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Announcing the winners of The Big Draw Festival Awards 2025

From classrooms to care homes, this year's winners demonstrate the important role of creativity in bringing communities together across sectors.

The Big Draw is delighted to announce the winners of [The Big Draw Festival Awards 2025](#), celebrating creativity, community and connection through **drawing across a range of organisations and communities worldwide**, from Inverness to St Louis.

This year's winners include a **special education community school** in Derbyshire, a major **public art gallery**, a **care home**, and a **community led creative studio** in the Scottish Highlands. 2025 marked the 25th anniversary of The Big Draw, with organisations around the world coming together to celebrate the theme 'Drawn Together', focused on creativity, collaboration and connection.

The awards were judged by a distinguished panel: **Catherine Ritman-Smith** (Head of Learning and Engagement at Young V&A and V&A East), **Jane Sillis** (former Director of Engage), and **Narinder Sagoo** (architect, artist and Senior Partner at Foster + Partners).

The Awards celebrate outstanding contributions to the Big Draw Festival 2025, with **four awards and eight commendations** selected. The **People's Choice Award**, voted for by the public, was won by Isle of Riso. This year also saw the introduction of **three new award categories**: the Drawn Together Award, Creative Innovation Award and Legacy Award.

Matilda Barratt, Director of The Big Draw, said:

"Every year we're blown away by the imagination and creativity of our Big Draw organisers worldwide. The responses to our 25th anniversary theme, 'Drawn Together', and the breadth of entries we received was incredibly heartwarming. The winning and highly commended entries perfectly demonstrate how drawing can build confidence, inspire learning, and bring people together. A huge congratulations to all those recognised in The Big Draw Festival Awards 2025, and thank you to everyone who helped make our 25th anniversary year such a success!"

Jane Sillis, a judge on the 2025 selection panel, praised the quality and diversity of entries:

"It was an honour to help with the selection of the Big Draw Awards and hearing about so many amazing projects exploring drawing. Such impressive examples of inspiring ways for children, young people and adults to use drawing creatively. The Awards demonstrate beautifully the power of drawing and the importance of the Big Draw Festival."



2025 Big Draw Festival Award Winners

Winners

- The 'Drawn Together' Award: [Kingsdale Foundation School](#)
- Big Draw Schools Award: [Alfreton Park Community School](#)
- Creative Innovation Award: [Leeds Art Gallery](#)
- Legacy Award: [St Stephen's Care Home](#)
- People's Choice Award: [Isle of Riso](#) (Alice Prentice)

Highly Commended

- [St Louis Artists' Guild](#) (Drawn Together Award)
 - [North Hertfordshire College](#) (Drawn Together Award)
 - [Strong Close Nursery](#) (Schools Award)
 - [Cheadle Hulme High School](#) (Schools Award)
 - [Gainsborough's House](#) (Creative Innovation Award)
 - [Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School](#) (Creative Innovation Award)
 - [North Devon Arts](#) (Legacy Award)
 - [Inspire: Culture, Learning & Libraries](#) (Legacy Award)
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Accepting the award, **Jane Bhoyroo**, Principal Keeper at Leeds Art Gallery, said:

"We are thrilled to have been awarded the Creative Innovation Award for our 'Sculpture Drawing' event in Central Court at Leeds Art Gallery. We made the decision to locate this year's ambitious Big Draw event in this iconic space for the first time and were fortunate to work with artist in residence Nichola Pemberton. We were thrilled to see so many visitors responding to the space through collaborative mark making on their freestanding sculptures crafted from large pieces of paper."

Jeanette Matthews, Home Manager at St Stephen's Care Home, commented on the impact of receiving the Legacy award:

"Knowing that we actually won was absolutely fantastic. It's going to benefit the residents so much, and everyone was so pleased to hear just how well they'd done"

Alice Prentice, founder of Isle of Riso, and winner of the People's Choice Award 2025, said:

"We are delighted and so proud to have received the Big Draw Festival 2025 People's Choice Award for our event in Inverness called 'Drink and Draw'. We want to say a huge thank you to everybody who voted for us, it means the absolute world... I cannot wait to tell them that 'Drink and Draw' is an award-winning event!"



Among the highly commended projects, **Gainsborough's House** reflected on receiving recognition for their work:

"We are over the moon to be highly commended... for everybody involved it's a huge achievement. It's definitely the start of Big Draw Festivals at Gainsborough's House!"

Ravenscourt Park Preparatory School (RPPS) also received high praise from the judges. Head of Art and Design **Andra Raduca** said:

"Creative education belongs to every child across every discipline. It is what drives everything we do here at RPPS... Thank you so much for recognising our work."

ENDS

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NOTES TO EDITORS:

The Big Draw is an arts education charity promoting the universal language of drawing as a tool for thought, creativity, and social engagement. The Big Draw (formerly The Campaign for Drawing) was launched in 2000 by The Guild of St George, the charity founded by John Ruskin in 1871 - becoming an independent arts education charity in 2006.

The charity leads a diverse programme of advocacy, empowerment and engagement, and is the founder and driving force behind The Big Draw Festival - the world's biggest celebration of drawing. The charity supports professional and emerging artists through its national contemporary art prize, The John Ruskin Prize and exhibition, and through events, awards, and competitions, creates platforms for anyone who wants to make a mark.

www.thebigdraw.org | Charity no. 1114811

Since launching in October 2000, **The Big Draw Festival** has encouraged over five million people back to the drawing board. It has notched up two world records - for the longest drawing in the world (one kilometre) and the greatest number of people drawing simultaneously (over 7,000). The first Big Draw Festival in 2000 attracted 180 partner organisations. Since then, the number has risen to over 1,000, with up to 500,000 people participating each year.