

**Thank you to all of the projects and their
participants for their time, effort, and creativity.**

Without you this exhibition wouldn't be possible.

Enabling long-lasting, meaningful change locally through a mix of public art and community engagement

When Covid-19 hit, teams at UCL didn't just adapt their engagement programmes to the new reality; they meaningfully involved their local partners to devise solutions, together, to the issues specific to east London that the pandemic had brought on.

As our local partners were struggling with the many impacts of Covid-19, the UCL Community Engagement and Public Art teams sought support connection and collaboration to tackle emerging issues. Delivering a range of programmes to support connection, collaboration and knowledge exchange.

This way of understanding local concerns and creating solutions with people led to impactful and powerful collaborative work across the Olympic boroughs.

As the alignment of community engagement with public art is championing participatory approaches, we are entering a new phase in the capacity for universities to generate genuine engagement with local communities – and we will see the positive impacts well beyond responding to the pandemic.

"It was amazing to still be part of something when all around you everything seemed to fall apart- all the cancellations...so to have this project happening, getting to chat with creative people, felt like a space of ideas flowing"
Kristi Minchin, project participant and artist



Design for young people by young people: Newham Youth Map

Newham Youth Map was created by Irshad, Youssef, Mariana, Tekai, Kanye, and Bisi

Working with Newham Council's Youth Empowerment Team, Fight for Peace, and HeadStart Newham

"Lack of opportunity can often come from a lack of knowledge of what might be available to you... Initiatives such as this can go a long way to increasing accessibility for young people in Newham." - **Tom Bayley, Youth Empowerment Service, Newham.**

As the pandemic developed, concerns emerged about how isolated and disconnected young people in Newham were feeling.

Dr. Leah Lovett and Dr. Duncan Hay from UCL Centre for Advanced Spatial Analysis worked with local young people and youth providers to find a solution in the Newham Youth Map.



In online sessions, participants learnt about the history of mapping and how to use the Memory Mapper – a toolkit developed by Duncan Hay in partnership with the Survey of London. They researched, organised and populated the map to show what was available for young people across the borough.

Throughout the summer 2020 participants worked with the researchers to co-design a digital platform where young people could share and discover activities, services, and public spaces across Newham.

Following a training session delivered to local councillors by these young people, the London Borough of Newham is now using the map as a local resource.



Windrush Cricket: uncovering a hidden history

Michael Collins (UCL History)
James Sirieux (UCL History)
Montaz Marché (UCL History)
Ladi Ajayi (Hackney Council)

"... as I discovered, the heart of the Caribbean manifested in Britain through a cricket bat... surrounded by old and new friends united in thoughts of home, immersed in sandwiches, score boards, and vibrant shouts or songs from the gathered crowd."
Montaz Marché (UCL History)

Cricket was a game of immense social and cultural importance for the 'Windrush Generation' that arrived in England from the Caribbean after World War II.

For Hackney's Caribbean community, cricket even contributed to the complex and contested emergence of Black British identities.



Leyton Cavaliers Cricket Club, a West Indian team based in Walthamstow in the early 1970s



Artilles Cricket Club at Leyton County Cricket Club Ground in the 1970s (From the New Calypsonian Facebook Page)

Alongside narratives of overt racial prejudice – which led to the establishment and proliferation of Caribbean teams, leagues and cup competitions in 1960s London – they heard many stories of cricket as a source of unity, pride and celebration for West Indian communities in England.

Its vibrant history is a crucial part of the Caribbean experience of migration and settlement in east London, but an often forgotten part of the 'Windrush' story – an omission which this project seeks to correct by giving the voices of the Windrush generation centre stage in the development of Black British histories.

Dr. Michael Collins, Montaz Marché and James Sirieux (UCL History) held virtual interviews with Caribbean east Londoners, to share memories of cricket in the 1950s-1970s.



SOLO: Surviving or Thriving?

Jay Derrick (IoE)	Pete Bennett
Tanya Harris	Vicki Hambley
Christian Sinibaldi	Anonymous
Yves Salmon	



Pete Bennett ..strung, drawn and painted... <https://www.instagram.com/petebennettsart/>
<https://bardofthemarshes.wordpress.com/>

The coronavirus pandemic has had huge impact on creative industries across the UK.

Working with 6 artists from Hackney's rich artistic community, this participatory project sought to understand how they have been adapting their work, and the specific changes and innovations they have made in response to the crisis.



Evering Road People



Photos by Christian Sinibaldi : www.instagram.com/everingroad/

These conversations, shared in a video and podcast, highlighted the shock and psychological impact of the lockdown, as well as the importance of daily routines.

Participants reflected on the time lockdown provided: for reflection, strategic thinking, formal learning, and for returning to undeveloped or personal project ideas.

Jay and Tanya are seeking to continue working together to contribute to the knowledge about creative practitioners in east London and importantly documenting their resilience.



Working in collaboration with Arts and Culture Consultant Tanya Harris, Dr. Jay Derrick (UCL Institute of Education) held online discussions with artists, creating a safe space to reflect on their experiences during lockdown and throw light on what they learnt.

Co-producing for a better understanding: Covid-19's effects on Diverse Ethnic Communities

When Covid-19 struck it hit Diverse Ethnic Communities and deprived boroughs especially hard.

Newham social enterprise Money A+E, which provides money advice and education, saw a threefold increase in demand for their services. Those who were struggling pre-pandemic were left especially vulnerable.



Photos by Money A+E

Collaborating with Dr. Chris Harker (UCL Institute for Global Prosperity) Money A+E sought to better understand the situation, to adapt their services for those 'slipping through the cracks'.

Suzy Kirby, Jerry During (Money A+E)

Christopher Harker (UCL IGP)

"This was more than just a pleasant surprise for us: it underlined the lasting value of providing accessible, community-led money support to Diverse Ethnic Communities."
Suzy Kirby (Money A+E)



Photos by Money A+E

Initially exploring how to define, measure and achieve prosperity in relation to debt and finance, their partnership pivoted in 2020 to gather insights into the financial impact of the pandemic.



Photos by Money A+E

Discussing housing, employment and money with Money A+E's service users, they found Covid-19 had significantly reduced their community's ability to inhabit their homes safely, with 30% reporting not paying rent and nearly a quarter having gas, electricity or internet turned off.

Money A+E therefore adapted their services, providing more support around housing; 60% of respondents reported these services had a positive impact.



Breathing Space 2021: the importance of a park in lockdown

In April 2020, the London Borough of Tower Hamlets shut, in an unprecedented move, Victoria Park to visitors for two weeks. On re-opening the park saw initial restrictions on permitted activity.

During lockdown, in a borough which has suffered severe issues of overcrowded housing and deprivation, and where many live in high-rise blocks, the importance of the park was highlighted more than ever.



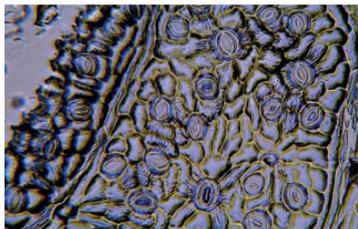
Mobile Phone footage by Karolina Raczynski



London Plane Trees by Karolina Raczynski

Caroline Wilson (Anthropology),
Karolina Raczynski.

Caroline Wilson (UCL Anthropology) and east London artist Karolina Raczynski collaborated with local residents and park-workers to co-create a community-based documentary asking how east Londoners could find their own 'new normal'.



Stomata by Karolina Raczynski



Empty Park by Richard Coade

Filmed between the first and second lockdowns in the UK, 'Breathing Space' worked with local residents and park-workers to capture the community's life in the Covid-19 pandemic through stories and experiences of the park during this challenging and historical moment.

The finished film invites the viewer to reflect and explore interactions with nature within and outside of the park; it is hoped they will premiere the film in the Victoria Park itself.

Understanding and fighting loneliness together

Connecting Spaces: East

Grace Crannis and Emily Briselden Waters (@syrupmagazine)

Sam Fardghassemi (UCL Psychology and Language Sciences)

Helene Joffe (UCL Psychology and Language Sciences)

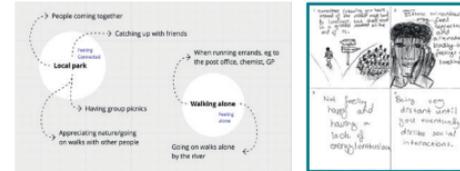
Gemma Moore (Bartlett Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering)

"I would like us to draw out an understanding of why spaces can be loneliness-enhancing so that we could test an intervention to see if we could diminish loneliness by changing aspects of the space." - **Professor Helene Joffe**

Loneliness both isolates people and contributes to poor health and wellbeing in young people.

Connecting Spaces: East questioned how the lockdowns have impacted young east Londoners.

Building on existing research by Sam Fardghassemi about experiences of young people in east London, the project brought together artists Syrup and multi-disciplinary researchers to learn from one another.



Courtesy of Syrup Magazine (www.syrupmagazine.co.uk)

They ran online sessions with young people across east London to explore, both scientifically and creatively, the subject of loneliness. They focussed on why and how different spaces could increase loneliness, building their understanding of how young people interact with their local neighbourhoods.

As well as sharing visualisations of these conversations online, Dr. Gemma Moore developed a participatory lecture for the Health and Wellbeing in Cities module, at the Bartlett Institute for Environmental Design and Engineering, while Professor Helene Joffe re-explored her own artistic practice, creating a series of prints.



Prints by Helen Joffe



House Block, the potential of a participatory and modular building system

Project Leads: Dr Claire McAndrew & Mollie Claypool
Architect: Automated Architecture (AUAR)
Project Partner: London Borough of Hackney
Structural Engineer: Manja Van de Worp, YIP Engineering
Funder: UCL Culture, EPSRC Impact Acceleration Account, UCL East Community Engagement Seed Fund, UCL Innovation & Enterprise HEIF

Collaborators: The Building Centre, The Good Thing + Gonzalo Herrero, Hackney Wick Underground, L U C I N E, Studio Wayne McGregor, New City College, Waltham Forest Future Creatives Programme, Valentina Soana + MArch Architectural Design (RC2) at The Bartlett School of Architecture.

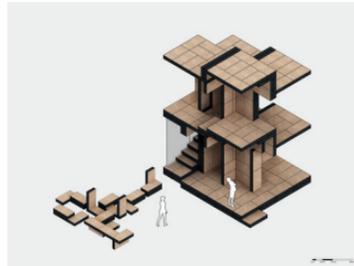
AU
AR

The Bartlett
School of
Architecture



Hackney

With the objective of alleviating the housing crisis and supporting labour practices threatened by ever-increasing automation, House Block showcased the potential of using participatory approaches to housing, where local communities can make use of digital modes of production.



L U C I N E Takeover - credit AUAR

House Block created a temporary housing prototype, built from 270 digitally-fabricated timber blocks that could be dismantled, reconfigured and reassembled over time or to suit different purposes.

The two-storey structure was built on the site of a former playground in Clapton by AUAR Labs at The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL.

Four week-long takeovers, hosted by The Building Centre, The Good Thing + Gonzalo Herrero, Hackney Wick Underground, and L U C I N E, provided live demonstrations of its potential. Additional blocks allowed a range of configurations supporting different needs, challenges and conversations. Local residents engaged through 'taster sessions': paid opportunities to gain hands-on experience with the modular building system.



The Good Thing + Gonzalo Herrero Talk 'De-alienating the Home'
- credit Michael Wagner



HouseBlock04 - credit James Harris



EAST



Using Public Art and Community Engagement to create impact in east London.

September 2022 will mark the opening of the first building at the UCL East campus.

Exploring how artists can collaborate with UCL staff and students, alongside east London communities, plays a fundamental role in achieving UCL East's ambition to be open, accessible and publicly engaged.

Aligning the work of community engagement and public art, we seek to create meaningful, creative and impactful collaborations. Foregrounding equity, inclusion, and amplifying the voices of those who are often excluded is vital to this work.

This has been ever more true as we have navigated the coronavirus pandemic, providing funding, opportunities and networks to connect our UCL community with our newest neighbours in east London through unprecedented times.

"As a new arrival in a place undergoing significant change, UCL East is taking seriously its responsibilities to both new and existing communities."
Mark Westall for FAD Magazine

"Fantastic art, like conversations, can lead us to work together to change our surroundings."
Rosie Murdoch, curator, Trellis

How can we start to break down the university walls and help make UCL East into great public space?"
Iain Borden, Professor of Architecture & Urban Culture at the Bartlett School of Architecture



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Trellis 1: piloting a successful knowledge exchange process

Trellis is a programme of knowledge exchange between researchers, east London artists and communities. Now in its third year, Trellis 1 sought to test out a framework for creative collaboration.

It connected academics and east London artists to develop relationships and learn from each other in a supportive, mutually-beneficial, environment.

Amanda Lwin and Dr. Tse-Hui Teh with Dr. Lena Ciric
David Rickard and Prof. Tony Kenyon in collaboration with Beyond Sight Loss
Alison Turnbull and Dr Elsa Arcaute with Hugo Glendinning
Lucy Harrison and Efstathia Kostopoulou

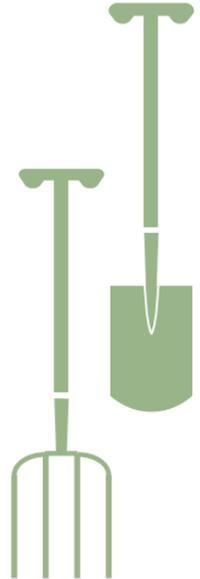


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The programme had three key stages.

- ▶ Stage 1: Match-making – Researchers and artists in east London were brought together for speed dating activities to spark connections.
- ▶ Stage 2: Development funding – 8 partnerships were awarded small funds to 'buy-out' artist time so that they may further explore shared interests.
- ▶ Stage 3: Commission – 4 projects were awarded a commission of £15,000 to produce a collaborative artwork.

Works explored the industrial heritage of Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park, the use of light in nanotechnology, the use of urine on allotments and mathematical analysis of the street network of London; they were brought together for an exhibition on the park.



Trellis 2: building on success

As the Trellis programme of artist-researcher co-creation moved into its second year, lockdown and home-working provoked a strong theme of social activism.

The five final commissions worked closely with highly engaged community partners for a multi-layered exchange of knowledge, skills, thoughts and experiences.

The Trellis 2 co-productive partnerships were deeply rooted in issues relevant to east London's diverse population.



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The partnerships:

- ▶ Highlighted the UK Home Office's Hostile Environment Policy;
- ▶ Challenged damaging stereotypes about autistic people;
- ▶ Sought to re-integrate D/deaf people into east London's cultural landscape;
- ▶ Involved citizen scientists in exploring plastics, food waste and composting;
- ▶ Examined the Mulberry tree's heritage in east London and its use in cutting edge bio-technology.

"Covid meant that all discussions have taken place remotely. By this happy 'accident' the myriad of creative possibilities of digital video platforms became increasingly apparent to us... where the sign language and deaf people themselves can move to the heart of the creative process in a uniquely innovative way."
Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq (Artist)



Trellis - Behind The Scenes -
Xenia Citizen Science Project



Trellis 2: building on success

Trellis 2 also tackled the challenge of having to pivot suddenly online in March 2020 as a result of the pandemic.

The partnerships rapidly developed new ways of working together and reimagining the work they might create for a digital space.

"Together, these five projects have resulted in a multitude of artistic outputs – walks and workshops, films, drawings, photography, an artist's book – as well as multiple legacies that may or may not be defined as art, including new relationships, new knowledge and understanding, new ways of working together and, more tangibly perhaps, tree cuttings that will soon be planted in the grounds of UCL East."

(Tom Jeffreys, writer)

As it became apparent that the physical exhibition of works would not happen as planned, the partnerships and project team developed an online exhibition with a programme of events that celebrated both the works created and the participants involved.



Flow Unlocked - Briony Campbell and Georgia Pavlopoulou and Jon Adams.



Mulberry: The Tree of Plenty - Sara Heywood and Jane Watt and David Chau. St. Margaret's House.



Xenia Citizen Science Project - Sarah Carne, Charnett Chau and Danielle Purkiss. Xenia Women.



H is for Hostile Environment - Edwin Mingard and Keren Weitzberg



Light-Wave - Rubbena Aurangzeb-Tariq and Bencie Woll



Trellis 2: 'Light-Wave' creative collaboration with D/deaf people in east London



Trellis 2021 Light Wave (Rubben
Aurangzeb-Tariq)

"The title Light Wave refers to our culture, when D/deaf people gather together, they wave hands and flash lights to gain attention, just as this project endeavours to bring attention and visibility to the east London D/deaf community's presence" - Rubbena Tariq-Aurangzeb

Artist Rubbena Tariq-Aurangzeb collaborated with Professor Bencie Woll (DCAL) and a cohort of 45 D/deaf east Londoners. Their discussions range from how lip-readers react to the wearing of masks, to a provocative discussion about the newly created BSL sign for Black Lives Matter. Hours of discussion, recorded and edited in a 30 minute film.

The artist and academic researcher hosted online facilitated discussions, exploring different issues through the first lockdown of 2020. Their discussions amongst a cohort who are described by the artist as having "multiple minority" status due to their ethnicity and disability, discussed with each other how sign language is used and developed through their lived experience. The impact of their faith, culture and language on the development of sign language is of particular interest in the work of DCAL's Professor Bencie Woll.

Sign language and the D/deaf community were central to the creative process. Recorded through digital platform Zoom, the participants speak at the same time, riffing and bouncing off one another, informing the content of the film.

Prof Bencie Woll observes "Digital video technology has enabled recording of discussions and sign language in a format which can be incorporated into DCAL's BSL corpus to become an invaluable linguistic research resource."

Trellis 2: Flow Unlocked



Flow Unlocked by Briony Campbell

"It's been a total joy, it's been so validating for me to be part of that safe space, be encouraged to think maybe I do have something to share... it's like a seed has been planted that makes me want to carry on doing this kind of thing." - **Caroline Olivier, Co-creator**

Flow Unlocked is an autistic lead project which explores the importance of relationships to autistic people's wellbeing. The intense sensitivity with which autistic people relate to the world, is rarely recognised, let alone celebrated. Through knowledge exchange and creative expression, The Flow Unlocked collective does both.

Visual artists then made works inspired by the words written and spoken during the workshops. These works, which were developed collaboratively in response to regular feedback from the collective, reveal authentic lived experiences and rewrite the stereotypes that exist about autistic people. Flow Unlocked also highlights the questions of co-authorship and representation inherent to the process. The poetry, photography, drawing and film can be seen at flowunlocked.co.uk.



Based on a six month autistic-led consultation process, autistic east Londoners were invited to join creative writing workshops and explore their relationships with place, people, objects and nature. The neurodiverse and multidisciplinary group built a safe space to share perspectives and write poetry on relationships, and the effects of lockdown.

Georgia Pavlopoulou, UCL Lecturer, autism researcher & neurodiversity advocate. Founder of Group for Research in Relationships And NeuroDiversity- GRRAND.
Jon Adams, neurodivergent artist, polymath, synaesthete and mental health Champion.
Briony Campbell, artist, facilitator and project manager.

City Mill Skate: imagining together public spaces of the future.

This participatory design project aims to create pieces of skateable architecture for UCL East. Connecting researchers, skateboarders and creatives City Mill Skate has been developed from the ground up, asking questions about the spaces between buildings and how they can be open for everyone.

Together with online workshops this allowed the team to think about how public spaces could be used democratically and how community inclusion can be hard-wired into the creation of new places and spaces.

Esther Sayers (Goldsmiths, University of London)
Sam Griffin (artist and researcher)
Iain Borden (The Bartlett School of Architecture UCL)
Daryl Nobbs (Betong Park)



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Photo courtesy of City Mill Skate



Photo courtesy of City Mill Skate

"As people who are from east London, who grew up in east London, you kind of saw the Olympics, changing the shape of it, it's quite important for our voice to come through"

Participant in online workshop

City Mill Skate moves away from traditional community consultation, instead using a shared design process to include the voices of east London's skateboarding community.

Following initial workshops, Covid-19 caused the project to find new and creative ways to engage locally. The project lead by Esther Sayers (Goldsmiths, University of London) and Sam Griffin (artist and researcher) with Iain Borden (The Bartlett School of Architecture, UCL) and Daryl Nobbs (Betong Park), posted out DIY kits to encourage skateboarders stuck at home to make small models of 'skate dots' – small incidental architecture that would provide interesting terrain for skateboarders.



Looking to the future: resilience, recovery and creativity.

During the pandemic the public art and community engagement programmes have played a significant role to connect, comfort and support both UCL staff and students and communities in east London.

Creating safe spaces where people could share their lived experiences and design solutions together was integral to supporting the local communities' recovery from Covid-19 – and these new models of engagement will need to be expanded on as we move towards opening.



UCL is conscious of becoming embedded in its new neighbourhood, for which we will keep seeking new opportunities to meaningfully work with the local communities.

Already, the artists commissioned to create permanent artwork for the first two UCL East buildings have a strong connection with east London. Emma Hart, who is producing a series of sculptures related to the voice of the east London suffragettes for Pool Street West, is based in the area, while Larry Archiampong, who is in a collaborative duo with David Blandy, grew up there. Larry and David are thinking of creating a digital sculpture for Marshgate, that will reflect on the history of the place.



Larry Archiampong and David Blandy

Trellis 3 is following in the successful footsteps of the second edition of the programme, and the new student artists in residence are committed to recognising the importance of the history of east London in their artwork.

More opportunities to get involved with the new campus' engagement programmes abound. Visit <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/ucl-east/public-engagement> for more information, and to find out more about our plans to build on our ambitions to be inclusive, responsive and collaborative.

