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Squatting artists told to get out

A group of squatters who say they have turned a derelict building into a community arts centre have been ordered by a court to move out.

The group, who call themselves the Matilda Collective, have been using the former Yorkshire Arts Space building on Matilda Street for a year.

But Yorkshire Forward, which owns the building, wants them out.

A judge at Sheffield County Court has ruled in favour of the regional development agency.

'Useful resource'

Members of the group staged a protest outside the county court, dressed as clowns with placards reading, "Oh no! Where will we go?".

Mark Cohen, from the Matilda Collective, said: "Whatever is going to happen here, it isn't going to happen for a couple of years, and in that couple of years we can develop quite a useful resource for the local community."

But a spokeswoman for Yorkshire Forward said there were health and safety issues to consider.

She said: "It would be irresponsible of us as building owners - regardless of what the people inside are trying to do - not to try to make sure that nobody gets hurt or injured in and around this building."



Yorkshire Forward plans to turn the building into offices and flats

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