

The logo for Creative Factory features the words "CREATIVE" and "FACTORY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. A large, thick black bracket connects the two words, spanning the width of the text. The background is a collage of various images, including a person working on a computer, a person in a lab coat, and a person in a hard hat, all in a faded, artistic style. The overall design is modern and creative.

Building the Most Creative Town

The Origin

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership (MCP) was founded in 2018.

Culture Capital Prospectus was written in 2021.

CDF bid was successful in 2022, with £4.25m investment from ACE/DCMS.

Creative Vision and Masterplan (2023 -33) sets out Middlesbrough's ambition to be the most creative town by developing a sector that is four things: Valuable; Secure; Resourced; and Thriving.

Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership secured £2 million in Levelling Up Funds from Middlesbrough Council in 2024 and establishes Creative Factory.



Creative Factory - Mission

Long-term sustainability and investment for the cultural and creative sector.

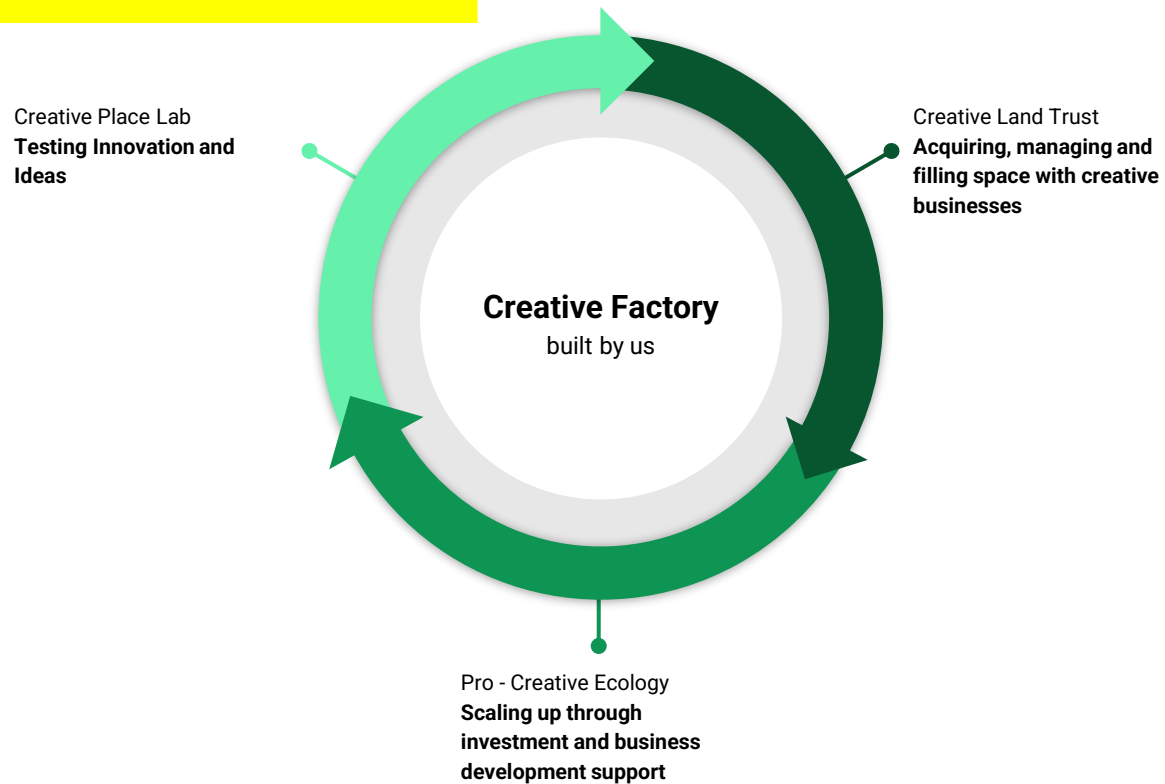
A Creative Land Trust, anchoring creative economies in Middlesbrough by developing 50,000 sq ft of creative space.

Sufficient surplus to reinvest in the creative sector and sustain long-term operations.

A resilient future for artists and creative businesses in the region by providing affordable, creative spaces, securing investment, and ensuring culture is the beating heart of Middlesbrough.



The Plan



The Progress

Project Director - leading on delivery, community engagement, partnership development, governance, acquisitions, capital development and first lettings.

Operational Team - includes Middlesbrough Council, Tees Valley Combined Authority members

Community-led governance, wide spread consultation steered by Middlesbrough Cultural Partnership

Property acquisition - 6,300 sq ft secured, mixed portfolio (commercial & residential, AT, auctions and surplus lists)

Shared mission - Embedding culture into Regeneration plans, partnering with TVCA on Place Partnership bid, a member of the Place Leadership Board

Strategic Foundations - Business and financial modelling, best practice, network development

The Spaces

Commercial: 46 Linthorpe

Work space // A Creative Embassy

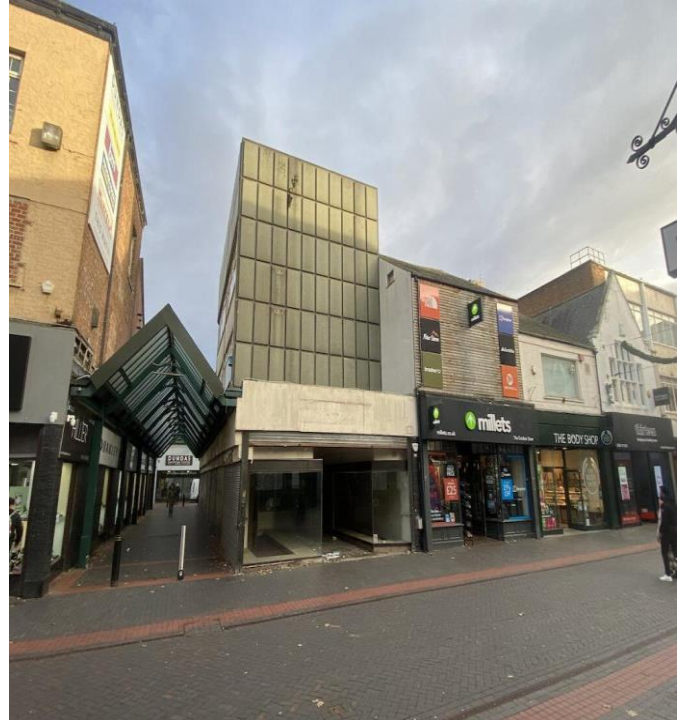
4,100 sq ft // Shell and core fit out

Residential: 91 & 132 Princes Road

Live/work space

2,200 sq ft (combined)

4 x 1 bed apartments (to be ready Jan 2026)



Placemaking Projects

Most Creative Train Station – 9 artist installations and 1 artist residency explored the station's heritage and the experience of commuter's today.

We Shall Be - groundbreaking community-led commissioning programme to transform public spaces around Middlesbrough's historic quarter

Parking Day – transformed a parking space on Albert Road on 19 September into a temporary public area for creativity, music, and conversation.

Forged – Supporting the delivery of a vibrant programme of public art in the Tees Valley, with the aim to tour nationally



Photo Credit: Rachel Deakin

Next Steps – Creative Factory

Complete legal setup (CLT & Charity)

Proof of Concept

Launch pilot test-trade and live/workspaces

Develop brand and comms strategy

Work with funders/investors to leverage investment/funding

Drive social and cultural impact through co-location, collaboration and storytelling

Measure economic and social impact



Next Steps – Culture Sector

2026

MIMA hosts Turner Prize and New Contemporaries
150th anniversary of Middlesbrough Football Club
10th anniversary of Orange Pip
Launch of Storytelling Festival
Develop a philanthropy programme for culture
EOI for UK City of Culture?

2027

10th anniversary of Middlesbrough Art Week

2028

300th anniversary of the birth of Captain Cook (100 years of Stewart Park)

2030

Boro 200: Celebration of Middlesbrough's Bicentenary
Teesside University's Centenary
Middlesbrough Mela's 40th Anniversary



Outputs/Outcomes

More creative spaces/clusters across the town

More artists, makers and innovators working here

Increase in jobs and investment contributing to economic growth

The town centre feels more welcoming and has a distinctive, experiential offer which increases footfall

Vacant/forgotten spaces are animated

Local graduate talent is retained and outside talent moves in

Public perceptions of Middlesbrough have improved

Levels of ASB in the town centre are reduced

The logo for Creative Factory features the word "CREATIVE" in a bold, sans-serif font, enclosed within a thick, black, stylized bracket shape. Below this, the word "FACTORY" is written in a larger, bold, sans-serif font.

CREATIVE

FACTORY

For More Info



www.boroculture.co.uk

[Most Creative Town Film - Click Here](#)