

The Mighty Creatives announce two charity patrons at annual Be Mighty Be Creative Awards ceremony

The new patronage honours singer-songwriter Mike Batt's longstanding success in the music industry, alongside Switch Up CEO and Founder, Marcellus Baz BEM, and his commitment to empowering Nottingham's young people to break the cycle of offending and reoffending.

26th November 2020, Leicester, UK – The Mighty Creatives, the leading cultural education charity in the East Midlands, celebrated its annual Be Mighty Be Creative Awards last night on the 25th November. During the live online event, video presentations from singer-songwriter Mike Batt and founder and CEO of Nottingham-based organisation Switch Up, Marcellus Baz BEM, revealed the appointment of both new patrons.

In a poignant speech by Mike Batt, streamed to around 100 viewers, he spoke of the importance of artistic stimulation for disadvantaged young people. He also recalled the influence of his parents' artistic backgrounds, commended the work of The Mighty Creatives in supporting children and young people, sent his congratulations to all of the finalists and winners, and thanked the charity for welcoming him into his role as patron.

Marcellus Baz discussed his work as founder and CEO of Switch Up and Nottingham School of Boxing, working with young people to come out of a life of crime. Marcellus also expressed how honoured and humbled he was to be named as a patron of The Mighty Creatives and his passion for helping vulnerable young people from deprived backgrounds or with complex issues, including those carrying childhood adverse trauma. He talked of the importance of providing the right tools, options and opportunities to empower these young people to reach their full potential. He ended by congratulating all of the finalists.

The winners of the Be Mighty Be Creative Awards 2020 are:

- **The Creative Learning Award** - Berry Hill Primary School and Corrina Brown
- **The Creative Leader Award** - Naji Richards
- **The Primary Schools Award - Best Creative Project** - Pennine Way Junior Academy
- **The Secondary Schools Award - Best Creative Project** - Fountaindale School
- **The Creative Community Award** - Derby Theatre
- **The Creative Voice Award** - Jenny Hibberd
- **The Emerging Artist Award (16-30)** - Bilal Sayeed
- **The Emerging Artist Award (9-15)** - Sophie Galbraith
- **The Creative Enterprise Award** - Kerry Hogwood
- **The Creative Fundraiser of the Year Award** - Soft Touch Arts
- **The Kevin Ryan Community Hero Award** - Chris Lewis-Jones

Mike Batt, singer-songwriter, comments:

"I met Nick Owen up at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts last year, and he told me all about the work his team do at The Mighty Creatives. A while later he invited me to become their first patron, and I was thrilled to be asked. Bringing the arts into the lives of young people who would otherwise have limited opportunity for artistic engagement is a really valuable thing to do. I've met key executives and some of the other supporters of The Mighty Creatives and I'm very much inspired by their dedication and level of skill and experience. I look forward to a long and enjoyable association with them."

Marcellus Baz, CEO at Switch Up, comments:

"I'm honoured to have been invited to become a patron of such an amazing organisation that does such phenomenal work across the East Midlands and beyond. The focus of Switch Up is very much about supporting disadvantaged young people to reach their true potential and help transition them into employment training and education opportunities. It's imperative that we, as a society, provide young people with various routes to reaching their true potential. Those who are less academic often thrive when they are given access to art and an outlet for their creativity. The Mighty Creatives helps nurture this talent and so this is a partnership that I'm confident will really make a positive difference to many young people."

The Be Mighty Be Creative Awards, usually held as a physical event in the spring, had been postponed from March this year due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Rescheduled to November, the online event brought together young people, schools, cultural organisations, sponsors and funders to shine a spotlight on the endeavours of the children's workforce and to celebrate children and young people as the next generation of talented creative leaders and producers.

Winners across 10 categories were announced by a range of sponsors and presenters, with an eleventh award included in memory of Kevin Ryan, a dear friend and colleague of The Mighty Creatives. Kevin was the successful CEO of Charnwood Arts, a community arts organisation based in Loughborough. He took the company from a small local forum into a pioneering, nationally and internationally recognised arts. The award recognised creative people across the region who had gone the extra mile to help children and young people, their families and local community during the Covid-19 crisis.

Nick Owen, CEO at The Mighty Creatives, comments on the announcement:

"To say I'm delighted that two eminent cultural leaders of their fields are joining us today as the first ever TMC patrons, would be an understatement. I grew up listening to Mike Batt's work through the joy of my younger brother and sister as they danced, sang and wombled their way through their young lives. They were unforgettable times of growing up. And now I've grown up a bit more, I've witnessed many more young people be inspired by Marcellus Baz and the huge difference he is having on the stories of their lives. Whilst they're both from very different fields, what binds them to us and to each other is the passion they share for transforming the lives of children and young people, and I thank them both for their belief in and support of The Mighty Creatives and our vision."

The Mighty Creatives would like to thank all of the finalists, donors and sponsors of the 2020 Be Mighty Be Creative Awards for their invaluable support.

To view the finalists of the Be Mighty Be Creative Awards 2020, and for more information on how to enter or become a sponsor in 2021, please visit www.themightycreatives.com/be-mighty-be-creative-awards.

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About The Mighty Creatives

Established in 2009, [The Mighty Creatives](http://www.themightycreatives.com) is a charity which has transformed the lives of children and young people through arts, culture and creativity. Based at the heart of the cultural quarter in Leicester, our beneficiaries are children and young people from birth to 30 years old across the East Midlands.

We work in partnership with children and young people, key funders and sector partners to champion, develop, deliver and grow:

- services that can be scaled up, demonstrate reach and result in significant and measurable cultural and social impacts
- inspiring opportunities for children and young people to engage with arts and culture
- investment in children and young people's own creative skills, knowledge and practice
- capacity in the cultural and education sectors to support the infrastructure of the region
- programmes of cultural and creative education regionally, nationally and internationally
- models of practice which ensure that the creative voices of children and young people are at the heart of all our programmes.

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