

ST RAPHAEL'S ESTATE YOUTH PROJECT

Beyond The Box





AMPLIFYING THE LOCAL YOUTH VOICE



Beyond The Box is a social enterprise specialising in youth engagement. We use 15 years of experience to create innovative programmes that empower young citizens to value their ideas, whilst enabling them to influence the decisions that affect their lives and communities. Our revolutionary approach places young people at the very centre of community, helping ensure we build a society that is inclusive of every citizen.

WHAT WE DO

WE USE A CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT APPROACH

We design creative solutions for meaningful youth engagement. All our programmes are co-designed and co-delivered alongside young citizens. As a social enterprise, we ensure money spent goes back into each community we work in. One of the ways we do this by employing young citizens as collaborators, investing in their ideas, whilst building their networks and skills.



BRENT

Working with award-winning housing and urban design practice, Karakusevic Carson Architects, we designed a Social Value programme aimed at gaining the views and opinions of young residents living on St Raphael's Estate in North London, over a 7 month period.

ST RAPHEAL'S ESTATE

Beyond The Box designed a collaborative project centred around working with young residents to co-design and co-deliver a series of localised youth-led events, each aimed at gaining insight into what the youth community wanted to see from any potential redevelopment or infill on their estate, whilst celebrating local youth culture and developing skills.



**SOCIAL
VALUE**

APPROACH



PAID EMPLOYMENT

- REMUNERATION
- LOCALISED APPROACH
- CO-DESIGN
- ENGAGING YOUNG PEOPLE WITH PLACEMAKING



SKILLS + NETWORKS

- SET UP AS FREELANCERS
- EVENT PLANNING
- MARKETING AND COMMUNICATIONS
- INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS



CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT

- PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
- MUSIC EVENT
- FILM
- ATTENDING DESIGN WORKSHOPS



THE EVENT

- CAPTURING INSIGHTS
- LOCAL PRESS
- BRINGING TOGETHER COMMUNITY
- CONNECTING TO LOCAL AUTHORITY

PAID EMPLOYMENT

We advertised, interviewed and employed four local event planners, each of whom were residents living on St Raphael's estate. We contracted them to 40 hours at London Living Wage. Their brief was to work with Beyond The Box to co-design and a series of engagement events to amplify the local youth voice as part of the public consultation process taking place on the estate. Meeting every week we planned how best to gain the opinions and views of their peers, using creativity to engage them with the architect team, community and local authority. One of the first events was hosted by a young resident board member, Natalie, who talked through what the board knew to date. A later event saw a number of young residents come together to write a series of questions which they wanted to present too Brent Council, these questions highlighted the key hope and fears of the young residents.



YOUTH CONSULTATION



WHAT HAS TAKING PART IN THIS PROJECT MEANT TO YOU?



"Having a part in what's happening in our local area and exposing more young people to what is happening, gaining new skills, having insight of youth event planning and what it entails. Also meeting new people and learning with and from them"

Idil

SKILLS + NETWORKS

We assigned each event planner with a lead role, developing skills in marketing, budget planning, contacting partner artists, exploring funding and sponsorship and project management.

We visited creative agency *On Road* in Shoreditch who showed the young residents how they work with big brands to tell stories and capture young people's opinions. We researched local Brent creatives, leading to us working with photographer Daniel Alfonzo Thomas on this project. We applied for grant funding from Arts Council England and the Mayors Culture Seeds Fund, informing young people of available funding for the arts (sadly we were not successful), in order for grassroots youth groups to know of available funds. We introduced Brent 2020 partner organisation *The Agency* to the young residents, some of whom are now part of that programme.



SKILLS AND NETWORKS



WHAT DID YOU ENJOY MOST ABOUT TAKING PART IN THIS PROJECT?




"Meeting new people, learning new concepts, working in a team and having a good time together"

Zahra

"Interviewing residents, learning of their stories, seeing the final turn out at the event"

Delaney

CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT



We know from experience that young people under 25 years of age are often non-existent at community consultation events related to regeneration and placemaking, so we wanted to design a creative platform to engage young people with their neighbours, peers and ultimately their wider community.

PHOTOGRAPHY

We commissioned local photographer Daniel Alfonzo Thomas to take 12 portrait images of local young residents living on St Raph's Estate, each image was taken in an area of the estate that holds a special memory. Beyond The Box then worked with the young residents to write statements of aspiration, aspirations they had for their future and for the future of their estate.

MUSIC

The event planners reached out to a number of local artists to perform at an event, and secured award winning spoken word artists George The Poet to perform along with 5 emerging artists. Using music to bring young residents together in order to gain their thoughts and opinions.

FILM

During the event, young residents interviewed their peers gaining further insight into what young residents liked and/or disliked about their estate and community.

PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOGRAPHY



PHOTOGRAPHY



WHAT HAS TAKING PART IN THIS PROJECT MEANT TO YOU?

"Taking part in this project has allowed me to learn what is going on in my estate and how this affects me. It has mean't that I have been able to support other young people to develop a beter understanding of refill & redevelopment. It has given me the ability to explore the two options in depth and made my community a more friendly place to be as I have got to know many people"

Vivan



YOUTH CONSULTATION



THE EVENT

We invited residents and young people living on the estate and surrounding neighbourhoods to a free evening of music and visual art, with performances from local youth artists and headline act award winning spoken word artist George the Poet, who grew up on the estate. They saw the opening of their photography exhibition and the youth team presented Brent Council with their youth resident questions about any potential redevelopment or infill. The whole event was hosted and compered by the young residents at the Drum in Wembley and each were written personal commendations for their work in designing and delivering the project.

DID YOU MEET ANY NEW RESIDENTS THROUGH TAKING PART IN THE PROJECT?



"Yeah, everyone in the team were people I hadn't met before"

Zahra


"I have met quite a lot of people I haven't met before, young people by going to the youth meetings and adults at the design workshops"

Toni

"I would say I've met at least 10 new residents"

Delaney

LEGACY



A number of the young residents have expressed an interest in collaborating with the residents board on St Raphael's estate to plan a future event in the summer of 2020 with an aim to future bridge the youth community and wider residents together.



WHAT HAS TAKING PART IN THIS PROJECT MEANT TO YOU?

"I've met new people, made new friends that I don't think I would have ever met. It also kind of made me feel a lot closer to my community. This project made me come out of my comfort zone in areas like planning and speaking to people I don't know. The project made me realise that there was so many things I was missing and I can see that there is so many thing I can improve on".

Zahra

