

# CULTURAL QUARTER GUIDE



Leicester  
[visitleicester.info](http://visitleicester.info)

# LEICESTER'S CREATIVE HUB

CULTURAL QUARTER



**Steeped in Leicester's industrial heritage, the Cultural Quarter pulses with creative energy.** Grand old warehouses and listed buildings stand as testaments to the city's textile and shoemaking past. Yet, the Quarter isn't a museum – it's a vibrant fusion of history and innovation. Award-winning regeneration has breathed fresh life into the area, making it a haven for artists, designers, and kindred spirits.

Over the last two decades, the area has transformed from a former industrial powerhouse into a vibrant cultural hub buzzing with artistic energy. World-class theatre at Curve, independent cinema and digital art at Phoenix, huddled alongside a thriving community of creative businesses.



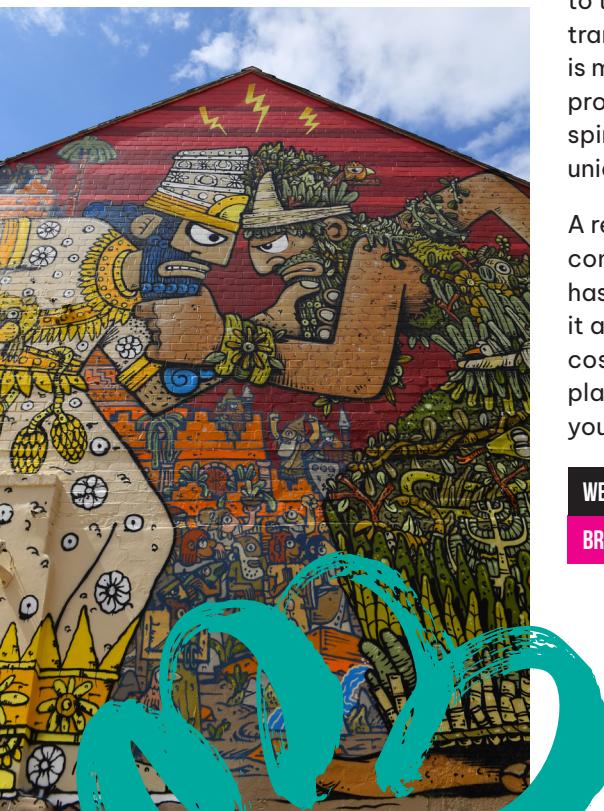
## **A VIBRANT FUSION OF HISTORY AND INNOVATION**

**The Bring The Paint International Street-Art Festival** has turned the Cultural Quarter's walls into canvases, showcasing works by renowned street artists. It's a living, breathing testament to the area's artistic soul. The transformation of the Cultural Quarter is much more than a regeneration project, it's a place where creative spirits assemble and ignite something unique and special.

A recent increase in residential studio conversions and business startups has sparked a vibrant energy, making it a centre for creative expression, cosmopolitan living, and an inspiring place to exist, whether it's your home, your workspace, or your playground.

WEB

[BRINGTHEPAINT.CO.UK](http://BRINGTHEPAINT.CO.UK)





# CURVE

Curve pushes boundaries as a leading UK regional theatre. Their stages, equipped for the most intricate productions, host not only acclaimed West End hits like **Billy Elliot**, **A Chorus Line**, **Evita** but also powerhouse local works and independent productions.

Beyond the curtain, Curve provides tours to unveil the magic behind the scenes, fostering a unique connection between audience and production.

A key community anchor in Leicester, Curve offers a range of workshops and children's programmes, inspiring local talent and providing hands-on experience, feeding a pipeline that could lead them straight to the Curve stage.

Their partnership with students at local colleges and universities provide opportunities for the next generation of talent to showcase their acting and production skills to an always appreciative audience.

SOCIAL

@CURVE\_LEICESTER

# 'NOW OFFICIALLY THE HOME OF WORLD CLASS PRODUCTIONS'

THE DAILY TELEGRAPH



EVITA (2023) Photography by Marc Brenner



THE OWL WHO CAME FOR CHRISTMAS (2023) Photography by Ellie Kurttz



A CHORUS LINE (2024) Photography by Marc Brenner



BILLY ELLIOT THE MUSICAL (2022) Photography by Marc Brenner

**MUSICALS | DRAMA | FAMILY SHOWS | COMEDY | DANCE | AND MORE**  
**LEARN | TAKE PART | CREATE | ENGAGE WITH CURVE**



**TICKETS 0116 242 3595**  
**WWW.CURVEONLINE.CO.UK**

CURVE THEATRE, LEICESTER



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL  
ENGLAND**



Curve is run by Leicester Theatre Trust Limited, a registered charity (no. 230578). We greatly appreciate and welcome the continued support of and partnership with the above organisations.

# PHOENIX

Phoenix independent cinema isn't your average multiplex. Their four screens showcase the freshest independent & arthouse films alongside the latest blockbusters. Curated festivals explore iconic classics, while themed global screenings and genre-focused events keep things exciting and varied.

Cinema goers can also access Phoenix's free exhibition space, featuring work by internationally renowned artists and photographers, often with a thematic link to film.

The on-site cafe and restaurant allows visitors to refuel with healthy, locally sourced meals, providing the opportunity to mingle with fellow creatives, and **Nest**, their rooftop bar, also gives you the chance to soak up the sun as you look out over the Cultural Quarter.

SOCIAL

@PHOENIXLEIC



**Leicester's independent  
cinema & digital art centre,  
located in the heart of the  
Cultural Quarter**

**4 cinema screens  
Café Bar  
Gallery  
The Nest rooftop bar  
Venue hire  
Roof terrace  
Courses & workshops  
Private screenings**



# Phoenix

**Find us**

**4 Midland Street, Leicester, LE1 1TG**  
**[phoenix.org.uk](http://phoenix.org.uk)    @PhoenixLeic**



# ART IN THE CULTURAL QUARTER

The Cultural Quarter is the centre of Leicester's artistic scene. This is where the world-renowned **Bring the Paint** festival began, leaving a legacy of striking street murals and ever-evolving outdoor art. To complement this, the Cultural Quarter boasts a vibrant network of exhibition spaces, seamlessly joining the indoor and outdoor galleries.

The **LCB Depot** features a constantly evolving exhibition space, where installations exploring design, fashion, and even AI art are showcased throughout the year alongside special shows by local and international artists. In recent years they have linked with Derby's International Photography Festival - **FORMAT** - showcasing creativity from around the world!



Katy & Robyn, Studio Technicians  
at Leicester Print Workshop



**Two Queens** gallery is the place where local artists work can be seen, alongside their displays and special events, and **Leicester Print Workshop** offers classes, courses and workshops in print making. And now The Real Ale Classroom and Exchange bar take work from the **LCB Depot** exhibitions, becoming an extension of the exhibition space and broadening their reach.

#### SOCIAL

[@LCBDEPOT](#)

[@TWOQUEENSLEICESTER](#)

[@LEICESTERPRINTWORKSHOP](#)

[@BRING\\_THE\\_PAINT](#)

[@GRAFFWERK](#)



Two Queens





## New & Refurbished Hotel - Opening 2025

The Grand Hotel Leicester is a stunning Grade II listed building which blends Victorian splendour with stylish rooms & urban interiors. Set in the heart of the city with easy access from Junction 21 of the M1 and only a three-minute walk from Leicester train station, making it the perfect venue to host conferences, business meetings, events and weddings.

With our 7 conference suites, 104 bedrooms, we can host up to 350 delegates in our largest conference room, a unique and historic space! There are 6 other meeting rooms in our hotel to welcome groups from 2 to 140 delegates, with complementing restaurant and bar.

Described in 1898 as the "*Temporary home of the elite of English society*" the Grand was designed as a statement in luxury and opulence and widely regarded as the finest hotel in the Midlands.



THE GRAND HOTEL  
LEICESTER

📞 0116 214 9257 | 📩 [events@thegrandhotelleicester.co.uk](mailto:events@thegrandhotelleicester.co.uk)  
🌐 [thegrandhotelleicester.co.uk](http://thegrandhotelleicester.co.uk) | 📱 [@thegrandhotelleicester](https://www.instagram.com/thegrandhotelleicester)

# FOOD, DRINK AND NIGHTLIFE

From casual bites to classy cocktails, the Cultural Quarter caters to every craving. Grab a coffee and fresh seasonal fare at **Gray's Café** in the LCB Depot, savour some of the city's best curries at **Chutney Ivy**, or explore North African cuisine at **Afrikana**.

For craft beer lovers, the **Ale Wagon** and **Real Ale Classroom** offer a vast selection of local and international craft brews. Craving a classy night out? Sip on expertly crafted cocktails at **The Exchange** bar or enjoy the upscale ambience of **Brick and Beam**. Soak up the summer sun with drinks on the rooftop terrace at **Phoenix's Nest** bar. And don't forget **Helsinki**, the city's top LGBTQ+ club, which has been a Leicester nightlife staple for over 40 years.

## SOCIAL

@AFRIKANAKITCHEN

@BRICKANDBEAMUK

@CHUTNEYIVY

@HELSINKICLUB

@THEREALALECLASSROOM

@THEEXCHANGEBAR\_

@GRAYSLCBDEPOT

@THENESTLEIC



The Exchange Bar



Saff, Gray's Café



Chutney Ivy



Steve & Ian, owners of The Real Ale Classroom



Last Friday at LCB Depot

# A HOME FOR CREATIVE BUSINESSES

## LCB DEPOT

**LCB Depot** is the beating heart of the Cultural Quarter, a place for co-working and to meet, eat, network, and find a home for your creative business. LCB offers support, advice, office space, great meeting rooms a vibrant calendar of creative, business and social events, and is home to award-winning **Gray's Kitchen** and an independent book shop, **Got Enough Books**.

Explore the Cultural Quarter with food nights, art exhibitions, networking for creatives, comedy, spoken word, creative family days, makers markets, popup shops, and much more. Get involved with the city's top creative scene meet-up **Last Friday**, featuring food, music, and more, attracting thousands on the last Friday of every month. There are regular **CQ Late** events which include club nights, after parties, pop up shops and gigs plus family-focused **CQ Earlies** which offer engaging hands-on activities for the kids on Saturday afternoons.

### WEB

[LCBDEPOT.CO.UK/EXHIBITIONS](http://LCBDEPOT.CO.UK/EXHIBITIONS)

[LCBDEPOT.CO.UK/EVENTS](http://LCBDEPOT.CO.UK/EVENTS)

### SOCIAL

@LCBDEPOT

@CQEARLIES

@CQLATES

@GOTENOUGHBOOKS



# CREATIVE BUSINESSES

The Cultural Quarter is a hub for creative businesses, including established design agencies like **Arch Creative**, **Some Bright Spark**, **Mojo**, **ImageNova**, **OnPoynt** and **Effect Digital**. The national headquarters of music licensing company **PPL PRS** also calls the former Leicester Mercury Building home, solidifying the area's connection to the creative industries and a range of young and inspiring businesses work from the offices at Colton Square, including the HQ of **Octopus Energy**.

## SOCIAL

@ARCHCREATIVE

@SOME\_BRIGHT\_SPARK

@MOJOPROMOTIONSUK

@IMAGENOVAMEDIA

@ON\_POYNT\_CREATIVE

@EFFECTDIGITAL

@PPL\_PRS

@OCTOPUSENERGY

James, Workspace Manager at LCB Depot

# MAKERS' YARD

Based in the city's oldest hosiery factories, now repurposed as a home for creatives, **Makers' Yard** is a studio space for artists and designer makers. This award-winning, dynamic and inspiring workspace is home to a wide range of creative entrepreneurs, artists, makers and artisans.

**As a hosiery factory the building dates back to 1854** and played a key role in the first and second world wars, producing clothing for our troops. Later on the 'swinging sixties' brought

a huge boost to the city, with Leicester becoming known as "the city that clothes the world", and the 'Charnwood Hosiery Factory' produced clothes for all, including socks for Liverpool FC, Manchester United and of course, Leicester City, plus the little known TV star Terry Wogan.

**Following its abandonment in 2002 and Grade II Listing status in 2006 Makers' Yard was lovingly restored in 2013.** Today the building offers a range of dedicated single-let studios and shared space for smaller enterprises, continuing that tale of creativity and making.

Visit the website to discover independent makers, and details of public events and creative workshops held in the building. [lcbdepot.co.uk/makers-yard](http://lcbdepot.co.uk/makers-yard)

SOCIAL

@MAKERSYARD



Independent artists and makers at Makers' Yard

# LIVE MUSIC

**Being a creative area, of course the Cultural Quarter is full of great places to hear the latest artists!**

**The Soundhouse** and **The Shed** are your go-to spots for discovering the hottest local acts, with the occasional touring gem thrown in the mix. For those nights where you crave soulful sounds, **Brick and Beam** bar boasts incredible live jazz artists and DJs spinning sets on weekends.

**LCB Depot** is also the place to hear some live music with their regular events and showcases. Country and western comes to Orton Square with

new venue **Baton Rouge** showcasing the ever popular genre with regular music nights and open mic spots alongside great food and a healthy dose of good ol' southern hospitality. You can also catch small scale shows at **The Real Ale Classroom** and **The Exchange**.

For those in search of something a little different and just a short walk from the Cultural Quarter is **The Musician**, offering a dose of blues, roots, and Americana from top touring artists and local musicians.

Right on the edge of the Cultural Quarter you can find **HQ Recording**, an award winning grassroots music production facility. They provide a relaxed, creative high quality studio environment across two rooms, with the latest in cutting edge digital software and hardware.

## WEB

[HQRECORDING.CO.UK](http://HQRECORDING.CO.UK)

## SOCIAL

@THE\_SOUND\_HOUSE  
@GETINTHESED94  
@THEMUSICIANPUB  
@HQRECORDING  
@BRICKANDBEAMUK  
@BATONROUGEATQUEENS

Yasin, Managing Director  
at HQ Recording Studio





# LIVING & STAYING IN THE CULTURAL QUARTER

Live in the heart of the action at the Cultural Quarter and find yourself a short stroll from the main shopping areas and historic core of the city. Leicester's Cultural Quarter is packed with new-build stylish apartments, sitting alongside loft conversions and refurbishments of old factories. Whether it's luxury apartments on Queen Street, Alexandra House, or conversions in St George's Mill, there's a perfect place to call home.





The Cultural Quarter is the ideal location to stay if you're visiting Leicester. Hotels in the area include the **Ramada Encore**, right at the entrance to the Cultural Quarter, and close by on Granby Street is the prestigious **Grand Hotel**, a Grade II listed Victorian building. Across the ring road you can find the **Ibis Leicester City** and **Premier Inn**, which is located in the 'Big Blue Tower' featuring Europe's tallest piece of street art!



# OTHER BUSINESSES

Beyond the creative buzz, the Cultural Quarter offers even more variety.

**Athena** is a stunning converted art deco cinema and caters to large conferences and events, creating a truly unique experience.

SOCIAL

@ATHENALEICESTER



Many of our top cultural producers are based in the area, thanks to spaces such as LCB Depot and **Phoenix Square** - an important hub for creative tech businesses, offering 30 workspace studios across 3 floors. The **Big Difference Company** run the **Leicester Comedy Festival**, the biggest comedy festival in Europe, which welcomes the top stars of stand up. **Inspirate** are responsible for **An Indian Summer Festival** which brings a flavour of South Asia to the Cultural Quarter every summer, and **ArtReach**, who are the creative minds behind the **Journeys Festival International**, **Light Up Leicester** and **Re/Thread**.



SOCIAL

@BIG.DIFFERENCE

@LEICSCOMEDYFEST

@INSPIRATEUK

@AISFESTIVAL

@\_ARTREACH



Let the kids burn off some energy at **Boost Trampoline Park** or you could sign up to an authentic **Bikram Yoga** class and sweat it out at this boutique hot yoga studio, located just across from the LCB Depot.

**SOCIAL**

@BOOSTLEICESTER

@BIKRAMYOGALEICESTER

And of course there are the businesses who support the community within the Cultural Quarter. The City Council's HQ - **City Hall** - is just across the road, and the **Ramada Hotel** offers co-working spaces. There are four barbers and hairdressers in the area **Tillys for Hair**, **1RD** (an original CQ resident business) **Eleganza**, and **New Luk**, and for those looking for more permanent beautification, there's **Sakura Tattoo** on Yeoman Street.



Hannah Elwell, owner of Bikram Yoga Leicester

The Visit Leicester Information Centre is located inside the King Richard III Visitor Centre at:

4A St Martins, Leicester LE1 5DB

**Opening hours:**

Monday - Friday: 10am - 4pm

Saturday: 10am - 5pm

Sunday: 10am - 4pm

T: +44 (0)116 299 4444

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All information in this guide is correct at the time of printing and may be subject to change without notice.