

## **Co-Creating Heritage: building community assets & enterprise**

This paper presents some of the findings from the AHRC-funded project Co-Producing CARE: Community Asset-Based Research and Enterprise ([cocreatingcare.wordpress.com](http://cocreatingcare.wordpress.com)), which explored the potential for collaborative crafting (online and face-to-face) as a process for building community assets through the dialogue and reflection that accompanies creative making. It focuses on the second phase of the project: 'Making Things Together: Co-Creating Heritage', which was led by CARE's Community Co-Investigator Deirdre Figueiredo, Director Craftspace, and involved groups in Birmingham and Dublin collaborating with the MakerNow FabLab at Falmouth University.

Located in Dublin Castle and Soho House Museum, Handsworth, and working with dedicated artist facilitators, the groups participated in a series of skill-sharing workshops to create a range of prototype designs that responded to their respective heritage environments. These were further developed in workshops at the Falmouth FabLab and the final pieces exhibited at Soho House and Dublin Castle. The team at Soho House were so impressed by the results that they offered the Birmingham group space to continue working and the opportunity to sell their pieces as bespoke souvenirs in the museum shop. The end of the project also marked the beginning of a journey in which community participants might bring added value to heritage museums by co-collaborating as craft producers and facilitators. Jointly delivered by Dr Hackney and Rachel West, this paper examines the experiences of those involved in the project and the work they produced to propose that Co-Creating Heritage provides a model for engaging community groups in heritage through creative work.

(250 w)

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