



COMMONWEALTH GAMES COMMUNITY FUND: IMPACT REPORT





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FOREWORD

Birmingham's Commonwealth Games burst into life across the summer of 2022, bringing the eyes of the world to Birmingham and putting us on a global stage.

But we had always said that this Games was about more than 11 days of sport.

It was also about celebrating Birmingham, and about celebrating the people that make this amazing city what it is.

That's why we invested £6m into a Community Fund to deliver activity across Birmingham. We wanted to take the Games celebrations to local communities,

to give you the opportunity to celebrate the Games your way.

And you did! 106 Creative City projects showcased our unique cultural offer as part of the 6 month Birmingham 2022 Festival. 263 Celebrating Communities projects took the Games celebrations to every ward in the city. You joined in with Active Streets and Community Games. Children and young people experienced the Games through lessons, mascot visits, celebration days and more. Heritage Trails were created, community journalists were trained and we made sure that our city felt a welcoming and inclusive place for everyone.

I wanted to thank everyone across the city who worked so hard to in their local communities to make sure that a little bit of the Games touched as many people as possible. It was a superhuman effort, aptly reflected by our poet laureate, Jasmine Gardosi in her poem 'Superheroes', which is included in this report.

Legacies of major events are always hard to get right, especially at a local level. But recent work by Spirit of 2012 has shown just how important meaningful community engagement and connection is, if a mega event is to have an impact beyond bricks and mortar. The Community Fund enabled us to do that; and provides a strong base for us to build on the success of the Commonwealth Games and realise our legacy ambitions to become a world-class major events city.



Cllr. John Cotton,
Leader of Birmingham
City Council



THE SUPERHEROES

It's always bothered me, how Birmingham is never chosen as the setting for a superhero movie.

Why is it always New York, or London, or Venice?

Imagine the shot of Spiderman climbing Birmingham Library then web-slinging to Symphony Hall.

Why is it never us?

But then I remember –
I have seen superpowers in this city.

I have seen spoken word poets hack into minds
and change them - that's basically telepathy.

I've seen photographers shoot X-Ray vision into others' lives.

I've seen the superhuman strength it takes to stand on stage for the first time.

I've seen deaf performers transform thin air into Visual Vernacular
with their bare hands.

I have seen actors make an audience stand on their feet
and applaud - without even touching them.

I have seen young people discover a special ability –
all it takes is a keyboard. Or the right teacher.

And this year, we are the setting.

Will see 100s of origin stories burst from this city.

Bitten by the drumming bug in Bordesley

Discovering their sixth sense with the Safa Singers in Small Heath

Finding our friendly neighbourhood Shakespeare in Hall Green

Designing time machines made of steelpan beats
that travel us back through our histories,

and gay bars the size of phone booths we can use
to teleport queer spaces into the future.

Artists joining forces with bartenders.

Boxers swapping rhythms with musicians.

Our differences, our mutations, variations
not tolerated, but celebrated as the powers
that they are. We assemble.

To save lives, you don't have to rescue someone from death.
Sometimes you need to give them voice.
Give them breath.

Making it safer to walk the streets can have more to do
with changed beliefs.



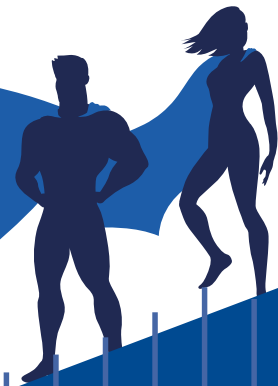
Jasmine Gardosi

 jasminegardosi.com

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Used with the kind permission of the author. Originally commissioned by Birmingham 2022 Festival

You are the superheroes.
The artists. The teachers.
The independent coffee shop baristas.
The vigilantes on the ground.
You are the setting. This is the place.
This is your space. This is your time.
To make miracles. To change lives.
Here are your capes.
Let's watch you rise –
Because you already know how to fly.



EXEC SUMMARY

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games were delivered in a record 4.5 years in extraordinary circumstances, including a global pandemic. From the beginning, Birmingham City Council (BCC)'s focus was on delivering a Games that was far more than just 11 days of sport. It was paramount our communities felt connected to and by the Games and could participate in the celebrations across the city. Central to that was creating a sense of ownership and pride, and showcasing the creativity, diversity and welcoming spirit of Birmingham.

As part of the Council Plan 2022, the authority committed to maximising the benefits of hosting the Commonwealth Games. We were acutely aware the majority of official Games activity would be concentrated in the city centre and at Games venues and recognised there was a risk of some residents, particularly those in areas of deprivation, feeling the Games was "not for them" and would be motivated to participate. The Commonwealth Games Community Fund was created with the aim of connecting all areas of the city to the Games, providing a host of fun free-to-access initiatives that were designed, led and delivered by local people and organisations for their communities.

WHAT WERE THE COMMUNITY FUND'S AIMS?



Support and engage Birmingham citizens to feel part of the Games.



Make sure that the opportunity is spread across the city.



Make sure the projects delivered celebrate Birmingham.



Deliver benefits and legacy for the city that aligns with city priorities.



Be spent on local and community projects as opposed to big capital builds.



Create feelings of connectivity and positivity and enabling mass participation.



Make sure that the projects delivered through the fund support and showcase our diverse communities.



Deliver an element of funding at local level through the city's ward structures.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES

£2 million

All 69 wards in the city received a funding pot for community projects based on three themes:

- Getting Active,
- Ready, Steady Fun (helping areas to get 'Games-ready' and host community celebrations),
- Celebrating Culture (supporting communities to showcase the culture of their local area).

Community organisations could bid for up to £10,000 and funding decisions were made by members of the local community through the city's largest ever participatory decision-making scheme. A wide range of projects were delivered from community sports days, flashmobs and murals to horticulture, music and history.

- 316 grants awarded,
- 263 projects supported,
- £1.4m direct grant awards.

CREATIVE CITY

£2 million

We supported community arts organisations to flood the city with 106 co-created artistic projects as part of Festival 2022, the Commonwealth Games Cultural Festival that ran for six months from March-September 2022. This was the first time community arts were included in this way within an integrated cultural festival for the Games, and it provided a superb opportunity for smaller arts organisations to showcase the diversity of the city's cultural offer. Organisations could bid for up to £20,000 per project, with enhancement funding available to those projects that could expand their reach or deliver their project in a new way. An array of projects were delivered, including theatre, dance, visual arts, music and heritage.

- 106 projects,
- 393 locations across Birmingham,
- £1.7m direct grant awards.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

£1 million

Eight free-to-access Community Games took place across Birmingham, with local people trying out sports by local clubs. There were 70 Active Streets – where roads are closed and communities work with a street lead to design their activity – and Birmingham's Youth City Board designed and delivered a micro-grants fund specifically aimed at young people. We supported the establishment of the City of Nature Alliance and its work to train green champions, co-create site action plans for local parks and support Friends of Parks groups to source sustainable funding. The Alliance focused on areas where green space is not well used and encouraged people to get outside and get active.

- 8 Community Games,
- 70 Active Streets,
- 153 Young Person's grants.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

£500,000

Working with the Bring The Power Team at the Organising Committee, our Youth City Board and Headteacher's Advisory Group co-designed the Bring the Power Games youth and schools engagement programme. We invested additional resources to extend the reach of Bring The Power in Birmingham, supporting additional mascot and athlete visits, workshops, festival days, mass participation events and physical activity opportunities. Our Youth Service transformed youth centres into official Games Hubs, delivering six-week projects encompassing sport, music and culture, while also exploring the meaning of the Commonwealth and youth activism. We provided a dedicated support programme for young people not in education, employment or training (NEET), helping them to raise their aspirations and attainment through physical/sports activity with embedded functional skills and other job-related qualifications.

- 330 schools directly engaged,
- 45,909 young people engaged through non-school activities,
- 156 workshops,
- 81 mascot visits to primary schools.

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

£500,000

We supported projects that demonstrated Birmingham's diversity. We delivered five workstreams:

Heritage trails: 20 community organisations received grants of £5,000 to create one or more trails to tell the unheard stories of communities in Birmingham.

We Made Birmingham: 19 organisations received grants of £5,000 to train community journalists to record narratives about their local areas.

Getting Communities Talking: 29 local community organisations received grants of £3,700 to support women from marginalised communities and help them integrate more fully into their local community.

Peace Garden: Roots to Fruits received a grant of £70,000 to reinvigorate the Peace Garden in the grounds of the former St. Thomas' Church, Bath Row.

Future Leaders: Your Life Matters partnership received a grant of £70,000 to deliver projects that inspire young people from underrepresented groups in Birmingham and help them make positive life choices and grow their leadership ambitions.

- 22 heritage trails,
- 49 community journalists trained,
- 1,329 women from migrant and refugee communities supported,
- 190 young people helped to create a Peace Garden.

DID WE ACHIEVE THE AIMS OF THE FUND?

Table 1. The community fund objectives

Objective	Support & engage Birmingham residents to be part of the Games	Spread the opportunity across the City	Projects support and showcase diverse communities	Projects celebrate Birmingham
Status	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Examples	<p>Creative City is the first example of a community led, free-to-access arts programme embedded in the Games.</p> <p>Celebrating Communities helped residents to celebrate the Games in a way that was meaningful to them across the themes of Get Active, Ready Steady Fun and Celebrating Culture. Community Games and Active Streets took free-to-access sport, physical activity and wellbeing events across Birmingham.</p> <p>Bring The Power engaged young people in schools and non-educational settings across the city.</p>	<p>Maps included within this report of Creative City, Celebrating Communities and Physical Activity projects show the spread of free-to-access activity across Birmingham.</p>	<p>Stronger Communities projects focused specifically on underserved and global majority communities.</p> <p>87% of Active Street participants were from global majority backgrounds.</p> <p>Bring The Power celebrated youth voice and activism across all communities through school and non-educational settings.</p> <p>96% of people involved in Creative City said it reflected a broad and inclusive range of voices.¹</p>	<p>Celebrating Communities, Stronger Communities and Creative City projects all had elements that celebrated Birmingham and the stories of its communities. These included heritage trails, We Made Birmingham, Creative City art and theatre projects and 66 Celebrating Communities 'celebrating culture' projects.</p>

Objective	Funding at local level through ward structures	Funding supports local and community projects rather than big capital builds	Deliver feelings of connectivity and positivity, enable mass participation	Deliver benefits and legacy aligning with city priorities
Status	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Examples	<p>Celebrating Communities funding provided to every ward across the city. Participatory decision-making opportunities in every ward, resulting in 316 grants awarded to 263 projects.</p>	<p>All projects delivered through the Community Fund were at local level, supporting organisations and local communities.</p> <p>Creative City and Celebrating Communities delivered funding decisions through local residents and community panels.</p>	<p>94% of people viewing, participating or volunteering in Creative City projects said they felt more connected to their local community.²</p> <p>More than 8,000 people attended a Community Games.</p> <p>10,486 people attended an Active Street.</p> <p>49,509 young people in Birmingham participated in non-school based activities through Bring The Power.</p>	<p>The Community Fund was aligned to the relevant themes in the council's Legacy Plan, published in December 2021. The Legacy Plan was designed to respond to the main challenges the city faces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment, skills and the local economy, 2. Opportunities for young people, 3. Health and wellbeing, 4. Community resilience and cohesion, 5. The climate emergency. <p>Project activity has made specific contributions to the City of Nature Strategy and is being built into future strategic approaches to sport and physical activity, culture and community engagement, localism and work supporting young people.</p>

¹ Creative City Grants MEL Research p45

² Creative City Grants MEL Research p32

WHAT WERE THE KEY LEARNING THEMES FROM ACROSS THE FUND'S PROGRAMMES?

The importance of community involvement and ownership

Five programmes – Creative City, Celebrating Communities, Stronger Communities, Bring The Power projects and Active Streets – specifically included community or young people's panels and/or participatory decision-making processes. This was to create a sense of ownership and inclusion, and to ensure each programme reflected communities across the city.

Evaluation and informal feedback from participants suggests that community panels and participatory processes were valued by those involved. Local people were empowered to determine what was funded, and able to input into design and delivery, making the final outputs of projects feel relevant, reflective of and owned by Birmingham's communities. This local ownership also bought a greater sense of connection with the Games themselves, especially in those areas of the city that were some distance from Games venues.

Recommendations:

- Deeper and longer-term engagement with local communities is needed to fully understand their needs, wants and the challenges they face,
- Involving under-served communities at the earliest meaningful point can improve ownership, and increase accessibility and uptake of activity or funding streams,
- Co-design of processes can assist with streamlining, reducing complexity and ensuring relevance.

Investing in community capacity building activity

Celebrating Communities and Creative City provided additional advice and support for community organisations accessing the grant schemes. In both cases the primary focus was to build confidence, capability and skills of newer, less experienced community organisations through a combination of generic open advice sessions and more tailored conversations. Participants in both schemes responded positively to the additional support, and the impact can be seen through the number of

new community groups engaging (Celebrating Communities), and groups accessing additional development opportunities and expanding their networks (Creative City).

The City of Nature pilot kickstarted community engagement and the development of community infrastructure within the pilot ward. By investing time and resources into developing partnerships and relationships, what began as an area with no known community infrastructure and minor use of parks and public open space transformed into a summer of programmed activity, events and the potential to create a formal 'Friends of' group.

Recommendations:

- Invest in community capacity building as part of programme planning to equip organisations and communities with the necessary skills to grow and thrive,
- Ensure that the availability of support is communicated widely, and that access is clearly signposted,
- Recognise that it will take time for community infrastructure to establish itself and that continued support will be required to maintain it.

Building and maintaining partnerships and collaborations

The successes of the £6 million Community Fund are rooted in collaboration and partnership working. From formal partnerships supporting large programmes, including Creative City and Bring The Power, to smaller projects such as development of the City of Nature Alliance and the emerging benefits of the Club Together network, a collaborative approach has been key.

Working as part of a Games legacy partnership has added value to programmes and projects. Embedding Creative City within the B2022 Festival programme allowed community-led arts and culture to take centre stage and linked community arts organisations with other creative groups. Connecting Bring The Power with Birmingham schools, the Youth City Board and Youth Service placed young people and teachers at the heart of the design of a national programme and opened up opportunities for young people to be part of the Games.

Stronger Communities has shown how community groups can collaborate across projects, expanding their reach (Your Life Matters) and delivering a wider variety of outcomes (Heritage Trails).

Recommendations:

- Recognise the importance of partnerships and networks in project delivery, both those that are formally structured and those that happen more organically, and give them space to develop.

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THIS PROJECT?

The council has created a legacy portfolio to monitor outcomes from Games legacy projects and the Delivering a Bold Legacy for Birmingham plan. This will ensure all the benefits and legacies from the Commonwealth Games will be recorded.

Outcomes from the £6 million Community Fund is being built into future plans and strategies:

- Learning from the delivery of Celebrating Communities is being built into plans for community funding, ensuring the focus on capacity building at local level continues and that new and emerging community networks are supported.
- Club Together, Active Streets and Community Games will inform approaches to grassroots sport and physical activity. The successes and learnings from these programmes will also inform plans for community engagement with major sporting events such as the European Athletics Championships in 2026.
- Learning from Creative City small grants fund will inform cultural engagement strategies as we continue to work with the cultural sector and

build on the successes of Festival 2022 and embark on developing a new signature arts festival for Birmingham.

- The City of Nature Alliance will continue to invest in communities and green spaces, working towards its goal of ensuring all parks and public open spaces meet the Birmingham Future Parks Standard.
- We will continue to work closely with the United By 2022 charity, building on the strong partnerships created through the Games legacy partnership and linking the continuation of programmes such as Bring The Power to our ambitions for children and young people.
- Underspend from the Community Fund are already being reinvested in projects: a Community Events Fund, a Young Ambassador programme and grass roots sports and culture programmes are all launching in 2023.

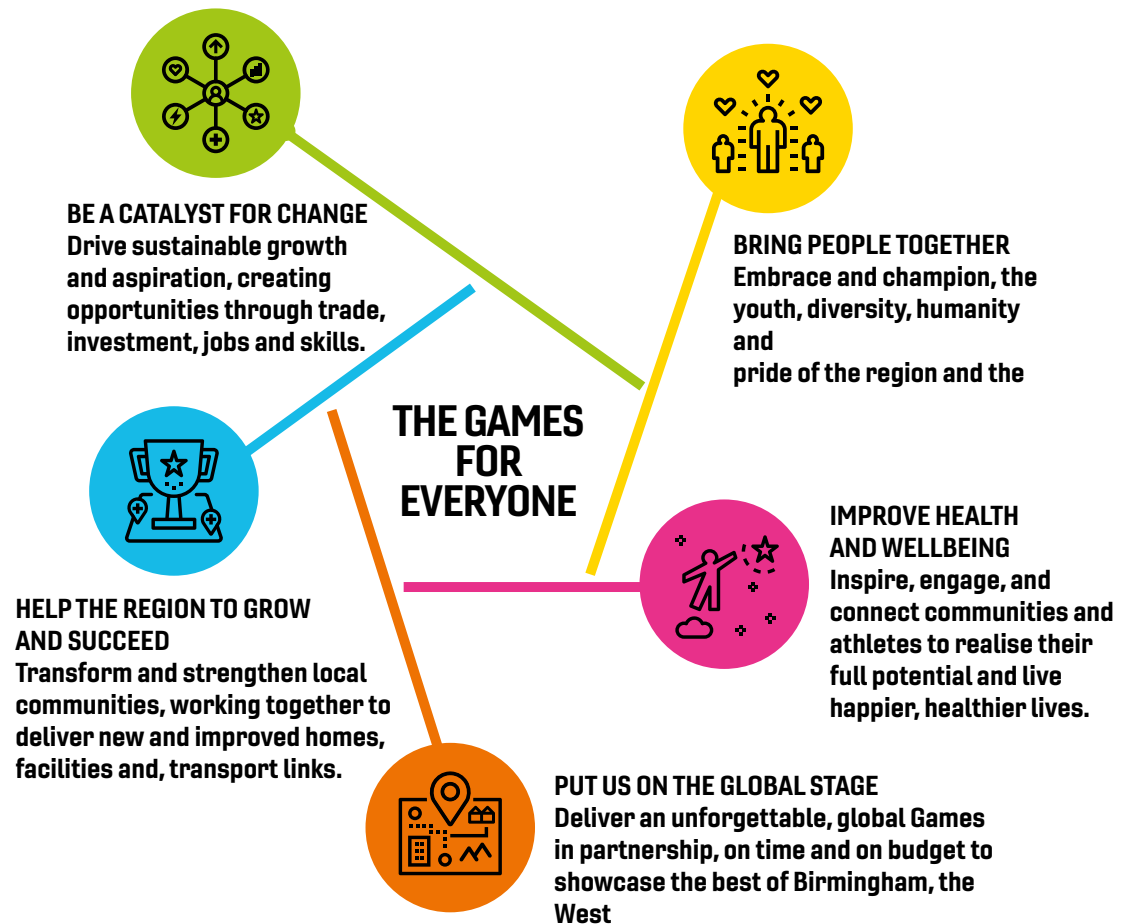
INTRODUCTION & CONTEXT

The Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games was a huge success for Birmingham as the proud host city. It was the largest multi-sport event to be held in England for 10 years, featuring thousands of world-class athletes and more than 1.5million spectators over 11 days. The Games also featured the first integrated cultural celebration, Festival 2022, which ran from March – September 2022 and attracted audience attendances in excess of 2.4million people. The arrival of the Games accelerated the transformation of Birmingham’s built environment, through the redevelopment of the Alexander Stadium, the Perry Barr regeneration scheme and transport improvements; and the creation of 40,000 jobs and volunteer opportunities across the city and region.

Birmingham 2022’s vision was to be the ‘Games for Everyone’. Games activity was aligned to five mission pillars that were created following widespread community engagement across Birmingham and the West Midlands.

The Games Partners

- Birmingham City Council (BCC),
- Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee (OC),
- Commonwealth Games England (CGE),
- Commonwealth Games Federation (CGF),
- Department of Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS),
- West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA),



WHAT WAS THE COMMUNITY FUND?

Birmingham City Council invested £6 million to kickstart community-based projects and legacies. This was not about big capital builds, but instead taking an innovative approach to working with and alongside people and organisations across the city.

To maximise local impact, the Fund provided a mix of small grants programmes and support to directly commissioned projects that aligned to both council priorities and Games mission pillars.

The Community Fund was established to support engagement and Games legacy in the following ways:



Support and engage Birmingham citizens to feel part of the Games.



Make sure that the opportunity is spread across the city.



Make sure the projects delivered celebrate Birmingham.



Deliver benefits and legacy for the city that aligns with city priorities.



Be spent on local and community projects as opposed to big capital builds.



Create feelings of connectivity and positivity and enabling mass participation.



Make sure that the projects delivered through the fund support and showcase our diverse communities.



Deliver an element of funding at local level through the city's ward structures.

The Fund was divided into five areas, to maximise opportunities for Birmingham organisations and residents to get directly involved with celebrating the Games. These areas formed the basis of the £6 million fund programme.

CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES

Delivered by BCC Neighbourhood Delivery & Support Unit (NDSU), Community Partners



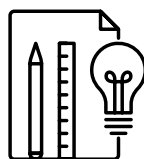
£1,419,624

directly awarded across the city



69

wards



263

projects



243

organisations



72%

of projects in the city's most deprived wards (D1-2)



316

grants awarded by local communities

WELCOMING CITY



BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER



IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

LINXS consultancy completed a detailed evaluation of the methodology behind Celebrating Communities. Data and findings from this report are included below.

WHAT WAS CELEBRATING COMMUNITIES?

Designed and delivered with the council's Neighbourhoods Delivery and Support Unit (NDSU), the Celebrating Communities fund was created to help Birmingham-based grassroots community organisations and groups celebrate the Games their way and feel a sense of connection to the festivities. This was especially important for those communities outside of the city centre or not near a Games venue.

Funding was allocated to each of the city's 69 wards, based on the ward's ranking within the 2019 Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)³ and the number of councillors (indicating the size of the ward). Funding allocations ranged from £11,100 (low IMD ranking, 1 councillor) to £35,000 (high IMD ranking, 2 councillors). Local communities were invited to submit proposals against one (or more) of the fund's simple, inclusive and accessible themes:

GET ACTIVE – encouraging local communities to get out and active around the city in their neighbourhood, parks and open spaces.

READY, STEADY, FUN – delivering community projects to help an area get 'Games Ready', hosting community celebrations to connect people and foster civic pride.

CELEBRATING CULTURE – creating projects that celebrate the diversity and heritage of Birmingham communities.

Applicants were also asked to demonstrate how their idea linked to the local ward priorities, identified through existing ward plans or newly created ward profiles.

There were three calls for funding in 2021 and 2022. A comprehensive communications campaign, advertising the fund on several social media channels, through print media, radio and on banners in parks and open spaces in the city. Sessions were held for councillors, to explain how the fund worked and how they could support local groups.

Birmingham Community Matters (BCM) and Locality held training and workshops for groups that had little or no experience in writing bids and pitching for funding. NDSU also provided additional support to wards where there were very few established community organisations, to ensure they did not miss out on the allocated funding.

All eligible proposals were presented at independently facilitated local ward forum meetings, and attendees voted for the projects they most wanted to take forward. This approach encouraged greater local participation in decision making. It was the first time a participatory decision-making approach had been used at scale across the city in relation to grant funding.



Some wards had still not used all their allocated funding by the end of the second round of funding, so an unplanned third round was added. As there was insufficient time to reconvene a third series of ward forum meetings, an independent "backstop panel" was created to make funding decisions. This comprised representatives from local community organisations and individuals with experience of community working in Birmingham wards.

³ IMD ranks geographical areas across the UK in order of deprivation based on a number of social and economic factors.



WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

316 grants were awarded to deliver 263 projects across Birmingham, bringing a Commonwealth Games connection to every ward.

Events included sports days, while creative activities included the creation of community gardens and murals.

Dance, flash mobs and choirs added further vibrancy and colour. Stories and community histories were shared and community events (big and small) were brought to the city's parks and open spaces.

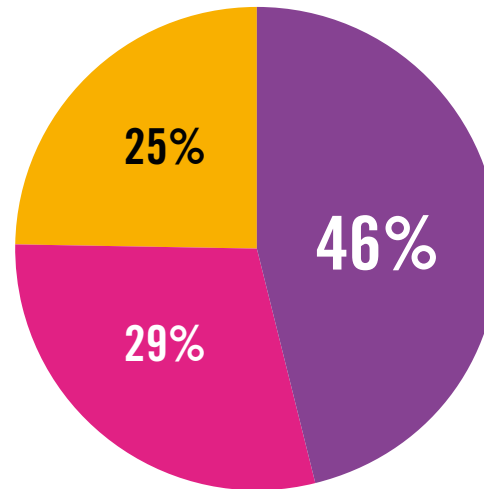


Figure 1. Celebrating Communities Themes

- Get Active (122)
- Ready Steady Fun (76)
- Celebrating Culture (65)

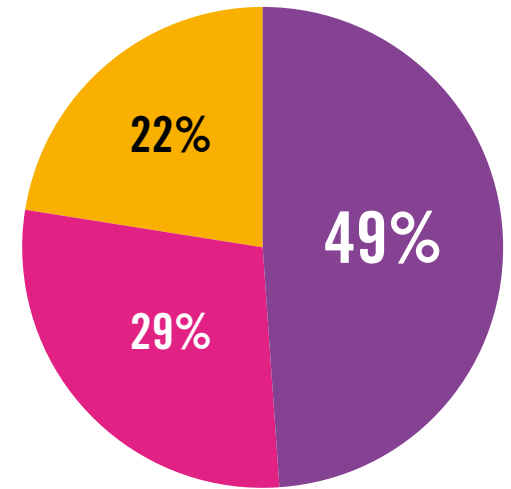


Figure 2. Celebrating Communities Projects

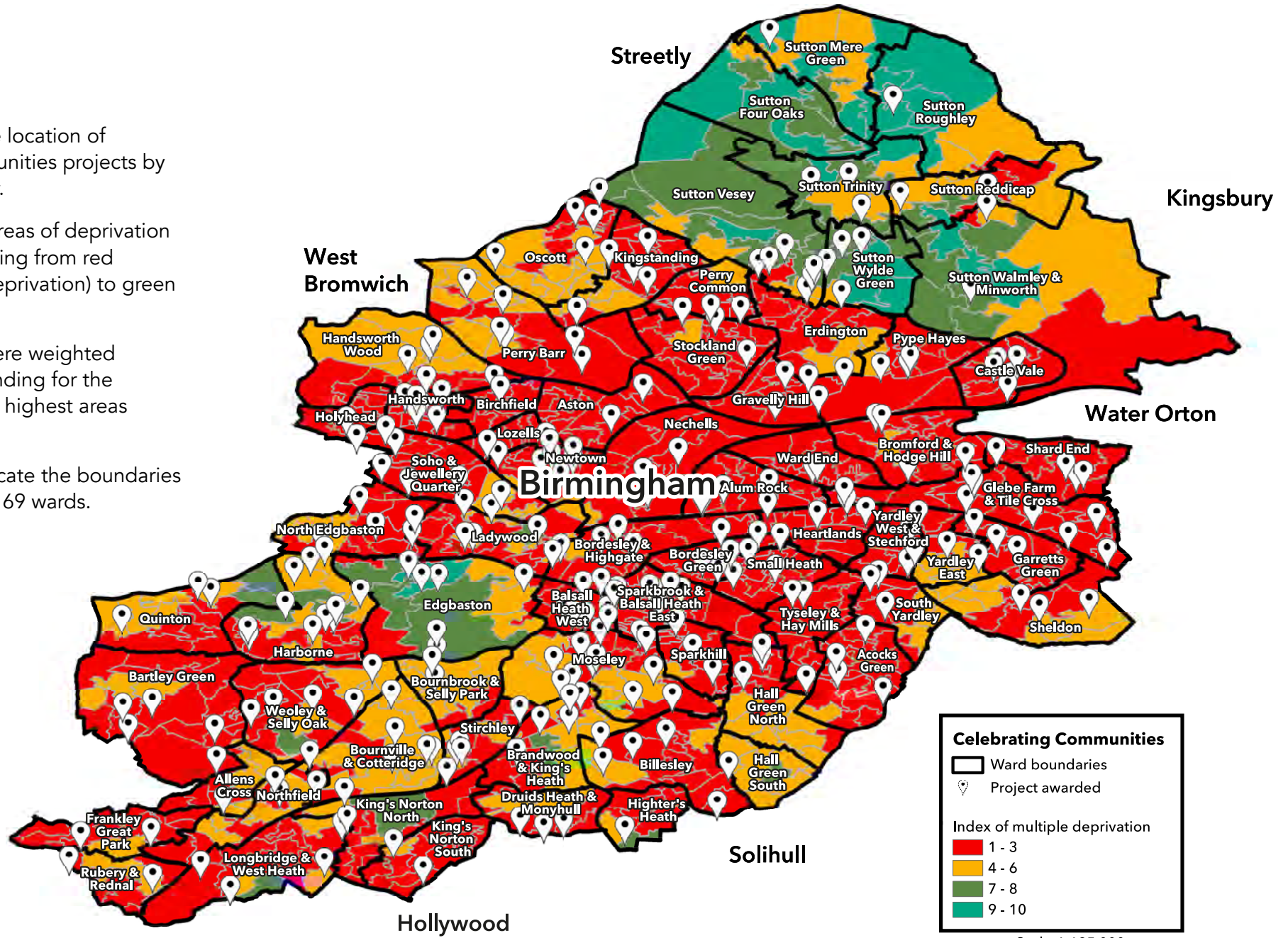
- Programme of Activity (130)
- Event (76)
- Asset Improvement (59)

This map shows the location of Celebrating Communities projects by ward across the city.

The colours show areas of deprivation within the city, ranging from red (highest levels of deprivation) to green (lowest levels).

Ward allocations were weighted to provide more funding for the largest wards in the highest areas of deprivation.

The black lines indicate the boundaries of each of the city's 69 wards.





PROJECTS DELIVERED INCLUDE:

Cadbury Barn Trust – Weoley Ward

Cadbury Barn Trust delivered a wide variety of activities in Manor Farm Park over the summer for all ages. These included forest schools, fitness classes, woodland craft and storytelling, foraging walks and street dance classes, with more than 400 attendees across all sessions. The Trust also used part of the grant to buy a welfare unit, which will be installed in the park.

Friends Of Reddings Lane Park Mural – Hall Green North

The group created a community mural that celebrates the heritage and history of their home, with a Commonwealth-themed backdrop. The park has suffered from vandalism and fly tipping, but the Friends hope the mural will add some colour and vibrancy to the park, complementing the work they have already completed with community planting. The mural was unveiled on 21 August, 2022.





Handsworth Community Choir – Handsworth

Handsworth Community Choir was supported to prepare for its performance at the Birchfield Jazz Festival and at the Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. The rehearsal programme, while intense, was valuable for members, who said they grew in confidence and were better able to support each other.



Sporting Pathways – Alum Rock, Bordesley Green, Bromford and Hodge Hill, Yardley West and Stetchford

Sporting Pathways worked in four wards to encourage young females from global majority backgrounds to take up cricket. The project also trained three new coaches and extended its pool of volunteers for sessions. As well as organising taster and training sessions and an event day, there was also a trip to see The Hundred matches at Edgbaston Cricket Ground. For those young women facing cultural barriers to participation, this project has brought cricket to them in an accessible way.



Welcome Change – Glebe Farm and Tile Cross

Welcome Change, Glebe Farm and Stetchford Residents Group and The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) hosted a picnic in the park at Glebe Park Farm for more than 200 local residents. This event was held the day before the Games began and included live music, crafts, sport and food. It was an opportunity for the community to get outdoors and showcase their own sporting prowess and enabled participants to come together, engage with local agencies and learn about some of the local services on offer.



Boldmere Futures CIC – Sutton Vesey

Boldmere Futures combined Celebrating Communities funding with other sources to create a trail of 54 Commonwealth flags around the Vesey ward. The images of the flags were attached to lampposts, while QR codes could be scanned to find out information about the country of origin and any connections it had to local residents. Since the Games, 40 of the flags have been adopted by local residents or businesses, so the route can continue. During the summer of the Games, 13,000 trail maps were handed out to local schools, visitors and residents, while the website and interactive map registered hundreds of visitors. The trail is suitable for walking, running or cycling, and can be accessed via

www.boldmere.org/cwg2022/flyingflag

A full list of projects can be found in Appendix A.

DELIVERING A PARTICIPATORY DECISION-MAKING CITY-WIDE PILOT

Celebrating Communities was the first city-wide attempt at a participatory decision-making system for a small grants fund. The concept, where community members have a direct vote on proposals has been used in the city before through the Local Innovation Fund (LIF) and was also influenced by the 2019 'Working Together In Birmingham's Neighbourhoods' White Paper.

Community anchor organisations provided facilitators to lead the decision-making sessions at specially convened ward selection meetings. The approach, although novel, enjoyed varying degrees of success. The evaluation reports while some facilitators successfully brokered relationships with engaged ward councillors, and were comfortable and well-prepared to facilitate the project selection session to manage community voting, this was not the case in all wards. This contributed to delays in some areas, resulting in the unplanned third round of funding and creation of a backstop panel, to enable a timely decision making process.

Attendees at ward selection meetings were eligible to vote on the projects. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the majority of these selection meetings were held online. The evaluation identified while the principle of participatory voting was welcomed, there were concerns around implementation, for example:

- Varying degrees of IT literacy amongst facilitators and participants,
- Checking residency of participants in online sessions,
- Lack of ability to preserve anonymity in online sessions,
- Attendance levels (meetings required a minimum of six people excluding the local councillor, facilitator and any NDSU staff).

IDENTIFYING NEW MICRO AND GRASSROOTS ORGANISATIONS

The NDSU estimates between one third and one half of successful Celebrating Communities applicants were previously unknown to it and to extant local networks.⁴ Investing significantly in a wide-reaching communications campaign, and support from Locality and Birmingham Community Matters, undoubtedly helped to encourage new organisations to come forward.

It is essential to continue investing in community capacity building, to maintain these expanded networks and to support the growth and development of newly established micro-organisations. NDSU is exploring how to build similar or expanded support into future funding models.

Some wards did not fully allocate their Celebrating Communities funding. These tended to be where community capacity and infrastructure is lower. NDSU identified 30 wards as 'cold spots' for accessing funding and targeted them with additional support. This resulted in 18 of these wards returning a zero or negligible underspend.

Celebrating Communities fund closed with an underspend on grant funding of £180,000. This money will be utilised for a Community Events Fund in 2023.

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

Funding supported activities, events and improvements to local areas across Birmingham. Some of the projects built on work that was already ongoing, others created something completely new.

Community groups made new partnerships and learnt from the experience of delivery, and feedback from each project demonstrates that local people connected, participated and benefitted.

Piloting a different kind of funding methodology and a participatory approach at scale has enabled us to learn about what worked well, and where further improvements can be made.

Key recommendations include:

- Continued investment in capacity-building support, such as that provided by BCM and Locality. LINXS found this support was likely to be a contributing factor in the number of new grassroots organisations completing the application process and being awarded funding.
- Reviewing the internal funding-related process to ensure any future grant fund is as streamlined as possible, applying a proportionate approach to risk, maintaining a participatory decision-making approach, but refining it. LINXS made several specific recommendations concerning online participation, community panels, the independent facilitation process, the role of elected members, and connectivity to ward plans and ward forums.
- It is essential to build a realistic communication budget into any future grant funding project, alongside strong internal communication.

⁴Celebrating Communities Interim Evaluation Report LINXS Consultancy p21

CREATIVE CITY

Delivered by the B2022 Festival Team⁵



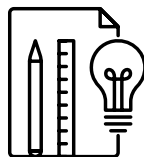
£1,736,481
awarded



858
volunteers engaged



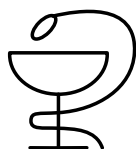
56
wards in 393 locations



106
projects



19,246
participants



16%
of people identified themselves as disabled, neurodiverse or having a long term health condition



94%
of people said involvement with the programme had a positive effect on their wellbeing

WELCOMING CITY



BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER



IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

MEL Research was commissioned by B2022 Festival to evaluate the Creative City project. This is available at <https://www.birmingham2022.com/festival/evaluations>. Data and findings from this report are included here.

WHAT IS CREATIVE CITY?

Creative City was a small grants programme, aimed at connecting local communities with artists and professional creatives as part of the wider celebrations for the Commonwealth Games.

It was open to not-for-profit community groups and organisations to deliver arts and creative projects within communities. Organisations could apply for up to £20,000 per project, and successful applicants had to demonstrate how their project would encourage and inspire Birmingham residents to achieve one or more of the following:

- Become more physically active,
- Learn new things,
- Feel connected,
- Discover talents,
- Share creativity,
- Explore where they live,
- Celebrate youth,
- Showcase real diversity,
- Enhance Birmingham's cultural capacity and reputation,
- Embrace the moment of the Games.

More than 100 leaders, groups and organisations took part in early information presentations and there were group presentations and information sharing sessions.

A key element of the programme was to engage with underserved communities and there was a focus on encouraging applications from organisations working in the 25 highest ranking wards in the IMD 2019, as well as ensuring a geographical spread of projects across Birmingham. Creative City also sought to engage participants, leaders and creatives from communities currently under-represented in the city's cultural activities.

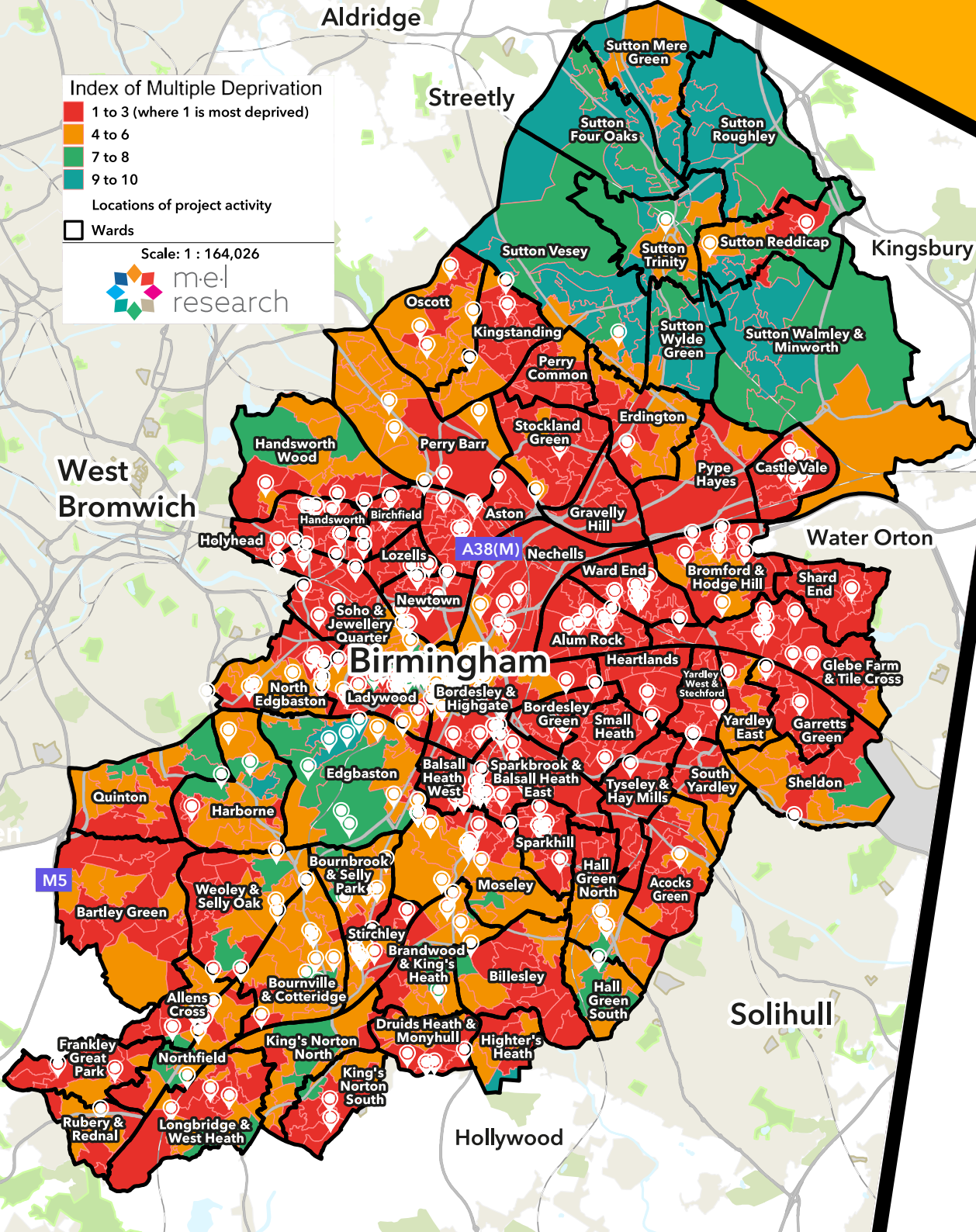
Birmingham residents interested in arts and culture were recruited on to an independent community recommendation panel, to help engage those underserved communities. The community panel reviewed all applications and made recommendations to a stakeholder panel for formal agreement.

Enhancement funds were available to support selected projects that could repeat showcase moments, stage artwork/s elsewhere, reach new audiences and new areas, or develop digital or more accessible experiences.

A sector development programme supported successful grantees to develop their capacity and capability within the city's cultural sector. At the conclusion of the programme, Culture Central, the membership organisation for the West Midlands' cultural sector, delivered two consultation sessions with Creative City grantees to design a development programme that would best support their needs.



⁵ Creative City Grants – B2022 Festival Evaluation, MEL Research



Index of Multiple Deprivation

- 1 to 3 (where 1 is most deprived)
- 4 to 6
- 7 to 8
- 9 to 10

Locations of project activity

Wards

Scale: 1 : 164,026

m-e-l research

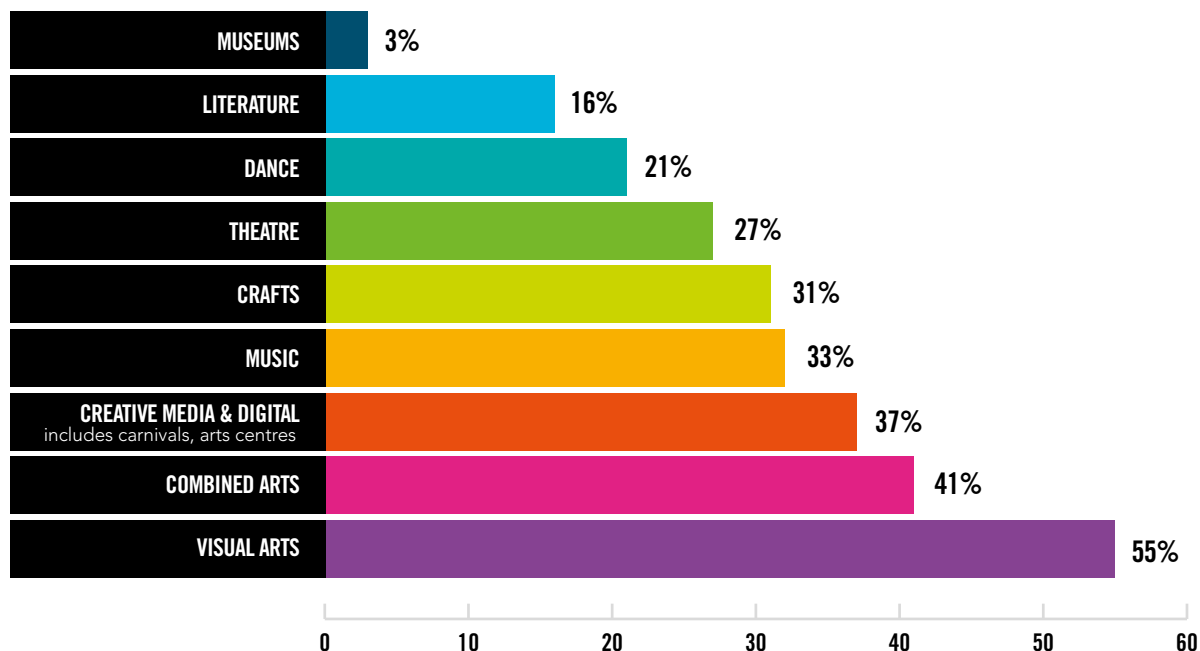
WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

106 Creative City projects were delivered in 393 locations across Birmingham in 56 of the city's 69 wards. They involved 361 organisations, with 392 partnerships formed as a result of the projects.

The map⁶ shows where Creative City activities were delivered against the IMD ranking of the city's wards. 76% of projects were delivered in the most deprived areas of Birmingham.

⁶ Map from Creative City Grants Evaluation, MEL Research p68

Figure 3. Artistic Disciplines delivered by Creative City Grants ⁷

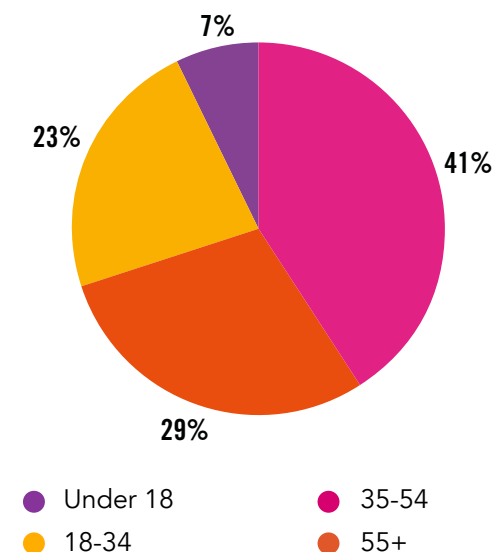


Artists and communities had the freedom to choose the artform that worked best for them. MEL's evaluation report concludes this level of artistic freedom, coupled with time and free reign to develop and deliver projects, was highly valuable. It led to stronger relationships and connections between the organisations, communities and individuals.

The evaluation measured engagement across all areas of the programme: staff, freelancers, participants, volunteers and audiences.

- 30% of all people engaged in Creative City were under the age of 35,
- Under 18s were most likely to be participants or volunteers on projects,

Figure 4. Age Profile of People Engaged with Creative City ⁸



- 18-34 year olds were spread across the programme as the second largest demographic grouping across all roles within the project,
- 95% of young people surveyed said they felt their contribution mattered. For some, engaging in cultural projects in a non-educational setting enabled them to grow in confidence.

⁷ MEL Research Creative City Grants p67

⁸ MEL Research Creative City Grants p25

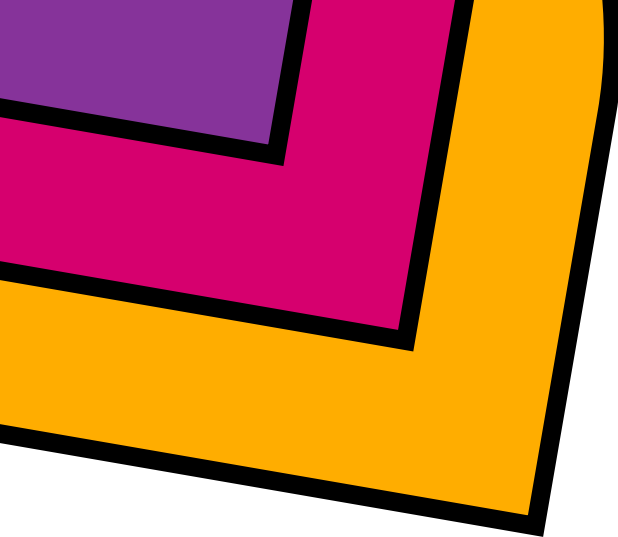
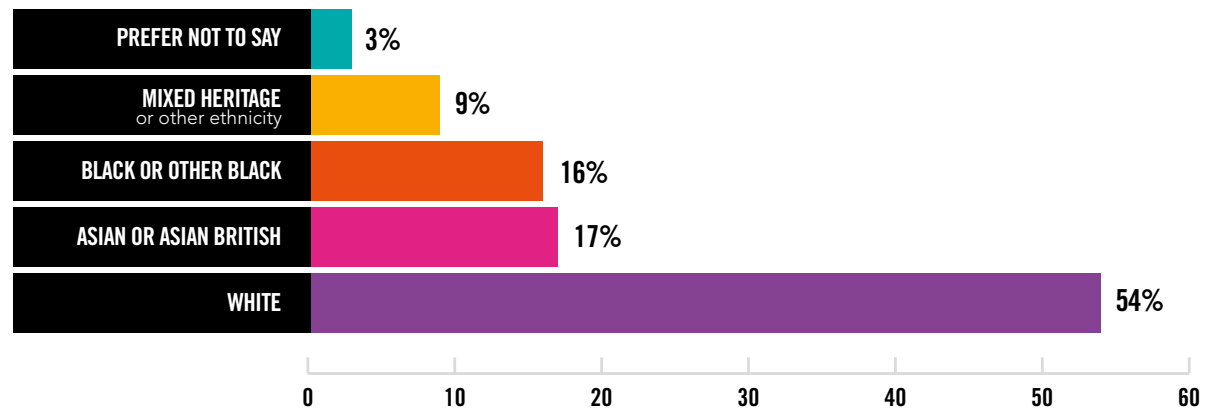


Figure 5. Ethnic Background of People Engaged with Creative City ⁹



“ Dance was the best bit, I was nervous but I kept doing it. A compliment off a professional: you hear it more, you believe in it, believe in yourself.

Headteacher,
Longwill School
for the Deaf



45% of individuals engaging with Creative City were from a global majority background. The 2021 census data shows 51.4% of Birmingham’s population is non-white, making it one of the first statistically super-diverse cities.

A key line of inquiry for the evaluation was the extent to which Creative City projects had helped to grow and diversify audiences interacting with co-created arts. 96% of participants said it reflected a broad and inclusive range of voices due to the freedom of scope for projects and the time allowed for a co-creative approach.

The evaluation found this freedom also helped to change perceptions, by bringing people from different backgrounds and communities together.

More needs to be done to fully understand diverse communities in the city, and to ensure engagement feels meaningful and not tokenistic. The evaluation recommends early engagement with diverse groups, while more networking between grant making bodies and delivery organisations should create better connection and develop ongoing support.¹⁰

“It’s very easy to be excluded for one reason or another, you’re too short, you’re too tall, your skin’s not the right colour, your accent is wrong, you’re from the wrong side of the road, it’s been nice to be part of such an inclusive project.”

Project lead, Oscott ward¹¹

⁹ MEL Research Creative City Grants p56

¹⁰ MEL Research Creative City Grants p72

¹¹ MEL Research Creative City Grants p48

PROJECTS DELIVERED INCLUDE:

Your Love Lifts Me Up – Friends of Cedar Church & BSL Community Chorus

Friends of Cedar Church partnered with more than 150 performers and individuals, to create a community chorus celebrating British Sign Language (BSL). The aim was to empower deaf children to teach signing through singing across all communities. Working with Longwill School for the Deaf, the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire, Watoto Children's Choir in Uganda, Shireland Collegiate Academy and prominent BSL artists Mary-Jayne Russell de Clifford and Rebecca A. Withey, Your Love Lifts Me Up was shared in schools via the Birmingham Music Service.

It was also performed at various locations across the city, including a flashmob at New Street Station, the Singstanding Community Celebrations, and alongside the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and at the UNICEF Rights Respecting Schools Celebrations. An additional tutorial video and alphabet greeting song "Hello BSL" was also shared in city schools. The song is available online at <https://yourloveliftsmeup.com/>



“ The children have sung their hearts out!

And they have loved doing so! We have enjoyed sharing our signing skills with the fantastic “Your Love Lifts Me Up” team and raising the profile of BSL further afield. Teaching BSL to other children in Birmingham and beyond is something that all the children feel very proud about.

Headteacher,
Longwill School
for the Deaf

”

Martineau Gardens — Gates of Welcome

Martineau Gardens is a therapeutic community garden and charity located two miles from Birmingham city centre. Free to access, it is maintained by volunteers and operates an inclusive volunteer policy, supporting those with additional needs as well as welcoming those who want company, work experience or are keen to do something different. The Gardens are on a busy road and the team wanted to create a welcoming and identifiable access point. Members created the Gates of Welcome through a series of workshops with local schools and volunteers, and it was brought to life by artist Tim Tolkien. The gates explore plants that have origins in the Commonwealth, as well as the links to Birmingham and the gardens with social history, such as abolitionist Harriet Martineau.



Rectory Road Amateur Boxing Club – Boxer Beat

Amateur boxers aged 10 and above from Rectory Road Amateur Boxing Club, Sutton Coldfield, joined forces with local musicians and a filmmaker to create Boxer Beat, which used the rhythm of each boxer to create an individual track. The club encouraged volunteers from its members and they had the opportunity to learn new skills such as recording, musical production and film editing.

The musicians had the chance to train and take part in the boxing sessions. Everyone participating had the chance to experience the 'cross over' between music and boxing.

The project was played at a special event at Sutton Coldfield Town Hall.

Boxer Beat can be seen on Rectory Road's YouTube channel [@rectoryboxing7023](#).



WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

Creative City enabled local organisations to develop wider networks with the cultural sector, other groups and interested participants in their area:

- 84% of staff, artists and freelancers said their involvement helped them connect with other people in their field,
- 99% said they planned to continue with these newly developed relationships.

Culture Central's ongoing sector development work will provide further support through action learning networks and advice on areas such as financial planning and fundraising.

As the city plans to invest more directly into community culture and to create an International Festival for Birmingham, the success of the Creative City programme provides a real opportunity to further develop and showcase community arts and culture across the city. The evaluation found the programme took the high-quality events experience out of the city centre and embedded it into local communities, encouraging exploration of new social spaces, and linking small community based organisations into a mega event.

The co-created approach also provides a strong foundation for better engagement with young people and diverse and underserved communities across the city.

PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

Complementary mix of commissioned activity delivered by Games partners



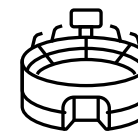
43

Project Brum young leaders



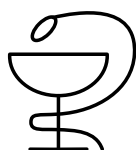
70

active streets



8

community games



50

micro projects in parks across
Bordesley & Highgate ward



153

youth person's grants

**ASPIRING
HEALTHY
CITY**



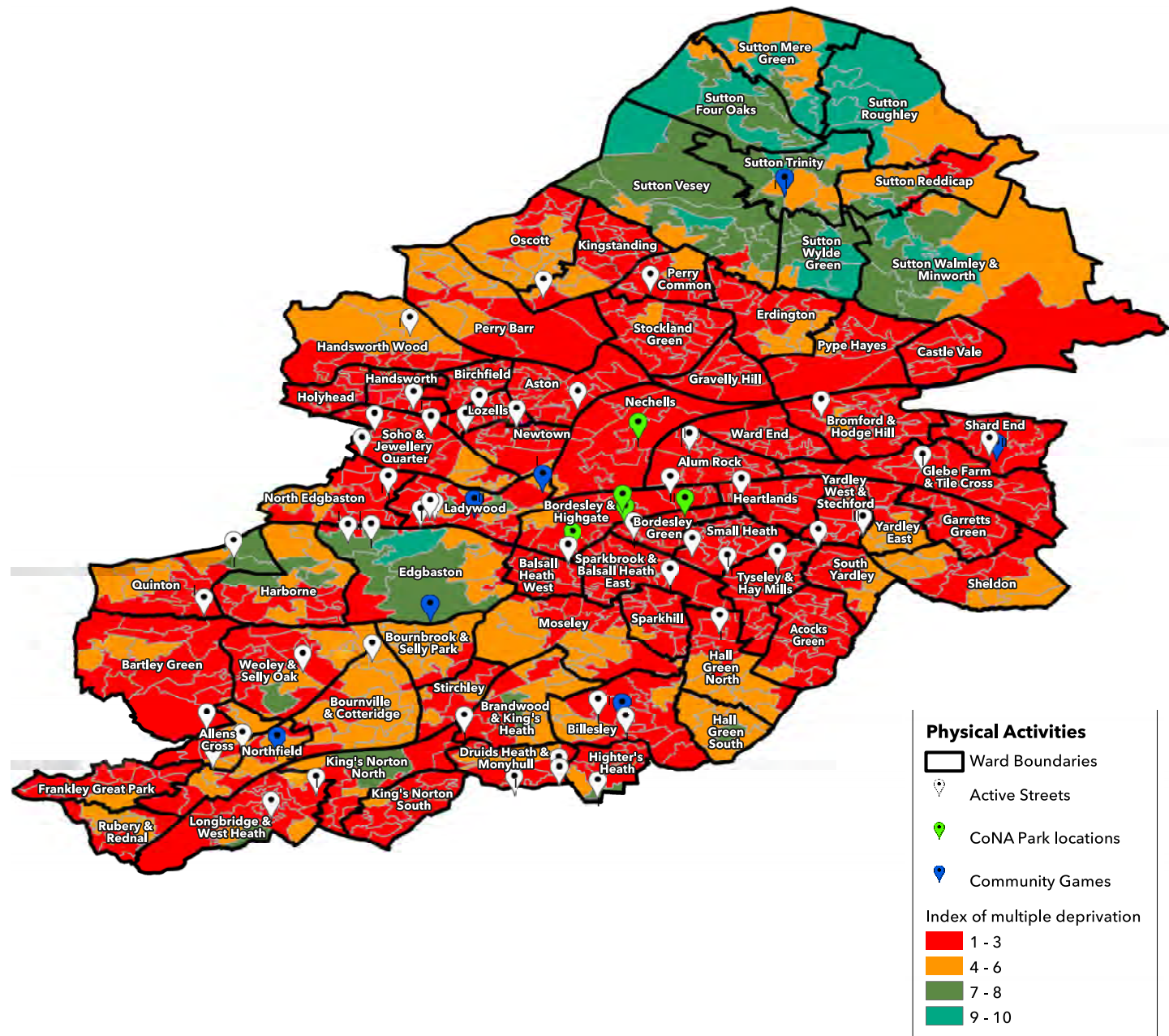
BRING PEOPLE
TOGETHER



IMPROVE HEALTH AND
WELLBEING

The Physical Activity programme was a mix of commissioned activity and small grants across five workstreams. Larger, mass participation programmes complemented activities organised by other Games partners, but with a specific focus on Birmingham residents. Smaller projects, such as the Young Person's Grants and Club Together were identified as they provided a more targeted opportunity to support a project with a more legacy focussed outcome.

Birmingham's population has high levels of inactivity: only 58% of adults are classified as physically active and 63% of adults are classified as overweight or obese.¹² The Commonwealth Games provided a unique opportunity to showcase a range of activities that could demonstrate the benefits of being physically active in a fun, free, accessible and non-judgmental way. Investment was also made in the City of Nature pilot project, kickstarting a longer-term strategy to improve Birmingham's parks and open spaces to encourage community use.



¹² Data source; PHE Fingertips Local Authority Health Profiles 2020-21 dataset

ACTIVE STREETS & PROJECT BRUM

Delivered by The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWs) and partners



70
active streets



95%
delivered in Birmingham's
most deprived areas



10,485
people participating



44
additional young people
recruited as Project Brum staff

"So much more than a street closure, building connections and loving our city!"



WHAT IS AN ACTIVE STREET FESTIVAL?

An Active Street is a simple idea: the closure of a road or car park or the use of an open space to create a free-to-access safe space where everyone is welcome. The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWS) works with communities and organisations to create an Active Street that residents want, providing any support they need eg. submitting road closure applications or training up local volunteers to ensure that the road or space and surrounding neighbours are safe on the day. Active Streets can range in size from the closure of a cul-de-sac to a community cinema event in local open space.

Each Active Street has a 'street lead' from the local community, who is supported by TAWS staff. After the event, TAWS can support future events, if needed, but the ultimate aim is for community groups to develop their own capacity and feel confident to deliver locally in a way that works for them.

TAWS was commissioned to deliver 70 Active Street festivals, focusing on areas with higher levels of deprivation and lower levels of physical activity.

WHAT IS 'PROJECT BRUM'?

Project Brum provided 44 Birmingham people aged 16-24 the chance to gain work experience with TAWS to deliver Active Streets and other events. Participants were paid the real living wage and received a full induction and training, plus access to employability sessions and a dedicated support programme.

Applications were sought from local colleges, local communities and other youth settings.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

- 70 Active Street Festivals were delivered across Birmingham, with 10,485 people participating.
- 19 of these locations had not held an Active Street before.
- Of those participants happy to share their details, 87% were from Global Majority backgrounds and 61% were female. 95% of Active Streets were based in areas identified as IMD 1&2 (i.e. most deprived areas of Birmingham).
- 35 Community asset organisations (schools, community centres, museums etc.) supported the delivery of Active Streets.



- Of those surveyed, 73% stated that their physical activity had increased as a result of the Active Street Festival and 88% of respondents felt strongly that the Active Street had a positive impact on their wellbeing.
- TAWS also provided additional activities at Active Street Festivals through their Bikes team, Food Vans and Share Shacks where requested by the local community.
- 44 Project Brum staff aged 16-24 were recruited to support Active Streets and other TAWS projects. 14 employability sessions were delivered to Project Brum staff in addition to CV support and mentoring.

PROJECTS DELIVERED INCLUDE:

Brierton Road Active Streets

“We had a great time yesterday at Starbank School with our first Commonwealth Games-inspired street closure, with games, races, activities and amazing food supplied by our #bigfeed team. A big thank you to all the children, parents, teachers & our team who got involved!”

TAWS Project Co-Ordinator





Cobden Road Active Streets

TAWs worked with children's charity Barnardo's to provide Active Street sessions for families in emergency accommodation:

"Over the summer, TAWS programmed in weekly activities that encouraged engagement, play & communication! Each session, our registration list was full of children and their families with energy to burn and a motivated spirit."

TAWS Project Co-Ordinator

Handsworth Park

Handsworth Park's Active Street festival closed the summer of 2022 with an outdoor cinema evening in partnership with Flatpack Festival.

The Real Junk Food project and Incredible Surplus provided dishes from food that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

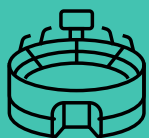


WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

- TAWS will continue to support and grow Active Street festivals, but it is keen to deliver a more in-depth level of community work to meet the needs of local areas.
- The age range for Project Brum may be expanded to provide experience and support to a wider age range; but also to allow local people to share their knowledge, add value to their community and help grow community capacity.
- With a combination of new locations and repeated successful locations, community capacity will continue to be built to deliver locally designed and led events and interventions. This in turn may impact levels of community cohesion and the way in which loneliness and isolation can be tackled at a hyper-local level.
- TAWS will be maintained contact with Project Brum staff interested supporting future projects.
- After being involved in the accessibility working group for the Games, TAWS is exploring how to increase the accessibility of Active Streets and other projects.

COMMUNITY GAMES

Delivered by Inspire Activity and Sport Birmingham



8

Community Games
across Birmingham



8,179
participants



94%

said the event they attended
was 'excellent' or 'very good'



44

of people attending said they were
likely to visit a local sports club

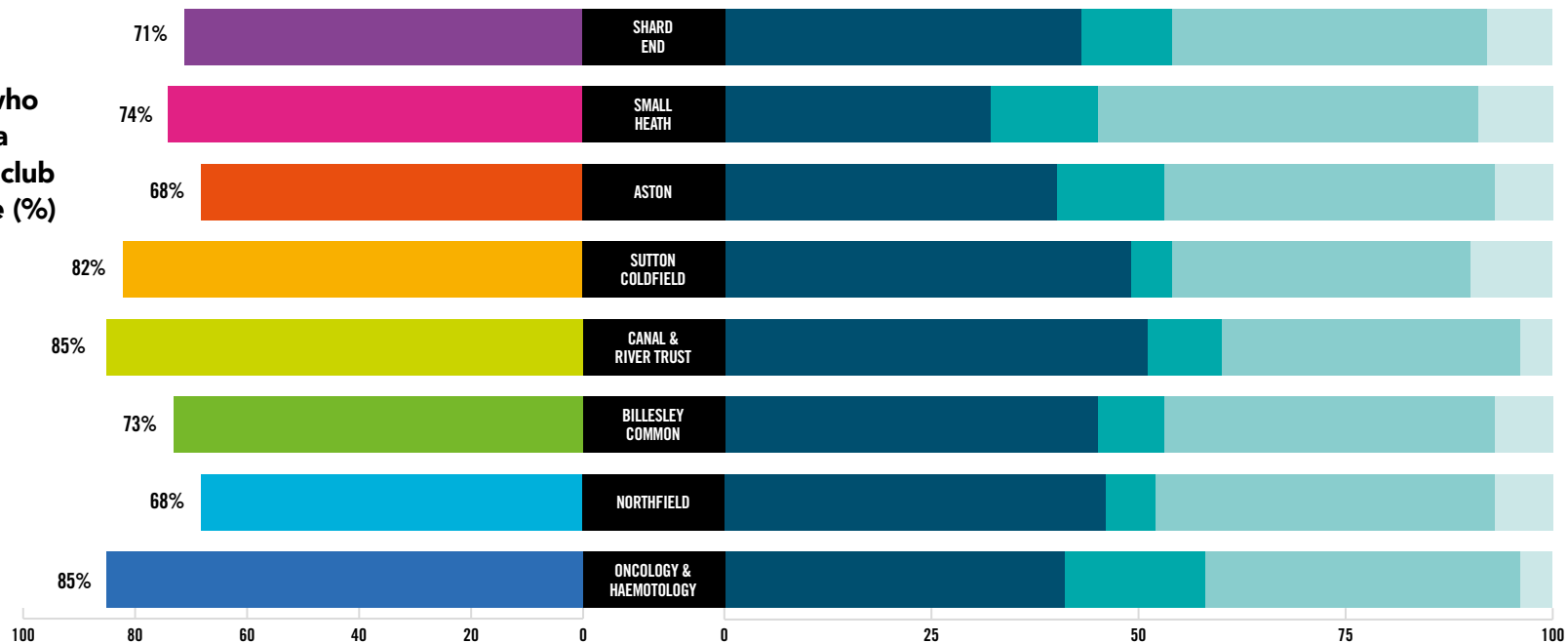


WHAT IS THE COMMUNITY GAMES?

The Community Games began as a legacy project from the 2012 London Olympic and Paralympic Games and aimed to get children and their parents to experience clubs and sporting activities in a safe, fun and friendly environment.

The Community Games team worked with local clubs and community organisations, charities, schools, sports agencies and professional sports organisations to tailor each event to the local area. We commissioned eight Community Games to celebrate the arrival of the Commonwealth Games and to encourage local people to get active.

Figure 7.
Percentage attendees who would visit a local sports club in the future (%)



Local communities could choose from a range of activities, including tennis, archery, judo, running, paddle boarding, basketball, rugby, cricket, orienteering, boxing and tug-of-war. Each participating child collected stickers for each activity and celebrated their achievements with a medal.

Community Games were free to access and were spread around Birmingham. Locations were influenced by the availability and suitability of open space.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

Figure 6. Partner Organisations involved in the games

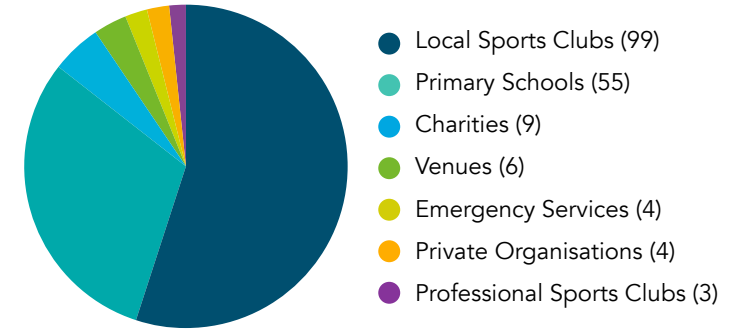


Figure 8.
Percentage Age Breakdown by Games (%)

- Age 0-3
- Age 4-11
- Age 12-17
- Age 18+

COMMUNITY GAMES ALSO ACHIEVED TWO FIRSTS:

The first Oncology and Haematology Community Games

Inspire Activity and partners worked with the staff at Birmingham Children's Hospital, to deliver an event for young people undergoing treatment for cancer, and their families. One of the Games was held in the grounds of a local school, while another was hosted in the hospital's outdoor space used by patients. Young people and their families experienced a huge range of sports, from hockey to wheelchair basketball, table tennis to simulated sailing and kayaking. The purpose was to highlight how important it is to be active, both during treatment and afterwards, for longer-term health and wellbeing.

The Canal and River Trust Community Games

Inspire Activity and the Canal and River Trust worked together to organise a watersports-focused Community Games on the canal from Old Junction Turn in Birmingham (by the Sea Life Centre) to Pope Bridge in Smethwick. Two activity hubs were established at either end of the three-mile stretch, with attendees able to walk between them. Hundreds of people tried watersports such as paddle boarding, kayaking and rowing, while land-based activity included running, orienteering, judo, tennis and cricket. This was a great opportunity to support the Canal and River Trust's aims of getting more people out on the canal networks and linking the city's blue and green corridors.



My children really love trying out all the different sports and were especially keen to have a go at sports seen live at the Commonwealth Games.

Attendee, Sutton Coldfield Community Games

Thank you for making my son so happy. He loved doing the boxing after unable to do kickboxing for almost four years since he was diagnosed with his condition. The children's faces say it all, they had an amazing time.

Attendee, Oncology and Haematology Community Games

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

- 77% of those surveyed across the eight Community Games said they were likely to visit a sports club after attending the event. As part of the Club Together project (see below), we will support community sports clubs to increase their reach and accessibility.
- Inspire Activity is planning further Community Games across the city and region for 2023, including the second Oncology and Haematology Games with Birmingham Children's Hospital.
- The success of the Community Games demonstrates the value of more localised, free-to-access mass-participation events. This should be considered when planning activity around future major sporting events.

The range and quality of activities was fantastic! All the staff and volunteers were so welcoming and encouraging that we wish we'd been there earlier.

Attendee, Billesley Common Community Games



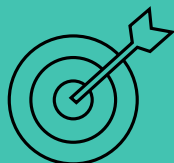
CLUB TOGETHER

Delivered by Sport Birmingham

KEY THEMES:



COLLABORATION



**SHARED
PURPOSE**



TRUST

To date 5 of the target 12 networks have been established working towards specific objectives relating to the local area and needs of the community.

The programme aims to create 10 geographically based networks, covering the most deprived areas of the city. Currently, 4 of the 5 established networks are based in areas of high deprivation including Alum Rock, Erdington and Northfield. Organisations connected to a Club Together network range from traditional sports clubs, sport for change organisations and community groups who use sport and physical activity as a tool to engage their communities.

The programme has led to wider conversations with regional and national partners who wish to invest in the networks. Examples include, National Governing Bodies of Sport who are interested in funding local innovation related to insight provided by Club Together networks. We have been able to showcase that community networks are best placed to direct/channel new investment as they understand their local patch/ community and can deliver on local need if given the investment to do so.



WHAT IS 'CLUB TOGETHER?'

Club Together is a programme that aims to support community organisations, groups and sports clubs by bringing them together to develop locally owned networks. Delivered by Sport Birmingham, it aims to:

- Create stronger and safer provision that can successfully engage with inactive and/or more diverse audiences.
- Develop the network model for effective collaboration, connection and innovation across local areas.
- Empower local clubs and organisations to take ownership of their networks, build new relationships and develop a united voice for their communities.

It is based on the Community Sports Hubs model that was a successful legacy of the 2014 Glasgow Commonwealth Games.

KEY LEARNINGS

A one size fits all approach to developing Club Together networks doesn't work. Recognising the differences and strengths within our communities has been necessary to connect the local system and build trust. Established networks have required a local 'leader' to champion the importance of working together towards a shared purpose.

We are in the early stages of forming further Club Together networks across the city. Simply put in most areas where conversations have started the programme has connected organisations to each other who would not normally speak or work together.

Examples have included network meetings where organisations presented local challenges and those in the room were able to help solve problems or come up with local solutions.

The Club Together network is now establishing itself across Birmingham. There will be one network in every constituency and an additional two themed networks will focus on mental wellbeing and disability sports and will have a more strategic role in championing local voices, campaigns and attracting investment.

An anchor organisation will be identified for each network, and Sport Birmingham will work with them to help establish the network, provide structured support and mentoring, and facilitate the initial discussions and collaborations. At its simplest level, the network will involve an exchange of information and ideas. As it evolves, it could include joint funding bids, shared equipment or services, new events or programmes, workforce development or shared spaces for clubs and organisations.

Club Together has been funded until the end of 2023.

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

The development of a stronger, more locally led network of community clubs and organisations will strengthen grassroots sports and physical activity opportunities and will contribute to the sustainability of smaller, more local organisations. In 2023 the city will deliver a new sports and physical activity strategy, and schemes such as Club Together will play a key role in our ambitions to grow sports and physical activity at grass-roots level.

YOUNG PERSONS GRANT SCHEME

Delivered by Birmingham Youth City Board & Youth Service



153

grants awarded
benefitting



1,081

young people

"People always call me fat and bully me, and I was really sad. Now I have equipment to get fit at home and I'm hoping soon I can have the confidence to play outside or join a club."



WHAT IS 'THE YOUNG PERSON'S GRANT SCHEME?'

The Young Person's Grant scheme was designed and delivered by members of Birmingham's Youth City Board. The Board is a group of 35 young people aged between 14 and 17, drawn from schools and youth settings across the city. In addition to their work with the B2022 Organising Committee as an advisory board for the Bring The Power programme in Birmingham, the group also wanted to do something that would benefit the mental and physical health and wellbeing of young people in a direct and tangible way. Eight members of the Board were responsible for this project.

They were supported by Youth Service staff as they designed the criteria, application forms and decision-making processes for the fund. The scheme invited young people to apply for up to £150 for an individual, or up to £300 as a group, for something that would support their mental and or physical health. The Fund launched in early 2022 and the Board received more than 250 bids supporting approximately 1,000 young people.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

The Board awarded 153 grants, benefitting 1,081 young people in the city. Some bids came from individuals (in which case any equipment was procured by the Youth Service), other bids came on behalf of teams, clubs and community organisations. Applications were supported by a range of groups and professionals supporting young people – such as sports clubs, schools, uniformed groups and other community support groups e.g. those for refugees, parents, social workers, support workers for children in care, and LGBTQI+ organisations.

The fund supported a wide range of activities – from the purchase of sporting equipment, fees to help join a sport or resources to help applicants relax.

Sports supported included cycling, basketball, dance, football, cricket, rugby, ice hockey, skating, martial arts, trampolining.

Health and wellbeing resources included books, equipment for photography, arts and crafts, and home exercise, as well as board games, gym memberships, funding for group activities, sensory equipment and calming blankets.

When the Board reflected that not all young people who would benefit would apply for a grant, members looked at different methods of support. The group created 500 'BRING IT ON BRUM' bags, which were given out via outreach work in public open spaces, Commonwealth Games live sites, youth centres and community events.

AMONG THE SUCCESSFUL APPLICATIONS WERE:

2 YOUNG REFUGEES

from Ukraine. Their one sporting love was ice hockey and their host family applied to the fund to get them back into the sport in the UK.

15 YOUNG PEOPLE

affected by an explosion that had destroyed homes received comforting items, such as blankets and teddies, to support their mental health and equipment for physical activity and play.

30 YOUNG PEOPLE

from different families staying in a hotel received outdoor clothing and play resources. They were either refugees or had escaped domestic violence and had been placed in temporary emergency accommodation.

"Cycling is a great way to improve fitness and lose weight. I ride to school daily and I am already seeing an improvement in my physical health."

"We were really sad that some of our stuff got taken, so with the funding we were really pleased to be able to get fitness and sports equipment."

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

We accepted the broader impacts and legacies would be felt by the individuals who benefitted from the support. A more tangible legacy is the impact this programme has had on the Youth City Board members who designed and delivered it.



“

The involvement of young people and the legacy they were hoping to create has resulted in this seven-month journey which has given the young people a real insight into the lives of other young people around the city. The experience they have gained through this journey has helped them develop their social consciousness and create a drive to affect change in the city in terms of providing services and resources to support the mental and physical health of young people in Birmingham.

Excerpt from final Board report

“I never thought I would be able to get my own roller skates; it’s so much fun now I have joined a club.”

CITY OF NATURE PILOT PROJECT

Delivered by City of Nature Alliance & Future Parks Accelerator Project (BCC)

PROJECT OBJECTIVE:

Birmingham City Council aims to develop and pilot a City of Nature delivery model including the establishment and coordination of an alliance of existing organisations to help deliver actions on the ground in parks and green spaces. This will become a citywide whole estate approach to achieving environmental justice across Birmingham.

50 micro projects have been delivered across 5 targeted parks in the ward of Bordesley and Highgate:

1. Installation of Community Notice Boards to allow communication with park users.
2. Audit of each park against the Future Park Standard, alongside the creation of detailed action plans with the Alliance partners and the local community.
3. Community engagement walks and talks and Connecting with Nature event in each park.
4. Tree planting and wildlife and conservation activities including bulb planting and wildflower meadow creation.





WHAT WAS THE CITY OF NATURE PILOT PROJECT?

The City of Nature plan is Birmingham's national award-winning green infrastructure strategy, to be delivered over 25 years. It aims to ensure its parks and green spaces are easily accessible, funded and sustainably managed. The City of Nature Pilot project is the first step in turning this strategy into reality by creating the City of Nature Alliance to support micro-projects on the ground. Bordesley & Highgate ward was selected as a focus for the pilot as it is one of the wards with the lowest levels of environmental justice.

WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE?

Environmental justice is at the heart of what a fair city would look like: ensuring everyone has equal access to green space, and the opportunity to be meaningfully involved in the development, implementation and enforcement of environmental law, regulation and policy. The City of Nature plan categorised all Birmingham wards according to levels of environmental justice. A low level of environmental justice typically means a ward has:

- Low levels of access to green space,
- High levels of building and occupation that create higher temperatures,
- Risk of flooding,
- High levels of health inequality,
- High levels of deprivation.

Piloting the project in one of these wards enabled us to test a delivery programme before rolling it out across the city.

The pilot was awarded £150,000, which was split into three areas: the development of the City of Nature Alliance (CoNA); delivery of visible activity 'on the ground'; and the further development of the delivery model for the City of Nature, including the creation of green champions, and application of the Birmingham Future Parks Standard.

WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

CoNA has been established. The Alliance and subsequent micro-project activity were co-designed through a series of workshops with 12 voluntary and community sector organisations, council staff, councillors, West Midlands Police and National Trust. By focusing on building and growing community networks and skills, the Alliance model aims to ensure communities:

- Come together to agree on the actions they will support and help deliver,
- Are empowered to make decisions on what services or changes are needed to create an even better standard of green space,
- Are supported to hold discussions with key services and decision makers so the voice of the community is at the heart of decision-making,
- Benefit from improved local green spaces, evidenced by progression through the Birmingham Future Parks Standard.



Improvements to the Pilot Ward – Bordesley and Highgate

Bordesley & Highgate ward has five parks and green spaces: Kingston Hill Park, Highgate Park, Garrison Lane Park, Denbigh Street Public Open Space (POS), and New Hope Community Park.

When the Alliance started its stakeholder mapping and data gathering in the ward, it found:

- No Friends of Parks groups or community action groups, such as litter pickers,
- No local schools or community organisations using the parks regularly,
- All of the parks (except Highgate Park) were on the lowest level of maintenance and had not had any infrastructure improvement for at least five years.

Residents were keen to be involved, but the Alliance, recognising they needed support to create organised opportunities, played a crucial role in building capacity and community support across Bordesley & Highgate.

The Alliance delivered 10 micro-projects in each park. Examples of activity included:

- Community consultations to advise local project delivery & create action plans,
- Installing community notice boards to inform visitors,
- Community engagement walks and talks,
- Wildlife and conservation activities, including bulb planting and wildflower meadow creation, tree planting and tree identification,
- Walking for health walk leader training and healthy walking sessions.

The Alliance helped to secure Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for an additional 34 rubbish bins and worked with local people to agree where they should be sited. The Birmingham Trees for Life project provided five silver birch trees for community planting in Highgate Park, and 20 native woodland whips were planted in Garrison Lane Park through Birmingham Tree People.

Other activities delivered through the project include: the Celebration of Highgate Community Fun Day held in Highgate Park and New Hope Park; the Garrison Lane Park Community Fun Day, with after-school nature crafts (Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust) and a litter pick (Canal and River Trust); and a therapeutic horticulture training day by Thrive, which gave insight into working with people with disabilities.

Developing the City of Nature delivery model

The project contributed to the training and development of the city's green champions, trained volunteers who support park action plans and activities.

Little and Young Green Champions for early years, primary and secondary schools are being developed by three Bordesley & Highgate primary schools; Chandos, Calthorpe Academy and Harper Bell. Natural Curriculum work will be delivered during the 2023 spring term and a school grounds enhancement project will be completed before the 2023 summer holidays.

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THE PROJECT?

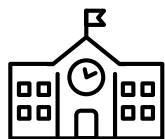
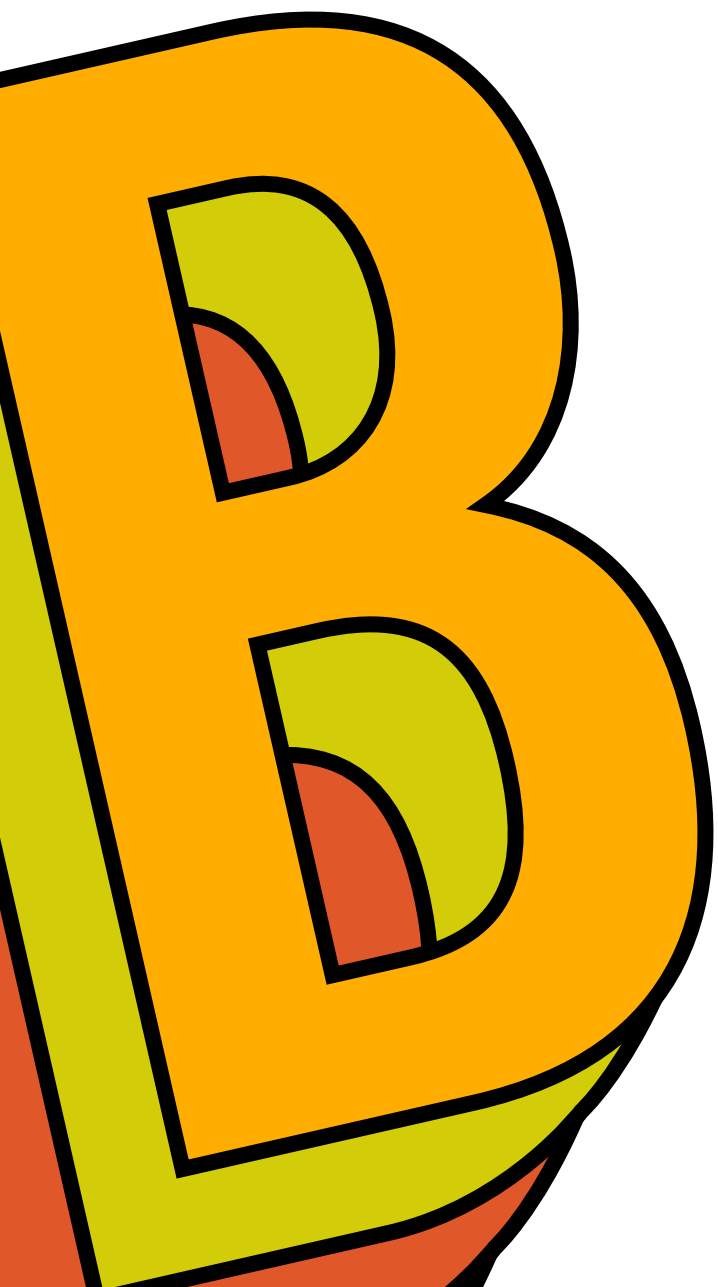
The City of Nature pilot project has provided the blueprint for how the City of Nature plan can be implemented at ward level. The alliance of organisations has settled into a well-organised and well-connected team. Branded communications are relayed to the public via onsite community boards, social media and other Birmingham City Council channels.

Using the Future Parks Standard process, the Alliance has consulted with local communities, including GP surgeries and schools, to produce a programme of activities and events over the next six months. The Alliance and parks officers will work together to address issues such as litter, overgrown shrubs and anti-social behaviour. The Parks will be re-audited against the Future Parks Standard to track and monitor progress.

Funding has been secured from the National Lottery Heritage Fund and National Trust to appoint a green champion co-ordinator who will be based in the council's Street Scene – Parks Department for a further 12 months. Funding from the pilot will also pay for the development of a green champion digital system, to support training and volunteering opportunities.

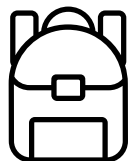
Get Grants have been commissioned to provide training, workshops and bid writing support to alliance members, so they can fundraise more effectively. Additional resources will be used to develop and deliver action plans for a further five wards in 2023.

ENGAGING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE



330

Birmingham schools engaged (69.9% of council-run schools)



117,836

Birmingham pupils engaged (21.7% of all students)



45,909

young people participated in non-school based activities (86.5% of the total engagement)

Birmingham is the youngest city in Europe, with 40% of its population under 25, so it was vital to put the voice of young people at the heart of the Games. BCC worked closely with the B2022 Organising Committee's Bring The Power Youth Engagement Team to ensure the Games gave opportunities to young people across the city and the wider region to learn, participate and be advocates and activists for their generation.

ASPIRING CITY



BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER



IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING



BRING THE POWER

Delivered by Bring The Power Team,
Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee,
Birmingham Youth Service¹³



330

Birmingham schools
engaged (69.9% of
council-run schools)



117,836

Birmingham pupils engaged
(21.7% of all students)



45,909

young people participated in
non-school based activities
(86.5% of the total engagement)

Warwick Economics and Development (WECD) has carried out a full evaluation of Bring The Power's impact at local, regional and national level. Data and findings from this report are included here.



WHAT WAS 'BRING THE POWER'?

The Bring The Power (BTP) programme launched in February 2022 as the official B2022 engagement programme for young people. It aimed to provide opportunities for young people to be celebrated, supported and empowered as changemakers. The programme was funded by the B2022 Organising Committee, Birmingham City Council, Commonwealth Sports Foundation, The British Council and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS).

Bring The Power was delivered through schools and community youth settings across the UK. It focussed on school engagement and learning, community youth participation and youth voice and advocacy.

As part of the national and regional offer, Bring The Power delivered:

- Free to access curriculum resources across three themes – Journey to the Games, Finding Common Ground and We Can Change Our World.
- School festival resources to help schools and youth settings plan their own Games celebrations.
- 156 workshops across Birmingham reaching 6,511 young people focussing on themes,

- 1,581 young people participated in Birmingham Connect, which brought young people from different backgrounds together through sport.
- 60 schools across the West Midlands were twinned with schools in the Caribbean, sub-saharan Africa and South Asia.

Birmingham City Council's Community Fund allocated £500,000 for activity over and above the Bring The Power national and regional programme. Birmingham activity was delivered through the Bring The Power team and the council's Youth Service and Employment Access teams.

The council funding specifically aimed to:

- Deepen the engagement experience for Birmingham schools and community youth organisations through activities such as additional mascot and athlete visits, workshops, festival days, mass participation events and physical activity opportunities.
- Deliver a Headteacher's Conference and Headteacher Advisory Group to support programme development.
- Provide a small grants programme for schools.
- Support associated core costs such as evaluation and access for Birmingham.

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED?

Workshops

Specialist providers hosted a further 133 focused workshops in school and community settings, which covered areas such as female empowerment, employability, mental health and wellbeing, creative and cultural activity and sports-themed "have a go" opportunities. Workshops for children with special educational needs and disabilities were delivered by Open Theatre.

Mascot visits – 81 mascot assembly visits for Key Stage 1 and 2 children covered topics such as the history of the Commonwealth sport movement, the Birmingham 2022 Games, Commonwealth nations and the Commonwealth sport values of humanity, equality and destiny.

Athlete visits – 14 athlete visits were organised in formal education settings and community youth settings. Because of limited availability of athletes, as we got closer to the Games, the number of visits had to be curtailed.

School Festival Days – Three School Festival Days enabled students aged 5-16 from 17 schools participate in sport and cultural activity. Five special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) schools attended a specific SEND Festival Day at the Midland Arts Centre. In total, 720 young people attended.



Mass participation event – 700 primary school children from 47 schools took part in a celebration day, to help them get involved in sports activities and cultural and creative arts. It was designed to bring the Games to life for pupils and inspire them to participate in new activities.

Common Ground grant projects – Common Ground was a creative project with a personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) focus. It was open to all 80 secondary schools in Birmingham and aimed to facilitate important conversations about being part of the Commonwealth and exploring common ground.

Projects focused on knife crime, representation in the curriculum, wellbeing and the Commonwealth, and were delivered through a variety of artforms including dance, visual arts, performing arts and poetry.

All participating schools were invited to a youth summit, where they performed or showcased their creative output. They also had the opportunity to meet a host of exciting speakers, organisations and celebrities. 120 young people attended from 11 secondary schools.

Engagement and collaboration with school senior leadership – the Headteacher Advisory Group supported the development of the educational resources and workshop delivery and advocated for the programme in their networks.

The group was a 'critical friend', ensuring the programme achieved its objectives and was suitable for schools.

141 teachers attended the Headteachers' Conference in March 2022, which provided a platform to share information about the programme with schools.

Youth Voice – the programme worked with Birmingham's Youth City Board to run a range of initiatives, including a 'hearts and minds' event that focused on mental health, and to set up the Youth Voice panel and a dedicated board for the Bring The Power programme. The panel was comprised of 35 14-17-year olds from 12 schools.

In October 2021, the Youth City Board supported the launch of the Queen's Baton Relay, attending Buckingham Palace as flag bearers. They also attended two residential tours to Liverpool and London as young ambassadors. In Liverpool, the Board met Liverpool's Young Inspectors, while in London, the members met Rise 365, which empowers young people in their communities.

The Board also contributed to the young volunteers process, shaping how young people could volunteer at the Games. They also played a significant role in developing a variety of resources within the Youth Programme, including a spoken word contest and an athlete Q&A, which have been used in schools and youth centres across England.

Additional Youth Service activity

Four of the city's youth centres were designated official Commonwealth Games Youth Hubs, where additional activity included:

- Six-week programmes connected to sport, music, food and the Commonwealth.
- Intercity Basketball Skills Championship, which ran from January-July 2022.
- The Music for the Commonwealth programme delivered 140 separate sessions for young people, including 30 young people who worked with the Birmingham Urban Rhythm Network (BURN) across 50 sessions. All efforts explored their musical skills and abilities, developing their performance styles and contributing to an album.
- Burberry Park Project – parents and young people were encouraged to use this green space and help reduce youth violence in the park. This involved physical activity, mentoring, Commonwealth sport and guest coaches.
- Youth Service Awards – an event celebrated the achievements of young people known to the Youth Service who took part in the Bring The Power programme.

MOVE TO SUCCEED – EMPLOYMENT ACCESS TEAM & SPORT FOR LIFE (SFL)

Delivered by Sport for Life & BCC Employment Access Team

Move to Succeed was a bespoke project focusing on young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET). The project supported 40 NEETs, helping to raise their aspirations and attainment via physical/sports activities – at least two hours per week – with embedded functional skills and other job-related qualifications.

The participants learned transferable soft skills such as interpersonal skills, teamwork, initiative/problem solving and resilience – strengths that are sought after by employers.

Participants worked with an employability mentor to create a bespoke programme of activity, including one-to-one mentoring, weekly sports sessions, qualifications in sports leadership and courses to help prepare them for the workplace. This included mock interviews, career advice and access to social action projects.

The project's original focus was on people aged 16-18, but demand from over-18s prompted a review and it was extended to anyone up to 24 years. Participants were identified as being furthest from the job market and required intensive support.



Some were neurodivergent, and one third self-identified as having mental health issues. The majority of participants had never worked, while 79% had not worked or had been unemployed for more than six months. 31% did not have maths or English at GCSE.

Project outcomes:

- 38% of participants progressed into employment, education or training,
- 48% achieved a minimum of Level 1 qualification in sports leadership,
- 14% moved into employment in roles such as sales representative, general administrator (NHS), social media officer, events steward, warehouse operator and store assistant,
- 19% went on to further training opportunities.

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THIS PROJECT?

The Warwick Economics and Development evaluation of Bring the Power concluded the programme was extremely successful in:

- Promoting sports and physical activity in schools, and in providing young people with the opportunity to try something new.
- Raising the profile of para-sports and allowing young people to experience these, which provided a greater understanding of diversity and inclusivity.
- Improving young people's understanding of the Commonwealth and its history, enabling them to reflect on shared heritage and increasing pride in their culture and contributions.
- Supporting the development of sought-after softer skills, such as problem-solving, collaboration, leadership, communication and creativity.
- Promoting and supporting local and regional connectivity across schools and other organisations working with young people.

Bring The Power provides a blueprint for future engagement programmes for schools and young people connected to major events. Its activity has transferred to the United By 2022 charity.

The largest and most important legacy is the impact on participants. While we cannot measure the longer-term impact, we know - from teacher and youth leader feedback following the Everfi workshops - that:

88%

felt young people learned new skills

81%

felt young people would be more likely to participate in sporting activity related to the Games

90%

felt young people would be more likely to participate in creative activity related to the Games

76.5%

felt young people were better equipped to influence decision makers

+70%

felt the workshops had changed, or might change, young people's perception of their local community



Birmingham City Council
BRITISH COUNCIL
commonwealth sport foundation
Department of Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Delivered by BCC Equalities & Cohesion, Birmingham Voluntary Services Council (BVSC) and Community Partners



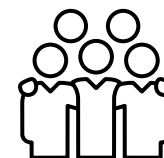
1,329

women from marginalised and refugee communities supported



49

young community journalists recruited



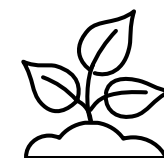
200

young people met positive role models from global majority backgrounds



22

heritage trails created
73 trail volunteers recruited



190

young people grew plants and made mosaics for the Peace Garden

WELCOMING CITY



BRING PEOPLE TOGETHER



IMPROVE HEALTH AND WELLBEING

As the proud host city, Birmingham City Council was keen to ensure the Games' ambition – 'the Games for Everyone' – was realised across the city.

The Stronger Communities programme aligned the city's priorities around community cohesion and inclusion directly with the Commonwealth Games. It had four objectives:

- Building strong relationships between different socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds,
- Helping under-represented groups and communities to actively participate in civic life – especially in areas where social capital is low,
- Identifying and amplifying untapped cultural and community assets,
- Increasing pride in 'being a Brummie' and sharing the stories and experiences.

The programme consisted of 5 workstreams. The Council's Equalities & Cohesion team worked with BVSC to commission lead organisations for each workstream:

1. HERITAGE TRAILS

Led by Legacy West Midlands, this workstream has approved £5,000 grants for 20 organisations that are creating one or more trails to tell the unheard stories of Birmingham's diverse communities.

2. WE MADE BIRMINGHAM

Led by The Walsall Studio School with We Are the Village, this workstream has approved £5,000 grants for 19 organisations to record

narratives about their localities and to reflect on how they want their neighbourhood to be viewed.

3. GETTING COMMUNITIES TALKING

Talking: Led by BVSC, this workstream has approved grants of up to £3,700 to 29 local community organisations that are working with women from marginalised communities, to support their integration into their local community.

4. PEACE GARDEN

Delivered through Roots to Fruit, a grant of £70,000 was provided to revitalise part of the Peace Garden in the grounds of the former St. Thomas' Church.

5. FUTURE LEADERS

Delivered through the Your Life Matters Partnership and led by First Class Foundation, a grant of £70,000 was provided to inspire young people from under-represented groups to make positive life choices and grow their leadership ambitions.

As part of the council's Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business strategic approach, a community panel was established to link into the Stronger Communities programme. The panel met bi-monthly in 2022 to provide advice and feedback on Stronger Communities projects, in addition to its substantive role as a 'check and challenge' function for the Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business programme.



WHAT HAS BEEN ACHIEVED?

HERITAGE TRAILS

18 organisations created or re-launched more than 20 miles of heritage trails around Birmingham, showcasing diversity. Trails were co-designed with local groups, with the majority launching around Heritage Week in September 2022. Legacy West Midlands provided training and support for those wanting to be heritage trail volunteers and created a peer support network for all organisations involved in the project.

Most of the trails can be completed on foot, although one trail was designed for e-scooters and another was a bus tour specifically designed for people with mobility challenges. A full list of trails is available in Appendix C, but examples include:

Balsall Heath Heritage Trail – a route with 20 points of interest, charting the development of Balsall Heath from the late 1800s to the present day, showcasing the architecture of the area.

Birchfield Heritage Trail – this trail celebrates the area's hidden secrets, explores how Birchfield has changed and looks at the links with the Commonwealth and beyond.

Trains and Boats and Dames – Birmingham History Theatre created a three-mile trail around Kings Norton, celebrating its history. It was accompanied by live theatrical performances, featuring figures from history, who would engage with those on the tour.

Black Heritage Walks Network – The Equiano and the Enlightenment Tour focuses on activist, writer, journalist and former slave Olaudah Equiano and his association with the Lunar Society in Soho, Handsworth. It explores British biases towards African culture, Birmingham's link to the transatlantic slave trade and the contradictions of 'enlightenment' narratives.



WE MADE BIRMINGHAM

49 young community journalists were recruited to record stories of heritage, migration and community activism. The idea was to put communities at the heart of their own narratives, recording how Birmingham citizens feel about where they live, how their neighbourhoods have changed and the impact of events such as the Games in their area.

19 local organisations received funding to identify and support the community journalists. Walsall Studio School provided journalism training and We Are The Village is creating a longer film from the 264 submissions, with plans to host a screening.

It was a chance for the community journalists to learn a new skill, develop an existing interest or support an education pathway. Some local organisations have continued to work with their community journalist, offering them other projects and linking them to other community arts and journalism organisations.

"Our most significant achievement in this project has been the development of the young people in content production and journalism. They have learned to set lighting and camera settings. They have learned to ask the right questions to gain the best information from interviews. This has allowed three of the young people who took part in the project to become a part of our team as volunteer assistant content producers."

Mindseye Development CIC



GETTING COMMUNITIES TALKING

This focuses on enabling women from particularly marginalised communities to forge long-term connections with others in their communities. A key objective was to create spaces used by migrant, refugee and asylum-seeking women and British women so they develop English language skills and confidence.

The 29 organisations who received grants of up to £3,700 provided a range of activities. Some focused on sport and physical activity to bring women together, while others delivered informal art, craft or music projects. Some projects looked at skills development, offering support for women to gain employment or volunteering experience, and to access courses to improve their language skills, either in their communities or in the workplace.

A full list of projects can be seen in Appendix C, but examples include:

In Her Shoes – this community organisation offers singing and song-writing workshops, conversation cafés, wellbeing workshops and performance evenings. In Her Shoes worked with 19 Syrian and Afghan refugee women in Northfield. They wrote songs, two of which are featured in a Journeys of Hope songbook, and were performed for Refugee Week and at the launch of the Stronger Communities stakeholder panel in March 2022. The women also participated in the PoliNations project, growing marigolds to plant in Victoria Square.

Moseley Road Baths Chat and Splash – Moseley Road Baths provided a women-only English conversation group, led by a qualified instructor, to allow women to practise their English speaking skills in an informal session. This was followed by the opportunity to go for a swim and socialise. There have been 220 attendances across all sessions and feedback from participants is overwhelmingly positive: 100% of attendees said the sessions improved their health and wellbeing, and have connected them to the wider community, while 80% said they made new friends.

Talking Together – Birmingham Ethnic Education and Advisory Service (BEEAS) worked with migrant women with entry-level English who have significant caring responsibilities, and who had not undertaken any employment-related activities. It helped them to develop their English speaking skills, from language study to employability. BEEAS provided support accessing job fairs and CV building workshops. By the end of the project every learner had a CV they could use as a template for future job applications.





THE PEACE GARDEN PROJECT

Birmingham's Peace Garden is attached to the former St Thomas' Church in Bath Row, which was mostly destroyed during the Second World War. The grounds were redesigned as a Peace Garden in 1995 and part is a memorial for British service personnel. Roots to Fruit has been commissioned until January 2024 to help re-invigorate the Peace Garden as part of a wider regeneration of the area.

Roots to Fruit has worked with 35 adult volunteers to create a new section of the garden, featuring plants and food grown by the local community. Mosaic tiles created by Birmingham residents have been installed alongside carved trees celebrating the spirit of Birmingham, the Games and the Commonwealth, a Covid memorial wildflower meadow has been planted and a trail of carved poppies is under development.

In 2022, activity included:

- 4 Covid memorial events,
- 9 separate school visits / Covid memorial events,
- 30 adult learning workshops.

These activities attracted:

- 170 local school children and staff have visited and engaged with the workshops in the park,
- 125 local residents / visitors engaged informally in one off workshops,
- 95 local residents and visitors engaged with the Covid memorial event,s
- Growing plants and making mosaics for the garden has attracted a varied audience including 70 alternative education provider students, 120 school pupils and 35 adults.

The Art Department at Cardinal Wiseman Secondary School collaborated with Roots to Fruit to hold a competition to design a mosaic to represent South Africa. A year 7 pupil's work was chosen and they were able to help build and cast the mosaic.

"The pupils came from very deprived areas and the winner said, 'nothing like this happens to me' and that it was 'an amazing experience' and that 'I cannot wait to show my family the mosaic set in the peace garden."

Roots to Fruit

"The surprise success has been the sessions that we have carried out in the park with patients from Birmingham Children's Hospital...We worked with MS sufferers and both the parents and staff were pleased at how the activities motivated the patients to become more mobile and try different activities. The children's hospital is now determined to use horticulture as an effective medium to educate and treat patients."

Roots to Fruit



FUTURE LEADERS – BLACK EXCELLENCE IN BRUM PROJECT – YOUR LIFE MATTERS

Your Life Matters Partnership comprises First Class Foundation, A Vision for Empowerment CIC, Birmingham Says No, Solve CYVC and Leon Moses Consultancy. The partnership worked with three cohorts of young people from global majority backgrounds to deliver a programme of workshops, outreach and interventions to support positive life choices, skills development and improve mental health. It focused specifically on young people affected by gun and knife crime, antisocial behaviour and those who were struggling to see a positive future. Programme content was co-designed with young people to ensure activities and approaches were relevant and met their needs.

Funding has supported the delivery of:

- A youth leadership programme, attended by 36 young people across three cohorts. It included one-to-one progression coaching for those with aspirations to be leaders in their field
- A Black Excellence in Brum launch event, attended by 150 young people who heard from 20+ inspiring role models, and learned about the support available at the Your Life Matters Partnership
- The partnership's outreach street team engaged with 210 young people and across the whole programme, 200 young people met positive role models from global majority backgrounds
- Some of the young people who attended the initial Black Excellence launch event were put in touch with the Organising Committee and secured full-time roles as accreditation operations co-ordinators during the Games
- Young people working with Birmingham Says No as bikelifers appeared at the opening ceremony of the Commonwealth Games.



"NJ has been excluded from school and after attending sessions has now benefitted from 1-2-1 sessions that have refocused her spare time back into engaging in education."

WHAT ARE THE LEGACY OPPORTUNITIES FROM THIS PROJECT?

The community panel continues to be part of the Everyone's Battle, Everyone's Business agenda, allowing us to reach citizens in 10 parliamentary constituencies, improving public participation and helping us to learn about issues that matter to them. Membership of the panel will rotate every 18 months.

Although the heritage trails project is finished, Legacy WM has maintained contact with the organisations that have indicated they want to continue working with the network. Legacy WM and BVSC will support those that seek funding for existing or future trails. The council is developing its heritage tourism offer and has shared details of the trails.

Of the 49 community journalists trained for the We Made Birmingham project, 19 so far have secured further project work, volunteering opportunities or support with reference requests from their host organisations.

"All of the young community journalists recruited now volunteer or have paid employment at BPCN, some of whom conducted our impact assessment interviews for our summer play projects."

Birmingham Playcare Network – host organisation

"She got onto a nursing degree knowing someone is listening and making her feel valued."

The Getting Communities Talking project has reached 1,329 women from refugee and marginalised backgrounds and BVSC and the Equalities team will continue to support the delivery organisations to secure future funding. Learnings from the project will be built into future work as they look at new ways of working with diverse communities.

The Peace Garden will remain permanently in the grounds of St Thomas' Church and Roots to Fruit will deliver events and workshops there throughout 2023.

The organisations involved in Your Life Matters said as well as the positive impacts on participants, they have benefitted from the partnership.



The most significant achievement for us is the development of the partnership. This is a good look for the city of Birmingham, and it is part of the legacy that we hope to leave behind. If we intend to respond to the underlining factors that cause children and young people to do the things we are concerned about then we can only truly achieve this by working together."

YLM partnership report

"Your help has been amazing. Just having someone that listens and understands me means I'm not alone and abandoned."

KEY FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Table 2. Did the community fund achieve its objectives?

Objective	Support & engage Birmingham residents to be part of the Games	Spread the opportunity across the City	Projects support and showcase diverse communities	Projects celebrate Birmingham
Status	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Examples	<p>Creative City is the first example of a community led, free-to-access arts programme embedded in the Games.</p> <p>Celebrating Communities helped residents to celebrate the Games in a way that was meaningful to them across the themes of Get Active, Ready Steady Fun and Celebrating Culture. Community Games and Active Streets took free-to-access sport, physical activity and wellbeing events across Birmingham.</p> <p>Bring The Power engaged young people in schools and non-educational settings across the city.</p>	<p>Maps included within this report of Creative City, Celebrating Communities and Physical Activity projects show the spread of free-to-access activity across Birmingham.</p>	<p>Stronger Communities projects focused specifically on underserved and global majority communities.</p> <p>87% of Active Street participants were from global majority backgrounds.</p> <p>Bring The Power celebrated youth voice and activism across all communities through school and non-educational settings.</p> <p>96% of people involved in Creative City said it reflected a broad and inclusive range of voices.¹⁴</p>	<p>Celebrating Communities, Stronger Communities and Creative City projects all had elements that celebrated Birmingham and the stories of its communities. These included heritage trails, We Made Birmingham, Creative City art and theatre projects and 66 Celebrating Communities 'celebrating culture' projects.</p>
Objective	Funding at local level through ward structures	Funding supports local and community projects rather than big capital builds	Deliver feelings of connectivity and positivity, enable mass participation	Deliver benefits and legacy aligning with city priorities
Status	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved
Examples	<p>Celebrating Communities funding provided to every ward across the city. Participatory decision-making opportunities in every ward, resulting in 316 grants awarded to 263 projects.</p>	<p>All projects delivered through the Community Fund were at local level, supporting organisations and local communities.</p> <p>Creative City and Celebrating Communities delivered funding decisions through local residents and community panels.</p>	<p>94% of people viewing, participating or volunteering in Creative City projects said they felt more connected to their local community.¹⁵</p> <p>More than 8,000 people attended a Community Games.</p> <p>10,486 people attended an Active Street.</p> <p>49,509 young people in Birmingham participated in non-school based activities through Bring The Power.</p>	<p>The Community Fund was aligned to the relevant themes in the council's Legacy Plan, published in December 2021. The Legacy Plan was designed to respond to the main challenges the city faces:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employment, skills and the local economy, 2. Opportunities for young people, 3. Health and wellbeing, 4. Community resilience and cohesion, 5. The climate emergency. <p>Project activity has made specific contributions to the City of Nature Strategy and is being built into future strategic approaches to sport and physical activity, culture and community engagement, localism and work supporting young people.</p>

WHAT WERE THE KEY LEARNING THEMES FROM ACROSS THE FUND'S PROGRAMMES?

The importance of community involvement and ownership

Five programmes – Creative City, Celebrating Communities, Stronger Communities, Bring The Power projects and Active Streets – specifically included community or young people's panels and/or participatory decision-making processes. This was to create a sense of ownership and inclusion, and to ensure each programme reflected the communities.

Evaluation and informal feedback from participants suggests community panels and participatory decision making was an important part of the process. The Youth City Panel and Headteachers were integral to the design and delivery of key elements of the Bring The Power programme. The participatory element of Celebrating Communities, where it worked well, empowered local people to determine what was funded locally and that made the process more transparent.¹⁶ The Creative City panel recommendations drove the selection of projects funded. The Stronger Communities panel scrutinised Stronger Communities projects and worked with the B2022 Organising Committee equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) panel to ensure better community representation

and engagement by the B2022 Organising Committee. Active Streets worked with communities to design and deliver events that met their specific needs.

But in all cases there is more that needs to be done:

- The independent evaluations of Creative City and Celebrating Communities recognise the need for deeper and longer-term engagement with local communities to fully understand their needs, wants and the challenges they face.
- Earlier involvement with under-served communities in the design of programmes could improve ownership, accessibility and uptake. External viewpoints would help to streamline processes, reduce complexity and ensure relevance.
- When it comes to using panels, some Creative City panel members felt their knowledge and experience could have been more widely used across the lifetime of the programme to help shape the approach. By contrast, members of the Celebrating Communities 'backstop panel' felt the experience had been positive, building on their own knowledge and expanding networks.

“ I felt comfortable on the panel and learned things myself, even though I had done community work previously. The panel membership was such a good mix, both in terms of experience and diversity. ”

Backstop panel member¹⁷

¹⁶ Celebrating Communities Interim Evaluation report, LINXS, p7

¹⁷ Celebrating Communities Interim Report LINXS

Investing in community capacity building activity

Celebrating Communities and Creative City provided additional advice and support for community organisations accessing the grant schemes.

Celebrating Communities commissioned support through Birmingham Community Matters and Locality. The primary focus was to build confidence, capability and skills of newer, less experienced community organisations through a combination of generic open advice sessions and more tailored conversations. Evaluation found the scheme provided valuable assistance to many and that groups using the scheme gained transferable skills. However, some groups reported not being able to access support in time, and confusion about the role of different organisations, suggesting that a single support contact would have been more beneficial.¹⁸

Creative City offered general advice and guidance sessions for all applicants and individual support, to encourage applications from community organisations and artists. Creative City participants were also able to access Festival 2022's sector-wide professional development offer, and a post-Festival programme was also commissioned. Attendees reported a greater understanding in areas such as making their work more accessible, the structures of creative industry, and the importance of networks and collaboration to their future development.¹⁹



At a hyperlocal level, the City of Nature pilot has been integral in kickstarting the building of community capacity in Bordesley & Highgate ward. As a result of the pilot, there has been increased community engagement with local parks and open space with a summer of programmed activity, events and the potential to create a formal 'Friends of' group. This is a direct result of the City of Nature Alliance's work in the ward, which invested time and resources into the community to build and maintain relationships.

These demonstrate the importance of investing in capacity building to equip organisations and communities with the necessary skills to grow and thrive. It is a key recommendation for future funding streams and strategic approaches that will help to embed community ownership and maintain legacy.

Building and maintaining partnerships and collaborations

The successes of the £6 million Commonwealth Games Community Fund are rooted in collaboration and partnership working. From formal partnerships supporting large programmes, including Creative City and Bring The Power, to smaller projects such as development of the City of Nature Alliance and the emerging benefits of the Club Together network, a collaborative approach has been key.

Working as part of a Games legacy partnership has added value to programmes and projects. Embedding Creative City within the B2022 Festival programme allowed community-led arts and culture to take centre stage and linked community arts organisations with other creative groups. Connecting Bring The Power with Birmingham schools, the Youth City Board and Youth Service enabled us to deliver four branded youth hubs across the city, embedded young people and teachers at the heart of the design of a national programme and opened up opportunities for young people to be part of the Games. Partnerships and networks have formed organically:

- Creative City led to the formation of 392 new partnerships, with 99% of projects aiming to continue these new relationships.²⁰
- Organisations delivering heritage trails are keen to stay part of the network established by Legacy WM. Your Life Matters considers the creation of its partnership as the key legacy outcome from the programme as it has significantly increased its reach.
- The City of Nature Alliance's next steps are to expand its pilot into a further five wards.

Continued support for the development and growth of networks between organisations will be crucial to legacy outcomes and to how Birmingham can maximise the legacy opportunities from the Games.



²⁰ Creative City Grants MEL Research p61-62

WHAT'S NEXT?

The council has created a legacy portfolio to monitor outcomes from Games legacy projects and the Delivering a Bold Legacy for Birmingham plan. This will ensure all the benefits and legacies from the Commonwealth Games will be recorded.

Outcomes and lessons learnt from the £6 million Community Fund is being built into future plans and strategies:

- Learning from the delivery of Celebrating Communities is being built into plans for community funding, ensuring the focus on capacity building at local level continues and that new and emerging community networks are supported.
- Club Together, Active Streets and Community Games will inform approaches to grassroots sport and physical activity. The successes and learnings from these programmes will also inform plans for community engagement with major sporting events such as the European Athletics Championships in 2026.
- Learning from Creative City small grants fund will inform cultural engagement strategies as we continue to work with the cultural sector and build on the successes of Festival 2022 and embark on developing a new signature culture festival for Birmingham.
- The City of Nature Alliance will continue to invest in communities and green spaces, working towards its goal of ensuring all parks and public open spaces meet the Birmingham Future Parks Standard.
- We will continue to work closely with the United By 2022 charity, building on the strong partnerships created through the Games legacy partnership and linking the continuation of programmes such as Bring The Power to our ambitions for children and young people.
- Underspends from the Community Fund are already being reinvested in projects: a Community Events Fund, a Young Ambassador programme and grass roots sports and culture programmes are all launching in 2023.



Organisation	Ward	Project title	Organisation	Ward	Project title
Cadbury Barn Trust	Weoley & Selly Oak	Celebrating the Commonwealth Games by improving the Weoley Ward area and supporting residents to get active	Friends of Bournville Park	Bournville & Cotteridge	Bournville Park
CASE	Handsworth	Dance and well-being sessions	Friends of Cotteridge Park	Bournville & Cotteridge	Bournville Festival of the Games
Castle Vale Jigsaw Trail	Castle Vale	Castle Vale Jigsaw Heritage Trail	Friends Of Featherstone Nursery School	Bournville & Cotteridge	CoCoMad Festival
Cedar Church	Oscott	Your Love Lifts Me Up	Friends of Georges Park	Stockland Green	An outdoor gallery
Chamberlain Highbury Trust	Oscott	Your Love Lifts Me Up	Friends of Jones Wood	Lozells	Sports Equipment in the Park
Changing Lives Through Rugby CIC	Moseley	Laying a Foundation for Birmingham	Friends of King George V Playing Fields	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	Walmley green spaces enhancements
Chatham Place Residents Association	Erdington	Changing Lives Through Rugby	Friends of Mossy Bank	Sutton Vesey	FoKGVPF Sign and event
Christ Church Primary CE School	Northfield	Sports Day Celebrating the CWGs	Friends of Perry Hall Accredited County Park	Sutton Vesey	Mossy Bank Street Art
Community Action For Local Opportunities (CAFLO)	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Continental Tea Party	Friends of Queslett Nature Reserve (FQNR)	Perry Barr	Perry Hall Park improvements
Compass Support Services	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Ready, Steady, Fit	Friends of Reddings Lane Park (FORLP)	Oscott	FQNR Equipment Bank
Convention Quarter Residents Alliance	Castle Vale	Mini Commonwealth Games project	Friends of Selly Oak Park	Hall Green North	Commonwealth Games Science Boxes
Cotteridge Primary School	Kingstanding	Mini Commonwealth Games project	Friends of Sorrel park	Sparkhill	Commonwealth Games Science Boxes
Court Farm Primary School	Sutton Reddicap	Mini Commonwealth Games project	Friends of Stephens' Pond and Berryfield's Orchard	Hall Green North	Park Mural
Court Oak Road Allotments Association	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	Mini Commonwealth Games project	Friends of the Boldmere Spinney	Hall Green North	The Science of the 4 Debut Birmingham Games and Parasports
Crafting Community	Ladywood	Commonwealth Markets	Friends of the Gates (Boldmere and Banners Gate – Sutton Park)	Hall Green South	The Science of the 4 Debut Birmingham Games and Parasports
Creative Cohesion West Midlands	Stirchley	Community Sports Days (Stirchley)	Friends of Wylde Green Train Station	Weoley & Selly Oak	Selly Oak Park
Digby Park Litterpickers	Stirchley	Mural project	Friends of Yardley Fields Group	Pype Hayes	Sorrel Park play & fitness
Donate 1 Create 1	Perry Common	Court Farm Multi-Use Games Area	Full Gospel Tabernacle	Sutton Walmley & Minworth	Ripples
Drum n Bounce & Dubstretch Fitness	Quinton	Gardening Project	Glebe Farm and Stechford Residents Group	Sutton Vesey	Arts Trail and Notice Board
Eagles Domino Team	Quinton	Gardening Project	Go-Woman! Alliance	Sutton Four Oaks	Buy a Trampler
East Birmingham Allotment Holders Association	Handsworth	Wild and Free Forest school	Grand Union	Sutton Mere Green	Buy a Trampler
Edgbaston Reservoir Running & Wellbeing Group	Perry Barr	Wild and Free Forest school	Grosvenor Road Studios	Sutton Vesey	Two identical pieces of art as a lasting legacy
Erdington Litter Busters	Small Heath	Sufi Music & Poetry	Hall Green's Keepin' It Clean	Yardley East	SOCIAL & GREEN – A Winning Combination
FITCAP	Small Heath	Friends of Digby Park	Handsorth Community Choir	Yardley West & Stechford	SOCIAL & GREEN – A Winning Combination
Fox Hollies Community Association	Perry Barr	Unlock the Games	Handsorth Creative CIC	Billesley	Wacky Races Festival
Frankley Carnival	Moseley	Drum n Bounce (DnB) silent disco and fitness classes in Moseley Park	Handsorth wood youth Group	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Stories of Food
free@last	Bordesley & Highgate	Eagles Fun Day	Happy Valley Festival	Alum Rock	Memories in a Box
Friends of Acocks Green Recreation Ground	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Community Fun Day	Harborne Baptist Church	Bordesley & Highgate	Minerva Healing Garden
Friends of Bartley Reservoir	North Edgbaston	Walking Sessions	Harborne Hockey Club (HHC)	Aston	Great Games Opening Events
	Erdington	Street Clean	Harts Community Adventure CIC	Birchfield	Doorstep Carnival
	Gravelly Hill	Street Clean	Heaton Drive Residents Committee	Hall Green North	Hall Green's Keepin' It Clean
	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Community Sports Days		Hall Green South	Hall Green's Keepin' It Clean
	Shard End	Community Sports Days		Handsworth	Handsworth Community Choir at the Commonwealth Games
	South Yardley	Community Sports Days		Handsworth Wood	Handsworth Park Arts Trail
	Acocks Green	Active Acocks Green		Holyhead	Handsworth Park Arts Trail
	Frankley Great Park	Frankley Carnival		Handsworth Wood	Mental health and well-being community talks
	Nechells	CWG Sports		Highter's Heath	Happy Valley Festival
	Acocks Green	120 th Anniversary Celebrations		Harborne	Free Community Space for Community Activities
	Bartley Green	Benches project		Harborne	Intro/Back to Hockey
	Bartley Green	Fingerposts and walking tours project		Druids Heath & Monyhull	Adult mental health and well being sessions
				Kings Norton South	Adult mental health and well being sessions
				Edgbaston	Commonwealth Games street party

Table 3. Organisations receiving grants from Celebrating Communities. Continued

Organisation	Ward	Project title	Organisation	Ward	Project title
Hekayah Ltd	Bordesley & Highgate	Sports Day	Midland Sailing Club	Harborne	Free Community Water Sports Activity Days
Hillstone Primary School	Shard End	South East Bham Mela	Midland Sailing Club	Ladywood	Free Community Water Sports Activity Days
Hinstock Philip Victor Triangle Residents Association	Handsworth	Flower Meadow	Midland Sailing Club	North Edgbaston	Free Community Water Sports Activity Days
HIPKISS AND GRANEY LTD	Stirchley	Woodland Games: Ecology and Outdoor Games	Milebrook Community Hall	Bartley Green	Intergenerational Easter events
Hockey Futures	Druids Heath & Monyhull	Open Spaces Sports Project	Misfits Music Foundation	Moseley	Active Leaders
Holford Drive Community Sports Hub LTD	Perry Barr	Gateway to Sport	Moor Hall School	Sutton Roughley	Moor Hall Music
Holland House Infant and Primary School	Sutton Trinity	Holland House Infant and Primary School	Moor Pool Heritage Trust	Harborne	Moor Pool Heritage Decathlon
Holloway Hall Community Association	Bartley Green	Holloway Hall & St. Barts Christmas Tree Festival	More Than Football MTF Coaching Academy CIC	Heartlands	Engaging Community through Sport
Holloway Hall Community Association	Bartley Green	Holloway Hall Community Centre	Moseley & Kings Heath Shed	Brandwood & Kings Heath	Moseley & Kings Heath Shed activities and events
Holloway Hall Community Association	Bartley Green	Party on the Green	Moseley Festival	Moseley	Moseley Festival 2022
Holyhead Community Clean Up Group	Holyhead	Holyhead Community Clean Up	Moseley Rugby Community Foundation	Billesley	Moseley Rugby Community Day
Home-Start Birmingham North West	Kingstanding	Kingstanding Yoga	Nechells Athletic	Nechells	Nechells Athletics & CWG
Hurricanes	Lozells	Bring fun to Brum	Nechells Pod	Nechells	The Games We Play in Nechells
Impact Fitness Academy CIC	Handsworth	Wrestling to the Commonwealth Games	New Heights	Kingstanding	CWG Mini Games
Impact Fitness Academy CIC	Lozells	Wrestling to the Commonwealth Games	Newtown Nursery School	Newtown	Health Ambassadors
Jervoise Primary School, Princethorpe Infant and Junior School	Weoley & Selly Oak	A Taste of the Commonwealth Games	NICE Society St Chads	Gravelly Hill	Skittles Evening and Quiz Night
Jewellery Quarter Development Trust CIC	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	Our Stones, Our Stories project	North Edgbaston Action Team (NEAT)	North Edgbaston	North Edgbaston Community Sports Day
Kashmiri Arts & Heritage Foundation	Small Heath	We Are 2022	Northfield Arts Forum	Northfield	Second City
Keep Halesowen Beautiful	Bournbrook & Selly Park	Commonwealth games initiative	Norton Hall Children & Family Centre	Ward End	Ward End Park Digital Tree Trail App
Khawateen Creative Minds	Tyseley & Hay Mills	Hay Mills Bloom	Number 11 Arts	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Community Theatre
Kings Heath BID	Brandwood & Kings Heath	Queens Heath Pride	Oasis Community Hub: Blakenhale	Garretts Green	Clearing waste land and making the area Games ready
Kings Norton Tennis Club	Kings Norton South	Birmingham Commonwealth Tennis Legacy	Oasis Community Hub: Foundry and Boulton	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	4 Festival Events
Kings Rise Academy	Kingstanding	Commonwealth Garden	Oasis Community Hub: Hobmoor	South Yardley	Celebrating the Commonwealth Games on the Oaklands
Ladywood Community Project	Ladywood	Ladywood Fun and Games Day	Oasis Community Hub: Hobmoor	Tyseley & Hay Mills	Celebrating the Commonwealth Games on the Oaklands
Ladywood History Group	Ladywood	Brew Us Bugle: Ladywood Local History Magazine	Oasis Community Hub: Hobmoor	South Yardley	Stories Worth Telling
Law, Leisure & Learning Ltd	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	From One Home To Another	Oasis Community Hub: Hobmoor	Tyseley & Hay Mills	Stories Worth Telling
Lea Hall Allotments Steering Group	Handsworth Wood	Growing Communities	Open Door Community Foundation	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Creating a Common Wealth
Leaf Creative Arts C.I.C	Stirchley	What does being a Brummie mean to me?	Open House Community Group	Kings Norton South	Open House Community Games
Learn Active Coaching C.I.C	Kings Norton South	Connected through sport	Oscott Elderly Residents Group	Oscott	Oscott Spirit Community Get Together
Legacy WM	Newtown	CWG Badminton	Oscott Residents' Association	Oscott	Oscott Elderly Residents' Trip to Black Country Living Museum
LGK in the community	Erdington	Queens of the Commonwealth	Our Community Foundation	Alum Rock	Celebrate!
Long Nuke Tenants Hall	Bartley Green	Long Nuke Hall New Year Dance	Our Community Foundation	Heartlands	Celebrate!
Mackenzie Court Social Fund	Bartley Green	A garden party	Our Scene CIC	Brandwood & Kings Heath	Brightening up Brandwood
Manningford Hall Community Association	Druids Heath & Monyhull	Manningford Hall Sports Days	Paget Primary School	Pype Hayes	Operation Green Space!
Manor farm park sports club	Weoley & Selly Oak	Manor farm park sports club	Paigham-e-Islam Trust	Sparkhill	Sparkhill Activities
Mansfield Green E-ACT Primary Academy	Aston	Aston Netball Little League	Paiseley & Francis	Handsworth	Football therapy
Maypole FC CIC	Billesley	Maypole FC Holiday Club	Parks for Play	Bournbrook & Selly Park	Commonwealth Games at Coronation Road
Midland Sailing Club	Edgbaston	Free Community Water Sports Activity Days	Pat Benson Community Sports Foundation	Small Heath	CWG Sports Leadership Development Programme

Organisation	Ward	Project title	Organisation	Ward	Project title
Picture This Media CIC	Stirchley	Community Portrait	Taunton Road Memorial Garden group	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	'Afternoon Tea' social event
Pitch 2 Progress CIC	Bordesley Green	Family Fun	The Journey	Newtown	Cultural event
PlayGROUND	Billesley	Creating and Growing – Common Wealth	The Oval School	Garretts Green	A Taste of the Commonwealth Games
Positive Image (Birmingham) Ltd	Handsworth	Celebrate the Commonwealth Games event	The Patchwork Meadow	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	A Taste of the Commonwealth Games
Queen Alexandra College (QAC)	Harborne	Experiencing inclusion sports	The Pump (East Birmingham) Ltd.	North Edgbaston	The Patchwork Meadow
Quinton Horticultural Society	Quinton	Disability Gardening	The Spearhead Trust at Bells Farmhouse	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Food (of the Commonwealth) Festival
RAFFA International Development Agency	Small Heath	Small Heath Commonwealth Celebrations (SHCC) 2022	The Springfield Project	Druids Heath & Monyhull	Youth Club activities
Reach Youth	Small Heath	Youth Reach Swimming & Boxing Project	Tile Cross Residents Neighbourhood Forum	Sparkhill	Creative Families Festival 2022
Rectory Amateur Boxing Club	Sutton Reddicap	Common Health for the Commonwealth	Trinity Christian Centre	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Commonwealth Flowers in Bloom
Redeemer Church Birmingham	Longbridge & West Heath	A fun filled day in the local park and Oddingley Hall	Tudor Community Sports Trust (TCST)	Bournville & Cotteridge	Getting Active day
Rednal Litter Busters	Rubery & Rednal	Rednal Commonwealth Games	UK Asian Womens Centre	Sutton Trinity	Tudor Community Commonwealth Games Celebrations
Reel Access	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Stories of Home	University of Birmingham - Guild of Students (Comm Wardens Scheme)	Handsworth Wood	Chamakte Sitare - Shining stars
Riverside Performing Arts	Bournville & Cotteridge	Elmer's Walk	Urban Devotion Birmingham	Bournbrook & Selly Park	Commonwealth Games Community Sports Day
ROAM	Moseley	Elmer's Walk	Vicarage Road Community	Pype Hayes	Activities at St Mary's Church
ROAM	Bournville & Cotteridge	ROAM Commonwealth Challenge!	Vision For All CIC	Stockland Green	Weekly drop-in sports sessions
Rookery Park Friends	Erdington	Outdoor Exercise	VOWS Community Enterprise CIC	Stockland Green	Witton Lakes Festival of Fun
Rubery Wombles	Rubery & Rednal	Deelands Rd Community Garden	Washwood Heath Association CIC	Brandwood & Kings Heath	All-age celebratory event for the community
Sabbah Sports	Bordesley & Highgate	CWG Women's Sports	Welcome Change CIC	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Sports for all
Sabbah Sports	Bordesley Green	CWG Women's Sports	Welsh House Farm Green Grafters	Birchfield	The Windrush Generation Legacy Project
Saheli Hub	Balsall Heath West	Sāhēlī Commonwealth TRY-athon	Wheeler Lane Primary School	Alum Rock	Birmingham Mega Mela
Saltley Stallions FC	Alum Rock	Just Play Street Football	Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country	Bordesley Green	Birmingham Mega Mela
Selly Oak Community Development Trust Ltd	Bournville & Cotteridge	Katie Rd Table Tennis Project	Windswept Workshops CIC	Bromford & Hodge Hill	Birmingham Mega Mela
Sikh Nari Manch UK	Erdington	North Side Welcome Centre	Witton Lodge Community Association	Heartlands	Birmingham Mega Mela
Smartlyte	Stockland Green	North Side Welcome Centre	Woodlands Northfield Tennis Club	Ward End	Birmingham Mega Mela
Smartlyte	Hall Green North	Get Families Talking - Moseley Exchange	Worth Unlimited	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Community Garden Fete
Smartlyte	Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Get Families Talking - Moseley Exchange	Wychall Primary School	Glebe Farm & Tile Cross	Picnic in the park
Soho Community Hall	Soho & Jewellery Quarter	Sports and Community Celebration	Xpress-Yourself Dance CIC	Harborne	Carnival
Soho Community Hall	Alum Rock	The Hundred	Yardley Community Trust	Brandwood & Kings Heath	CWG Celebratory Event
Sporting Pathways	Bordesley Green	The Hundred	Yardley Conservation Society	North Edgbaston	Deers Loop - North Edgbaston
Sporting Pathways	Bromford & Hodge Hill	The Hundred	Yemeni Community Association	Sutton Four Oaks	Hillbog Hook - Sutton Four Oaks
Sporting Pathways	Yardley West & Stechford	The Hundred		Sutton Mere Green	Hillbog Hook - Sutton Four Oaks
Spring to Life	Longbridge & West Heath	Community Anchoring Networks (CAN)		Moseley	Moseley Bog and Joy's Wood - Moseley
St Gabriel's Centre	Weoley & Selly Oak	Summer Term Community Activities at the Duck Pond		Bournbrook & Selly Park	Bournbrook History Trail
St Germain's Church	North Edgbaston	Commonwealth Games Celebrations		Erdington	Perry Common Community Games
St Margaret's Community Trust	Ward End	Bollywood Dreams		Perry Common	Perry Common Community Games
St. Mark's Community Developments	Oscott	Gentle Seated Exercise Group		Northfield	Birmingham Commonwealth Tennis Legacy
Stage 2	Brandwood & Kings Heath	Celebrate local youth talent		Bromford & Hodge Hill	Bromford and Hodge Hill Games
Street Futures CIC	Alum Rock	Inner City Games		Kings Norton North	A Taste of the Commonwealth Games
Street Futures CIC	Hall Green North	Horse riding lessons		Moseley	Xpress-Yourself dance classes.
Summerfield Stables	Moseley	Horse riding lessons		Yardley East	Yardley Samurai Rose
Sutton Coldfield Creative Stitchers	Sutton Vesey	Commonwealth Games Craft Mural		Yardley West & Stechford	Old Yardley Park - Restore Rose Garden
Sutton Coldfield YMCA	Sutton Wylde Green	Commonwealth Games Mural		Sparkbrook & Balsall Heath East	Cultural awareness and physical activity programme
Sutton Coldfield YMCA	Sutton Wylde Green	Outdoor Gym			
TAO Fitness & Martial Arts	Newtown	TAO Community Project 2022			

APPENDIX B

Table 4. Organisations receiving grants from Creative City

Ward	Project title	Ward	Project title	Ward	Project title
100 th Birmingham Bournville Scout Group	The Big Reveal	Drumatised	Mind, Music and Movement	Moseley Road Baths	Rite of Passage
Active Arts Castle Vale	The Festival of Flying	Edgbaston Reservoir Company Ltd (ERCO)	Cultures in Common	Newbegin Community Trust	Blacksmithing
Advocacy Matters	Creative Project	Edge Arts / Bonfire Radicals	School & City: parade and perform	No Outsiders	No Outsiders Family Festival 2023
African Community Heritage Hub Ltd	The Mbala Ballet	Eloquent Praise & Empowerment Dance	Restoration	No11 Arts Ltd	HayMills Arts Trail
African Cultural Exchange Ltd	Community Flora	Ex Cathedra	A New Song	Norton Hall Children and Family Centre	The Good Living Project
Aidem Digital CIC- DESIblitz	Young Common Meets Old Wealth	Feed My Creative CIC	The Chapters of Our Lives	Notnow Collective	BOSA
Al Ahal Community Uk	The Hope	Friction Arts	Back Home	Open Door Community Foundation	Untitled
Arts 50 Alive Intergenerational Network	We are Birmingham (CCG)	Friends of Sparkhill Park	Sparkle in the Park	Outer Circle Arts	Museum of ME!
Arts All Over The Place	Hear My Voice	Geese Theatre Company	Hidden Voices	Picture This Media CIC	Our Place Our Space
Arts Forum Selly Oak/Sense at Touch Base Pears	Haptic Home: Selly Oak	Girl Grind UK	POW - People of Ward End	Place Prospectors CIC	A Mural for Druids Heath
Bangla Connection	sunshine café a Documentary Film	Glue Collective LTD	S:PARK	Rectory Amateur Boxing Club	Boxer Beat
BE FESTIVAL CIC	The Garden State	Gospel Link 360 C.I.C.	GRP Remix	Reel Access	Stories of Home
Bertz Associates	Sports Tower	GRAIN Projects CIC	FACES OF 2022	Riverside Performing Arts	TOGETHER WE
Birmingham Contemporary Music Group	Flourish!	Hall Green Schools Home School Association	Word Play Stories	Saathi house	"Handbags and Gladrags" creative arts project
Birmingham History Theatre Company	Middlemore Play	Handsworth Association of Schools	Stage for Stories	Secret City Arts	City of a Million Trees
Birmingham LGBT	One In One Out	Handsworth Creative	The Commonwealth: Here and Now	Selexportorhood	Selexportorschool
Birmingham PlayCare Network	Commonwealth Creations	High Vis CiC	Celebration Mural	Shakti Women In The Community	Womanhood
Birmingham Pragati Mandal	BPM – Rangoli – Reflecting Community's Commonwealth Roots	Highfield Hall Community Club	Soothing Stitches	Simmer Down Arts CIC	Young Gifted Brum
Birmingham Pride	25 Years of Pride and Protest	How Brave Is The Wren / HSA	Word Play Stories	Sol Cafe	Looking 'Out'
Birmingham Race Impact Group (BRIG)	Soho House Mural Project (SHMP)	In Her Shoes	Journeys of Hope	Sonia Sabri Company	Mughal Miniatures
Black Arts Forum CIC	Terra Firma Stories	InteGreat Theatre	Guardian	Stirchley Happenings	Look closely
Black Heritage Walks Network CIC	Underground Railroad	InUnity UK	CREATE at Ark	Stryx	Strength Strings
Black Voices UK	Anthem Commission	Kashmiri Arts & Heritage Foundation	Second City Tales	The Bone Ensemble	ChocFest
Break Mission	Queerside Festival	Kings Rise PTFA	Cricket In The Park at Willow Terrace	The Creative universe	Zendaya
Budo Active Education CIC	SPORTS IN MOTION	Kinmos	The Humankindness Project	The GAP Arts Project	Cultural Resistance Creative Protest
Cathedral Church of St Phillip, Birmingham	The Common Wealth Table	Legacy WM	Roundhouse to Chance Arts Trail – If You Can Sail Here, You Can Sail Anywhere Edgbaston Reservoir	The Pump (East Birmingham) Ltd.	PumpFest2022
Cedar Church	BSL Community Chorus	Make It Sustainable Ltd	The Mosaic Road	The Recovery Foundation	Creative Arts Programme
Children of the Sun Saturday school with Artsy Party Kidz CIC	I am Birmingham, A Windrush Legacy	Martineau Gardens	Martineau Gardens Gates of Welcome	The Zawiya Trust	Heartbeat
China Plate Theatre	Soho Settlers	Midland Actors Theatre	Project Time Machine	TuneUp Arts	Culture in Common
China Plate Theatre	We Still Here	Midland Greek and Cypriot Association	Other Isles	UCAN Birmingham	Pillars of the Commonwealth
Culture Spectrum	Skin & Steel: Steel & Skin	mimar Collective CIC	Where Two Oceans Meet	United Church of St Paul's, Balsall Heath	Our Garden – Sacred Spaces of Balsall Heath
Czech & Slovak Club UK CIC	Drowning of Winter	Moor Pool Hall	Keep Dancing for the Commonwealth	Vivid Projects	(Algo)Afro Futures
Deaf Explorer	Cog In the Wheel	Mooville Theatre CIC	Looking In Looking Out	Walsall Rd Lesiure Gardens Association	My Happy Place
Digbeth Dining Club CIC	The Community Cookbook	Moseley Farmer's Market, The Dionysus Ensemble & Services For Education	Birmingham's Children: Commonwealth Music	Windswept Workshops	Talking Benches
				Women & Theatre Ltd	1000 Threads
				Writing West Midlands	Our Birmingham: poetry films made by young people from Birmingham
				Zero Plus theatre	Hacky

APPENDIX C

Table 5. Organisations receiving grants from Stronger Communities

Workstream	Organisation	Workstream	Organisation	Workstream	Organisation	Trail
Peace Garden	• Roots to Fruit	Getting Communities Talking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACH • Arts in the Yard • At Pace • Birmingham Education and Ethnic Advisory Service (BEEAS) • Building Communities • Community Enterprise Growth • Eidgah • FEZSTA • Friction Art • Genisys ARCt • House of Beauty • Impact for Life • In Her Shoes • KCM • LX Studio • Midland Sailing Club • Moseley Road Baths • New Hope Global • NiA (Edgbaston) • NiA (Hall Green) • Norton Hall C&F Centre • Parental Education Growth Support (PEGS) • Saathi House • SFY • SmartLyte • Sport 4 Life • Super Personalised Books • The Bike Project 	Heritage Trail	Arts in the Yard	Stechford Arts Trail
Future Leaders – Black Excellence In Brum	• Your Life Matters Partnership				Balsall Heath History	Balsall Heath Canal Trail
We Made Birmingham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts 50 • Arts in the Yard • Aston Vision • At-Pace • Birmingham Playcare Network • Bluebell Films • Building Communities • DAERO • Eidgah • FEZSTA • Friction Arts • Midland Sailing • Mindseye Development • Northfield Arts Forum • St. Thomas • TSDA • U R A Star • Welcome Change • Ward End Asian Elders 				Birchfield Big Local	Birchfield Heritage Trail
		Birmingham History Theatre	A Heritage walk from Bournville to Kings Norton			
		Black Heritage Walks Network CIC	E-scooter			
			Black sporting Heroes			
			Equiano and the Enlightenment			
		Bournville Village Trust	Selly Manor Museum and Bournville Village Trust Trail			
		Birmingham Race Impact Group (BRIG)	Roots – Handsworth & Lozells Trails			
		Faith, Neighbours Changemakers (FNC)	Places of Worship Heritage Trail			
		Handsworth Association Of Schools	Half Term Heritage Celebration			
		Impact for Life	Heritage Wellbeing			
		Irish Community Trail	Irish Community Trail			
		Lunar Society	Lunar Society Birmingham Heritage Trail			
		New Hope Global	Connecting Communities to Local Heritage			
		Norton Hall C&F Centre Tree Trail	The Tree Trail			
Peaky Blinder Trail	The Real Peaky Blinders & Digbeth and Deritend History Tour					
Pioneers Heritage Trail	East Birmingham Trail					
Royal Sutton Coldfield	Sutton Coldfield Town Centre Trail					
Windswept Workshops	Bournbrook History Trail					
Legacy WM	Taste of Handsworth Trail					



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