NEWS RELEASE

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Heritage Crafts and City & Guilds Foundation award two new bursaries for Black and ethnically diverse trainees

Heritage Crafts and the City & Guilds Foundation are delighted to award two new bursaries for Black and ethnically diverse trainees in heritage crafts.

These bursaries follow three previously provided through the partnership, intended to support trainees from diverse backgrounds experiencing financial hardship, as the UK continues to deal with the ongoing cost-of-living crisis.

Hannah Girvan is a Devon-based early-career furniture maker and architectural joiner who works for Woodlab, making furniture from local wood that they kiln-dry on site. Their bursary will allow them to undertake a one-to-one apprenticeship there, alongside spending up to a week per month at fine furniture school Williams & Cleal. Their goal is to develop a skillset based on eco-forestry principles. They plan to teach and speak in support of an inclusive culture in heritage crafts, helping craftspeople of the future.

Leena Patel is an Edinburgh-based early-career jewellery maker. For the last two years she has attended weekly community-based jewellery-making sessions. Her bursary will allow her to complete a one-year foundation course to continue on her jewellery-making journey. The course would provide an in-depth knowledge into the skills required to become a jewellery maker and designer. Ultimately, she hopes to start a business, and to encourage a diverse range of people with different backgrounds and

cultures to feel comfortable and able to consider jewellery making or other crafts as part of their future.

It is still the case that the UK craft sector does not accurately reflect the diversity of the UK as a whole and, for this reason, we are taking positive action to target this bursary at Black and ethnically diverse groups who are currently under-represented.

Heritage Crafts and the City & Guilds Foundation believe that the value of our craft heritage comes from the diversity of skills and traditions across all of our communities, whatever their background. Hannah and Leena's bursaries follow three others supported through the partnership: stone carver **Marcia Bennett Male**, split wood basketmaker **Michelle Mateo**, and carpenter and joiner **Nkosi Kerr**.

The City & Guilds Foundation is part of the City & Guilds charity, and its programmes are targeted to help everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, have opportunities to succeed.

City & Guilds Foundation Advocacy Lead **Lauren Roberts** said:

> *"Quality skills development for all is at the heart of what we do at the City & Guilds Foundation. We are incredibly excited to be continuing our partnership with Heritage Crafts to support black and ethnically diverse individuals, and are very proud to support learners on their journey to be highly valued members of the heritage community."*

Heritage Crafts Endangered Crafts Manager **Mary Lewis** said:

> *"We are thrilled to be continuing our partnership with the City & Guilds Foundation to help redress the historic imbalance of opportunity that has resulted from both overt and hidden discrimination within the heritage crafts sector. We are very excited so see the new generation of makers as much more reflective of modern British society."*

ENDS

Contacts:

- For more information contact **Tess Osman**, Grants and Awards Officer – tess@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo caption:

- Hannah Girvan, furniture maker.
- Leena Patel, jewellery maker.

About Heritage Crafts

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered as the 'Heritage Crafts Association', the advocacy body for traditional heritage crafts. Working in partnership with government and key agencies, it provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies and guilds, as well as individuals who care about the loss of traditional crafts skills, and works towards a healthy and sustainable framework for the future. Its aim is to support and promote heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage.

www.heritagecrafts.org.uk

About the City & Guilds Foundation

The City & Guilds Foundation is part of the City & Guilds Group charity, and has a specific focus on high impact social investment, recognition and advocacy programmes. Each of the programmes it runs act as a catalyst to make a difference to people, organisations and society, through investing part of its surplus and resources into helping everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, get opportunities to succeed.

https://cityandguildsfoundation.org