



Creative Folkestone announces new Chief Executive to lead charity into the future.

Today, Creative Folkestone is delighted to announce that Philippine Nguyen will take on the leadership of the organisation as our new Chief Executive this September.

Philippine Nguyen will join us from her current post as Head of Cultural Programming at the London Borough of Waltham Forest, where she has been since 2023. Prior to that, she was the co-founder and Executive Director of Art Night, a national contemporary art festival, where she successfully raised more than £3.5m across six editions and was responsible for financial management, stakeholder relationships, governance and fundraising.

Speaking about her appointment, Philippine said: *"Folkestone is an incredibly special place, and I have long admired the visionary work of Creative Folkestone. From its extensive learning and literary programmes, the internationally renowned Triennial and the exceptional artworks situated across the town, to the vibrancy of the Creative Quarter and Quarterhouse, and the quiet, inspiring setting of Prospect Cottage, the breadth of projects the charity leads is exceptional. It's an immense privilege to lead Creative Folkestone into the next stage of its journey as we look forward to the 25th year of the organisation and the 20th anniversary of the Triennial in 2028."*

Philippine joins the organisation at an exciting time, following the internationally acclaimed Folkestone Triennial 2025 and looking ahead to both 20 years of Folkestone Triennial and the 25th anniversary of Creative Folkestone itself. She will take over from Alastair Upton MBE after 14 years of his transformative leadership.

Creative Folkestone's Chair, Sir Roger De Haan says *"After a rigorous and thorough recruitment process, I am delighted that Philippine will be joining us as our new CEO. Creative Folkestone faces an exciting future under her leadership. Philippine is a worthy successor to Alastair Upton who will leave this summer after a very successful period in charge of our charity that has had such an important role in Folkestone's revival."*

As Creative Folkestone looks to the future, the charity remains committed to championing creativity, enabling artists and communities, and ensuring Folkestone continues to be recognised as a place where ambitious ideas, cultural exchange and creative opportunity can thrive.

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For press information, interviews or images, please contact:

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About Creative Folkestone

Creative Folkestone is a visionary arts charity leading the transformation of Folkestone through creativity, ambition and community. We believe that everyone is creative, and that creativity has the power to change people and places for the better.

At the heart of our work is the Creative Quarter, a thriving neighbourhood of artists, makers and independent businesses. It is a living example of how creativity can regenerate a town, creating opportunities and inspiring pride in where we live.

Through Folkestone Book Festival we bring together leading writers and thinkers to explore ideas that shape the world around us. The festival celebrates the written and spoken word as a space for dialogue, curiosity and connection.

Our Learning and Participation programme ensures that creativity is open to everyone. Working with schools, young people and community groups, we enable new voices to emerge and empower the next generation to lead the town's cultural future.

We also produce the Folkestone Triennial, the UK's largest exhibition of newly commissioned public art. Artists are invited to use the town as their gallery, creating striking works that connect local stories with global themes. Previous commissions include works by Cornelia Parker, Jeremy Deller, Cristina Iglesias and Richard Wilson.

Across our venues, from Quarterhouse, our performing arts space, to Prospect Cottage, the former home of filmmaker and artist Derek Jarman, we lead, enable and champion creativity in all its forms.

Together, our projects demonstrate the power of imagination to transform a place. We are ambitious for Folkestone's future and committed to enabling creativity to shape a more vibrant, inclusive and inspiring town for everyone.