

THANK YOU FOR
INSPIRING WESTMINSTER'S
FUTURE TALENT
2020/2021



City of Westminster



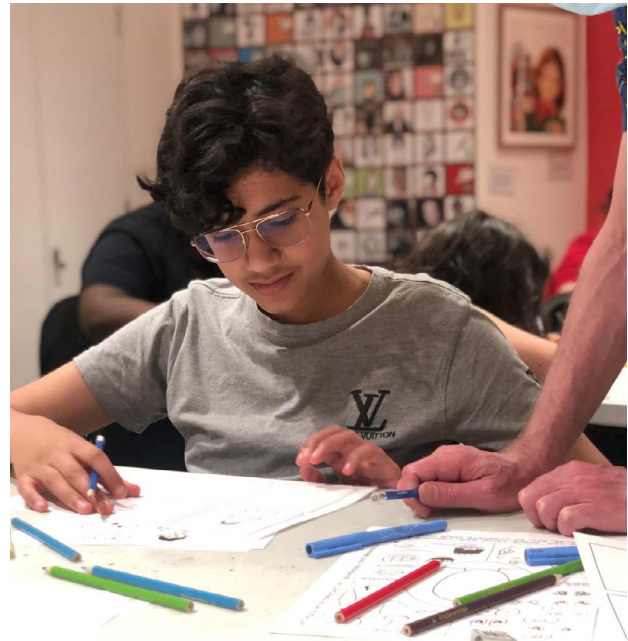
The year in review

This past year has been full of opportunities for our City Lions, thanks to our partners. Across 2020/2021, City Lions has engaged over 1,100 young people through our brand-new mentoring programme, holiday programmes, the Westminster Creative Collective, work experience, a weekly virtual youth club and numerous other one-off opportunities.

For the first half of the year, our programmes continued to be delivered virtually as we entered subsequent lockdowns and returned to remote learning. From May, we began the exciting move back to in-person delivery whilst continuing our online offering.

With the support of our partners and the hard work of the City Lions team, we delivered all our planned programmes and also offered new opportunities in response to challenges young people faced due to the pandemic. This included our new mentoring programme and a bespoke work experience programme.

This booklet provides an in-depth summary of the City Lions offerings this year. We hope you enjoy reading about the different opportunities and look forward to partnering with you again next year. Together, we can help our young people to imagine their bright future in Westminster, and beyond.



Participant drawing comic strips at the Cartoon Museum.

City Lions 2020/2021

1,100+

young people engaged

100+

collaborative partners

33

mentees supported

1

creative industries festival

6

holiday programmes

5

public art exhibitions

"[The City Lions team] have been a pleasure to work with.

We are proud of the partnership that has developed between Oakray and City Lions and look forward to it continuing to grow and develop, benefitting the young people of Westminster."

Pia Gleeson, Bid Manager at Oakray



Participants spray painting the new Church Street Library mural.

Holiday programmes

Our holiday programmes are an excellent way to develop young people's skills and offer them a 'behind the scenes' peek at creative industries through interactive workshops.

This year, we ran six programmes, three during half terms: October, February and May, plus one in Easter and two during the summer holidays. Altogether, these were attended by **over 90 young people**.

This year our May, July and August programmes ran for four days, instead of the usual three, as part of the Department of Education's Holiday Activities and Food Programme. Participants were provided with free ingredients and a creative cooking class helped them to develop their cooking skills and plate up a delicious dinner for their families!

During 2020, our holiday programmes took place virtually via Zoom but as restrictions have eased, and with help from our partners, we've been able to deliver in-person programmes at a range of creative establishments including the Cartoon Museum and Saatchi Gallery.

Keen to facilitate a workshop during one of our next holiday programmes?

Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

"I really enjoyed learning that creativity is needed in all jobs"

Holiday programme participant

"I enjoyed going to see many different exhibitions that I didn't know of and wouldn't have gone to by myself"

Holiday programme participant



Following a City Lions holiday programme:

83%

of participants strongly agree or agree that they are now able to see their own creativity

85%

of participants strongly agree or agree that they are now able to see the link between creativity and wellbeing

78%

of participants strongly agree or agree that as a City Lion they are now able to work in a team



Left, participant getting creative at the Saatchi Gallery. Right, participants practising plate spinning with Splats Entertainment.

City Lions mentoring programme

As many young people's lives continue to be impacted by the pandemic, we established a new mentoring programme to support Westminster's young people with their development.

In May, in collaboration with Arts Emergency, we launched our mentoring pilot and the first cohort of mentees are due to finish their mentoring journey in September!

The programme is targeted at young people, aged 14 to 16 years old, who are most in need of a role model to help them develop their confidence, identify their own creativity and prepare them for their next steps. Our mentors are provided with comprehensive training and a handbook and worksheet pack to support them when working with their mentee over a four-month period.

33 mentor pairs are taking part in the pilot programme with mentors from a range of creative sector areas including TV and production, theatre, technology, engineering and visual arts. Our mentees consist of young people who are currently in care, young carers and those with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

Keen to sign up to be a mentor in a future programmes? Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

City Lions mentoring programme so far

The pilot programme is still underway but to date:

91%

of mentors rate their sessions as 'excellent' or 'good'

95%

of mentees rate their sessions as 'excellent' or 'good'



"I am really pleased with how [our first] session went, we spoke openly for an hour and [my mentee] was confident and really led the conversation."

Mentor

"I enjoy the structured sessions and feel I get a lot of valuable information out of them."

Mentee

Topics explored by mentor pairs include:

- Creativity and creative skills
- Goal setting
- Planning for the future
- Professional skills and work experience
- Who am I and self-awareness

"It really has surpassed any expectations. [The mentor] has just been incredible and supportive and E has found the experience really inspiring. It's been of immense value for E and has really set her on a pathway that I wouldn't have been able to help her towards."

Parent of mentee



One of first City Lions mentees, Michelle.

Westminster Creative Collective



The Westminster Creative Collective was established by City Lions and Children's Services to celebrate the creativity of young people in the borough.

The pandemic has marked a significant period in our lives - can anyone remember a time when life has changed so drastically, so quickly and for so many? Creativity has helped many of us make sense and process the events of the past 18 months.

In November 2020, we invited young artists to send us artwork of any kind that they had created during the pandemic expressing their feelings and opinions.

In particular, we encouraged artwork that related to the following themes:

- Lockdown
- Resilience and hope
- Community
- Black Lives Matter

By May 2021, nearly 300 pieces of artwork had been submitted to the Collective, including pieces created during artist-led workshops in Westminster schools and through a community mural project.

All artwork is exhibited on our virtual gallery and 150 works were displayed at public exhibitions at four libraries across the borough. In August, a selection of these works were exhibited at the world-renowned Saatchi Gallery.



Submissions to the Westminster Creative Collective.

Westminster Creative Collective in their words

"I think [the Collective] is a wonderful idea. It brings such joy to all the children to have their work displayed publicly. It's also an opportunity for parents to reflect and connect with their children in understanding their experience of lockdown."

Parent of young person

"The workshop was amazing and such a great opportunity for students to just talk about art, creativity and being young people. I was constantly smiling for the rest of day."

Head of Art at St Augustine's CE High School

"Thank you so much T is honestly so happy. What a difference City Lions have made to him over past year or so, you have given him so much confidence to believe in himself from this project, so I honestly want to say thank you."

Parent of young person



T's artwork which was showcased at the Saatchi Gallery.



Creative Industries Festival

Following on from last year's hugely successful Digital Festival, Creative Industries Festival was delivered as a hybrid event for young people aged 12 to 17 years old.

The festival was a week-long exploration into the creative industry with a range of events hosted by our partners and attended by 143 young people. Those taking part in the festival had the opportunity to explore future career options and network with employers and institutions in the cultural and creative sectors.

Over 80% of participants who attended the Creative Industries Festival agreed that they have a better understanding of creative career paths. Three quarters felt they learnt something new about creative careers.



Participants flower arranging with Petal to the Metal.

"It was a very high quality event which was an amazing opportunity for the students. It was great to be part of the Creative Industries Festival."

Teacher from Pimlico Academy

"This was amazing, and I hope we do it again."

Young person from St Augustine's CE High School



Virtual offerings – creative challenges and our youth club

During lockdown and through the easing of restrictions, we continued to offer a number of additional opportunities to keep our City Lions' creative minds busy at home, support their development and improve their mental wellbeing.

Creative challenges

Following the previous year's success, our creative challenges continued through the Christmas, Easter and summer holidays, where we invited young people to keep creative at home. Over Easter and the summer, we partnered with Oakray to take the challenges, and prizes, to the next level!

We received over 75 amazing submissions from young people such as landscapes of Westminster re-imagined, creative writing on homes of the future, customised t-shirts and captivating photographs.

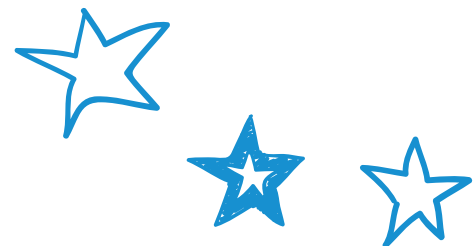
Entry to the Christmas 'design a trainer' competition.



City Lions Live

In April 2020, we launched City Lions Live – our virtual youth club. This unique event takes place every week on Thursday evenings over Zoom, facilitated by the City Lions team. City Lions Live offers a safe space for young people to meet and socialise as well as get involved with interactive workshops, topical debates, quizzes and games.

So far we've been joined by a range of partners from iconic art spaces in Westminster such as National Portrait Gallery, Two Temple Place, and The Wallace Collection, as well as talented freelance professionals. Young people can also take the opportunity to lead a session and create activities for the whole group.



Work experience

With many people still working from home, in-person work placements became unfeasible. In response to this, and in collaboration with careers leads from local schools we created a bespoke work experience programme for young people.

With work experience providing essential exposure to career options, work environments and a network of professionals, the unpredictable nature of the pandemic has inflicted a big loss on young people's careers education.

Endeavouring to fill the gap, we designed an outcomes-focused programme for Year 10 students that aimed to replicate the skills and knowledge young people would gain from a work placement. In July 2021, we partnered with six employers to deliver four bespoke five-day programmes at Westminster schools.

Over 500 students had the opportunity to learn from and gain skills working for our inspiring partners at the National Gallery, Framestore, ZSL London Zoo, Masterclass Theatre Royal Haymarket, Willmott Dixon and Three Mobile.

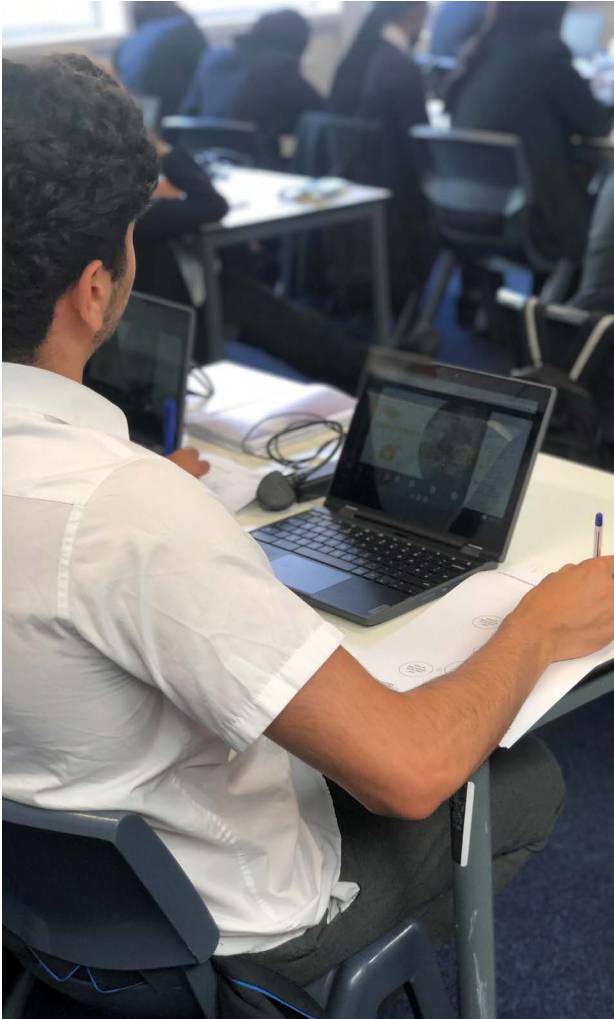
Want to host a work experience student or give a careers talk? Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

"I loved learning about the theatre industry and the tasks stretched my creative thinking and strengthened my organisation skills; so that's another option for my future career!"

Young person from Westminster Academy



Participants taking part in our bespoke work experience.



Participant taking part in our bespoke work experience.

85%

of participants strongly agree or agree that following the work experience programme they now 'have knowledge of different sectors and range of job roles within these'

75%

of participants strongly agree or agree that following the work experience programme they now 'have a better understanding of the world of work and associated expectations'

73%

of participants strongly agree or agree that following the work experience programme they now 'have knowledge of how transferable skills relate to jobs'



Collaborations across London and beyond!



With support from our partners, the City Lions programme has continued to expand and is now able to offer even more opportunities for young people. Here are two examples of exciting collaborations from the last year.

Science Museum Technicians Gallery

In summer 2020, we were approached by the Science Museum who were looking for support with an exciting new project co-creating a new youth-focused part of the museum – the Technicians Gallery.

As a result of subsequent lockdowns, the project was taken online and over a seven-week period, we hosted focus groups on Zoom with a group of 15 young people. During these sessions, participants worked with professional

technicians to create and shape new activities and engagement tools that will form part of the new gallery space for the next 10 years.

From September 2021, a new cohort of young people will be joining us at the Science Museum for the second round of collaborations – this time in person!

Want help adding youth perspective to your programmes? Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

International Children's Day

Five of our City Lions virtually joined up with five young people from Fairview School in Nigeria to participate in a 6-week online drama programme. The group met each week to play drama games and devised an online performance for International Children's Day as part of the Children's Theatre Festival, from Playback Nigeria. The performance explored

the theme of the future – expressing hopes dreams, fears and anxieties in a creative way. The project was facilitated with the help of two placement students from the Royal Central School of Speech and Drama and enabled City Lions to connect across continents and cultures, sharing the experience of growing up with other young people across the globe.

Ways to get involved next year

City Lions will be offering numerous opportunities for partner involvement next year and we would love to collaborate with you again.

There are a number of ways your organisation can make a difference to the lives of Westminster's young people. The City Lions team can help you create, tailor and promote your programmes and is here to support you through the whole process, whether you want to:

- Mentor a young person
- Host a guest speaker session or interactive workshop
- Offer a day shadowing your team
- Provide a work experience placement
- Give free access to activities, exhibitions or events

Contact us to help Westminster's young people discover their future:

citylions@westminster.gov.uk
westminster.gov.uk/citylions



Participant resist dyeing with Fashion Bytes.



Thank you to all our partners

"After another unpredictable year for us all, it's been amazing to see all our partners come together to continue supporting young people in Westminster. Engagement in creative and enriching activities have never been so important and we are grateful to all our partners, old and new, who have offered their time and resources to our programme during a time of such uncertainty.

We look forward to many more exciting collaborations, hopefully both in-person and virtually, in the year to come!"

City Lions team



Catherine Ford
Head of Economic Policy and Projects



John Nolan
Project Manager



Rob Davis
Project Officer



Sisley Hamer
Senior Project Development Officer



Gaynor Smith
Creative Curator



Sydney Frankland
Project Development Officer



Angel Shah
Engagement Apprentice

Our 2020/2021 partners



2AM Films

Ambassador Theatre Group

Andrea Fox

Artlysing

Arts Council Enland

Arts Emergency

Balfour Beatty

BFI

Biscuit Films

Central School of Speech and Drama

Child Graddon Lewis Architects

Chioma Ince

David Miller Architects

Dentsu

Dominic Neergheen

Donmar Warehouse

DreamArts

English Heritage

English National Opera (ENO) Baylis

Errol McGlashan

Evcom

Exhibition Road Group

Fashion Bytes

Fiona Sagar

Folayemi Ojo

Framestore

Future Factory

Geraldine Cox

Gillespies LLP

Green House Sports

Happy Lizzy Event Planning

HS2

Hyde Park Barracks

Imperial College London

Into Games

Iris Theatre

J. Murphy and Sons

Kids in Museums

Les Enfants Terribles

London Transport Museum

Makerversity

Masterclass Theatre Royal Haymarket

Moixa Clothing

National Gallery

Natural History Museum

Nigel Twumasi

North Paddington Youth Club

Northbank BID

Oakray

P for Productions

Paddington Partnership

Partizan	Snapper Films	The Saatchi Gallery
Petal to the Metal	Softcat	Three Mobile
Pete Heat	Somerset House	Two Temple Place
Rangabee Productions	Somesuch	Victoria BID
Rangbhumi Theatre Group	SouthWest Fest	Vodafone
Red Border	Splats Entertainment	Voices Foundation
Rixo	St Andrews Youth Club	Wallace Collection
Royal Academy	STEAM Ambassadors	We are FutureGov
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	Sylvia Darkwa Ohemeng	Westminster Abbey
Royal Institute of British Architects	Takeshi Matsumoto	Westminster Libraries
Saatchi Gallery	Tasha Brown	Willmott Dixon
Sanam Hasan	Tate	Wipro
Science Museum	The Ambassadors Theatre Group	Wonders of London
Screen Community	The Cartoon Museum	ZSL London Zoo
Serpentine Gallery	The Courtauld	
Shift.Ms	The Photographers' Gallery	
Shiny Network	The Rise Collective	



