

THE STORY SO FAR...

Camden Giving's KX Fund exists thanks to a partnership between King's Cross Limited Partnership (KCCLP), the London Borough of Camden and Camden Giving. The fund exists to ensure that those who live, work and play in the borough of Camden benefit from the changes in the local area. In 2019/20 Camden Giving's participatory panels awarded a total of 18 grants totalling £188,332:

15 grants totalling £100,399 benefitting 6644 residents in Kings Cross area, from educational cooking classes for young adults with learning disabilities to inclusive sport and wellness activities for migrant women to free canalboat trips for older neighbours

1 continuation grant of £57,933 to Somers Town Community Association for their employment programme 'Job Hub Links', proactively creating and nurturing meaningful partnerships with Camden's business community which will support 72 residents on their journey of work readiness and employment.

1 contribution of £20,000 to the Future Changemakers Fund in Summer 2019 for two organisations improving youth safety in the Kings Cross and surrounding area.

1 emergency grant of £10,000 for C4WS to help rough sleepers to stay safe and supported during the first few months of the COVID-19 pandemic.



TAM, KX FUND 2019 COMMUNITY PANELLIST

The projects funded through the KX Fund enhance social cohesion, improve the local natural environment and reduce local unemployment and underemployment for people living in the King's Cross area. This report provides a snapshot into the diverse types of activity and initiatives awarded grants that have enabled the local community to benefit from the changes happening on their doorstep.



DISABILITY & EMPLOYMENT Global Generation £9,980

12 young people with learning disabilities participated in this project to gain catering experience through Global Generation's in-house kitchen, gaining increased employment, social and emotional capacities in a working catering kitchen. Different local groups, such as Blind Aid and Hopscotch, visited the garden for shared community lunches, prepared and served by the young residents, bringing together local Somers Town residents to connect over food.

The students difficulties varied from Autism Spectrum Disorder to Communication and Behavior Disorder to Down's Syndrome. Global Generation focused on helping them to best adapt to a new working environment and routine, to then go on further training. Ava (19) with Down's Syndrome got a job in hospitality, Kevin (22) with Autism Spectrum and Communication and Behavior disorder was supposed to start a training in TfL, Iveta (19) with learning difficulties supported me in running their 'Friday Night Out Project' to gain experience in working with children before going on formal training.



YOUNG PEOPLE & ARTS

Scene & Heard £9,720

Scene & Heard are a community theatre based in Somers Town and provide children with intensive, one-to-one adult attention, enabling them to write plays which are then performed by the children alongside volunteer professional actors. The courses culminated in the Writing Weekend where each child, supported by their adult mentor, wrote their own two-character play for performance. 10 children, from different often divided ethnic groups, came together to play and learn with professional theatre artists – positive adult role models from beyond their experience. 62 Volunteers worked with the children in various capacities, all devoted to elevating the children's words and ideas. 480 people filled the audience, celebrating the children's work and supporting their experience of success.

Everything is free of charge, creating equality of experience for their audiences. Community members who have never before been in the theatre sit next to regular theatregoers. A community that is underserved by the arts experiences theatre in a safe, welcoming environment. For many of the participants, this is the only extra-curricular activity in which they are allowed to participate. For many of our families, we are their sole access to professional theatre and London's cultural life. In addition, it helps to:

- Raise self-esteem and aspirations.
- Improve literacy and communication
- Develop involvement with new families and strengthen the participation of returning families.

The teachers' evaluations after the course note improvements in confidence, class participation and literacy for every child.



Zane wrote a fantastical play between a Sloth and a Lampshade. They sang a song about eating marshmallows. Rose, the lampshade, is poisoned by her marshmallow. The rest of the story revolves around friendship and sacrifice when Rose's best friend Winky, an ant who lives under her shade, sacrifices himself for her, exclaiming: "Oh no, I've just swallowed my best friend.", "Winky has eaten the poisonous marshmallows in me!", "I'm so heart-broken that Winky has died saving my life."

Zane was thrilled by his play telling us "Watching the performance of my play made me feel elated because I could finally see how adults put my imagination in a play."

With support from us, Zane's mum attended the performance, and she was very proud of his work. Zane's new teacher and headteacher attended on Thursday evening and noted improvement in Zane's confidence, his engagement with staff, and his relationship with his peers.



WOMEN & PHYSICAL SPORTS

Health Prom £2,000

52 migrant women living around King's Cross attended free weekly sports & wellness activities, from regular runs with the Migrant Women Running Club and community yoga sessions. Attending the project allowed the women, who are often locked out of spaces that are safe, affordable and inclusive, to participate in activities that improved their physical and mental wellbeing. They came together and collectively tackled challenges such as isolation, health concerns and barriers to accessing community services. By attending the yoga classes they could also meet neighbours from other backgrounds and practice English together.

Most of the women reported how much they enjoyed this project and how confident they felt after completing runs and the club helped them to prepare and participate in other activities including joining large sporting events such as the Oxford Half-Marathon and Santa Run in December 2019. Some even went onto using these running challenges for fundraising for HealthProm. For many women it was the first time when they participated in such runs and though they did not feel confident to do this in the beginning of the project, we managed to support and motivate them and helped them succeed.

“When he arrived for his first class with us, Zane, aged nine, was “Delightfully nervous, but excited.”

SCENE & HEARD
YOUNG PLAYMAKER

“I felt proud of myself – my face couldn't stop smiling because I was really proud of my play.”

SCENE & HEARD
YOUNG PLAYMAKER

OLDER NEIGHBOURS & MEN THIRD AGE PROJECT £6,000

The project encouraged 95 older isolated men living in Kings Cross and Somers Town to come together and participate in a range of different activities including sport, the arts and health related initiatives, day trips, resulting in them being less isolated and marginalised within the community and lead more active, richer and independent lives. They employed a dedicated mens outreach worker who engaged acutely isolated older men, connecting them to each other encouraging them to socialise, make new friends, learn new skills and take part in regular social activities such as local organised walks, walking football, a cookery club and Kayak Club on the Regents Canal



A survey of participants found 78% stating they felt more confident in meeting new people and in attending new things. 81% stated that as a result of taking part they felt they were more a part of the local community. The Men's group is continuing to flourish both in the range of activities and the growth of men participation. In particular, there have been a number of success stories with men now volunteering to assist in a range of activities including gardening, DIY and general repair work for elderly residents.

One gentleman in question had lived in the Cumberland Market area for 30 years. He had no friends in the area and the majority of his social interaction was limited to a small group of family members who all lived outside the borough of Camden. He was encouraged to join woodworking sessions at the Camden Men's Shed. He excelled and produced a number of bird boxes and bug hotels that have been installed in community spaces. The bug hotels also proved popular with local groups. Further Bug hotels were installed in St. George's Gardens and the Cromer Street Day Centre. He has also provided a handy man service for other vulnerable neighbours.



HOMELESSNESS & WELFARE C4WS £8,780 & £10,000 EMERGENCY GRANT

The C4WS Night Shelter runs November-April every year and provided respite to 78 guests over the season, and rehoused 97% of those who engaged with them. Each guest is provided with food, hospitality and a welfare package focusing on finding more permanent accommodation as well as assistance with their physical and mental wellbeing, applying for benefits, employment and asylum and immigration claims. Despite the difficult way in which the season ended because of the pandemic, they only closed the doors a couple of days early and in the following months worked hard to ensure that remote support was provided to those who still need their help. The KX Fund enabled C4WS to be granted an extension of their existing grant to ensure clients who had secured jobs and temporary accommodation could continue to live safely and independently throughout the pandemic.



"Being a part of C4WS, my perspective on homelessness has changed. They say, you never know what a person goes through until you have experienced it yourself. You become more appreciative of simple things, such as a bed and food/drink. I am eternally grateful for the constant support from C4WS. My last night was in late February and even after spending my 28 days at the shelter, I still received great help following my stay. I was invited to attend the Ted Styles event and I thoroughly enjoyed it. I hope that I am able to give back one day and volunteer myself to help others in need.

C4WS WINTER NIGHT
SHELTER GUEST

"The mental and physical benefits of playing football have been massive. Like I said, I feel like I'm reborn now. With everything I do, I'm feeling fresh. I'm back to normal. I feel happy"

67 YEAR OLD
NEIGHBOUR

FUTURE CHANGEMAKERS

2019-20

YOUNG PEOPLE & SAFETY

The Future Changemakers Programme was launched in 2019 because of the rapid rise in serious youth violence in the borough. The fund was co-designed with ten 16-25 year olds living in Camden who were paid the London Living Wage to decide which youth services to fund, because we believe in putting power into the hands of those who understand the challenges best.

Argent contributed £20,000 of the KX Fund towards to support organisations running projects in the areas of Kings Cross/Somers Town/Cantelowes to help improve improves the safety of Camden's young people aged 16-25 by funding activities that:

1. Provide opportunities for young people to have positive and relatable role models or mentors.
2. Raise awareness of mental health and/or drugs, as well as support that is available.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY ARGENT

Somali Youth Development Resource Centre £9,968.00

To expand their pilot Accredited Peer-Peer Mentoring course for 70 young people to participate in regular weekly sport and mentoring sessions building towards becoming young coaches.

Urban Community Projects £9,976.22

To work with 83 young people to learn and develop skills to build an interactive App that will inform, engage and raise awareness around knife and gang crime. It also gives young people the chance to sign up to creative school holiday workshops on our 'One mic, One Life' project'.



JANNAH MALIHA MUJIB
Camden Giving Board Member

“ Young people are increasingly portrayed in a negative light in the media, and with this comes an increased need for young people to have a voice.



Amount awarded
from Argent
£19,944.22

Number of
projects funded
2

Young people benefitting
including the Future
Changemakers
163

The future changemakers pilot programme has been a springboard for shifting power to even more Camden young people, elevating their voices, providing an income and helping them lead change for their community. A collaborative effort of funders and businesses supporting the 2019 pilot has enabled us to successfully fundraise for a second year of the programme and we're now working with 15 more young people to make sure their neighbourhood is a safe place to live, work and play.

Since 2019, the Future Changemaker's Chair - Jannah - was paid by Camden Giving to help with planning our youth-led debate, attended by 70 people from all walks of life to come together and debate the vital role we can all play in tackling challenges our young community face. Beyond this, Jannah attended a youth conference with National Lottery Community Fund and is now our youngest Board Member at Camden Giving.