



EVALUATION REPORT

African & Caribbean Creatives
Workshop Questionnaire 18 May 2019

Report by Joan Nicholson-Director
MBS WELLBEING COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY

April 2020

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Introduction

MBS WELLBEING COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY working with Black Women in the Arts developed the concept behind the workshop. Waltham Forest is a diverse community with many cultures we wanted to find out how engaged local African & Caribbean Creatives were in the yearlong celebrations Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 and to identify any legacy moving into 2020 and beyond.

The workshop formed part of the event Afrikan & Caribbean Cultural Expressions Part 1 held on 18 May 2019 at One Hoe Street, approximately 17 people attended. It is important to state that we received support from Waltham Forest Council to carry out this survey.

Analysis of Data

The findings of the survey is compiled in the order the workshop questionnaire was presented i.e. from Q1 - Q9 and give a snapshot of the views, involvement level and opportunities taken up by local African & Caribbean Creatives during the early stages of Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019.

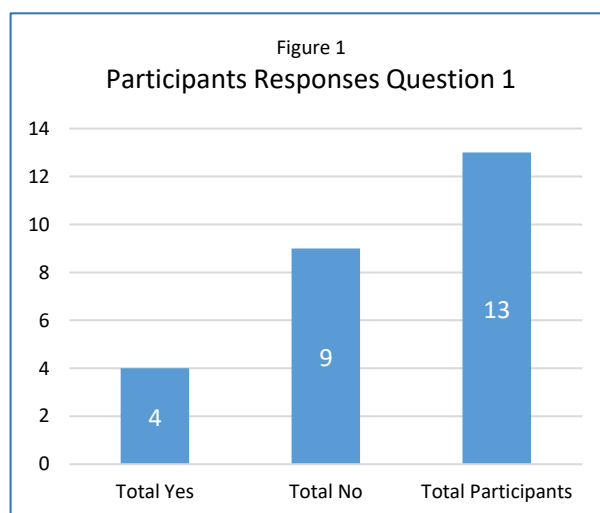
Q1. Were you directly involved in performing, exhibiting artwork, running a project or event including volunteering? Yes or No.

It clearly highlighted the fact that out of thirteen participants the majority answered no total (9) which represented 69.23 percent and yes total (4) 30.77 percent see figure 1. Participants also asked to give comments, their reason/s behind their answers.

Seven participants who answered no were not directly involved as a creative but gave a perspective as a member of the community. This information is very useful because it identified requests for personal development through creative arts training, offer of volunteering for future events and an interest in attending cultural events.

Comments if answered no:

- Recently moved to London, from outside of borough
- Not involved in creative activities but like to support creative events
- Working for the council
- Unable to find something that can fit around work and family life. Would like to attend Art Classes that run on the weekends very limited.
- Come to look and listen
- I did not hear of this event until last evening. I would be glad to volunteer at any future event.
- Supporting daughter who is a creative



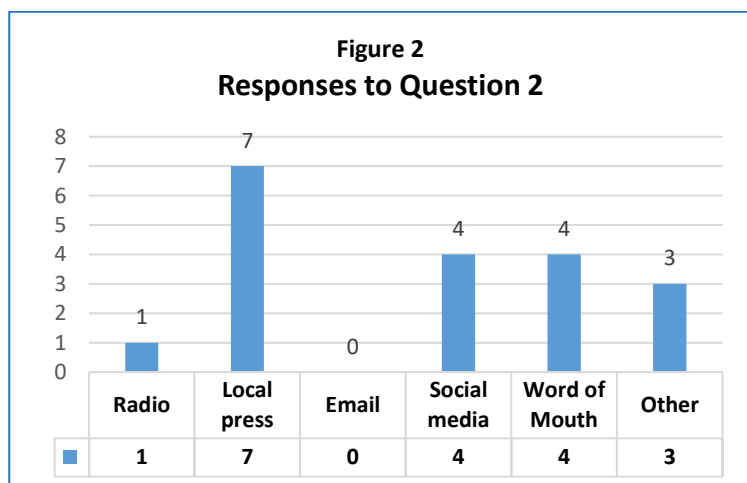
Similarly, if yes identified four Creatives, two were directly involved running a project and performing during Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019. Two were directly involved in the Afrikan & Caribbean Cultural Expressions part one.

A broader conversation around inclusion must be had to ensure African and Caribbean creatives living in the borough viewpoint migrated into the future cultural strategies of Waltham Forest Council. For example, barriers that create under representation and poor communication.

Comments if answered yes: (1) Think Globally Create Locally Project in partnership with Oganiclea, Hornbeam and Yardley Primary School. (2) This is the first event in which I have sold my work to members of the public, would love to have more events like this. (3) Cultural Dance Group. (4) Exhibiting Handcrafted Bags.

Q2. How did you hear about Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019?

Identified participants top information medium was local press followed by social media and word of mouth. This may change over time but for older people local press and word of mouth are still relevant.



- Additional Comments:**
- Eventbrite and colleague.
 - Waltham Forest Council Website.
 - TV Show after the borough received the award.
 - When travelling here I saw that this is the borough of culture at the tube station.
 - I also saw it advertised on the screen in Town square.

Q3. Have you used Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019 Website or Social Media?

The purpose of this question was to see how many participants used the designated website for information and events taking place in the borough.

Q3. Total No 8

Q3. Total Yes 5

Q4. Did you attend one of the Ward Meetings?

To test how many resident creatives were involved in their local ward to find out about Waltham Forest Borough of culture.

Q4. Total No 11

Q4. Total Yes 2

Additional Comments:

- Attended in the past but have not received notification recently
- Attended at One Hoe Street
- Attended Higham Hill
- Wasn't aware of the meeting
- Enfield resident

Q3. Comments

- I did not know it exist.
- Will look on line for future events.
- Look up events.
- To find out what events are going on throughout the year.
- Occasionally to see what is going on.
- Last night was the first time I came across the borough of culture, although I have visited no 1 Hoe Street, where staff are very kind and keen to help but rarely have information to share about related events.

Q5. Have you used One Hoe Street?

Here we wanted to establish if any creatives have used the space to perform or exhibit work or local resident as a member of an audience.

Q5. Total No 8

Q5. Total Yes 5

Additional Comments:

- It is not signposted as a borough venue.
- Work for the council
- As part of a local fitness and wellbeing Thai Chi Group
- Rarely seem to have knowledge of forthcoming events but very kind and keen to help

Q6. Waltham Forest Council offered local creatives opportunities to be involved in the celebrations, Make It Happen and Make It Local Funding. Did you apply?

A number of the participants were not aware of this important opportunity for local creatives, groups and organisations including individuals to be part of the borough wide celebrations. Moving forward African and Caribbean creatives must broaden networking and links with relevant Council departments and Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector e.g. Connecting Communities in the four areas of the borough, meetings held by ward councillors to access information and funding opportunities.

Q6. Total No 12

Q6. Total Yes 1

If No. Why not?

- Unaware of opportunities
- I had no clue, that this opportunity was available perhaps it is because I never looked it up but recently found out about this.
- Personally, I am not a creative. My Tai Chi organisers applied to be involvement.
- Did not know of its existence
- Didn't know about it
- Looking at Corporate funding it is more accessible

If Yes. What was the outcome?

- Applications successful for both Make It Happen and Make it local.

Q7. What do you see as a lasting legacy?

In this section, all thirteen participants made a comment, which was very illuminating demonstrating that everyone is keen, engaged and motivated about a legacy for African and Caribbean Culture from 2020 onwards.

To work towards delivering, an annual cultural programme with different contributors from the creative and performing arts ensuring publicity and promotion is coordinated and information released in advance. Opportunities to increase social interaction with people of different ethnicity and cultures across the borough.

Also to address inequalities in consultation with Waltham Forest Council such as under representation, lack of appropriate funding, commissioning local organisations and recognition for contributions to the community. See full list of comments on page 4.

QUESTION 7 LIST OF COMMENTS

More fair representation of both African and Caribbean Music (Soca Reggae etc.).	More activities from African Caribbean contributors. More promotion and publicity surrounding events.	2019-BOC just the start. Bring the borough closer together. To keep One Hoe Street going.
It would be good to get more in roads into local schools, exposure to local creative expression.	Local Afro-Caribbean groups recognised and funded appropriately.	Information on events planned way ahead of time.
<p>*Not sure how this has helped the African Caribbean Community in the borough.</p> <p>*Including more African Caribbean involvement (past and present).</p>	Celebrating culture, African and Caribbean on a bigger scale. Holding meetings where people can discuss and talk about their understanding of Black culture and how to promote it.	Local grassroots Organisations commissioned to do more work instead of outside organisations. Paying local artists to perform at flagship events.
Better community relations. Increase understanding, respect and social interaction between communities of diverse ethnicity, cultures etc.	There should be more support for African and Caribbean creatives in the borough. I am currently working on setting up a charitable fund to support creativity, artists and wellbeing.	I want Waltham Forest Borough of Culture to continue to exist and more. Awareness and understanding of the different African cultures including recognition.

Q8. What else can we do after 2019?

The eleven comments clearly demonstrated that there is a need to develop a structure that bring African and Caribbean Creatives closer together to share, communicate and collaborate. Training for creatives and local residents, cultural activities to include workshops, seminars and conferences.

One comment mentioned other spaces for Art exhibitions we should also explore resources that already exist in the borough e.g. Vestry House Museum and William Morris Gallery. Raising our profile and a visual presence in the community. See full list of comments below.

QUESTION 8 LIST OF COMMENTS

I like the idea of information sharing workshops, seminars and training and finding funds would be good.

Networking events for various Cultures. Place to purchase tickets for events- advertising better.

Try to engage in other spaces where African-Caribbean representation is lacking e.g. Art Exhibitions.

I am, not sure now. However, interested in hearing of what is happening.

Need to see how LBOC has benefited our community to date.

Continue with African Caribbean cultural awareness in Waltham Forest.

More events and conferences on how to promote yourself as a creative.

We can come together, as one speaker said to communicate better in order to access funding.

More of this, bigger, louder and well publicised. Maybe every month or 3 months, make it a regular part of the community. Add drummers, cultural food (to buy). More stallholders of the same great standard.

Work towards a Caribbean Arts and Culture Centre. There is a Carnival Arts Centre in Luton developing relationships with local councillors and attending council meetings.

Definitely have a way of communicating with each other. Supporting one another. Lobbying the council. Having a visual presence throughout the borough.

Q9. What other comments would you like to make?

The six comments gave different perspectives such as future working relationships; mixed culture networking this will have many benefits for African and Caribbean residents and the wider community but at the same time to focus on African and Caribbean internal structures to aid development and growth. See full list of comments below.

QUESTION 9 LIST OF COMMENTS		
I would be very interested in being put in touch with creatives who are willing to give a little time to mentor or run sample workshops for people's emotional wellbeing and healing, exploring own creative talents.	I think some African cultures are not promoting themselves. I might not be aware but southern part of Africa where I come from is quiet and I do admire the Afro-Caribbean culture, which is out there. I would want to see more participants from different cultures.	
Encourage Culture Officers to be more proactive about underrepresented Groups involvement in discussions and consultations.	How does one generate interest among the community? I never see anyone but myself at ward meetings.	As one speaker mentioned we need to share. Important. Looking forward to part 2 of the event.
I am very glad to have attended this event. As a founder member of our local Migrant Action Support Service, I would have liked to bring flyers and info about the service, to maybe add to your stalls or take a separate stall for ourselves and advertise to the volunteers and customers who attend the service. Which may bring a mix of communities to experience your brilliant African culture, maybe next time.		

Recommendations

It is imperative that this Evaluation Report in the first instance inspire greater commitment and dialogue between African & Caribbean Creatives, African & Caribbean people and place in the wider community. To forge a collaborative relationship with Waltham Forest Council and the Voluntary Community and Social Enterprise Sector for a stronger integrated culturally aware community.

The following recommendations are a starting point to mould and transform the future.

- Creating a platform for networking purposes to debate issues of concern, develop partnerships and set the agenda for African and Caribbean inclusion and development.
- To rethink whole approach to funding and income generation, using multiple means to sustain activities for example sale of products and services, including support from within the community both voluntary and monetary.
- Training and education drawing on the expertise of individuals and organisations in specific fields for example creative and performing arts, policy development, business advice and finance.
- Topics for Discussion-Networking, Under Representation and Communication, Community Connectivity, Business Advice and Training for Creatives, Funding and Financing.

The next step is setting up a meeting with African and Caribbean Creatives to discuss the outcomes of the Evaluation Report and to form Strategy and Action Plan. Let us look forward with confidence claiming ownership of our future.

Other Considerations / Information

There are recurring and one off comments of equal value throughout questions 7 to 9 but felt that it is important to mention two topics for future consideration and feasibility study these are:

- Development a set of mini Cultural programmes for Schools that can be part of the curriculum
- Cultural Centre that is focused on African and Caribbean heritage

INFORMATION

Local Residents can contact the Council to find out about local ward meetings and Councillor's surgeries please see details below.

Democratic Services

Waltham Forest Town Hall

Forest Road

Walthamstow, E17 4JF

Telephone number 020 8496 3000

Email councillors@walthamforest.gov.uk

Alternatively Council website: <https://www.walthamforest.gov.uk/content/your-local-councillor>

Contact Details

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Mobile 0743 658 3288

Email: joelainenicholson@hotmail.co.uk

Website: <https://mbswellbeing.weebly.com/>

A copy of this Evaluation Report will be sent to all individuals who submitted their contact details.

Acknowledgements

MBS WELLBEING COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY would like to acknowledge the contributions of individuals and organisations who attended the event or supported the workshop. We could not have completed such an important piece of work without you.

THANK YOU!

- African and Caribbean Creatives
- Stallholders
- Local Residents and others
- Waltham Forest Council
- Waltham Forest London Borough of Culture 2019
- Black Women in the Arts
- Waltham Forest Adult Learning Service.