

Big Creative Conversation: Findings & Reflections

Haringey Creates – London Festival of Ideas

From 29 June to 16 July 2021 we staged a Big Creative Conversation with children and young living and studying in Haringey.

We engaged 188 children and young people from 10 settings, including early years, primary, secondary settings, SEND provision and a community festival.

A blended model was used to facilitate conversation, through virtual means using engaging and creative digital tools and in-person sessions led by teachers and creative educators.

We established what creativity and culture means to children and young people across the borough and individual and collective visions for building strong creative communities.



How Do Young People in Haringey Feel About Their Creative Lives?

54% of children and young people said that creativity plays an important role in supporting Identity, Self-Expression and Well-Being.



“It helps to keep me calm and is fun. Sharing my artwork makes other people happy too”

“It gives you freedom and imagination”

“It opens the mind and lets you express your feelings”

“It brings you into a whole new world”

21% of children and young people said that being creative facilitates Learning New Skills, Problem Solving & Innovation.



“It will help when solving problems and it will keep your imagination running wild”

“It allows you to see the world in different ways”

“Without creativity there would be no new ideas”

“You can find a talent you didn't know you had”

11% of children and young people said that being creative facilitates Personal Development & Self-Motivation.

“It makes a big to difference to your attitude and your work”

“It upgrades your knowledge”

“Creativity gives you a feeling that you can do anything”

“It can inspire you”

“Creativity pushes you to be great”



11% of children and young people says being creative is important for Fun and Pleasure.



“New ideas make the world fun and interesting”

“It’s fun and makes me feel like I’m travelling around the world”

“My life would be very boring without any random or exciting ideas”

“If people weren’t creative the world would be very dull”

Visions For Building Strong Creative Communities in Haringey

29% of children and young people said that we can build creative communities by Providing Access to Resources and Creative Opportunities.

“Free creative workshops with art supplies. People can share their ideas with each.”

“Launch a kids creative film festival for all schools in Haringey”

“Creating workshops, theatres and shows about various topics that encourage people to open their mind and be creative”

“A community festival with arts and crafts stalls and musical performances”



“An art bank where you can swap and share materials with other children who can't afford art materials”



21% of children and young people said that we can build creative communities by Creating Local Creative Spaces



“A community centre where people get together to do what they would normally do alone and meet people with similar interests”

“A youth centre for kids for kids to try different creative activities”

“An art café that you can sit and eat at and do art freely with the supplies given to you and create amazing masterpieces you can also bring your own things to paint with”

“Inspiration Garden: People can come and teach children skills such as juggling or football. It would be affordable and a lovely atmosphere to be in. The place could be available in the holidays and mums and dads can have a working space there”



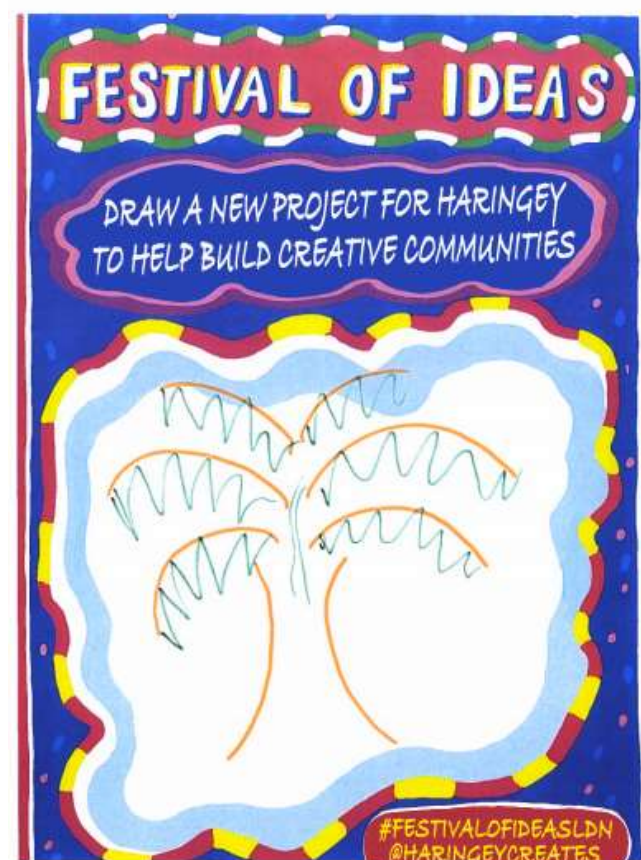
5% of children and young people said that we can build creative communities by Championing Young People as Artists.



“I think we should display school artwork more to show that if we are creative from childhood we will be creative throughout life”

“Haringey should have exhibitions of children’s work”

“A small free art gallery with pictures of children's artwork. Changing every half-term so that everyone inside get a chance to have their work shown”



13% of children and young people said that we can build creative communities through Community Arts Projects



“I think we should create art as an entire community with everyone putting their piece on it so that it links everyone and we can all be proud when we see it”

“I think Haringey Council should make several walls where using chalk people can share their ideas, emotions and experiences”

“Art walls in local parks for all ages”

“Start a painting project for everyone, painting things that keep them calm”

“A small community should take part in a competition to design a statue and the winning statue will be created in their local area!”



16% of children and young people said that we can build creative communities by Using Art to Raise Awareness For a Cause & Uplift Community Spirit



"A play about the pressures on young people today. Examples of this would be gang violence, finding a job and other day-to-day problems."

"A musical/song about the community. The main genres would be rap, energetic/positive etc. It would include many other music genres to represent the diversity of the community. 'In Haringey, in Harmony' would be the name of the musical."

"Choir competition, plays about knife crime, remembrance memorials of famous people who lives in the Haringey community, dance competitions, movie making for kids, covid safe fun fairs"

“Giving people motivation and inspiration. Try and make people think about the best times in life and then let them think what could have been improved”

