

## Appendix 1

### CREATIVE COMMUNITIES – REPORT 2021-2022

**With our CILNF funding we said we would deliver the following activities or outputs:**

**1) Play & Imagine Programmes:**

An annual programme of creative activities, events and resources, co-produced with local people and the City's cultural organisations. Projects will be accessible to all, inviting people to get creative at home and in their neighbourhoods as well as at live events in Culture Mile.

**2) Creative Citizens Lab:**

Testing new ways for residents to come together, share and contribute actively to local change. Building on the pilot of our first resident-led community grants programme, the "Imagine Fund", we will deepen our exploration of participatory decision-making models and develop spaces for peer-to-peer exchange.

**3) Community Collaborators:**

A yearly cohort of professionals from the culture, health, community sectors will come together to take part in a peer learning journey. The cohort will meet regularly, focusing on strengthening evaluation approaches, developing shared measures of value and building a stronger evidence-led case for the impact of community led and participatory practice.

**With our CILNF funding we said we would deliver the following differences or outcomes:**

**1) Creative Participation:**

Living near Culture Mile unlocks opportunities for residents to enrich their lives by participating in creative activities. Sharing stories, experiences, hopes and fears with others in imaginative and playful ways, strengthens connections with and between neighbours, nurturing emotional resilience, belonging and mental wellbeing and supporting a flourishing society.

**2) Creative Citizenship:**

The representation, visibility and civic engagement of the City's diverse communities is increased. People from all communities have the agency and opportunity to play an active role. There are clear ways for people to meet and share ideas, resources, and skills with each other and with the organisations and institutions on their doorsteps.

**3) Cross-sector Collaboration:**

To achieve the outcomes above, partners work, learn, and innovate together. A cohort of supported peers from the Culture, Community and Public Sectors collaborate to shift thinking, demonstrate impact and influence change. The Culture Mile partnership is recognised for the value it brings to local communities.

**As part of our Y1 grant period (July 21-July21) we delivered the following activities or outputs:**

## **1) PLAY & IMAGINE PROGRAMME**

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### **PLAY**

**We delivered a year-round programme of creative activities, events and resources, created with local families, inviting kids and their grownups to get creative at home, in their neighbourhoods and at Barbican.**

#### **Overview of outputs:**

- Story Telling Evaluation and Story Report
- 1 x Artist Commission to bring Story Report to life and share with families (due Aug 2022)
- Distribution of 1 x new Play Pack to 1490 local families
- Free digital access to all 7 x Play Packs with 21,966 digital engagements
- 9 x Play Live events attended by more than 5500 people
- 12 co-design workshops with local families
- 1 x new commission from Barbican Retail for set of 3 x Play Pack Cards inspired by Play Packs to be launched autumn 2022
- 1 x new Play Packs commission to be launched summer 2022

After the incredible success of Play Packs during the pandemic, we worked with 3 story collectors to listen to 10 stories of impact connected to the programme. These have been pulled together into a story report with an artist commission currently underway to bring the insights to life in a creative and accessible way.

Based on learning from the report, we began working closely with local families and Children's Centres to collaborate on the design of a new set of resources that will go live in summer 2022. Artists Felix Taylor and Di Mainstone have been collaborating with three community centres, Mildmay Community Centre (Islington), St Lukes Community Centre (Islington) and Morningside Children's Centre (Hackney) to connect with their families and host workshops focused on developing ideas for a new under 5s sensory play space at Barbican. They will also co-create activities that can be done at home and in their settings as part of the new series of Play Packs.

Live family events have taken places across the city and in Islington including at Golden Lane Estate, Middlesex Street Estate, Whitecross Street and Paradise Park in Islington. In addition to this, we brought in artists and used our Play Pack resources to support the provision of the Afghan Playroom at the Apex Hotels, as well as supporting refugee families through a series of workshops in the lead up to the Aldgate in Winter lantern parade.

### **IMAGINE (Now Creative Neighbourhoods)**

**We worked with local residents and organisations to connect up and support creative activities already happening in the City to create more opportunities for people at risk of social isolation to get creative in ways that work for them.**

## **Overview of outputs:**

- Story Collecting Evaluation and Story Report
- Artist Commission to bring Story Report to life.
- Distribution of 2 x Imagine Packs to 745 local elders
- 25 x in person workshop & activity sessions attended by 500 local neighbours
- Monthly drop-in sessions attended by 200 local neighbours
- 5,975 digital engagements with Creative Neighbourhoods content

## **Summary:**

Coming out of the pandemic, this area of our work has moved from distributing packs to creating opportunities for in person connection. This includes a range of different projects led by local residents in community settings across the City:

### **Blooming City Quilt at Shoe Lane Library**

A series of textiles workshops with 35 local residents at Shoe Lane & Barbican Library, creating two beautiful community quilts which are currently on display at Barbican Library and will move to Golden Lane & Portsoken Community Centres over the summer.

### **Carbon Smart City at Middlesex Street Estate**

A series of craft and information workshops, where participants get creative while learning about how we can all be more sustainable. They are hosted in local café Fazenda at Middlesex Street Estate, who will display some of the creative works made.

### **Moving Pictures at Golden Lane Estate**

Women Over Fifty Film Festival collaborated with the Golden Lane Memory Group and City Carers Community to develop a series of film screenings and associated workshops, activities.

### **Sensory Walk at Charterhouse**

A new collaboration between Charterhouse, Flourishing Lives, Blind Aid & the Alzheimer's Society creating a sensory poetry and creative writing walk, to create respite for local community groups around the gardens at Charterhouse. The walk has been designed to be accessible for those with neurodiversity, disabilities and for marginalised groups such as carers.

### **Community Mapping**

A group of local residents are working together to pilot an online network and map connecting people and community assets in the area.

## 1) CREATIVE CITIZENS LAB

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**We re-designed and launched our community-led participatory grant programme, supporting neighbours to share ideas, make things happen and tell their stories in the places they care about.**

### **Overview of outputs:**

- Story Collecting Evaluation and Story Report
- 7 local residents involved in co-design of Imagine Fund
- 8 local residents involved as decision makers
- 2 x new digital hosting platforms piloted
- 98 applications
- 10 Grantees
- £12,500 of new grants awarded in first round with rolling dates now planned throughout 2022/2023.
- 3 residents trained as Story Collectors
- 6 residents support as Story Tellers
- 7 residents involved in collective meaning making from story-telling process
- 45,708 digital engagements with online content

### **Summary:**

Building on our pilot round of Imagine Fund in 2021, we brought together a group of community members (previous grantees & panel members) to co-design an updated process for 2022.

This group expanded the range of the grants (£500 or £2000), redesigned the application process to make it more inclusive and accessible, and simplified the scoring framework, as well as recommending that the fund move to a rolling year-round format.

We also embedded two new software platforms to support the process:

- GoodGrants, a CMS system for designing, managing & scoring grant applications – “Our mission is to democratise grants management, to help good organisations do good”
- Accountable from Open Collective / The Social Change Nest, a fiscal hosting service designed to support individuals and communities to receive & manage funding in a safe and transparent way – “The Social Change Nest specialises in creating and supporting people-powered networks and social movements. After years of supporting and incubating grassroots groups, we know how important it is to have a collaborative and transparent way to manage funds.”

We then recruited a new panel to score applications – 33 people applied for this role and 8 were selected (see below)

At the end of May the panel awarded 10 new grants (5 x Project grants of £2000 and 5 x Seed Fund grants of £500) supporting 10 new community projects.

Seed appendix for more information on the Imagine Fund Panel and Imagine Fund Grantees.

## 2) COMMUNITY COLLABORATORS

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**We recruited our first cohort of 8 x community leaders from across City Of London, working with them to co-create and deliver our first peer learning programme, the Community Impact Collective.**

### **Overview of outputs:**

- 6 drop-in surgery sessions during the application process
- 18 applications from community leaders
- 8 members of the collective
- 10 invited guest speakers
- 60 hours of participant contact time (live workshops, producer support, 1-1 and mentoring)
- 4 freelance artists commission to document every session
- 7 artworks produced including 6 live visual minutes and 1 visual booklet (to be shared in Sept 2022)
- £3500 distributed directly to freelance artists
- £2000 distributed directly to freelance facilitators
- £4000 distributed for cohort community commissions

Our Community Impact Collective launched in the Spring, taking a cohort of 8 community leaders from a great field of 26 applications.

The programme consists of 6 workshops across April, May and June delving into broad conversations around topics like Power, Anti-racism, Sustainability and Access and contextualising them more specifically for the City of London.

Additionally, each participant will receive £500 to continue their learning, or support a new project to take place in their context or institution which builds on their learnings through the programme. These can be used individually, or budgets can be pooled together to create larger scale impact.

**The activities and outputs delivered as part of our Y1 grant period (July 21-July21) achieved the following impact and outcomes:**

## **1) CREATIVE PARTICIPATION**

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**In depth evaluation and impact of our Play and Imagine programmes can be explored in our full story reports, attached. A short summary below:**

### **Play, fun and enjoying together.**

Enjoyment, fun, creativity and playfulness were reoccurring themes in the stories from parents involved in our Play Programme. Play activities helped to bring families together in moments of creativity and fun at a time of increased pressure on family life at home.

*“I really enjoyed spending time being creative with my children...and reconnecting with them through fun activities.”*

Parent, City Of London

For Imagine Packs, our Storytelling Evaluation (see appendix) shows similar outcomes:

*“the creative resources and activities brought moments of joy, mindful focus, and relief from isolation”*

Imagine Pack participant

### **Creative confidence.**

The Play programme is accessible, fun, simple, and non-threatening. It kindles creativity and play, even for parents who don't see themselves as creative or 'good with art'.

*“It has made me realise that time is precious, and you need to spend as much time with your family doing things together as possible. I try now to play more with them or do creative stuff on weekends.”* Parent, Islington.

A similar picture emerges from the Imagine Packs

*“packs helped older people go about their daily lives with greater freedom and independence. [Packs and workshops] helped...build friendships which made it easier for people to ask for help.”*

### **Creative lives.**

Play Packs acted as a catalyst for new and renewed enjoyment and appreciation of play and creativity. For some families, creativity, play and bonding continued to flourish as children returned to school.

*“The packs definitely got them all being creative and was a really good way of relieving the bickering and boredom...we have been pretty poor of late due to me being off of work, so it was good to get some free fun activities to keep them occupied.”* Parent, Islington

We are working closely with families on the border of the City in Islington and Tower Hamlets. In Islington, 47.5% of children live in poverty (the third highest rate in London) and 52.9% of primary school age children are eligible for the Pupil Premium which assists children facing deprivation.

*“When you're scraping to pull tins, bags of fresh fruit together, beyond what you can afford with any funding you get, you can't buy materials and craft materials. And to be able to give out those packs and at such high quality too. It was very beautiful. Every*

*quarter the kids would ask for the new packs...It really went to families that needed it." Staff member, Hackney*

## **2) CREATIVE CITIZENSHIP**

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### **Imagination and creativity**

The flexibility and open-endedness of the Imagine Fund helped people to generate ideas to benefit the local area and its people. The grantees valued and relished this opportunity to imagine, experiment and make things happen.

### **Representation**

Diverse groups of residents, representative of the local population were involved in decision-making and funding allocation. See full bios attached. 27% of overall applicants were White British, compared to 40% in year one, and we had applicants from a wider spread of ethnic backgrounds.

Additionally residents who may not have previously engaged got involved with the community. Golden Lane Estate resident Aliaskar Torkaliaskari, who moved to London 5 years ago and has not been part of a process like this before said

*"it was great experience to and glad we met. Please don't hesitate to [involve me in] any further opportunity!"*

### **Sense of purpose and fulfilment.**

Grantees and decision makers shared positively and passionately about their involvement in the Imagine Fund. A theme of purpose, pride, and fulfilment runs throughout the stories.

People were able to devote time and energy to things that were important to them; personal and professional interests and ideas, affinity and friendship groups, artforms, places and spaces—channelling and sharing their interests with and for others.

*"It was meaningful to participate as it made me aware of other ways of being involved in my local neighbourhood, and it was enlightening to be part of the decision-making process. It's a new and bold initiative from a large cultural institution, and I hope it continues to involve neighbours in this way in the future. Everything was very straightforward, from applying and scoring the applications, to the panel meetings. The participatory decision-making process also allowed us all to listen to one another, and challenge our own assumptions." Panel member*

### **Leadership, changemaking and creative production.**

Grantees discovered new capabilities such as confidence in convening and facilitating, creative risk-taking, resilience, and adaptability. Others transferred existing skills and capabilities to a challenge that stretched them. While each of the grantees' experiences are unique, the ways of being and doing they describe might be usefully grouped under the meta capabilities of social leadership, changemaking and creative production.

### **Creative opportunities.**

The Imagine Fund projects led to new opportunities and pathways for the grantees to develop their ideas, specialisms or careers and opened doors to new collaborations.

### **Community impacts.**

The projects brought people together in shared experiences that connected people to each other and to the heritage and environment of the local area. They sparked enjoyment, creativity, imagination, and escape. And they helped people to get physically active and enjoy outdoor space.

### **Connections & Relationships**

Participants connected with new people and people not from their own culture, neighbourhood or background.

*"Being part of the panel allowed me to meet my neighbours from further afield, people I wouldn't otherwise have the chance to meet. Hearing everyone's contributions made me aware of the City of London's diverse needs for community participation, which was taken in consideration by both panel members and facilitators." Panel member*

*"I was thrilled to meet people not just from different cultures but from other backgrounds who offered new insights and perspectives, and made me aware of the hyper-local challenges, opportunities, as well as idiosyncrasies." Panel member*

## **3) CROSS SECTOR COLLABORATION**

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Participants in the Community Impact Collective have reported feeling supported and upskilled in their capacity to engage with and support communities –

*'I found it really nice to have a leading role and I really appreciated you jumping in to support with some of the queries that I didn't know the answer to.'* Participant

*"Divya and Anna, so inspired by your work and what you have produced for this group so far. I feel we are part of a new mini-Social Movement Group. Do you know if anyone is doing this work anywhere else? I guess there is no place like the City of London.'* Participant

*"The speakers have been insightful and have helped me develop an understanding of new topics that are imperative to today's society."* Participant

Participants in the Community Impact Collective have reported feeling more confident to engage communities that they wouldn't previously have worked with.

*"I have been connected with different communities, organisations and businesses in the City and beyond"* Participant



## **Other benefits**

- **Increased confidence and resilience**

People involved in the Creative Neighbourhoods programme reported feeling supported and having the chance to develop capacity:

*“The support...meant Madhumita was not alone in delivering the outreach and support. This was not just about funding or resources. It was as much about a sense of backing and people valuing what she was trying to do, as well as the benefits of working collaboratively together”.*

The projects also helped her *“cope with challenges...it had a positive impact on her wellbeing”.*

Similarly for Lizzie, working on the Creative Neighbourhoods Programme *“the project really ignited the feeling of hope, and I think that was really needed”.*

The artists also enjoyed our community and values led way of working.

*“There was just something so nice and simple about making something that was really good from the beginning and then being like, oh, we can offer this to so and so. Instead of having the pressure to reach a huge list of people it was like let’s make something really good that works for our audience and then we can look at who else can reap the benefits of that. I’m now taking a similar approach with my own work.”*

- **Expanding relationships and seeding new ideas**

Great new ideas and connections have begun to emerge from bringing local people together in spaces like the Community Drop-ins, with local people getting to meet each other and share ideas. This has resulted in new collaborative applications to the Imagine Fund, connections for local events such as the May Day event at Golden Lane Estate and more.

- **Greater sense of trust between local people and the area’s institutions**

Local people feel a better sense of connection to Barbican and other local cultural institutions – they can put faces to names, know where to reach us and how to access funds through clear systems.

“Trust expands the range of conversations” it feels as if the cohort are already feeling very safe with each other, they have been really open in sharing personal stories about themselves in the space. A willingness to be present, even through uncomfortable conversations.

Conflict is welcome and part of the work. As a collective, part of holding each other to account is accepting that conflict may arise, and it will be uncomfortable but it’s important to face it head on. The learning is emergent and can be messy, but by embracing that we can challenge our thinking and get the group to reimagine a more positive equitable future for the communities they work with.

## **Key Learnings:**

- **Investing in relationships**

Across all of our projects, an increase in collaboration with our partners, as well as a slower approach with more listening and co-production has had a fantastic impact on the quality of our relationships and therefore our work.

With Play, our evaluation shows that ‘community partners have felt involved and included in the Play programme. They are pleased to be part of an ongoing dialogue with Culture Mile and its partners about supporting play and creativity.’

In our Creative Neighbourhoods Programme, partners from our networks have commented on the value that they get from our regular meetings and best practice sharing, and taking time to connect and build relationships before we begin project delivery. A partner from The Poetry Exchange stated that the key value they get is ‘in being in relationship with so many other great partners’ and working to ‘animate and create joy and connections across the area.

- **Community-led Storytelling Evaluation and most significant change methodology**

Investing time and resources into a story-led evaluation process has had a transformative effect on our work. This methodology resists setting targets and expected outcomes in advance. Instead, those involved in the project are invited to share their experiences – what changed for them, and what was important? Together, these stories give a detailed emergent picture about the work and its impact, as well as offering a range of paid opportunities for community members to be part of the evaluation process, and collective discussion moments where anyone from the project can have their say on what’s come out of the process and where we to go next.

We have found this to be such an invaluable way of working, rich with insights and learning. Peer to peer story collection means that people are far more open and honest about their experiences, providing a great opportunity for community members to get to know each other better, inspiring connection, collaboration, and empathy.

The Story Collector role provides training and flexible paid work to community members, as well as giving them real insights to our projects and ways of working that builds and strengthens our connection with those we work with. Being a Storyteller creates an open space for community members to share their experiences and be listened to & represented in their own words.

- **Scale and speed**

Working in an iterative, community-led way takes time and needs to start small. This is still an incredibly challenging time for many people, and in order to ensure that our work is inclusive and centres the needs of those who are often excluded, we need to focus our attention on depth of impact rather than scale.

Through the learning and insights of the Story Collecting evaluation we are starting to developed a new collaboration strategy that aims work from the “inside out”, meaning we start with a small number of co-creators, working together to develop programmes, projects & content that provide opportunities for more people to get involved as collaborators & participants. These programmes/projects/content can then be shared at scale with networks of interested audiences.

This means numbers are smaller than in previous years. As the foundations grow and relationships are strengthened, we expect this scale to expand.

- **Trust expands the range of conversations**

Working with fewer collaborators in a more in depth way creates more space for honesty and transparency. Collaborators are able to share more personal stories about themselves and are more willing to be present, even through uncomfortable conversations.

- **Conflict is welcome and part of the work**

Through the Community Impact Collective we have learnt that part of holding each other to account is accepting that conflict may arise, and it will be uncomfortable but it's important to face it head on. The learning is emergent and can be messy, but by embracing that we can challenge our thinking and encourage people to reimagine a more positive equitable future with communities.

- **Conversations around language are important.**

A reoccurring theme in sessions with communities has been how we how we decolonise, unpack, unlearn, and reframe language. Because of this coming up so much, we have decided to add on an additional session to collectively think about the terminology we use and plan to create a community glossary at the end of the programme which will be shareable.

**How many people benefited directly from your CILNF grant this year?**

8,240 in person engagements plus 74,385 digital engagements

**We ask certain data about your beneficiaries so that we can understand which communities our funding is currently reaching and identify any gaps. If you do not collect this data, please enter "not known".**

**Please list which City of London Ward(s) the funded project's beneficiaries live in and include the relevant percentages.**

**For the list of City of London Wards, click on the help icon. You might also need to check the Wards' boundaries.**

All

**Please list which of the Greater London Boroughs the funded project's beneficiaries live in and include the relevant percentages. If unsure, write "London-wide".**

City Of London (all wards)

Hackney

Islington

Tower Hamlets

Camden

**What ethnic group(s) were your beneficiaries? Please enter the relevant percentages, ensuring that the total is exactly 100%.**

PLAY

Working in Children's Centres where the demographics are representative of their boroughs

Hackney:

White	54.7
Black / Black British	23.1
Asian / Asian British	10.5
Mixed	6.4
Other	5.3

Islington:

White British	48
White (other)	20
Black / Black British	13
Asian / Asian British	9
Mixed	6

Other	3
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Imagine Fund (overall applicants):

White British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)	26.59574
(blank – not known)	23.40426
White - Central or Eastern European	6.382979
Prefer not to say	5.319149
Other ethnic group	5.319149
Asian or Asian British - Indian	5.319149
Any other White Background	5.319149
White - Western European	5.319149
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	2.12766
Black or Black British - Caribbean	2.12766
Mixed - White and Asian	2.12766
White British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish), White - Irish	1.06383
White - Western European, Any other White Background	1.06383
Any other Black Background	1.06383
Black or Black British - African	1.06383
Any other Asian background	1.06383
Any other mixed background, Other ethnic group	1.06383
White British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish), White - Western European	1.06383
White - Irish	1.06383
Asian or Asian British - Chinese	1.06383
Mixed - White and Black African, Other ethnic group	1.06383

Imagine Fund successful grant recipients:

Asian or Asian British - Indian	10
Any other Asian background	10
White British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)	40
Mixed - White and Black African, Other ethnic group	10
Any other White Background	10
Mixed - White and Asian	10
White - Western European	10

Imagine Panel:

White - Central or Eastern European	37.5
Middle Eastern	12.5
Any other Black Background	12.5
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	12.5

Asian or Asian British - Indian	12.5
Latino American	12.5

Community Impact collective:

Asian or Asian British - Indian	22.22222
White British	11.11111
Any other White background	11.11111
Afro-Latinx American	11.11111
Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi	11.11111
Other	11.11111
White - Irish	11.11111
White - British (English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish)	11.11111

**What proportion of your beneficiaries identify as disabled?**

**Carbon Smart City**

Non Disabled	61.53846
Mental Health Condition	23.07692
Mobility Issues	15.38462

**Imagine Fund (all applicants)**

Non-disabled	48.42105263
(blank)	24.21052632
Prefer not to say	8.421052632
Other long-term chronic condition	7.368421053
Other	3.157894737
Mental Health Condition	2.105263158
Cognitive or Learning Disabled	1.052631579
Cognitive or Learning Disabled, Other	1.052631579
Cognitive or Learning Disabled, Physically Disabled, Mental Health Condition, Other long-term chronic condition	1.052631579
D/deaf/hard of hearing	1.052631579
D/deaf/hard of hearing, Physically Disabled, Mental Health Condition	1.052631579
Visual impairment	1.052631579

**Imagine Fund (successful grantees)**

Other long-term chronic condition	20
Non-disabled	50

Prefer not to say	20
Cognitive or Learning Disabled	10

**Imagine Panel**

Non Disabled	50
Mental Health Condition (Bipolar)	12.5
Cognitive or Learning Disabled, Physically Disabled, Mental Health Condition, Other long-term chronic condition	12.5
Cognitive or Learning Disabled, Other	12.5
Prefer not to say	12.5