

# Community Murals CIC

Community Murals was founded by Andrew Bolton in 2022 as a way for disabled and other minority communities to connect and discover their potential by creating high-quality murals for public places.

## Challenges

Andrew's progressive neurological condition motivated him to become involved in disability activism. Andrew recognises that disabled individuals are isolated, leading to a loss of confidence and unfulfilled potential. Four times as many disabled people over 16 feel lonely compared to non-disabled people and twice as many are unemployed. Andrew envisioned using art as a way to encourage people with disabilities to reintegrate into society.

## Solution

Andrew brings together members of the community to create murals as a collective in public spaces for everyone to see and enjoy. Andrew has worked with communities all over the UK, displaying murals on youth centres, schools and public buildings. This creative process is a fun and expressive way for disabled community members to convey powerful images and messages campaigning about issues which matter to them. Andrew's work encourages debate, giving a voice to marginalised people from all sections of the community including the disabled, refugees and asylum seekers, ethnic minorities and those living in poverty.

## Achievements

So far, Andrew has helped over 100 people develop a deeper understanding of who they are and build their confidence. Each person finishes a project feeling proud that they achieved something they didn't think was possible before.

## What's Next?

As Andrew's neurological disorder worsens it will make it difficult for him to complete the murals, so he hopes to be able to invest in a manager.



**“I've learned to take myself more seriously because it never occurred to me that I could actually successfully start and run a business [...] and be taken seriously by national and international partners.”**

## Social Business Wales Support

- UnLtd awarded Andrew Ecwiti funding to help him purchase IT equipment and software to start Community Murals.
- [Social Firms Wales](#) mentored Andrew through the fundamentals of setting up the company.

Andrew doesn't think he would be where he is now without UnLtd's support saying they are "willing to go a long way out of their way to help".

- *Find out more about Social Business Wales support available to social entrepreneurs living in Wales [here](#).*
- *Find out more about Community Murals [here](#).*

