



Project Report

April 2021

“I haven’t seen anyone who is local, you know that looks and sounds like me coming to talk to us about a creative job.”

“If I don’t know about the different roles in the arts, how do I know how to research it?”

During consultations with young people, comments like those above were continuously shared. In response to the need for young people to have access to professionals working in the creative industries that are representative of Lewisham's diverse community, LEAN ran the **Unlock The Arts** programme in April 2021.

The programme consisted of two parts;

Creative Chats - A series of 45-minute, relaxed, q&a sessions that took place on Zoom. Industry professionals shared insight from their career journey, offered tips and answered questions. Young people could sign up on Eventbrite and the sessions were specifically designed to feel relaxed, chatty and more of a dialogue than a 'presentation' by the professionals.

Listen Up! - 4 x 2hour workshop sessions in either music-making, creative-writing or theatre-making alongside a creative professional. The groups were tasked with making a creative response to the theme 'Activism & Me', which was shared back in a final online session. The Listen Up! sessions not only allowed young people to learn new skills and try out new things whilst responding to a central stimuli but more importantly it promoted young peoples views and opinions, allowing them to be heard by 'adult ear'.



Creative Professionals

Creative professionals based in Lewisham or the surrounding areas were approached to take part in the project. It was vital that creative professionals were local and understood the Lewisham community so young people could build a connection and see that a career in the creative industries was achievable for young people from this area.

Wherever possible we used local creative professionals who had some experience of working with young people and could signpost young people to other local opportunities/local arts organisations. Creative professionals were mainly sought through recommendations from local partners and the Shapes Lewisham artists directory.

The Creative Professionals included in Unlock The Arts were:

- Kat Gill – Theatre-maker and arts facilitator
- Intalekt – Top music artist, producer and sound selecta from South London
- Nicole Latchana – Celebrated London videographer and playwright
- Sarah Parrott – SE London born & based creative writing specialist
- Nina Goodyer – Talented Illustrator of magazines, book covers and websites
- Trish Scott – Engagement Curator at Lewisham's own Goldsmiths Centre for Contemporary Art
- Kieza Silveira De Souza – Ex-Lewisham Young Mayor, marketing, branding & design entrepreneur

COME CHAT WITH ...



INTALEKT
Producer, musician,
DJ & radio host

UNLOCK THE ARTS:
CREATIVE CHATS

COME CHAT WITH ...



**NICOLE
LATCHANA**
Videographer & Playwright

UNLOCK THE ARTS:
CREATIVE CHATS

COME CHAT WITH ...



TRISH SCOTT
Engagement Curator
at Lewisham's own
Goldsmiths Centre for
Contemporary Art

UNLOCK THE ARTS:
CREATIVE CHATS

Outcomes - Creative Chats

Unlock the Arts was targeted at young people aged 13 - 19. The majority (77%) of participants who engaged in the Creative Chat sessions were 16 or under, highlighting the need for younger age groups to also be provided with access to professionals and opportunities introducing them to the range of roles in the creative industries.

Young people on the calls were asked to rate the sessions between 1 - 5 (with 5 being the best) and 98% of attendees rated the chats as either a 4 or a 5.

In a follow-up evaluation form:

87.5% of attendees felt the creative chats were '*relaxed*' and '*enjoyable*'.

50% felt '*much more confident*' about a career in the creative industries, with the remaining 50% stating they felt '*a bit more confident*' about a career in the creative industries.

100% stated that they either felt they had '*a bit more*' or '*a lot more*' understanding of the creative industries.

Some comments included:

"*Very useful session*"

"*It's made me feel like I could have an arts career*"

"*It was great to ask whatever I wanted and chat with real people.*"

"*Really glad I came*"

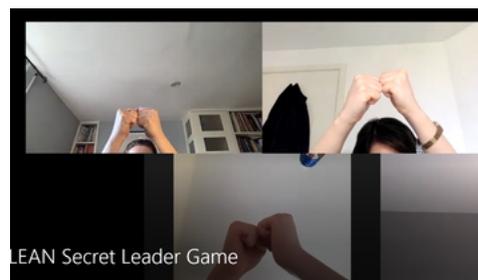
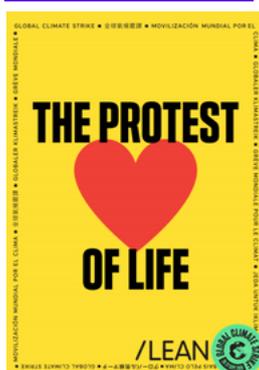
Outcomes - Listen Up!

Young people took part in four 2-hour Listen Up! sessions online and then joined together for a sessions where their work was shared and the young participants could feed back on their experience.

The music-making group shared back two pieces of music that they had created in the sessions. The pieces used 'found sounds' (like the rattling of keys), alongside sounds effects from nature (like raindrops) and beats and rhythms created by the group. The young people worked with Lewisham based artist, Intalekt and were introduced to two music production programmes via his shared screen. The tracks are held on the Lewisham Live Festival website [here](#).

The theatre-making group worked with Kat Gill to create a series of fun characters and worked on short monologues as these characters. They also worked together to devise a piece of improvised theatre based on four young people who are passionate about climate change but who come up against a less-than-supportive youth worker.

The creative-writing group worked both as a group and individually to explore themes of social injustice and climate change. They created a series of poems, letters to the prime minister and protest phrases that were then compiled into a zine called '[The Protest of Life](#)'.



100% of attendees gave the sessions 5 stars and rated them '*brilliant*', and all attendees said they would be more likely than not to take part in something like this again.

100% of attendees felt that "*they enjoyed working with professionals*" and that "*they could ask questions*".

One young person on the theatre-making course stated that "*the workshops have made me want to continue doing theatre and look for more opportunities to do things like this*".

Young people were asked to share three words that described the Listen Up! sessions. They included:

Creative

Interesting

Informative

Inspiring

FUN!

Useful

Legacy

Unlock The Arts was conceived as a three-step project where young people could have light-touch access to professionals (Creative Chats), a more intensive opportunity focused on spotlighting youth voice (Listen Up!) and for this to be followed up by resources that can be shared with local educational settings, and the wider public.

All the creative professionals involved in the project recorded themselves responding to questions about their creative journey. These will be professionally edited (by a Lewisham based filmmaker) into 5 short films to be shared on social media and with educational settings to promote creative careers and those local professionals working in the industry. The films will go live in May 2021.

As well as the films, creative professionals (both those already involved in Unlock the Arts and a further selection of approximately 20 other creatives) will share their 'top ten tips to thrive in the creative industries'. These will be compiled into a book, professionally printed and given to every secondary school, FE college and HE setting in the borough, to be used as a resource for young people to refer to and be inspired by.

Unlock the Arts is produced by Lewisham Education Arts Network as part of the Creative Careers Programme.

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