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PRESS RELEASE

LEEDS CIVIC TRUST & LEEDS CITY COUNCIL'S LGBT+ HUB OPEN NOMINATIONS FOR A RAINBOW PLAQUE TRAIL

Leeds Civic Trust is delighted to be working with Leeds City Council's LGBT+ HUB to create a special Rainbow Plaque trail throughout Leeds city centre this summer. Displayed during August and September, the rainbow plaques will mark people, places and events that have shaped our city's LGBT+ story.

From Angela Morley (the first openly transgender Academy Award nominee) to Alice Bacon MP, who was instrumental in the decriminalisation of homosexuality; from Leeds Town Hall (an historical focus of rallies and campaigning) to the entertainment district in Lower Briggate, Leeds has much to commemorate, contemplate and celebrate.

We are asking members of the public to nominate places, people and events that have shaped and reflect the city's diversity. Nominations are open until the 30 March and can be made via Leeds Civic Trust's website.

Trust Director, Martin Hamilton said "We are delighted to be supporting this venture, following the success of a similar scheme in London. The LGBT+ story of Leeds is a fascinating and important one, and through these plaques we hope to communicate it to a wide audience."

Cllr. Al Garthwaite, Leeds City Council Lesbian and Bi Women's Champion said; "Leeds Pride, Heritage Open Days and LGBT+ History Month are all very important events for the city annually. It is great to see Leeds Civic Trust working with the LGBT+ Hub and members of the community to deliver this LGBT+ History trail during the period these events are held. Our ambition is to have a strong economy within a compassionate city and I hope that this encourages people to come into the city centre and have an opportunity to learn about some of the amazing LGBT+ people who have helped contribute to the cities' success."

Notes to Editors

Please note:

- To make the trail accessible, the Rainbow Plaques will be based in the city centre. Successful candidates, places and events will have their plaque put up in a prominent location

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- Rainbow Plaques can commemorate:
 - people (who may still be alive today), but have contributed to the LGBT+ story of Leeds.
 - events that are important in Leeds' LGBT+ history (this could include recent or more historical events)
 - places (buildings, locations) that have significance for the LGBT+ community in Leeds
- All nominations will be considered and decided by the Rainbow Plaques organising group. We anticipate that 12-15 #rainbow plaques will be displayed in total in the first year.
- Maps will be available during August and early September for the general public to walk the Rainbow Plaque trail.

Further Information

For further information, please contact Martin Hamilton, Director Leeds Civic Trust

Nominations can be submitted via the Trust website www.leedscivictrust.org.uk

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