



HERITAGE
CRAFTS

18



78

CITY & GUILDS
FOUNDATION

NEWS RELEASE

Monday 16 May 2022

Opening up opportunities: City & Guilds Foundation and Heritage Crafts announce new bursary for Black and minority ethnic trainees

The City & Guilds Foundation and Heritage Crafts are delighted to announce a new bursary for Black and minority ethnic trainees in heritage crafts.

The first bursary is being awarded to **Nkosi Kerr**, who moved to the UK from Tobago in 2019. An incredible talent, he was taught carpentry by his father, a well-respected craftsman.

With the support of the bursary, Nkosi will complete a Level 3 Bench Joinery course at the Building Crafts College in London setting himself up to make significant progress in his carpentry career.

It is still the case that the UK craft sector does not accurately reflect the diversity of the UK as a whole and, for this reason, we are taking positive action to target this bursary at Black and ethnically diverse groups who are currently under-represented.

The City & Guilds Foundation and Heritage Crafts believe that the value of our craft heritage comes from the diversity of skills and traditions across all of our communities, whatever their background.

The next bursary will be opened for applications on the Heritage Crafts website in the summer. To be notified when applications go live, please email Mary Lewis at mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk.



The City & Guilds Foundation is part of the City & Guilds charity, and its programmes are targeted to help everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, have opportunities to succeed.

City & Guilds Foundation Advocacy Lead, **Lauren Roberts**, said:

“Quality skills development for all is at the heart of what we do at the City & Guilds Foundation. We are incredibly excited to be working with Heritage Crafts in their mission to support black and ethnically diverse individuals, and are very proud to support learners on their journey to be highly valued members of the heritage community.”

Heritage Crafts Operations Director **Daniel Carpenter** said:

“We are thrilled to be working with the City & Guilds Foundation to provide bursaries for Black and ethnically diverse groups and help redress the historic imbalance of opportunity that has resulted from both overt and hidden discrimination within the heritage crafts sector. We are very excited to see the new generation of makers as much more reflective of modern British society.”

ENDS

Contacts:

- For press information and photographs, contact **Daniel Carpenter**, Operations Director – daniel@heritagecrafts.org.uk.
- For information about this bursary, contact **Mary Lewis**, Endangered Crafts Manager – mary@heritagecrafts.org.uk.

Photo caption:

- Nkosi Kerr, carpentry trainee.

About the City & Guilds Foundation

The City & Guilds Foundation is part of the City & Guilds Group charity, and has a specific focus on high impact social investment, recognition and advocacy programmes. Each of the programmes it runs act as a catalyst to make a difference to people, organisations and society, through investing part of its surplus and resources into helping everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, get opportunities to succeed.

About Heritage Crafts

Founded in 2009, the Heritage Crafts is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) registered as the 'Heritage Crafts Association', the advocacy body for traditional heritage crafts. Working in partnership with government and key agencies, it provides a focus for craftspeople, groups, societies and guilds, as well as individuals who care about the loss of traditional crafts skills, and works towards a healthy and sustainable framework for the future. Its aim is to support and promote heritage crafts as a fundamental part of our living heritage.

www.heritagecrafts.org.uk