Peckham Platform

Art. Community. Power

2025–2026

# IMPACT REPORT



*A look at Myah Asha Jeffers' work in progress for In Living Memory (photo by Fikayo Adebajo)*

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# LEADERSHIP SUMMARY

**2025–2026 saw some important changes for Peckham Platform while our two-year National Lottery Heritage Fund-backed *Memories for the Future* programme came to a close. It's been a valuable context in which to reflect upon our enduring impact and on where we can bring greatest value to our communities.**

*Memories for the Future* came to an end in spring 2026, rounded off by Myah Asha Jeffers' wonderful *In Living Memory* exhibition which examined the Black family album through the lens of Peckham. It was a fitting end to a programme which, through creative community and learning activities, artist commissions, talks and events, recorded and brought the stories of Peckham people to multiple new audiences.

Taking that energy forward into our activity with young people, we launched a new phase of our Young Leaders' programme and ran a new artist-led summer event *Youth Platform x Arts Week*, incorporating creative workshops, portfolio development, museum visits and an expert panel discussion on career paths in the arts and culture sector today.

The period also brought a change of executive leadership as several long-standing members of Peckham Platform's Board came to the end of their tenure. We took this opportunity to think about how we could best serve our local communities at this time of transition. Steered by a new Transformation Lead, we expanded our team, welcoming a Youth Co-ordinator and an Administrative and Social Media Assistant to help us meet our goals. We also promoted young creative talent within the organisation into more senior roles, including our Head of Creative Programme. We remain passionately committed to reflecting local demographics in our staffing and Board and to supporting emerging practitioners from diasporic backgrounds across our programme.

After four years of operating from Quay House, we made the momentous decision to accept the offer of a more publicly accessible venue in the Bussey Building whilst we continue to work with Southwark Council towards the realisation of our more permanent home. We are very grateful to the Quay House creative community for all their support and friendship.

Against this backdrop, it feels right to publicly thank the funders who continue to recognise the value of our programme and contribute so generously to what we do. In particular, our sincere thanks go to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, the London Borough of Southwark's Culture Together, Neighbourhoods and Cultural Celebrations funds, the Portal Trust, Goldsmiths Foundation, Stanley Thomas Johnson Foundation, School for Social Entrepreneurs, Newcomen Collett Educational Foundation and Arts Council England.

We are also very proud to have collaborated with new partners including the Black Cultural Archives, Iniva, and The Hub at University of the Arts, Da'aro Youth Project, Damilola Taylor Centre and three local schools: Highshore School, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park, and Harris Girls Academy East Dulwich. Partnership will continue to sit at the heart of what we do to amplify our reach, while true community leadership of our programmes remains the defining measure of our impact.

# OUR IMPACT

*Over 14 months*
*(July 2025 – August 2026)*

## 31 artists, designers and creatives

Myah Asha Jeffers
Arts Emergency
Fikayo Adebajo
Raine Allen-Miller
Miro Alleyne-Mccarthy
Lucy Ansa-Addo
Bamidele Awoyemi
Molly Burrows
Earth Tenders
Michelle Ezeuko
Elsa Farmer
Georgia Hardcastle
Alisha O'Brien-Coker
Lola Komolafe
Sebastian T Heske
Tyreis Holder
Sauda Mabuye
Ella Markes
Shari Mclawrence
Mark Miller
Catherine Morton-Abuah
Eddie Otchere
Aleisha Pryce
Lily Purnell Piris
Frankie Rechere
Lauren Rechere
Trey Joel Robinson
Rachel Sale
Justina Stasiunaite
Vladimir Studenic
Zoë Thompson

## Seven trainee, producer and consultant roles

Elsa Farmer
Oumou Longley (trainee / producer)
Simone Fearon
Fikayo Adebajo
Adwoa Owusu-Barnieh
Sula Douglas-Folkes

## 23,900 physical audience reach

## 1,474 participants

## 61,000 digital audience reach

## Five student placements

Chaejin Kang, Colette Zhao (Goldsmiths University)
Lily Purnell Piris, Trey-Joel Robinson, Christopher Rodriguez (UAL)

## Activity

One public exhibition in Peckham
One public realm artwork on Rye Lane
One artist-led Youth Platform week
One Peckham Square community event
Nine artist-led community workshops across the neighbourhood
Two artist-led young people workshops
24 artist-led Arts Award workshops in local schools
24 artist-led Creative Access Programmes in local schools and youth centres
Two creative educational resources free to download
One Mobile Archive artist commission to support community events
One Home Radio artist commission with the people of Peckham
Three artist-led panel discussions at The Hub
Six oral histories from women in Peckham

## 18 communities, networks and partners

Black Cultural Archives
Black in the Day
Da'aro Youth Project
Damilola Taylor Centre
Golden Oldies
Harris Academy Dulwich Girls
Harris Primary Academy
Peckham Park
Hayward Gallery
Iniva
Jumbi
Maximus
Oliver Goldsmith Estate
Peckham Square
Sisterhood Supperclub Collective
Southwark Youth Justice Service
Sunset Studios
The Highshore School
The Hub (UAL)

## Four co-producer roles for 18-25 year olds

Hala Chekri
Maria Ikombo
Maya Rivers
Ellie Saxby

# MEMORIES FOR THE FUTURE

## Evaluation of our two year programme

**The second year of our *Memories for the Future* programme developed from its original focus on Rye Lane Aunties into a wider engagement with the idea of cultural heritage within Peckham, formed and expressed through the lived experiences and expertise of diasporic communities and artists.**

We commissioned an external evaluation on the impact of the programme, which was written by Dr Janna Graham, Goldsmiths University, Tracey Jarrett, Goldsmiths Community Researcher and Dr Lisa Robinson. The evaluators attended events and exhibitions, observed interactions, talked to community participants, visitors, artists, partners, funders and staff, and had access to our quantitative data.



**By widening the parameters of the programme, they found that we:**

- *Increased the number of individual people involved in Peckham Platform*
- *Built a depth of relationship and approach that generated connection for those experiencing isolation*
- *Built and strengthened partnerships in and with marginalised communities*
- *Built capacity and trust for wider implementation of community-led approaches*

**On the expression of heritage, they found that Peckham Platform's work:**

- *Increased excitement and imagination about the multiplicity of ways heritage is transmitted, often without using the word 'heritage'*
- *Widened the idea of heritage to formats including food, orality, community medicine, convivial practice, games...*
- *Widened young people's participation in and enthusiasm about heritage, generating a sense of agency among young people*
- *Supported a range of emerging artists, curators and cultural workers in building their heritage practices*
- *Generated skills in the Peckham Platform team in community-based approaches to history and heritage*

**On our contribution to Peckham and our local neighbourhood, they found the programme:**

- *Generated pride in the local area and a will to fight for the preservation of marginalised local history in the face of development*
- *Benefited students, families and small business owners by providing opportunities for participation and employment*
- *Generated a strong sense of connection at a time of social fragmentation and polarised politics*




*Sketch map of Peckham during Place Principles workshop (photo Rumi Bose)*

# PLACE PRINCIPLES with Rumi Bose

## Contributing to Peckham's cultural ecosystem, economy and visibility

In spring 2026 we commissioned Rumi Bose, an urban design and placeshaping practice, to help define what it means for Peckham Platform to be rooted, visible and have a positive impact in Peckham.

Through workshops and discussions we came to a shared understanding of what meaningful presence in Peckham means for Peckham Platform. It is important to us that we create real and tangible benefits for local people and communities, through opportunity, investment, employment, partnerships, visibility and creative participation.

This also extends to our physical expression of place: working with local designers, makers, artists and organisations, and ensuring that future spaces, projects and programmes visibly reflect Peckham's identity, cultures and histories. More than simply being located in Peckham, we want Peckham Platform to actively contribute to, and be shaped by, the place itself.

Whilst still in draft, this important work is now informing our discussions around partnerships, programming and decisions about our home in Peckham.

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHTS

## Circular Square: bringing communities, art, music and food together

In September 2025 we hosted a free community day in Peckham Square, bringing together makers, artists, musicians and chefs for a celebration of Peckham creativity. Our emphasis was on sustainability and environmental awareness, so we made use of existing infrastructure, furniture and equipment, used local suppliers, encouraged all to come on foot or bike, offered vegan food on compostable serveware, used limited electricity without a generator, and planned artist activities with recycled materials. Many of the flowers and fruit came from London gardens and we had no single-use plastic onsite. Over 600 people came to the event.

*'I drew parallels between my childhood memories of Peckham and my experiences visiting family in Jamaica, especially the journeys to my grandparents in St. Elizabeth. I remember the fruit markets and the huts made from repurposed materials – specifically, the same fruit crates used to transport and sell produce were then reused to build structures. There was a resourcefulness and creativity in that – a way of making do, of making beautiful and functional things out of what was already around.*

*That principle is very present in Peckham too – the way people reuse, recycle, adapt, and reshape their environments with what they have. I wanted to celebrate that spirit in my installation by abstracting these ideas and creating a space that embodies memory, resourcefulness, and cultural layering. The work is a reflection of both the local and diasporic histories that shape our identities and spaces.'*
– Lauren Rechere, artist

The artist workshops delivered throughout the day brought people together across cultural and age groups. The majority of people came alone, and those in attendance described the day's events as 'welcoming and meaningful'. Participants commented on how different this was from the isolation or loneliness people feel in their lives.

In our evaluation of the event, on-the-ground interviews and observations noted that our approach (free, open to all, something different in the Square) supported local businesses beyond a single day, which for us is key to building sustainable relationships and audiences in the local area. 100% of those interviewed felt the experience of Circular Square to be valuable. Comments included:

*'It's all new to me. I totally enjoyed the day. The interaction with traders and public was amazing. Very positive feedback from the community'*
— stallholder

*'It was brilliant last year and I can't believe that they've made it even better this year ... You can see it has been such a reflective process and the process has always been: How can we improve? How can we make it better?'*
— Sisterhood Supperclub Collective

*'I think it's a beautiful space to bring people together, predominantly from the Global South here. I'm a product of migrants. I'm a child of a refugee and I grew up here. I grew up in Peckham on an estate that got knocked down. I think it's beautiful. We've had people from all over the world here that are in Peckham and I just think that in this environment now... and the way that politics is leaning, that it's really important that as a community we come together and we create these spaces for everybody to feel safe in.'*
— trader

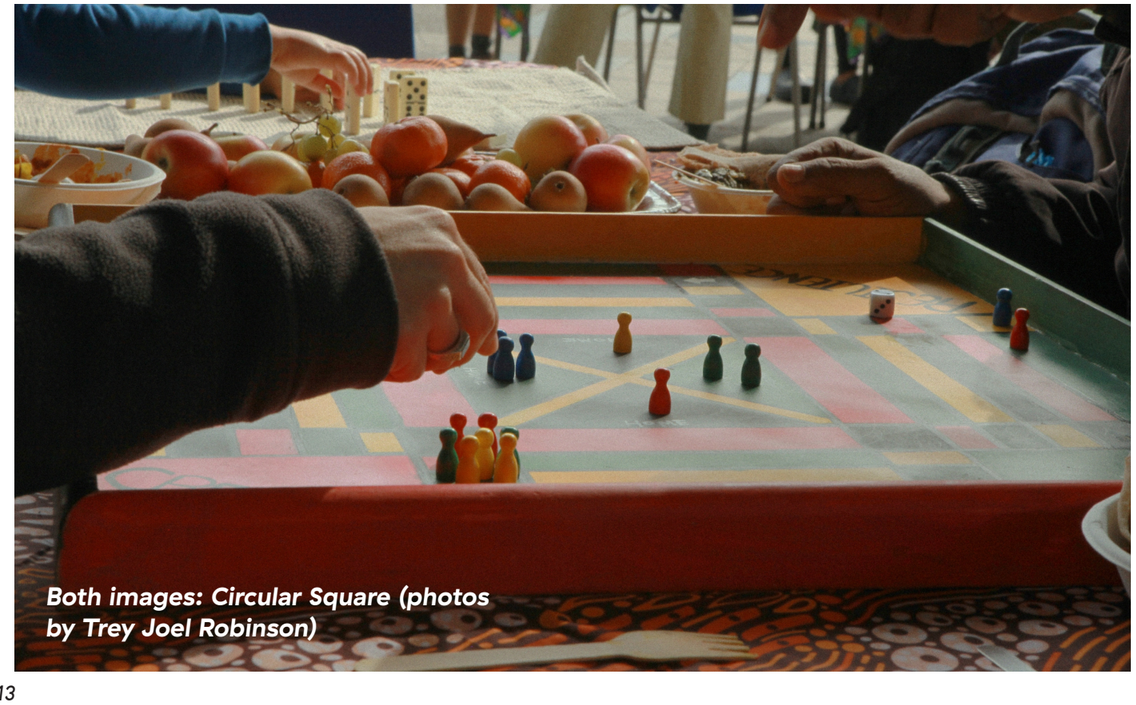
*'Exploring the histories of Peckham through this project was incredibly enriching. It gave me the opportunity to reflect on my personal connection to the area – as someone who is Black Caribbean British and grew up in Peckham, around the markets and vibrant local community'*
— artist

*Below: Circular Square (photo by Trey Joel Robinson)*





*'We've had people from all over the world here that are in Peckham and I just think that in this environment now... and the way that politics is leaning, that it's really important that as a community we come together and we create these spaces for everybody to feel safe in.'* – trader



***Both images: Circular Square (photos by Trey Joel Robinson)***



## In Living Memory: from community workshops to public exhibition to Peckham billboard

Our major artist commission was rooted in our local community, and shaped by its Caribbean and African diasporic, working-class communities. Through a series of public workshops and talks, artist Myah Asha Jeffers engaged participants with ideas around photography, portraiture, memory and loss.

For the resulting exhibition at The Hub (UAL), the artist brought together photographs from Black family albums, Jeffers' own personal archive and new portraits of Peckham people taken at our Circular Square event and in workshops. Over 150 people attended the exhibition opening.

The exhibition resonated deeply with both local visitors and broader cultural audiences, illustrating how this artistic engagement was able to position personal family archives as valuable evidence of a shared, overlooked heritage:
'*It's important they see that there's a lineage of history and understand that people have been here for a long time.*'

'*Young people – even children in primary school – need to see this.*'

One local carer shared how meaningful it was for her sister, living with dementia, '*to see memories of her family and her past in Peckham*' reconnecting with family memories and her shared history in Peckham through the project. A young participant reflected on the power of working directly with emerging creative practitioners and seeing people '*like me*' represented in public space.

As a follow-up to the exhibition, and in partnership with Maximus, we commissioned Myah to produce a large billboard artwork featuring her polaroid photographs of real people in our neighbourhood. *Portraits of Peckham* was shown on the hoardings at Peckham Clock Tower and seen by thousands.

In our evaluation, participants highlighted the immense value of bringing lesser-seen local stories to light, and many described this project as aligned with their deep struggles to maintain the character of the area against the forces of real estate speculation and development.

*'When families took these photographs, they weren't thinking of them as art – they were preserving their own family memories.'*
– Exhibition visitor




*Artist Myah Asha Jeffers in front of her Portraits of Peckham billboard (photo by Fikayo Adebajo)*

*'Being the major commissioned artist for Peckham Platform (2025 – 2026) was an incredible opportunity and a significant gear change for my artistic practice. The commission fuelled the scale and scope of my work whilst also providing the infrastructure to make quality work with and for the local community.'*
– Myah Asha Jeffers, artist

*Below: In Living Memory exhibition at The Hub (photo by Trey Joel Robinson)*



## Youth Platform x Arts Week: creative development for young people

Our first Arts Week took place during August 2026 and was based at The Hub, UAL. The Arts Week focused on providing opportunities for young people to meet other young creatives, learn new creative skills and develop their confidence in next steps.

We hosted five days packed with creative workshops, skill-building and career support for a group of local 15-18 year olds. This included a t-shirt screenprinting project led by Rachel Sale of F.A.T Studio CIC, a mentoring session led by Arts Emergency, a portfolio advice session led by university tutors, a visit to the Hayward Gallery and an opportunity for professional headshots.

*'The whole week felt really well-held, careful, structured, but it also felt like you'd intentionally left some spaciousness for ideas, personalities, and spontaneity to flow through. This is actually a very skillful thing to have done and the result of a really strong team coming together to deliver something greater than the sum of its parts... Levi it felt like you were aware of every detail but also brought a really powerful emotional energy to the project, which I think is actually ESSENTIAL to making art projects feel ALIVE and meaningful.'*
— Rachel Sale, lead artist for Arts Week

*Below: Arts Week participants in their unique screenprinted T-shirts (photo by Vladimir Studenic)*




Throughout the week, we saw participants grow closer as a group of friends, develop their artworks collaboratively and strengthen their individual portfolios.

*'Thank you so much for having me here during the arts week! I had so much fun learning how to screen print on fabric and making my hoodie.'*
— Arts Week participant

*'I really enjoyed the Arts Week, it was in fact a very positive addition to my summer and I would do it all over again if I could. I loved all the staff's energy, encouragement and support.'*
— Arts Week participant

*'Thank you for helping us learn all these new skills and making this a wonderful experience'*
— Arts Week participant

Within Arts Week, we hosted a public evening panel discussion, titled What Got Me Here, offering an honest look at the realities of pursuing a creative career today.

Discussing both the challenges and the opportunities facing artists and creatives today were five professionals from across the creative industries. Rachel Sale, our lead artist for Arts Week, was joined by Alisha O'Brien Coker, curatorial assistant for Modern British Art at Tate Britain, and former curatorial fellow at New Curators; Mark Miller, cultural producer, consultant, artist and former director of Tate Learning; Elsa Farmer, former Peckham Platform trainee producer and graphic designer; and Raine Allen-Miller, director and writer widely recognised for her debut feature film Rye Lane 2023.

The discussion was chaired by Levi Naidu-Mitchell, Peckham Platform's Head of Learning and Community Engagement. This was a sold-out event with 50 attendees.



*Above: Arts Week lead artist Rachel Sale (photo by Lily Purnell Piris)*

## Arts Awards: bringing creativity into the classroom

This year, we delivered Arts Award programmes in Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park, and The Highshore School, responding to Peckham Platform's *Memories for the Future* project. Myah Asha Jeffers was our visiting artist, working with students on a self portrait session.

At Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park 21 students (Year 4) worked towards an Explore award. Sessions revolved around our educational resource *A Journey Through Time and Culture*, exploring place through printmaking and storytelling.

**What do you want to do in the future, and how could art help you do it?**
'*I would like to be a doctor in the future, and I would like to be an artist. It can help me by learning how to do the things I'd like to do. And it also shows me that if you mess up it's still an art piece. It doesn't matter and you should carry on.*'
— Bintou, Arts Award student, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

Students responded excellently to Myah as a visiting artist, with both teacher and class lit up and invigorated by the portrait activity and hearing from Myah what it's like to be a photographer and filmmaker. This was a clear indication of the power of these visits, and what qualities are important in visiting artists; namely having confidence, open minded kindness and shared lived experience with the class.

**How does doing art make you feel?**
'*It makes me express myself about what I feel and what I love... I keep on drawing on my arm because I don't have any paper*'
— Arts Award student, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

**What do you want more of in school/in Peckham?**
'*A community that can get together to create new and fun ideas and then we have meetings twice a month and then we go in different groups ... each one comes with a new idea for a story.*'
— Arts Award student, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

At The Highshore School 11 students (Year 14) worked towards a Bronze award. Students piloted a forthcoming educational resource Pass(Portal) using printmaking and storytelling to create zines and share bookbinding and jewellery making skills with each other. The smaller class size allowed for a more tailored experience, and time to support some students to develop more complex printmaking techniques.

**What would you want more of in school/in Peckham?**
'*More art spaces that are accessible to those who have disabilities... More time to do art, and bigger opportunities for others to do it*'
— Phoebe, Arts Award student, Highshore School






This year's delivery has led to learnings around children's awareness and eagerness for pathway opportunities with Peckham Platform and wider provision. 85% of students who gave feedback would like to continue with art based learning outside of Arts Awards, and 100% of teaching staff agreed that involvement in Arts Awards has been of benefit to students.



*Above: At The Highshore School artist Georgia Hardcastle helps out.*

*Right: Artist Myah Asha Jeffers takes students' portraits (photos by Lily Purnell Piris)*

'*[Art] shows me that if you mess up it's still an art piece. It doesn't matter and you should carry on.*'
— Bintou, Arts Award student, Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park

## The Mobile Archive: a new pop-up resource for exhibitions, festivals and community events

Responding to what we learned from *Memories for the Future* and with funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund, we commissioned architect and spatial designer Lauren Rechere and the fabricator and designer Sebastian T Heske to invent a flexible, creative living archive to support community initiatives in Peckham and beyond.

The result is the Mobile Archive, a moveable resource on wheels, storing books, art materials, audio equipment and headsets. It's also a modular piece of furniture, incorporating shelves, a fold out table and stools for crafting and feasting. The design is influenced by our local area and incorporates materials from Peckham, with a focus on re-use: fruit crates from Rye Lane; elements made of wood from the reclamation yard at Queens Road; and hand woven shelves.

'*[It's an] opportunity to celebrate the heritage, infrastructure and evolving identity of Peckham. Designing a spatial intervention that reflects this cultural landscape is something I hold closely. I hope the structure not only preserves existing memories but also creates space for new ones to emerge, becoming a living archive.*'
— Lauren Rechere, co-creator of the Mobile Archive

The Mobile Archive popped up at the Making our Neighbourhood event in July 2026, and is now available for workshops, exhibitions, festivals and community events. Get in touch with us for more details.

'*The Mobile Archive brought something quietly powerful to the day: a space where people could slow down, encounter local stories and think about whose memories make up a place. It gave the festival a depth that could not have come from the stage programme alone.*'
— Organisers of Making Our Neighbourhood, 2026




*Left: Artist-makers Lauren Rechere and Sebastian T Heske with the Mobile Archive (photo by Lucy Atkinson)*

Interested in having the mobile archive at your event?

**Email us today on**

**info@peckhamplatform.com**

## A journey through time and culture: a visual activity pack

A Journey Through Time and Culture is a free downloadable resource activity pack to facilitate creative conversations on the meaning of diaspora. Exploring how cultures move, interact and evolve, is encouraged as a way to look at how we each choose to represent and remember our own cultural identity. It includes two activities and a printable template to create your own cards:

Activity one: Archive – Pick an object or concept to put in an 'archive' by designing one or more cards.

Activity two: Journey – Take your item(s) on a journey! Imagine their movement on a map, making marks using pens and pencils.

This is a digital resource developed by the Peckham Platform team, with graphic design by Sauda Mabuye, and illustrations by Elsa Farmer (Trainee Producer). Piloted with South London Gallery's Art Block it includes images of work by children from Harris Primary Academy Peckham Park and The Highshore School.






# OUR INVITATION TO YOU:

## Art. Community. Power.

**As we move into a new space at the heart of Peckham we are refreshing our invitation to communities and artists with a new strapline that puts community at the centre of our work as a local arts organisation.**

**Art. Community. Power**

We have a vision of a world where art builds community power. We bring artists, communities and ideas together, opening up space for Peckham communities – especially young people – to respond to issues that matter with bold, playful possibilities for our shared future. Whether you're an artist, a local resident or a young person looking for creative opportunities in Peckham, we invite you to join us in shaping our neighbourhood.

# Our Team

**Lucy Atkinson** – Head of Creative Programmes
**Mahalia Changlee** – Administrative and Social Media Coordinator
**Kirsty Falconer** – Fundraising and Development
**Sarah Gillett** – Website Editor and Strategic Communications
**Sophie Gregg** – Transformation Lead
**Georgia Hardcastle** – Arts Award Advisor
**Brian Maina** – NLHF Project Manager
**Ella Markes** – Learning Co-ordinator
**Levi Naidu-Mitchell** – Head of Learning and Community Engagement
**Brian Tynan** – Finance Manager

## OUR BOARD

**Zelie Walker-Noble** – Acting Chair
**Sade English** – Trustee
**Diego Palencia** – Trustee
**Catriona Whiteford** – Trustee



# Talk to Us

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*Detail from a workshop with designer Bamidele Awoyemi (photo by Fikayo Adebajo)*

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