£4.3m of Cultural Development Funding to deliver an ambitious vision for the Thames Estuary Production Corridor. The funding has been awarded to contribute to the development of the Thames Estuary, making it a world-leading location for creative and cultural industries. This will cover areas including Basildon, Canterbury, Dartford, Medway, Southend-on-Sea, Thanet, and Thurrock.

Plans for the funding include building a programme of activity that develops infrastructure, R&D and innovation, training for local businesses and the commission of new cultural products. The investment will help support the creation of over 500 creative industry jobs, and 60 apprenticeship opportunities for young people. The funding has come from the £20m Industrial Strategy Cultural Development Fund launched by the Government to use investment in heritage, culture and creativity as a catalyst for regeneration.

The award has been made to the University of Kent, on behalf of the Thames Estuary Production Corridor Partnership, a partnership involving the South East Creative Economy Network and South East Local Enterprise Partnership, Kent and Essex County Councils, 11 local authority areas represented by Thames Gateway Kent Partnership and Opportunity South Essex, University of Kent, University of Essex, and cultural organisations Metal and Whitstable Biennale.

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