

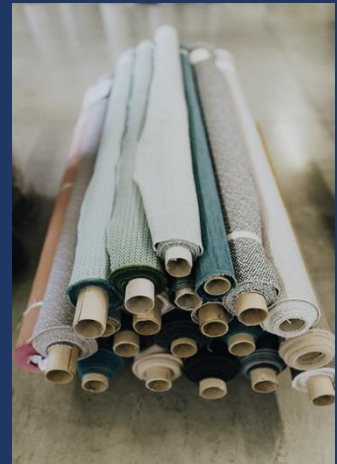
# Call for Cloth.

## **A YMCA Manchester youth led heritage project about cloth.**

This is a Youth led Heritage project. It explores our collective heritage through textiles, storytelling and artwork.

We all have a relationship with cloth, it is something which links us together. Its history is political, personal, theatrical, familial, intimate and spiritual. Clothing and cloth are imbued with personal stories.

In 2016, Call for Cloth was a new work commissioned by Tall Tales as part of their touring exhibition, the artist undertaking the work was Lauren Sagar; our project is based on this. The project gives young people an opportunity to shape, lead and co-design a project that collects stories and artifacts from older members of our families and communities to produce a new artwork, that is a heritage item.



Young people and others in the community will be invited to gift their stories and memories relating to specific items of cloth or clothing along with a description, the item itself, a photograph of the item or of someone wearing it, or even a drawing. All individual gifts will contribute towards a shared, yet deeply intimate community of stories. This will form our collective heritage.

The contributions will then be used to create an item or items of heritage for Greater Manchester. For example, building the community story through a fabric sculpture made from these contributions, the form will be co-designed

with young people. This will be through a series of workshops, either online or face to face, depending on Covid guidelines. A final heritage item(s) will be created and then shared.

This journey is intended to improve the wellbeing of those who take part through gaining a sense of belonging, connection and purpose, as reflected by someone who took part in the original project:



“I contributed an item of clothing which had been given to me by a dear friend, along with my story. I was also invited to take part in a workshop where we created individual artwork from the stories and items of cloth which had been gifted. Our artwork was then used to create prints which became part of the fabric of a final creation, a beautiful blanket, along with parts of clothing which people had contributed, including mine. The whole experience is one which continues to nourish me, and it is one I often go back to with the knowledge that part of me is immortalised in the final piece.”

We are inviting young people who are interested to be involved to come forward. If you are interested, please contact Nicole on [nicole@ymcamanchester.org.uk](mailto:nicole@ymcamanchester.org.uk)

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