

It's actually happening. We've been given the go ahead!

Sometimes it can be a bit tricky working out what everyone envisages in their mind. We always ask members (that includes you by the way!) what they want from the Creative Together centre here on Swan Street in Manchester city centre. Trips, art, textiles, music, cookery, creative writing. Mostly you all want to produce great work, an opportunity to show the world that you are worth something, everything, that you have something to offer the planet.

"You are You, I Am Me" were the words of E when Jess was recording our podcast. Never a truer word spoken. This was echoed by our wonderful S when she chose the slogan "BE YOU, NOT THEM" for her textiles project. We are all unique, one of a kind. Every single one of us has something precious and wonderful to bring to the table.

So we have decided to host our own Creative Support music festival this summer!

Firstly we are hosting a Creative Support Eurovision Song Contest! You can perform at the centre, Zoom in or send us a video (filmed just on a phone is fine!) The contest date is Thursday 4th May 1pm – 4pm. The winner will receive an all-expenses paid trip to Manchester to perform on the main stage at the Be You Not Them Festival!

I know, I know, the first thing that comes to mind is "I can't sing and I don't play an instrument."

Then you're in good company. In the same way that it takes a village to raise a child – it requires a gathering of good souls to pull off an event that touches people's hearts. This is an opportunity to show the world what we're made of – kindness, passion, creativity, motivation, grit.

We are looking for people to meet and greet the festival goers, move sound equipment (roadies), design a back drop for the stage, sprinkle the centre with glitter, sell drinks, serve in the snack shack, give out wristbands, sell t-shirts, check tickets, sing, bang drums and most of all share themselves with the Creative Support Community so they can be seen and heard. We believe in you.

If you don't fancy the work bit then I can vouch for our comfy chairs. Pull up a pew. The kettle is on and we're really looking forward to welcoming you. Get your glad rags on, don those sparkly tights, wear your favourite t-shirt and find the cool corner. Tickets go on sale soon....

The BE YOU NOT THEM FESTIVAL is here!!