

Open Doors: Vote 100

Overview and Context

Open Doors: Vote100 is the inaugural event led by the East Bank partnership. The partnership (UAL London College of Fashion, Smithsonian Institute, V&A, Sadler's Wells and UCL) planned and delivered an event themed around the 100 year anniversary of the Representation of the People Act.

The event was a free drop in session, designed to showcase the work of the institutions moving into east London and provide an opportunity to interact with local residents.

Each partner produced activity: some collaborative, and some individual.

UCL delivered a participatory activity called Humans make Plastic, which dealt with plastic pollution and women led activism in this area.



Background or the project need:

The event was delivered as part of a legal obligation by the East Bank partners as part of their commitment to the local area.

This was the first time these partners had delivered activity in partnership.

Many of these organisation are new and un-established in east London and this event was an opportunity to highlight their move to east London.

Based on this need, these aims were developed:

- Engage 3000 visitors of all generations and backgrounds in East London with the subject of the suffrage movement
- Engage with people who have not been to our institutions before
- Delivery of 6 or more events/performances that are interdisciplinary and experimental
- Engage 10 community groups
- Learn about the process of working together as CED engagement/creative planning group
- Lay the foundations for future East Bank partnership working and events

What happened?

- UCL delivered one workshop with UCL researchers, east London artists, activists in partnership with Bow Arts Trust and London artist Camilla Brendon.
- Discussions were had about plastics and conservation.
- Researchers introduced and explained their research.
- Catherine Conway of Unpackaged spoke about her road to establishing a zero waste supermarket and activism.
- Local artists spoke about their practice and relationship with plastics activism.
- This workshop came up with the activity of making collaborative sculptures of Plastic Pollution
- This sculpture was showcased at the Open Doors: Vote 100 event. Where the workshop was delivered again for a drop-in family audience.
- This provided an opportunity to talk about some of the research that took place at UCL.



Facts and Figures

Approximately 800 participants attended the event

Attendees ranged from 4months old to 84 years old.

56% of attendees came from the target east London boroughs

At the preparatory workshop we engaged with researchers from SEAHA, CASA and BASEER from UCL.

We worked with Bow Arts Trust, Catherine Conway from Unpackaged, and London artist Camilla Brendon

Emerging themes from the evaluation

- Partners needed more time to work together
- Communication needed to happen sooner, more widely and in a more joined up manner
- Networks in east London are new and not yet established enough to expect attendance at East Bank events.
- Importance of location

Learning from the Process**What worked well?**

- **The evaluation activities engaged people as they joined the event.**
- **The quality of the content was high as was the quality of the collaboration which took place.**
- **People who attended enjoyed the event**

What could be done differently?

- **Speed of decision-making of partner organisation could be sped up.**
- **More communication, earlier on, would have supported the promotion of the event.**
- **A longer lead into the event would have aided the collaborative element of the event. This would have supported planning and the development of a shared central vision.**
- **The event could make use of existing events in the area, and deliver activity as a partnership there.**
- **A better location, more central or with better transport links with a natural footfall would have supported attendance.**
- **More work needed to be done ahead of the event to engage locally and secure visitors and partners.**