks to our award supporters



With thanks to our raffle supporters



Spirit of Manchester 2024

Thank you to everyone who made our 11th Spirit of Manchester Awards possible. The atmosphere was electric this year and we could not be more happy to be fully back to in person events. It was great to see so much celebration of the essential VCSE sector in Manchester.

Make sure to stay connected with us for announcements regarding the Spirit of Manchester 2024!



McrCommCentral



McrCommCentral



SpiritOfManchester



MaccManchester

Would you like to support an award in 2024?

Help support one of our Spirit of Manchester Awards! Get in contact with cheryl@macc.org.uk or jo@macc.org.uk for more information.

BECOME A MACC MEMBER TODAY!



FREE TO JOIN

WHY JOIN US?



Relevant and up to date information through our e-bulletin



Receive discounts on training and meeting rooms



Funding portal (available for Manchester VCSE organisations only)*



Access a range of free web resources



Link to Macc services and projects



Promote your news, events and job opportunities on our website



Members only Facebook group - share information, ask advice and post in the membership community



Make new connections and be a part of a network



www.manchestercommunitycentral.org/membership



membership@macc.org.uk

WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

- ✓ Manchester VCSE organisations
- ✓ Non-Manchester organisations
- ✓ Public sector bodies
- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Individuals/volunteers/active citizens



SCAN HERE