

A VAULT OF GALACTIC WONDERS



THE CARGO HOLD



CONCEPT

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ENTER THE HOLD. EXIT REALITY.

The Cargo Hold is a collaborative exhibition space and creative community hub in Peterborough where sci-fi prop makers, model builders, and artists can showcase their creations, connect with like-minded enthusiasts, and reclaim storage costs by turning their collections into an immersive visitor experience.

Housed in the city centre retail unit, The Cargo Hold transforms props, costumes, and models—often hidden away in garages or workshops—into a dynamic sci-fi and fantasy museum environment, blending fandom, craft, and innovation while generating income through admissions, merchandise, and special events.

The Cargo Hold also helps to safeguard and promote the city's cultural heritage, donating a percentage of profits to support Peterborough's Independent Destination Management Organisation.

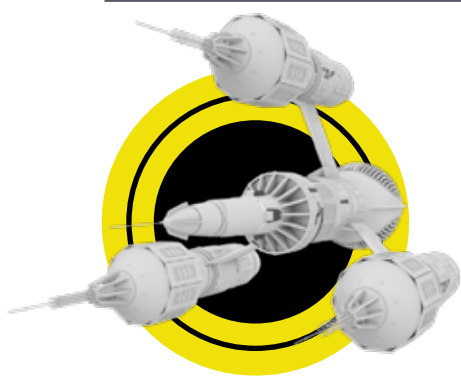
Mission Statement: *To celebrate, preserve and showcase the extraordinary craftsmanship of independent prop and model makers, while building a sustainable and collaborative community space for education, inspiration and innovation.*



 THE
CARGO
HOLD

WHY JOIN THE HOLD?

CALL TO COLLECTORS, MAKERS, AND ARTISTS



Imagine a space where your painstakingly crafted props, meticulously built models, or rare collectibles aren't hidden in storage—but celebrated by thousands of fans in a living, breathing sci-fi museum. The Cargo Hold offers you:

Part ownership in your very own sci-fi museum – curated and contributed by the very people who build the magic.

No more storage woes – free up your garage, shed or rented unit by turning your creations into admired centrepieces.

Professional visibility – your name, story, and creative process displayed alongside your work.

Creative collaboration – network with fellow makers, develop new projects, and grow your audience.

Touring exhibition opportunities – your work could travel with curated showcases to major galleries, museums and fan events.

Royalties and revenue share – for touring exhibits and special displays.

Whether you're a prop builder for film and TV, a passionate replica artist, or a collector of iconic fandom artefacts – you deserve to be part of something bigger. This isn't just a display space. It's a movement.

THIS ISN'T A COLLECTION OF THINGS. IT'S A COMMUNITY OF THINKERS, DREAMERS, AND DOERS



WHAT'S IN A NAME?

The Cargo Hold isn't just a practical name — it's a loving nod to the very universes that inspired many of us to build in the first place. In Star Wars, the smuggling compartments of the Millennium Falcon hid the Rebellion's secrets. In The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy, it's a chaotic space of unexpected stowaways. In Alien, it's a confined place where danger lurks — and story unfolds.

It's a metaphor for forgotten treasures, concealed potential, and the hidden brilliance of the maker community. Just like the cinematic cargo holds of legend, this project is about rediscovering the magic inside the storage... and sharing it with the galaxy.

ORGANISATION



COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

Limited by guarantee and eligible for grant funding.



MEMBER-LED

A steering group with rotating representatives.



VOLUNTEER-RUN

With potential for future paid roles.



ABOUT THE HOLD



WHERE CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY, AND CRAFT CONVERGE



PUBLIC EXHIBITION SPACE

- Rotating displays of member-contributed props, costumes, and models.
- Themed immersive zones (e.g. "Starship Hangar", "Post-Apocalyptic Wastes").
- Interactive exhibits with QR-coded maker stories and behind-the-scenes insights.



MAKER STORAGE & DISPLAY SOLUTION

- Affordable monthly storage for members' props in curated display zones.
- Reduces reliance on costly self-storage while giving work public visibility.



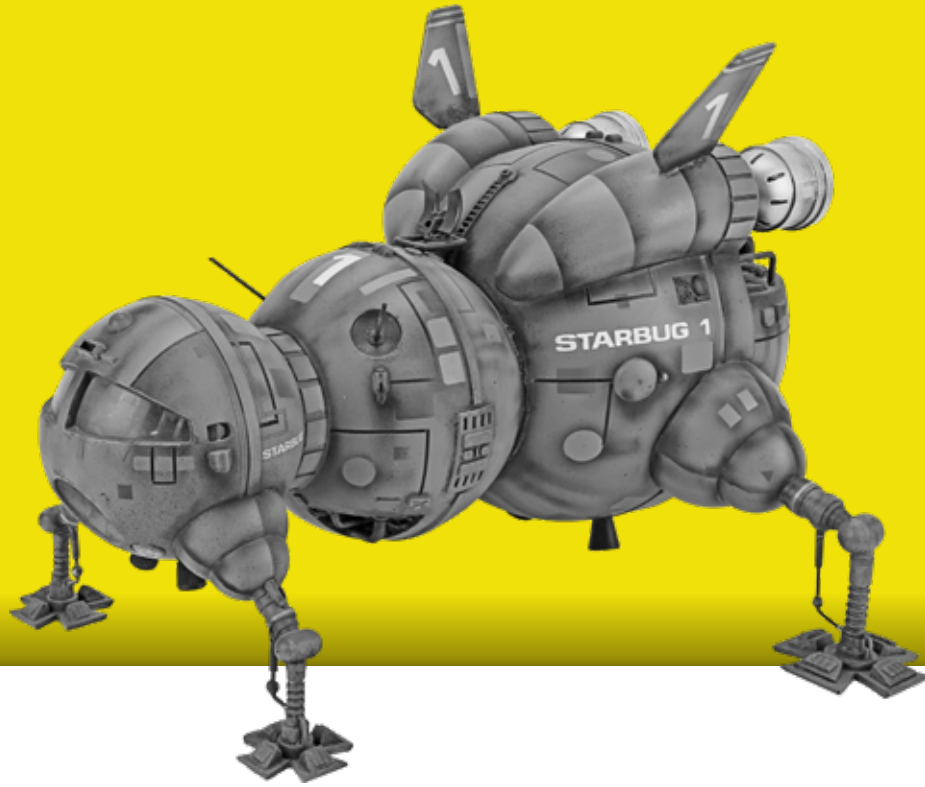
COMMUNITY PROGRAMMING

- Prop-building masterclasses, cosplay meetups, model-making tutorials.
- Schools programme linked to STEM and arts curricula.
- Events calendar including guest talks, retro film screenings, and sci-fi swap meets.



WORKSHOP & STUDIO

- Shared tools and workspace for model-building, electronics, painting, and repairs.
- Rentable photo/video studio with green screen and lighting rigs for content creation.



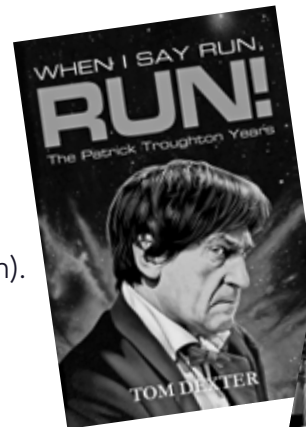
TOURING EXHIBITION MODEL

- Curated, modular exhibitions can be taken on tour to museums, galleries, and cons.
- Participating makers receive attribution and profit share.
- Builds profile and prestige for all Cargo Hold contributors.



REVENUE STREAMS

- Ticketed public entry and guided tours.
- Membership tiers (Maker, Enthusiast, Patron).
- Workshop/class fees and studio hire.
- Prop hire for events or productions.
- On-site merchandise and art.
- Crowdfunding (Patreon, Adopt-a-Prop).
- Touring exhibition licensing.



WHY PETERBOROUGH?

A NATURAL HOME FOR THE CARGO HOLD

Peterborough is often overlooked in the national cultural conversation — but that makes it the perfect launchpad for something new, bold, and maker-led. The Cargo Hold will be a flagship attraction in a city ready to transform its cultural identity. Here's why Peterborough is the right place, right now:



DEEP ROOTS IN MAKING & STORYTELLING

- **Engineering Legacy:** Home to generations of makers — from Perkins Engines to A.I. and 3D printing — Peterborough understands hands-on innovation.
- **Film & TV Contributions:** Peterborough has quietly supported the screen industry through regional fabrication, locations and talent. It's time to bring those contributions into the spotlight.
- **Craftsmanship Culture:** With a long tradition of building, crafting, and creating, the city aligns perfectly with The Cargo Hold's hands-on, prop-focused ethos.



SUPPORTIVE CREATIVE INFRASTRUCTURE

- **Friends of Peterborough Museum & Art Gallery:** A passionate local organisation committed to celebrating the city's cultural heritage.
- **Peterborough Film Office (2024):** A newly launched civic initiative dedicated to supporting film production and screen culture.
- **ARU Peterborough:** A modern university campus with creative and STEM students ready to engage, learn, and participate in the Cargo Hold ecosystem.
- **'This is Peterborough' Festival (2026):** A major city-wide celebration of identity, creativity and innovation. As a developing cultural initiative, it offers a timely platform to seed investment, showcase early exhibitions, and connect with audiences.



A PLATFORM TO SHAPE, NOT COMPETE

Unlike cities already saturated with cultural venues, Peterborough offers:

- Vacant, adaptable retail space
- Affordability for creators, residents and visitors
- A clean slate — allowing Cargo Hold to define a new identity for the city
- In Peterborough, we're not fighting for space — we're claiming it.



ACCESSIBLE, CONNECTED, AFFORDABLE

- 45 minutes from London by train
- Direct rail links to Birmingham, Leeds, Cambridge & Norwich
- Easy road access (A1(M), A47)
- Central accommodation and venue hire is significantly cheaper than in larger cities



A NEW LANDMARK DESTINATION

With a growing population and cultural ambition, and its strong community of creatives, The Cargo Hold isn't just a good fit — it's a transformational opportunity. The Cargo Hold puts Peterborough on the map as a place where fandom meets heritage, where creativity drives tourism, and where makers finally have a home of their own.

LAUNCHPAD PETERBOROUGH

A CITY TOURIST INFORMATION & BOX OFFICE HUB

BEYOND THE HOLD: UNLOCK EVENTS, ATTRACTIONS & EXPERIENCES

As well as being a destination in its own right, The Cargo Hold will also function as Peterborough's most imaginative tourist information point and city box office — a central hub where visitors can discover, plan, and book their journey through the city's cultural landscape.

From inside the immersive world of sci-fi props and maker culture, visitors will be able to purchase tickets (on a commission basis) to museums, theatres, galleries, festivals, heritage sites,, and more — even booking combination attraction passes and accommodation packages with partner hotels. Whether it's a time-travelling tour of the Cathedral, a night at the theatre, or a weekend stay curated around Peterborough's hidden gems, The Cargo Hold connects it all.

BENEFITS TO THE CITY:

- **Increased footfall and dwell time** in the city centre, driving local economic activity.
- **Cross-promotion of attractions**, boosting attendance across the cultural sector.
- Commission-based model **reinvests revenue back into the city's visitor economy**.
- **Partnership opportunities** with hotels, transport providers, and independent venues.
- **Joined-up storytelling** — positioning Peterborough as a creative, historic and innovative city.
- **Sustainable tourism** — encouraging longer visits, better planning, and wider engagement.

This isn't just a museum. It's a launchpad — your first stop on a journey through everything Peterborough has to offer.



「
**SCI-FI AND
SIGHTSEEING?
YES PLEASE!**」



Attraction
Tickets



Combination
Passes



Hotels &
Restaurants



What's On
Listings



Local
Partnerships



Schools
& Groups



**Tourist
information**

CALL FOR FOUNDERS



A CREATIVE COLLECTIVE, BUILT BY THE MAKERS THEMSELVES

WHAT IF THE PROPS YOU'VE BUILT DESERVED MORE THAN STORAGE?

Imagine this:

Your finest creations — the ones that thrilled audiences, won quiet praise on set, or emerged from weekend experiments in your shed — finally have a proper home. Not boxed. Not gathering dust. But on show. With your name on them. In a museum space designed by people like you, for people who get it.

The Cargo Hold is that vision.

It's a collaborative project taking shape now in Peterborough. A sci-fi and fantasy prop museum meets workshop meets gallery — nestled inside a retail unit in the city's Queensgate centre. And we're looking for founding makers to join us in shaping the concept, curating its first collections, and building the space.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR

- Retired prop makers with storied careers and historic pieces
- Collectors with original or replica props, models, or costumes
- Artists and builders with ongoing work who want public visibility
- Tinkerers, inventors, and nostalgia guardians with creative flair
- Enthusiasts with a passion for preserving fandom's physical legacy

Whether you've worked for BBC, Netflix, Pinewood, or just your own obsession, your experience, knowledge, and work are vital to this project.



**LET'S BUILD A PLACE WHERE
THE LEGACY OF FANDOM
LIVES ON — LET'S MAKE
THE CARGO HOLD A REALITY.**

WHY JOIN US NOW?

This is a unique opportunity to be a part of something from the very beginning — to help shape the design, tone, and direction of a one-of-a-kind public attraction rooted in maker culture and science fiction history.

As a founding maker, you'll:

- Co-curate the first exhibitions – Your props may be among the first on display.
- Advise on layout, needs and tooling – Influence how the Cargo Hold functions.
- Help define membership tiers and benefits – Shape a system that works for us all.
- Be credited as a founding contributor in all permanent materials and digital platforms.
- Have first access to touring exhibitions and revenue-share opportunities.

We're not asking for funding (unless you want to support us) — we're asking for your presence, passion, and voice in bringing this concept to life.

WHAT WILL IT BECOME?

- A public gallery of props, models, costumes and art.
- A shared storage/display space for large and awkward creations.
- A fully equipped workshop and studio for new work and restorations.
- A touring exhibition provider to galleries, conventions and museums.
- A community of makers, sharing knowledge, inspiration and opportunity.



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