

MANCHESTER SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE



Visit msa.ac.uk for more information



Archives +

**MSA
LIVE 21**

Team

Haoran Jiang (M Arch 01)

Jacques Lachetta (M Arch 01)

Shuhan Liu (M Arch 01)

Nadir Mahmood (M Arch 01)

Tim Scopes (M Arch 01)

Taiming Si (M Arch 01)

Katie Harrison (BA 01)

Aaria Anand (BA 01)

Liu Shangjia (BA 01)

Martina Dimitrova (BA 01)

Jaeme Viala (BA 02)

Ziqing Shen (BA 02)

Haoqing Xu (BA 02)

Partners

The Proud Trust is a life saving and life enhancing organisation that helps LGBT+ young people empower themselves, to make a positive change for themselves, and their communities. They do this through youth groups, coordinating national and regional LGBT+ youth work networks, managing the LGBT+ Centre for Manchester, delivering of training, running events and campaigns, undertaking research and creating resources.

Archives+ is an exciting City Centre showcase and repository for archives and family history. Situated in the magnificent Manchester Central Library, this purpose-built centre brings together a partnership of amazing regional and national collections of documents, photographs and films, and helps to satisfy a growing demand for accessible community history and personal heritage. It is easier than ever before for you to find what you're looking for under one roof!

Emily Crompton is a senior lecturer at the MSA, leading the Year 1 undergraduate programme and a co-lead for the MArch atelier PRAXXIS. Emily has a strong relationship with the The Proud Trust, from working in collaboration with them for many years. Over the past five years she has been researching the Manchester LGBT+ Centre's heritage and design. As an expert advisor on The Proud Trusts Buildings Re-Building Board, Emily has been documenting and researching the demolition and rebuilding of the LBGT+ Centre. Emily is interested in looking at the city in unexpected and unusual ways and is always interested in the other side of the story.

Agenda

Our Proud Past

'Our Proud Past' is a collaboration between the MSA and The Proud Trust, in which we will "takeover" Archives+ in the Manchester Central Library. Over the 2 week project we curated a digital exhibition in the form of a website, creating a visual history of Manchester's LGBT Centre. Alongside this we curated a Zine, providing a booklet with original illustrations of the LGBT Centre, alongside inputs from the Manchester LGBT youth group, LGYM. The zine is intended to be sold at the exhibition when it opens at the library, to raise funds for The Proud Trust, as well as a resource for The Proud Trust to use with their youth groups.

Collaborating across year groups, we produced a purely digital outcome, however the curation and illustrations used will form the basis of the physical exhibition at Archives+ in the future. This project has a strong social value - it's all about the history! Whilst we created this exhibition/ zine, we uncovered the LGBT+ center's rich history together, by working as a community, having workshops, building our knowledge, and exhibiting our findings, whilst improving the skills of the BA groups with tutorials and workshops in InDesign, Photoshop and web design.

The physical exhibition, opening in the future at Manchester Central Library, is a celebration of 40 years of Manchester's LGBT Centre, and looks at the various locations it has inhabited, alongside the various people it has helped, and the impact it has had on the area. Our digital project, 'Our Proud Past' aims to be a companion to the physical exhibition, creating a website with pages that can be linked through QR codes from the exhibition, for visitors to find out more, and also to facilitate access to the rich history of the centre for those unable to visit Manchester Central Library. Additionally, the website forms a base that The Proud Trust, Archives+ and Emily Crompton can add to in the future if they discover unseen archive material, allowing for the history of the centre to be preserved on an online format.

The zine, taking from the LGYM youth group's mantra 'nothing about us without us' helps document the group user's views and feelings towards the old and new centre building's, alongside the history of the centre. Other tasks throughout the 2 weeks aimed to support the physical exhibiton, such as the transcribing of centre users' 'love letters' to the centre, allowing for them to be a part of the upcoming physical exhibition, as well as creating paper net models of the centres for exhibition visitors to build at home.

A visual history of Manchester's LGBT Centre

Creating a zine was a key part of our project, allowing us to present a visual history of the LGBT centre in a way that is easy to digest for those reading it. Additionally, we wanted to be able to give something back to The Proud Trust; by creating this Zine design it could potentially be printed and sold at the physical exhibition, helping to raise money for the Proud Trust charity, supporting their continued work with the Manchester LGBT community.

From speaking with our partners prior to the project we found out that 'nothing about us, without us' was a key phrase and motto for the Proud Trust and it's associated groups; it would be pointless creating a zine about the history of Manchester's LGBT centre without getting the users and staff of the centre involved in the project, so they could share their views and contribute. As part of the two week project we were able to visit 2 youth group workshops with LGYM, run online, to meet the young people who use the centre, and get their insights into how they feel about the centre. We managed to get their inputs and were able to create zine pages based on their memories of the old LGBT centre, and their hopes about the new LGBT centre that was due to open in a couple of months. These insights into how

the centres were used were brilliant, and sat alongside the historical facts about the centre as a way of making the zine about the people who inhabit the buildings, as well as the buildings themselves.

The group first started with an in-depth search of the archive, provided to us by The Proud Trust and Manchester Central Library. To split the task, we assigned each member a set of documents to look through and pull out all the relevant data for the project. This was done using an online Miro board, so everyone had the opportunity to read what each person was finding, and so that it could be organised chronologically. The documents dated back to 1975 where MAGIC (Manchester Gay Information Centre) was first formed, by a group concerned that there was a need for a general information service for gay people in Manchester, which through the years has developed into the LGBT+ centre that we know of today.

Many of the team were shocked by some of their findings, especially regarding the amount of hate crime towards members of the LGBT+ community, and the security measures that were put into place to protect those using the centre. This led the group into a discussion



Image Top:
Mockup of Zine pages about the move of Manchester Gay Alliance into 61A Bloom Street
Created by Aaria / BA1

Image Bottom:
Zine spread about the building of the new gay centre in 1988
Created by Katie / BA1

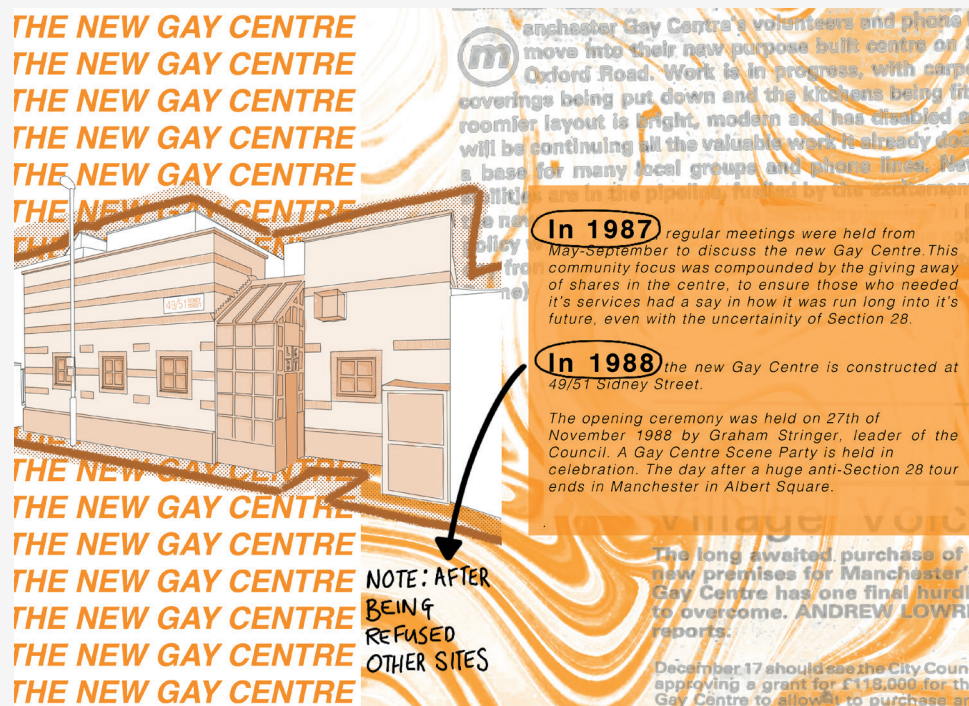


Image Bottom:
Zine spread about the building of the new gay centre in 1988
Created by Katie / BA1

Top Left:
Illustration produced by
an undergraduate student
showing the new 2021 Gay
Centre.
Created by Aaria / BA1



Top Right:
Zine single page about
the Manto bar and Gay
Switchboard.
Created by Aaria & Shangia
/ BA1

and mind mapping exercise about what we know about queer history, as well as the discrimination and issues members of the community experience around the world today, drawing on their own unique experiences.

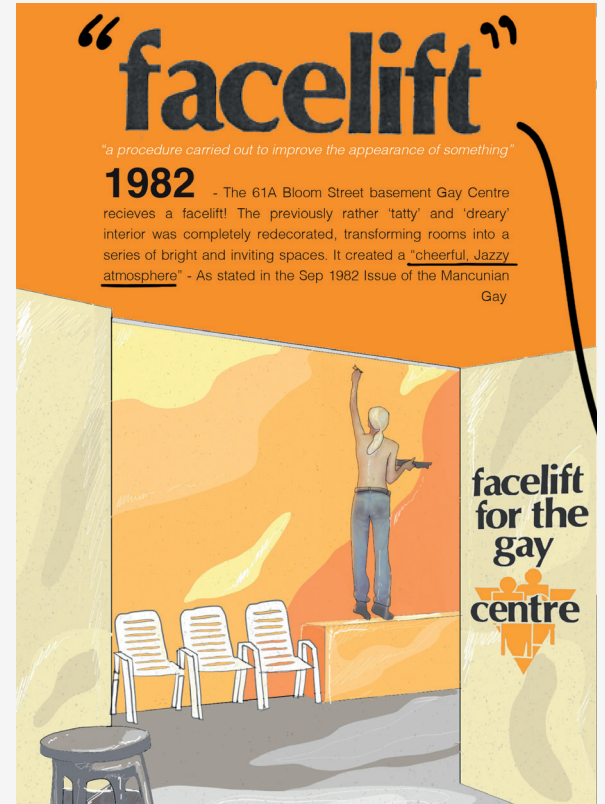
After the undergraduates had extracted the data from the archives, it was time to collate and organise it into its specific decade groups and themes. These became the main pages of the website as well as used throughout the zine to create a visual timeline. To go alongside the text, the team worked on creating images and illustrations that helped narrate the story of the LGBT+ Centre, with the medium of the image up to the individual, but with a focus on being bright and eye-catching.

After creating the images, the team began to produce the pages for the Zine, combining the historical research with the images into eye catching pages. As the team had varying skills on InDesign, we split into our groups again and had tutorials to teach the basics as well as interesting tips and tricks.

After creating the zine pages, we gave a tutorial on how to combine pages in InDesign, as well as how to export them.

The zine now lives as a digital PDF file, ready for The Proud Trust to print and sell, but also as a digital zine uploaded to Issuu which features on the website we created.

ourproudpast.wordpress.com/zine



Bottom Left:
Zine spread introducing the
70s decade section.
Created by Shangjia / BA1



Bottom Right:
Screenshot of the
interactive Zine viewing
facility on our website.
Created collaboratively.

Zine

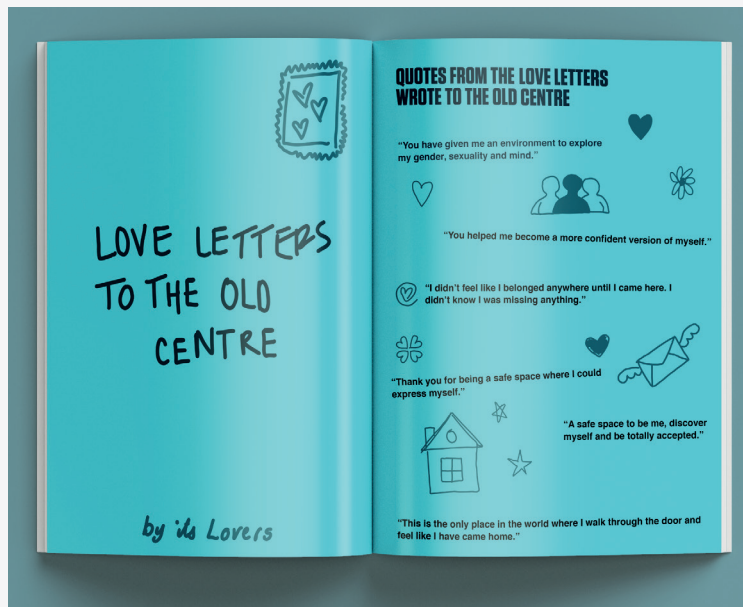
Digital zine created by Manchester School of Architecture students in collaboration with LGYM Youth Group, The Proud Trust and Emily Crompton.



Mockup of Zine double page spread about the repeal of Section 28 in 2003. Created collaboratively.



Zine spread of quotes from users of the old centre's love letters. Curated by Ziqing / BA2, created collaboratively.



Opposite Page: Zine singular page about the introduction of Section 28 Legislation.

WHAT IS SECTION 28

Lesbian and gay organisations yesterday attacked Labour for supporting an amendment to the Local Government Bill which they fear may force local authorities to cut off their grants.

The amendment, put forward by Tory backbenchers, will ban "the promotion of homosexuality" in schools, and the funding of organisations that promote homosexuality.

Voluntary organisations fear that the word "promote" could be used to encompass their counselling activities. Mr Tony Waller, of the Manchester Gay Centre, accused Labour of contravening party policy.

The Manchester centre receives £25,000 a year from Manchester city council. If that was withdrawn, "we would battle to survive but it is virtually our total income," he said.

This bill, introduced in 1988, sparked protests across the country. Luckily, the Manchester Gay Centre's funding was upheld, as it was considered 'welfare promotion'. See the 2000's section for more info!

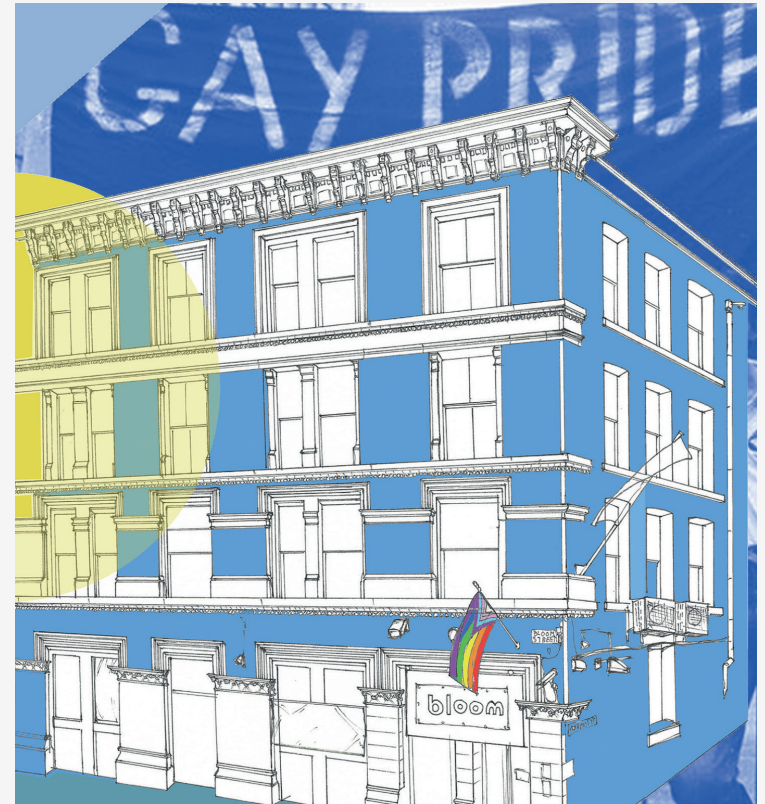


Top:
Zine page of Canal Street
as it is now.
Created by Jaeme / BA2

Bottom:
Zine wordsearch spread,
with historical newspaper
articles in the background.
Created by Martina / BA1.



Illustration of Bloom Bar in
the Gay Village, 2021.
Created by Jaeme / BA2



Alongside the curation of historical information for the Zine, we wanted to include a few puzzles at the end, to allow those reading it to engage and interact with the knowledge of the previous pages.

The tasks of creating a crossword and wordsearch were allocated to the undergraduates; this also tested them and ensured that they had learned about the history of the centre, as they had to select key words or places to be included, alongside writing clues for the crossword based on the information we had curated previously.



Illustration of blue pasta
featured in the zine,
inspired by a story told to
us by a LGYM Youth Group
attendee.
Created by Shangjia / BA1



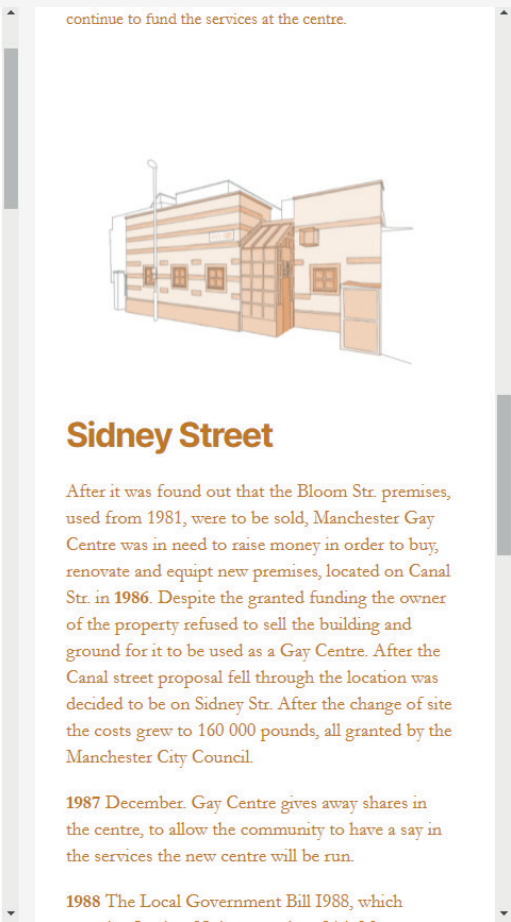


A visual history of Manchester's LGBT+ Centre



Bloom Street

From 1981 Manchester Gay Alliance moved into 61A Bloom Street, another basement location.



Sidney Street

After it was found out that the Bloom Str. premises, used from 1981, were to be sold, Manchester Gay Centre was in need to raise money in order to buy, renovate and equip new premises, located on Canal Str. in 1986. Despite the granted funding the owner of the property refused to sell the building and ground for it to be used as a Gay Centre. After the Canal street proposal fell through the location was decided to be on Sidney Str. After the change of site the costs grew to 160 000 pounds, all granted by the Manchester City Council.

1987 December. Gay Centre gives away shares in the centre, to allow the community to have a say in the services the new centre will be run.

1988 The Local Government Bill 1988, which

Digital Exhibition Website

A pandemic proof-alternative to the physical exhibition.

Originally the partners wanted us to curate the physical exhibition, however with a purely digital output required we decided upon a website to compliment the eventual physical exhibition.

Much like the Zine, we wanted the website to be broken down into specific decades/eras, to allow for the information to be easily digested.

As a partner to the physical exhibition we were conscious that the Archives+ space wouldn't allow for all the information we curated to be displayed, so as well as showing what would be in the exhibition we wanted to display other information that might not have otherwise been shown to the public, that we had found during our look through the archives.

The undergraduate team assembled this information into the decade era categories, along with the illustrations that we had created for each era/key point, to go onto the website.

After a tutorial on how to use Wordpress to create websites, they were given free reign to upload the historical information and images to each page, focusing on the key

points that they thought were most relevant to each era.

As a group we then decided on a visual theme and identity for the site, deciding on fonts and colour schemes as a way of giving a tutorial of the Wordpress platform. Whilst the zine was designed to create a visual feast for the eyes, with every page different to keep the reader's attention, the website was planned to be more cohesive, allowing for linking from the exhibition and a coherent style to allow for the information to be easily digested.

Alongside the era pages we asked the undergraduates to create other pages, including a page of information about the upcoming physical exhibition, and an 'about' page to inform readers about the Proud Trust as an organisation. Additionally a page was created to upload the Zine to, so viewers of the website could also view this.

The site is optimised for both desktop and mobile viewing, allowing people who visit the future exhibition to check the website for extra bits of information as they walk round.

ourproudpast.wordpress.com

Image Top: Desktop Homepage with menu bar at top.

Image Bottom-Left: Mobile view of 1980s page, top of page.

Image Bottom-Right: Mobile view of 1980s page, lower down.

Paper Nets

Modelmaking adapted for the digital programme

When speaking with our external partners, one thing that they specifically requested were physical models that could be displayed in the exhibition of the library, both of the pre-2020 centre, and of the new centre due to open this year.

The challenge we faced was that due to the coronavirus pandemic, the undergraduate students weren't allowed to meet up and collaborate on making a physical model. However, the undergraduate students commented that they wished to learn how to use SketchUp during the two week project, as it would help them in future years of their study.

We tasked the students with creating a 3D digital model of each building in Sketchup, working in pairs, to understand the building in more detail. They used Google Streetview to find views of the buildings, to understand how they were formed in 3D, before creating a simple block model. From this we asked them to use the dimensions to create mini scale model 'nets', which could be cut, folded and stuck together.

The process required some working out, with them printing several iterations before they came up with the final form that worked - we

discovered that one A4 sheet for all the components made the models too tricky and fiddly to build, so 2 were required, with the divide between the components carefully chosen.

We also found that the tabs needed to be added manually, with letters enabling the ease of assembling. We left the models black and white, so that the people who made them could choose the colouring themselves, making each one individual.

These paper net models were incorporated into the rest of the project in the following ways:

- As a PDF download on the website, allowing people to create the models at home, only needing a pair of scissors, glue and a printer.
- A guide in the Zine containing a link/QR code to the website, allowing people to print from home.
- An area in the physical exhibition for visitors to make the models, with colours for them to decorate - they can take them home, or keep them in the exhibition on display.

2 models were created, one for the old centre and one for the new.

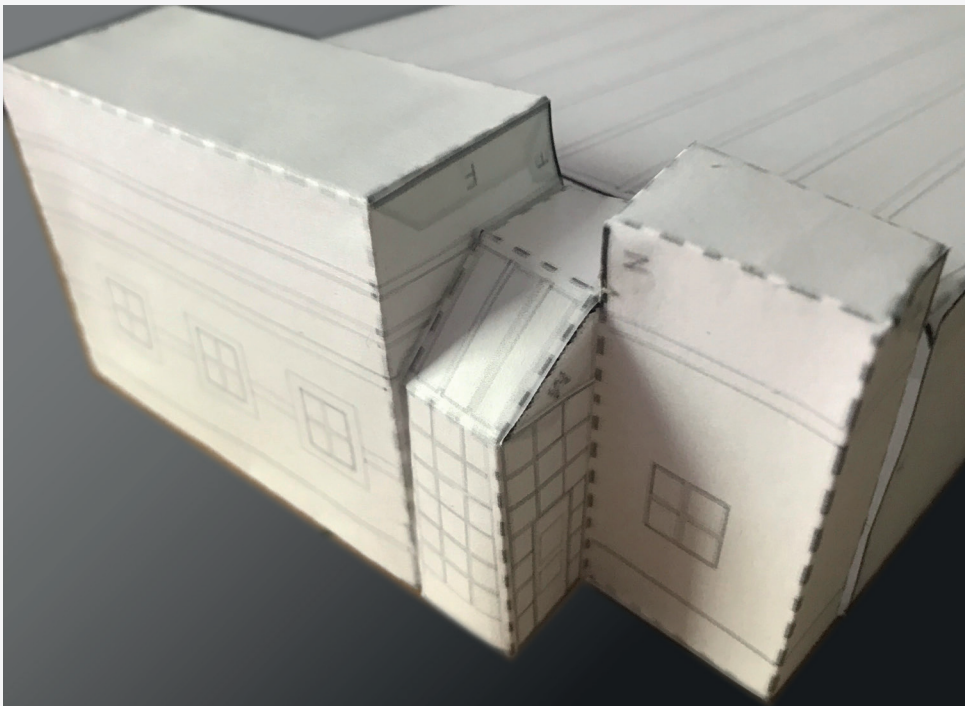


Image Top:
One of the A4 Model pages as a flat net of the old building.
Created by Katie / BA1

Image Bottom:
An assembled trial of the old building net.
Created by Katie / BA1

The new centre model was created by Haoqing / BA2.

ABOUT

Each year the MSA Live (formerly Events) programme unites M Arch. year 01 with B Arch. year 01 and 02 and M Land. Arch 01 in mixed-year teams to undertake live projects with external partners to create social impact.

LIVE PROJECTS

All MSA Live projects are live. A live project is where an educational organisation and an external partner develop a brief, timescale, and outcome for their mutual benefit.

SOCIAL IMPACT

All MSA Live projects have social impact. Social impact is the effect an organization's actions have on the well-being of a community. Our agendas are set by our external collaborators.

EXTERNAL PARTNERS

MSA LIVE projects work with many organisations: charities, community groups, social enterprises, community interest companies, researchers, practitioners and educators.

STUDENT-LED

Our MSA masters students take the lead in the project conception, brief development, delivery and co-ordination of a small project. Other cohorts join for an eventful 2 weeks of activities at the end of the academic year.

KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

Working in teams within and across year groups and courses; MSA students participate in peer to peer learning. In addition, collaborators, participants and students engage in the transfer of tangible and intellectual property, expertise, learning and skills.

LARGE SCALE

This year approximately 600 students from 4 cohorts in MSA will work on 42 projects with partners.

QUESTIONS

For questions about MSA Live 21 contact MSA Live Lead: Becky Sobell:
b.sobell@mmu.ac.uk

BLOG

live.msa.ac.uk/2021

SOCIAL

#MSALive21

@TheMSArch

@MLA_TheMSArch

WEBSITE

www.msa.ac.uk