



CAMDEN GIVING

# THE EQUALITY FUND

## INTERIM REPORT

### YEAR 2 2022-2023



# INTRODUCTION

## INEQUALITY IN CAMDEN

In the borough of Camden there are huge inequalities at play. There is a vast amount of wealth present, and this sits side by side with residents living in poverty. Somers Town is the fifth poorest ward in the UK, and almost 1 in 3 children in the borough live in poverty, with the number eligible for free school meals steadily increasing. Constant construction and development mean residents' surroundings are permanently in flux, coupled with a sense that the opportunities these changes bring aren't available to them.

## THE EQUALITY FUND

The Equality Fund was created in 2021 to provide the flexible funding to grassroots charities and organisations in the borough who are working to reduce the inequalities already discussed. The fund supports organisations that actively bring together people from different backgrounds to strengthen communities, and by doing this the support positive wellbeing and enable peoples' voices who wouldn't otherwise be heard.

A key element of the Equality Fund is that the funding is unrestricted, giving the successful organisations autonomy and flexibility around how the money is used. Unrestricted funding is incredibly difficult to receive, particularly if you are a smaller, more grassroots organisation. However, without it, it is very difficult for organisations to be sustainable, and innovate to meet ever changing need.

## 2022 SNAPSHOT

# 10

PANELLISTS RECRUITED

# 10

ORGANISATIONS FUNDED

# £285,000

TOTAL FUNDING GIVEN



**HIGHGATE BLACK WOMENS  
WELLNESS CENTRE**

# FUNDED ORGANISATIONS

## **A SPACE FOR US: SOMERS TOWN MUSEUM**

Somers Town Museum has been set up by local residents with the aim of reinstating the rights of marginalised and impoverished local people to their heritage.

## **CREATORS HOUSE**

Creators House empowers young people from underserved backgrounds and connects them to opportunities within the creative industry.

## **HIGHGATE BLACK WOMEN'S WELLNESS GROUP**

Highgate Black Women's Wellness Group supports black women by providing them with a safe space in which they can meet up, socialise and discuss books by black authors.

## **ACTION YOUTH BOXING INTERVENTION**

Action Youth Boxing Intervention breaks the cycle of offending and violence through providing boxing programmes and coaching support.

## **CAMDEN UNITED FC**

A football club set up in Camden by the youth, for the youth, to use football as a means to tackle violence & knife crime.

## **BE LIFTED NOW**

Be Lifted is a grass roots community led organisation with a vision to uplift women and young girls through the power of reading, fitness, music and community led interaction projects.

## **ASPIERATIONS**

Aspierungen aims to build a bridge between business and talented people within the Asperger community to improve employment opportunities for mutual benefit.

## **AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH**

The American International Church provides support for the homeless and vulnerable, including meals, clothing and a sense of belonging.

## **HEALTHPROM**

HealthProm supports Afghan and Ukrainian refugees, providing services that encompass health, social care and education.

## **WEST HAMPSTEAD WOMEN'S CENTRE**

West Hampstead Women's Centre provides advocacy, intervention, help and support to women in difficult situations.

# SPOTLIGHT GRANTEES

## CREATORS HOUSE: Batuala Alexander

### THE MISSION

Creators House is a creative studio in the heart of London, supporting young creatives to overcome barriers to entering the creative industry. Creators House was born from founder Batuala's desire to give back and help empower a community that is largely unprivileged and underrepresented in the industry.



### HOW DID THE EQUALITY FUND SUPPORT?

The support has enabled Creators House not only to grow its staff team, but also offer free therapy to the young people accessing other services. This holistic support has removed barriers and meant more young people can be involved.

**Creators House makes young people feel heard. For so long we have been seeking out places that are able to provide what Creator's House does and for so long that didn't exist, until now.**

Creators House creative Glory Ebengo

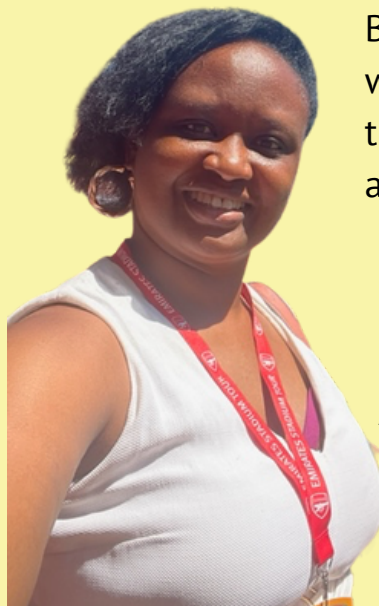
## BE LIFTED: Jenny McCall

### THE MISSION

Be Lifted is a grass roots community led organisation with a vision to uplift women and young girls through the power of reading, fitness, positive music and community led interaction projects.

### HOW DID THE EQUALITY FUND SUPPORT?

It has enabled BeLifted to support more Camden based mothers through their mother-daughter group. As well as increasing delivery and hiring new staff, Be Lifted can now also better measure its own impact, using some of the funding to implement the programme UpShot.





# PANELLIST EXPERIENCE & DEMOGRAPHICS

“It has encouraged me to get involved more and also give back to the community.”

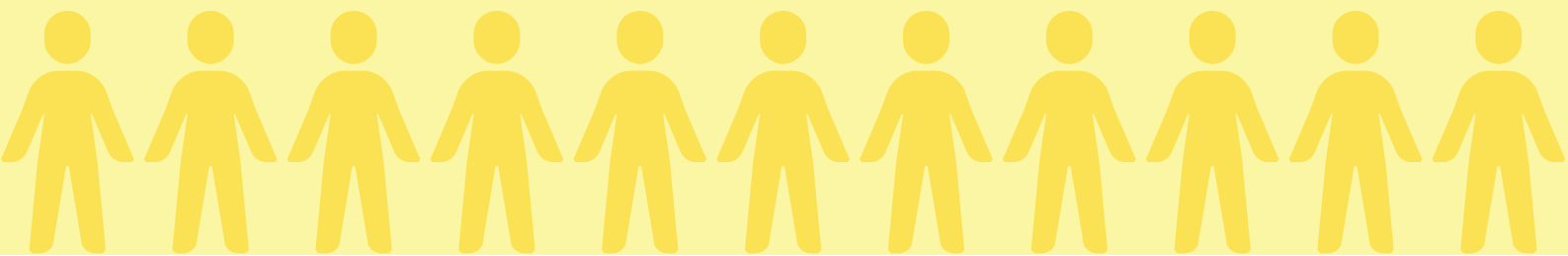
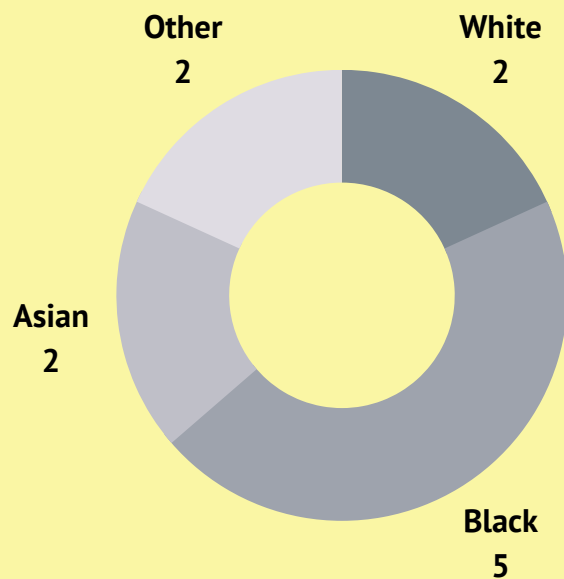
“I feel like I've been part of some really difficult decision making but it's been really worthwhile. The support from the team has been amazing and I couldn't have asked for better peers, they are like family to me. I will miss them!”

“I feel more connected to the Camden community and more aware of our impact as locals.”

# 70% Female

## Living in:

- Euston
- Kings Cross
- Belsize Park
- Camden Town
- West Hampstead
- Chancery Lane



# WHAT'S NEXT

The first two years of the Equality Fund nurtured some incredible talent in the borough, which is why our approach for 2023 remains consistent.

We are conscious that leaders in Camden have been forced to bounce from crisis to crisis and still continue their great work; from COVID, the murder of George Floyd and welcoming Afghan and Ukrainian Refugees, to the current cost-of-living crisis.

These challenging conditions make it more difficult for the leaders to have the space to innovate, as they are remaining in emergency mode. When there has been so much change, Camden Giving wants to offer consistency and stability in its approach, and we know if we only offer organisations small amounts of money, they will stay small.

The Equality Fund funding gives space and resource for such innovation to take place, enabling up-and-coming community leaders, supported by the We Make Camden Kit, to progress to a more established offering.

**AS A FUNDER IT IS OUR MISSION TO BE HERE TO MEET THE GROWING NEED IN 2023; AND WE MUST HOLD TRUE AND PROMOTE THE NOTION THAT "WE ALL HAVE SOMETHING TO GIVE".**

# A NOTE ON PARTICIPATORY GIVING

We've seen the power of participatory grant-making in practice, it's changing the way that people in Camden see themselves as agents of change. [This](#) video sums up how we operate and why we think participatory giving is important.

Currently 0.3% of grants given in Camden are awarded via participatory grant-making and we want to see that change in our borough and beyond. We've made our resources public [here](#) and you can pay our grant-makers to support your participatory work [here](#).



We also want to say a huge thank you to those we've partnered with to make this model work.

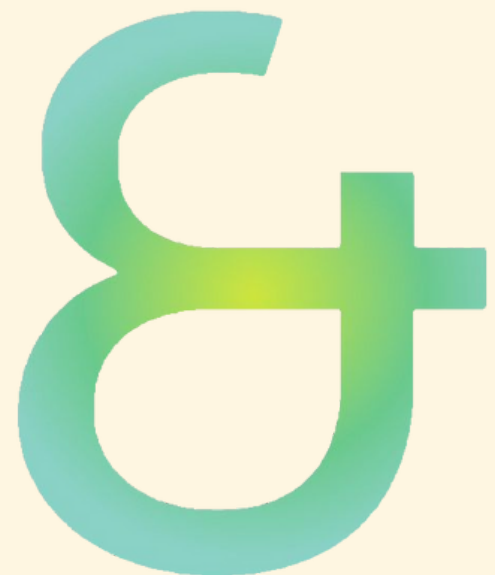


# THANK YOU

More time is needed for us to bring you news of how the funding has impacted the organisations mentioned in this report, and what it has enabled them to do. We will be in touch with a year's time with stories of their work.

We wouldn't be able to facilitate this incredible work without the support of businesses and organisations in Camden who are willing to step up and be good neighbours.

Thank you all so much, not only for your financial contributions, but also for being so wonderful to work with.



JONATHAN FROM THE AMERICAN INTERNATIONAL CHURCH