



Wonder Women 2016

In 2018, British women will celebrate 100 years since they first won the (partial) right to vote. Wonder Women is a five-year campaign running since 2013. It is Manchester's annual creative take on this anniversary, a commemoration of the Suffragette movement born in our city, celebrating how far we've come in 100 years – and asking how far we have yet to go.

2016 marks Wonder Women's half way point. We want to build on what the festival has so far achieved on little to no budget, but plenty of collaboration, creativity and goodwill. In 2013 42,000 people took part in the festival. In 2014 over 90 events were produced in 35 venues across Manchester and Salford throughout March spanning theatre, exhibitions, gigs, gallery takeovers, cinema, guided walks and debate. Jeanette Winterson is one of our supporters. Last year we collaborated with The Wellcome Collection and the WI. We have the support of established and emerging promoters and producers across the city. We want to continue to harness this ambition in a truly exciting programme celebrating the past, present and future might of Manchester women, raising the ambition in the run-up to 2018.

Wonder Women 2016-18 will reflect the issues that concern women in Manchester and Salford today, in science, technology and sport, as well as in art, music and culture. We'd like to see after-hours fun, workshops, lively panel discussions, performances, film screenings, tours and events that leave audiences feeling invigorated, stimulated and empowered. Wonder Women will kick-start conversations about the challenges facing a diverse range of women in the fight against inequality, and inspire new audiences, partners and influencers to get involved and have their say.

As ever, the success of the festival is down to the combined energy of Wonder Women's programming partners. Wonder Women is as great as the Manchester people building it. In order to continue to grow Wonder Women into an ambitious festival by 2018, we need your help.

What we need from you:

- Save the date: come to one of two programming meetings on 13th (6pm) and 23rd October (10 am) for Wonder Women 2016 information sharing and briefing.
- Share your Spring 2016 activity planning and key dates with us now; and work with us to create an exciting Wonder Women event within your programme.
- Tell us about your networks; in what ways do you work with women's groups and issues within Manchester? How can we involve them more in what we are doing?
- Tell colleagues and interested parties about Wonder Women 2016.

If you have any queries or questions please contact:

Catherine O'Donnell at People's History Museum on catherine.odonnell@phm.org.uk

Ben Williams at Creative Tourist on ben@creativetourist.com

creativetourist.com

