

THANK YOU FOR
INSPIRING WESTMINSTER'S
FUTURE TALENT
2019/2020



City of Westminster



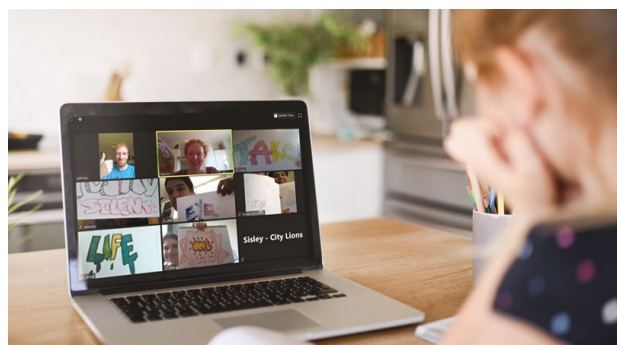
The year in review

This past year has been full of opportunities for our City Lions, thanks to our partners. Across 2019/2020, City Lions engaged 567 young people through 72 opportunities, including work experience, holiday programmes, a weekly youth club, creative challenges and numerous other one-off events.

For the first half of the year, young people took part in activities across Westminster. From mid-March, we took our offering online, facilitating virtual programmes and events throughout the pandemic.

With the support of our partners and the hard work of the City Lions team, we delivered all our planned programmes via Zoom, and even executed our first ever Digital Festival which saw **216 young people attend 24 careers-related sessions**.

This booklet provides an overview 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.



Top, participants practising storytelling at Westminster Abbey. Bottom, Graffiti Kings' virtual masterclass.



City Lions 2019/2020

567

young people engaged

100+

collaborative partners

1

digital festival

6

holiday programmes

14

City Lions Live sessions

18

creative challenges

"Whenever I have worked with City Lions, the experience has been very positive, and this [time] was no different. The organisation, enthusiasm and communication from the team was great and very helpful. This has a tangible effect on the pupils and the atmosphere of the workshops and performances."

City Lions Digital Festival partner



Participants enjoying free ice skating at Somerset House.

Holiday programmes

Our holiday programmes are an excellent way to develop young people's skills and offer them a 'behind the scenes' peek at the 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 **118 young people**. Each programme ran for three days and included a range of free sessions facilitated by partner organisations.

From escape rooms to illustration sessions, spoken word to journalism, fashion masterclasses to magic workshops, there was something for everyone! Each holiday programme also offered City Lions the chance to make new friends and express themselves through creativity.

Our holiday programmes are usually hosted at Westminster City Hall, with workshops taking place at our partners' offices or creative establishments such as theatres and galleries. However, due to lockdown and social distancing restrictions, we delivered three of our holiday programmes virtually.

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

Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

"It was really good fun. The young people asked excellent questions and I felt it was a truly lively and rewarding environment."

Jane Mair, professional make-up artist

"I learnt that creativity is more than it sounds. It is a way to express yourself and show your passion."

Holiday programme participant



Following a City Lions holiday programme:

78%

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

84%

of participants strongly agree or agree that now they are more aware of different roles in the creative industries

77%

of participants strongly agree or agree that now they are able to communicate better with others



Participants at a vlogging workshop with Three.

Virtual offerings – creative challenges and our youth club

During lockdown and beyond, we offered 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

Commencing during the Easter holidays and returning in May and July due to popular demand, we invited young people to take part in a host of creative challenges.

Each set of challenges ran for six weeks and consisted of a different creative task each week that young people could do from home. Winning submissions were chosen at the end of each week and rewarded with an e-voucher to spend wherever they chose.

We received **172 amazing submissions** from young people such as portraits of family members made from leaves, up-cycled household objects, musical interpretations, animated logos and captivating photographs.



Submissions to our creative challenges.

City Lions Live

In April, we launched City Lions Live – our virtual youth club. This unique event takes place every Thursday evening over Zoom, facilitated by the City Lions team and guest partners. From April to August we were joined by **22 young people**.

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 including a videographer and a West End dancer. Young people can also take the opportunity to lead a session and create activities for the whole group. Over the summer, our students led a host of sessions, including virtual escape rooms!

Keen to get involved with our virtual youth club?
Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk



The youth troupe from Rangbhumti Applied Theatre, India, performed an interactive play for our City Lions.

"It's strange how far we've come since the Easter holidays. I remember meeting Sisley and Gaynor (City Lions team members), I was so nervous... I've gotten better with my socialising and I've had something to look forward to each week."

City Lions Live participant

"City Lions Live has quickly become a friendly community where people feel they belong and know they would be missed if they didn't show up. The impact of these seemingly small things on wellbeing can be huge!"

Gaynor Smith, Creative Curator for City Lions



Digital Festival



Due to government guidance and social distancing restrictions, our July Creative Industries Week transformed into a Digital Festival!

The first ever Digital Festival was a week-long exploration into the creative industry with **24 events** hosted by our partners and attended by **216 young people**. Those taking part in the festival learnt skills such as fashion design and song writing, became empowered by a session on women and girls in tech and quizzed experts on careers in their industry.

Over **80% of participants** who attended the Digital Festival agreed that they have a better understanding of creative career paths. Three quarters felt they had learnt something which would help determine their future. One of our City Lions, Ava, spoke about how valuable the Digital Festival was in providing her with the opportunity to network on an individual basis:

"We don't normally network or get a chance to individually talk to people in the creative industry. So, it's really interesting, especially during the City Lions Digital Festival when we got a chance to talk to single people... it's far more helpful than a generalised session where we don't get a lot of content and we don't get a chance to ask questions about things we don't understand."

"I think there is a genuine atmosphere of support that is created by those running the programme that is felt by the kids taking part. As someone giving a workshop, its enjoyable and rewarding to be a part of!"

Leo Duncan, musician

"Thank you again for the session! I think it was very successful and the students really enjoyed it. I look forward to working with you in the future to continue to offer these opportunities to the students."

Teacher from Westminster Academy

Keen to facilitate a careers-related workshop next year? Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

Digital Festival in numbers

24

events

216

young people

303.5

learning hours

24

partners

9

schools

12

creative sectors

100%

of partners had a very positive or positive experience running a workshop

100%

of partners strongly agreed that the City Lions team provided all the support and resources required

100%

of partners would recommend other organisations to work with City Lions

Work experience



Despite the majority of young people's work experience being postponed due to the pandemic, City Lions was still able to offer a number of placements to young people earlier in the year, including to those with SEND. Our City Lions were hosted by the likes of AEG Presents, David Miller Architects and our own City Lions team!

Work experience provides essential exposure to career options, work environments and a network of professionals for young people. After completing work experience through City Lions, **100% of participants** either strongly agreed or agreed that they had a better idea of what job they might like to do in the future and that it had improved their CV.

Next year we will be looking to support our partners in offering virtual work placements to ensure young people in Westminster do not miss out on this vital opportunity.

Keen to help a young person develop employability skills via a work placement?
Email citylions@westminster.gov.uk

"This was the first time that we had collaborated with City Lions and we were impressed by how thorough their approach was. They came into the office to make sure that the student's needs were met and that everything was in place to give them a valuable experience."

David Miller Architects



Ways to get involved next year

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

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

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

07816 212 326

citylions@westminster.gov.uk

westminster.gov.uk/citylions



Silvia's entry to our 'Fashion Forward' creative challenge.



Thank you to all our partners



Left to right:

John Nolan, Project Manager
 Gaynor Smith, Creative Curator
 Sisley Hamer, Senior Project Development Officer
 Rob Davis, Project Officer

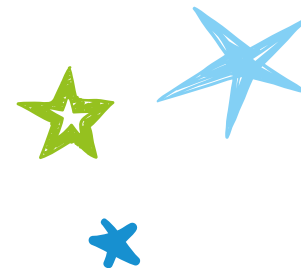
Not pictured:

Catherine Ford, Head of Economic Policy
 and Projects

"It's been amazing to reflect on everything we've been able to offer young people in Westminster this year, especially considering the unpredictable circumstances we've all been in since March!

Translating our City Lions sessions to online delivery has been a steep learning curve and we are grateful to all our creative partners, old and new, who have gone on that journey with us. You have brought interactive and inspiring sessions straight into our homes by the magic of Zoom – even during the toughest of times. Thank you!"

City Lions team





Our 2019/2020 partners

2AM Films	Electric Shadow Company	Just Runners
Abby Brant	English National Opera (ENO) Baylis	Kids in Museums
Abby Gacenia	Errol McGlashan	Kings College London
Absolute Post	Exhibition Road Group	Leo Duncan
AEG Presents	Fashion Bytes	London Film Museum
Ambassador Theatre Group	Fashion Enter	London Transport Museum
Andrea Fox	Fashion Round Table	Lords Cricket Ground & Marylebone Cricket Club
Advertising Producers Association (APA)	Film London	Madame Tussauds London
Balfour Beatty	Fortune Theatre	Maeve Ryan
BBC	Framestore	Microsoft
BFI	Graffiti Kings	Mimosa House
Buckingham Palace	Historic Royal Palaces	Missing Link Films
Caviar TV	House Cats Choir	Montage Theatre Arts
Child Graddon Lewis Architects	HS2	Mousetrap Theatre Projects
Christie's	Imperial College London	Multiplex
Convopiece	INOIR	Nana Bempah
David Miller Architects	Iconoclast TV	National Gallery
Donmar Warehouse	J. Murphy and Sons	Natural History Museum
DreamArts	Jane Maier	National Portrait Gallery
Dutch Academy of Performing Arts	Jenny Legg	New Wave Magazine

NFL	Soho Theatre	Westminster Registrars Service
Northbank BID	Somang Lee	Wicked
P for Productions	Somerset House	Willmott Dixon
Pete Heat	Somesuch	Wonders of London
Pinapple Dance Studios	SouthWest Fest	ZSL London Zoo
Prettybird	Splats Entertainment	
Raindance	St Andrew's Youth Club	
Rangbhumi Theatre Group	The Abbey Centre	
Roadworks	The Assembly Rooms TV	
Roann McCloskey	The Design Museum	
Royal Academy	The Mill	
Royal Astronomical Society	The Photographers' Gallery	
Royal Central School of Speech and Drama	The Screen Community	
Royal Institute of British Architects	Three Mobile	
Royal Opera House	Two Temple Place	
Royal Palaces	UK Screen Alliance	
Saatchi Gallery	Underbelly	
Sam Weir	V&A	
Science Museum	Victoria BID	
Serpentine Gallery	Wallace Collection	
Shift.ms	Westminster Abbey	
Society of London Theatres	Westminster Libraries	
Softcat	Westminster Music Library	



