

## news stories

# Creative space in the Cultural Quarter

**A former hosiery factory with a rich history is being transformed into purpose-built studio spaces for creative entrepreneurs.**

Built in 1860, the Grade II listed building in Rutland Street is believed to be the oldest hosiery factory of any size to survive in the East Midlands. It will become a dedicated workspace for professional artists and designers, when it opens in November.

The factory is being renovated sensitively to keep period features such as heavy iron doors, cogs and steelwork in place. Building work began at the site, in the heart of Leicester's Cultural Quarter, back in March.

The £1.05 million renovation scheme has been funded through the European Regional Development Fund and the Working Neighbourhoods Fund.

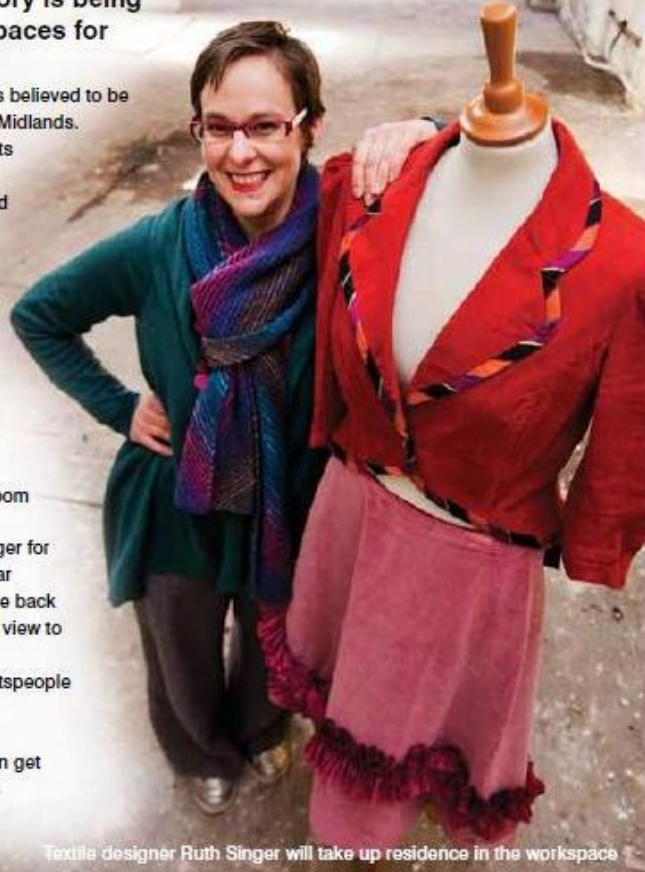
City mayor Peter Soulsby, who officially launched the building work, said: "This exciting new project will help restore one of the city's historic treasures and support our growing community of creative business people."

The site will include 10 large studio spaces and a kiln room around a central courtyard, with a spacious rear garden.

Julia Hamer, marketing and service development manager for the new workspaces, said: "We'd be really interested to hear from people who have creative ideas for the use of the large back garden – and anyone who wants to tour the building with a view to renting one of our spaces is welcome to contact us.

"This is going to be a fantastic place for artists and craftspeople to be based – at the heart of the Cultural Quarter in this purpose-built facility."

To express interest in a space or to find out how you can get involved, email [info@lcbdepot.co.uk](mailto:info@lcbdepot.co.uk) or call 0116 261 6800.



Textile designer Ruth Singer will take up residence in the workspace