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ESCAPE2MAKE FAIR

**IMPACT
REPORT 2025**

ROLL UP, ROLL UP, FOR THE E2M FAIR 2025!

Escape2Make launched our brand new Centre for young people in Lancaster with the E2M Fair. 91 11-18-year-olds took part in 33 workshops across 9 activities in February half term led by local artists created things to bring our new space to life: a mural, botanical art, upcycled furniture, a new song, and more.

Young people took part in activities in our Centre for the first time (with some workshops also taking place in Morecambe), before we opened our doors to the public for the Fair event, with performances and activities taking place in the E2M Space as well as other venues across Lancaster on Saturday 22nd February.

We successfully raised over **£33,000** for the E2M Fair through **Crowdfund Lancashire**.

We are grateful for every contribution to our campaign, which included:

- Generous grants from **Lancashire County Council**, **Lancaster BID**, and the **Nat Merriman Fund**
- Support from **Mighty House**, **Lancaster Soroptimists** and **The Authors XI**
- The E2M Team raised funds through a Mystery Art Sale, an E2M Showcase event, an improv night, sponsored open water swim and fancy dress run
- A donation in memory of friend of E2M, Mara Corey

E2M Fair: Creative workshops for 11-18s

By [Escape2Make](#) [Lancaster](#) [Delivery](#)



FUNDED ON
08 NOV 2024!

112
backers

£33,079
raised

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PARTICIPATION

115

11-18-year-olds signed up for workshops. 91 took part in at least one session.

86%

Of those offered a place took part in at least one session.

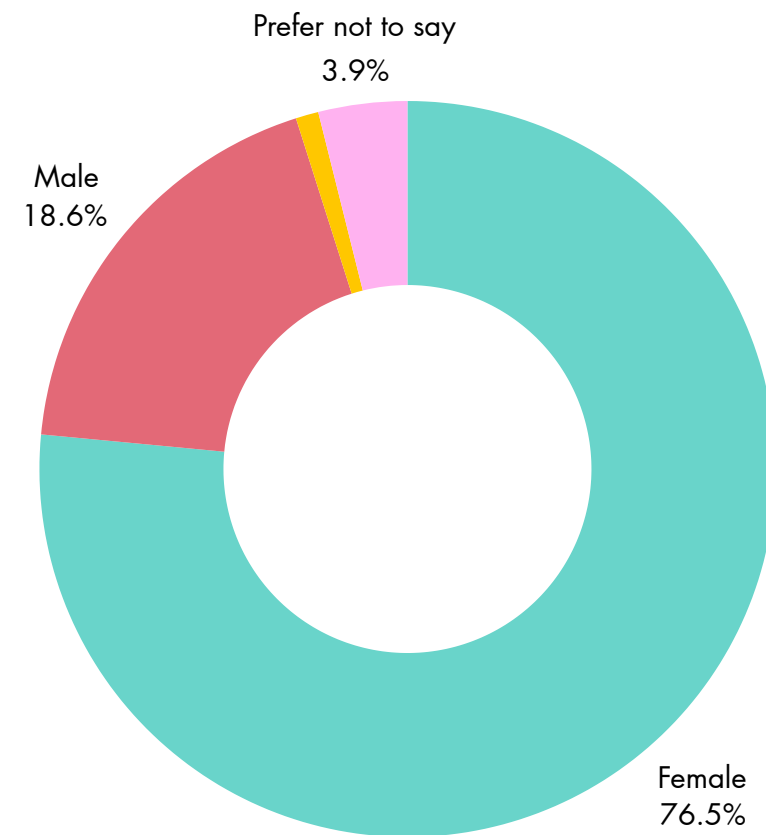
90%

Attendees of 5-session programmes attended more than one session



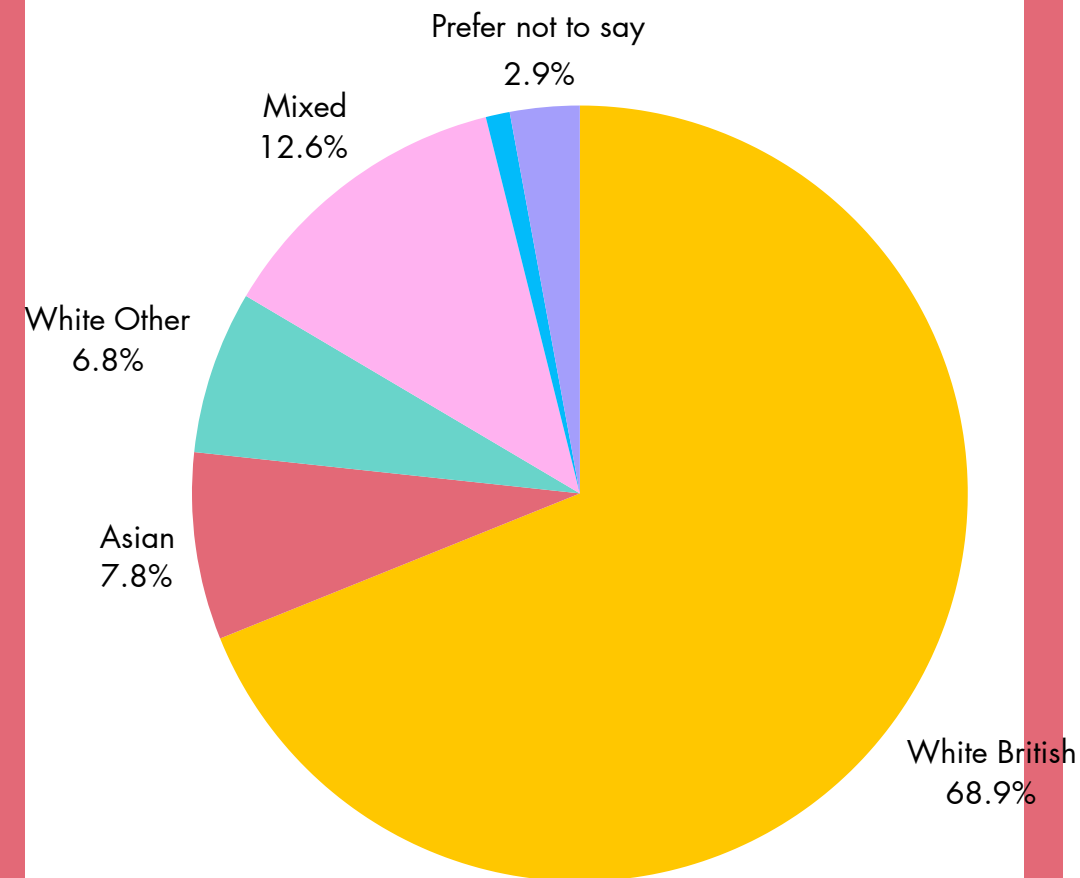
WHO ARE OUR PARTICIPANTS?

GENDER



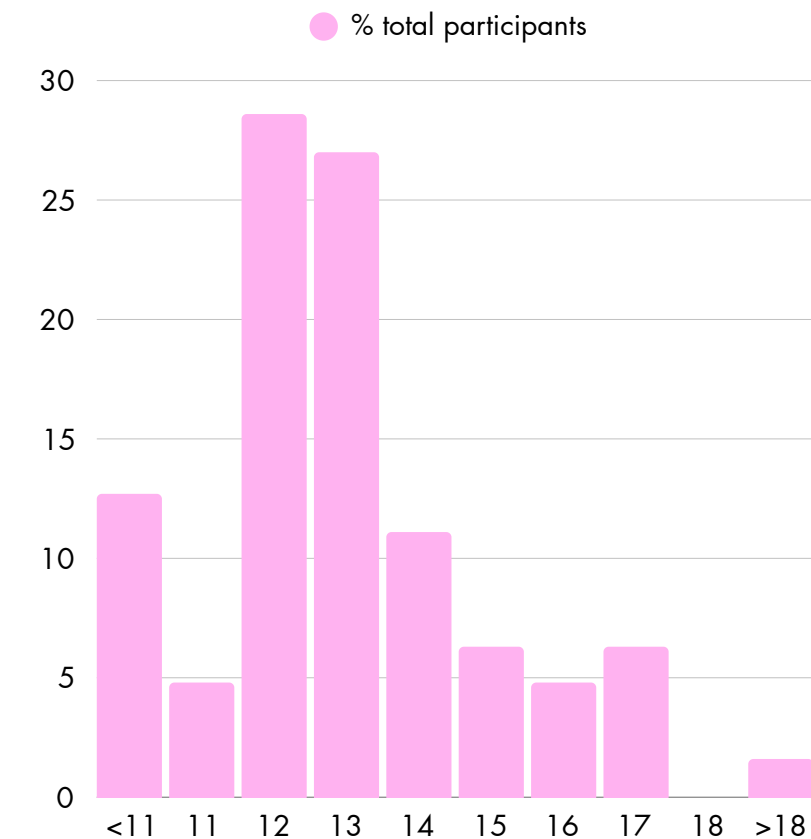
77% identified as female
19% identified as male
1% non-binary/gender fluid/other
4% prefer not to say

ETHNICITY



69% White British
7% White Other
13% Mixed White/Black Caribbean/Asian/Other
8% Asian
1% Black

AGE



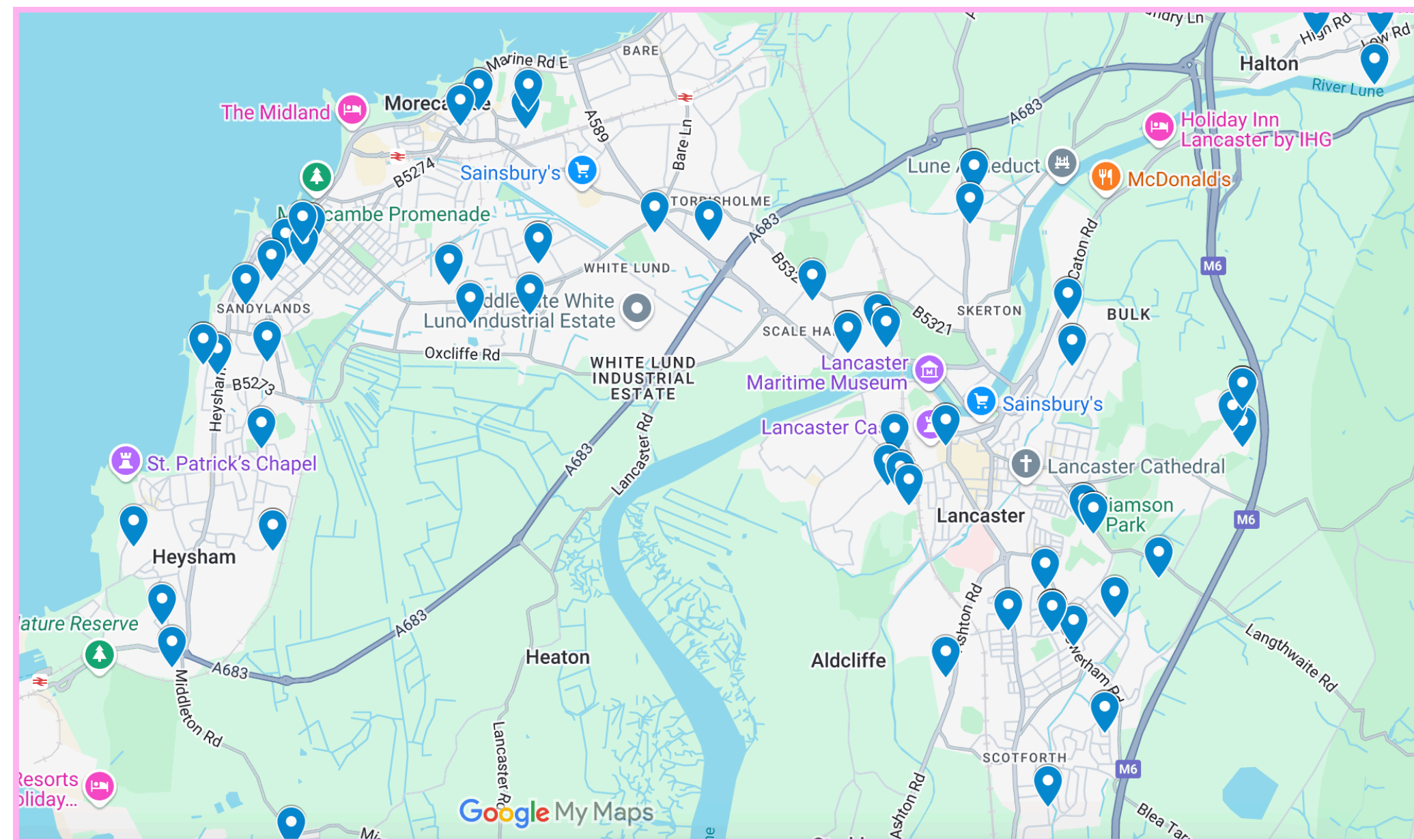
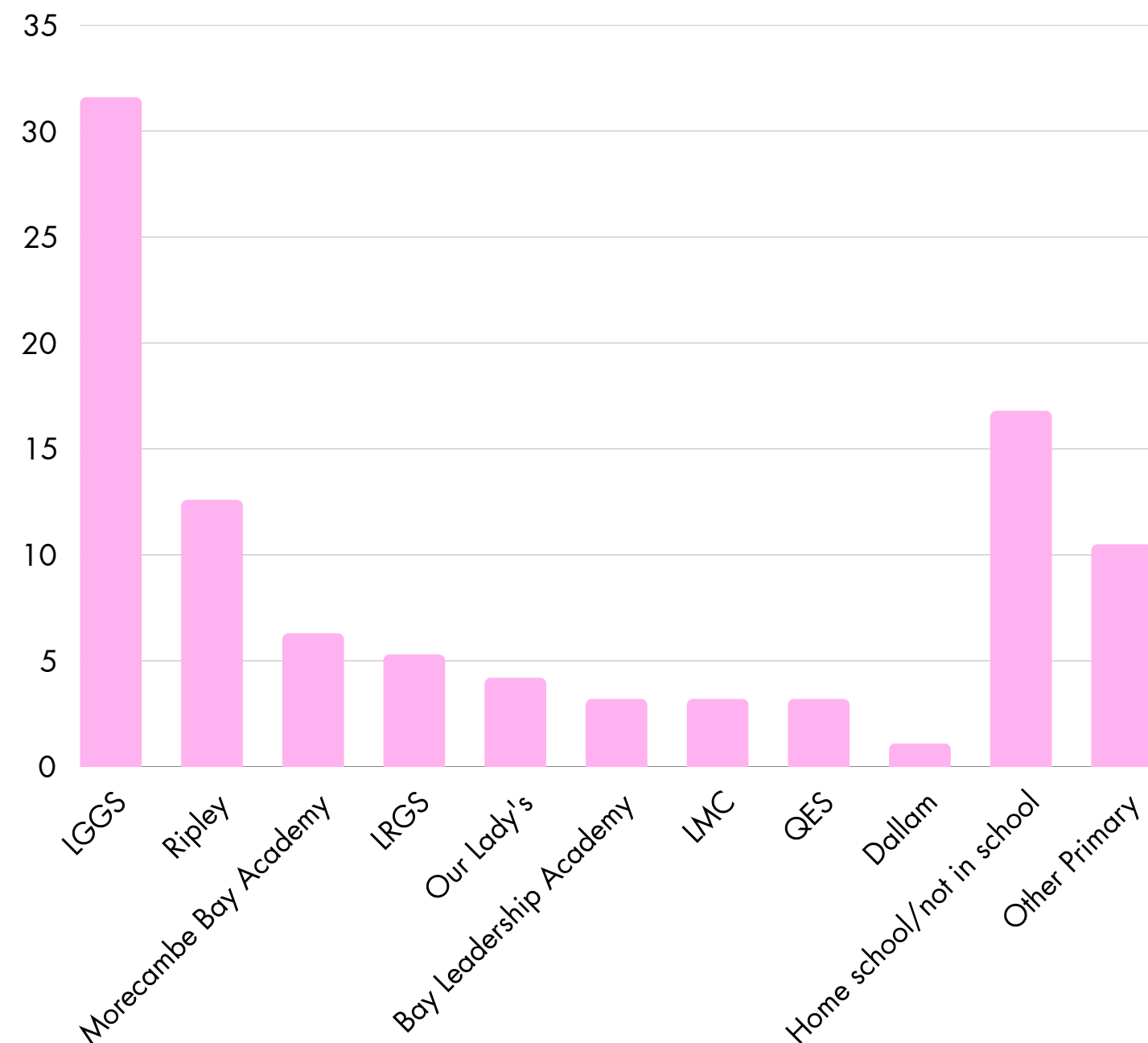
46% aged **12 or under**
44% aged **13-15**
13% aged **16 or over**

Note: 10 year-olds in Year 6 & 19 year-olds who are 18 at sign-up can take part

Statistics above based on young people registered for activities (n=116).

Ethnicity note: Lancaster District is **93.1%** White British, far above national average (2021 Census)

Participants' Schools and Locations

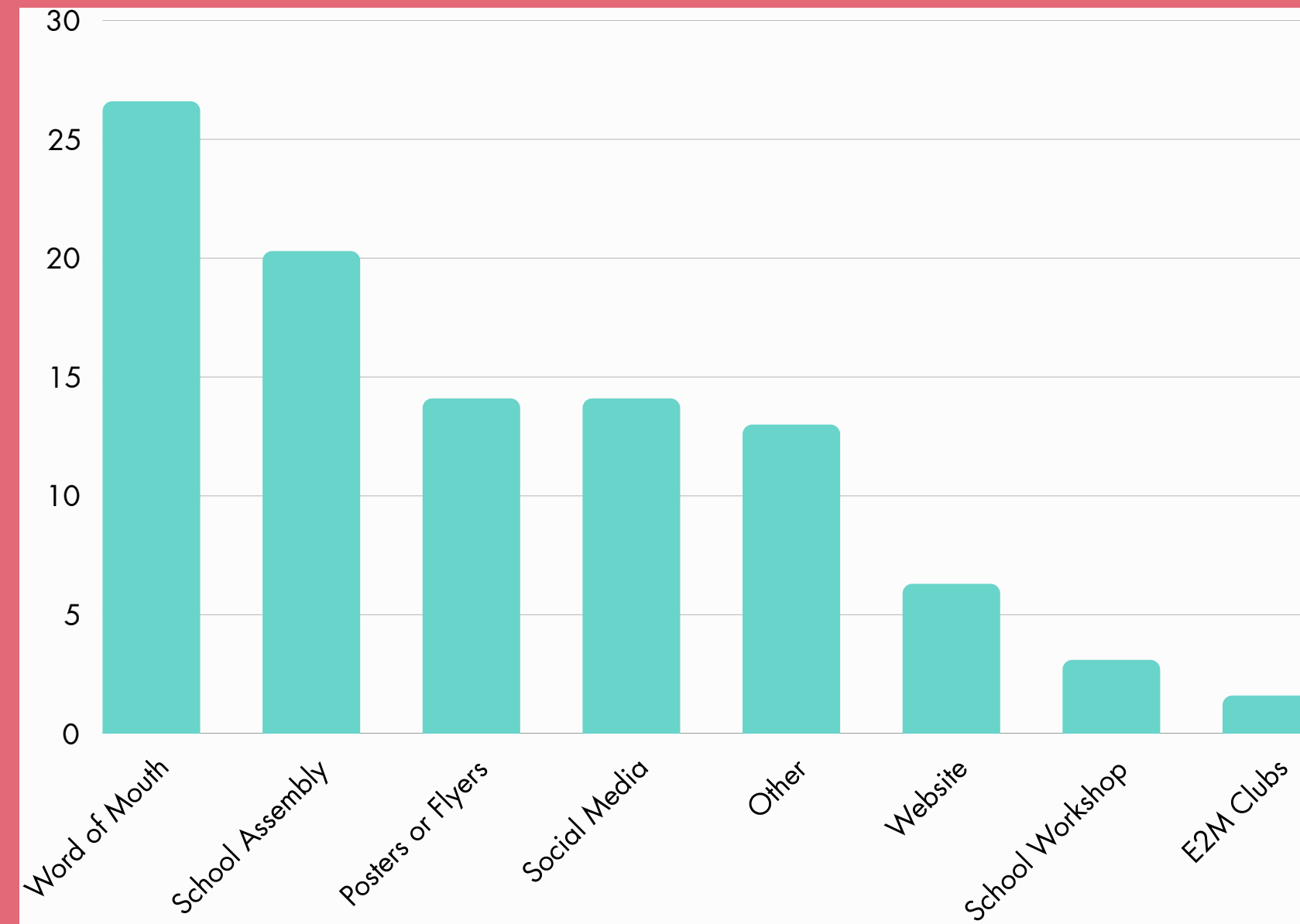


Young people came from 15 different educational settings (17% not in school or home schooled)

20% of participants live in one of the 10% most deprived wards in the country.

Some participants came from as far as Preston, Carnforth and Wray

HOW DID THEY HEAR ABOUT ESCAPE2MAKE?



Most participants found out about us through word of mouth or a school assembly, while physical and digital marketing also helped us reach a large number of participants.

From 64 respondents to the question 'How did you hear about us?' - this was mostly answered by new participants.

ACTIVITIES



Upcycled
Filmmaking



Mural
Painting



Singing



Photography



Drama



Upcycled
Furniture



Botanical Art



Recycled
Plastic Crafts



Craft &
Design

FOCUS ON: THE E2M CENTRE

The E2M Fair celebrated the launch of our new Centre. Based on Church Street, in the middle of Lancaster, the Centre will be a vital, inclusive, creative hub for young people from across the region.

Each workshop resulted in something being created to bring the new space to life, from a mural to upcycled furniture and handmade coat hooks.

It was also young people's first chance to test out activity in the Centre and tell us what they thought of it!



"It's colourful and creative, I like the decoration and it's just really nice. It's a good space for people who need a quiet space where they can be creative."

"I got to leave my own drawings on the wall of the new building."

IMPACT

100%

Enjoyed the activity they took part in (95% “a lot”)

87%

Learned something new

95%

Felt “amazing” or “good” after taking part (5% felt “OK”)

96%

Made one or more new friends (95% “more than one”)

From 74 post-project survey responses



Quotes from Participants

"I enjoyed how **inclusive** it is"

"It made me feel **involved** and part of a team."

"We had so many options of activities to do and so much **freedom** and **variety** to make our ideas come to life!"

"**Refreshed** and **relaxed**, my knowledge has grown like a grand oak tree"

"Helped me **destress**- more so as I'm missing my usual school environment/routine"

"The workshop made me feel like I can be **creative** and try new things. The instructors encouraged me to think outside the box, and it made me excited to **explore** photography more."

"It made me feel part of something like a **safe** space to **be yourself**"

"It made me feel like I could recycle AND have so much **fun** and make **new friends**!"

"It made me feel **welcome** and **wanted**"

Quotes from participant surveys

WHO WORKED WITH US?



9 Facilitators - leading 6 5-session and 3 one-day programmes



Freelance **Marketing Lead** (10 days) & **2 Evaluation Interns** from Lancaster Uni



6 paid Workshop Assistants, supporting young people in sessions



£11,700 invested into local freelance creative workforce



15 Volunteers, offering 105 hours of support for the workshops and event



10 event professionals & performers (including **6 local young musicians**)

FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

100%

Of facilitators, assistants and volunteers enjoyed their experience “a lot”

100%

Said they felt the project had a positive impact on young people taking part

100%

Said they had good communication with E2M throughout the process

Survey responses from 9 facilitators and 8 workshop assistants/volunteers





QUOTES FROM FACILITATORS, ASSISTANTS & VOLUNTEERS

"It's been fantastic to see the joy that the workshops bring to young people and **the confidence that it builds in them**. It's been so nice **seeing the space come together** over the week of workshops and **how much it evidently means** to the youths who frequently attend E2M workshops and the E2M team - **it has a proper community feel** to it! "

Facilitator

"I really enjoyed my experience with E2M. At first, I thought it might be kind of stressful and feel like a job, but it ended up feeling more like a hobby that **I genuinely enjoyed**. I also **gained valuable skills** like working with kids and learning how to work with wood. **Seeing the kids happy and having fun made me happy too.** "

Volunteer

WE ASK FACILITATORS, ASSISTANTS AND VOLUNTEERS TO TELL US **MAGIC MOMENTS** FROM THEIR SESSIONS, HERE ARE SOME OF OUR FAVOURITES:

One particularly memorable moment occurred on Friday. A young person who had been very, very quiet all week and who had struggled to participate with the rest of the group worked with me 1:1 framing the photographs. Although we had barely had a conversation up until that point, we had some good chats and she told me all about her creative projects and asked me some really thoughtful questions. **I was really pleased and touched that we managed to 'bond' and it was clear that she was gaining a lot from participating.**

I think the most poignant moments for me, were when two young people were lathering the coffee table in paint with wild abandon singing along to radio. **The look of delight received**, when they realised I was going to grant permission to paint a poo on the bathroom door mural. The look of horror on a few faces of the lights being turned off for the glitterball at breaktime, when no one wanted to stop painting. **They were so happy painting, they didn't want to stop.**

One of the standout moments occurred during the first session when the group of young people worked together to dismantle a pallet using a pallet breaker and carefully de-nailed each plank. **The atmosphere was incredibly supportive, with everyone cheering each other on.** Each participant took ownership of a plank from the disassembled pallet, naming it, and one participant even mentioned they had caught 'the pallet bug' I had spoken about at the beginning of the session. These planks later became the wooden display frames now hanging on the walls of the youth centre, a lasting reminder of their teamwork and creativity!

Unprompted, one young person drew all of the E2M staff on the wall with names. **It really makes you realise the impact we make** on the young people, and warmed my heart to see

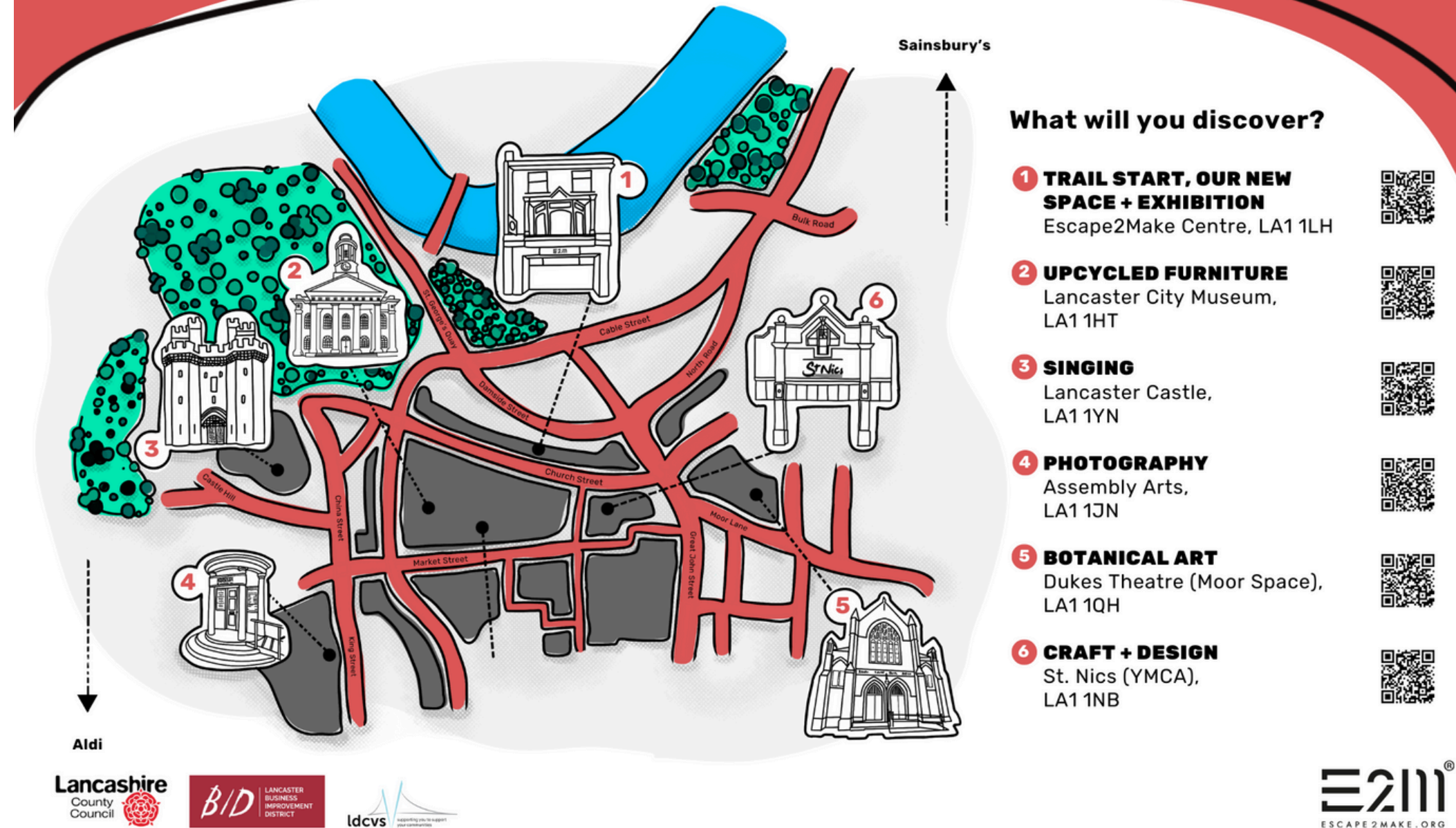
THE EVENT

The E2M Fair took place across six venues in Lancaster on Saturday 22nd February 2025.

A trail connected activities at each venue, with performers roaming the route, guiding people to visit the new E2M Centre.

970 people actively engaged with activities at the event, and Lancaster BID measured a year-on-year increase in footfall on Church Street.

FIND YOUR CREATIVE ROUTE...





Quotes from the event

"I think the E2M fair is **really positive for the kids and the adults too**, it feels like everyone is included and having a great time. It is bringing people together"

"That musical performance was **incredible!** The fact that everyone there was going for it, that was so **powerful** to watch"

"The age range was vast and i'm glad that it was **inclusive to all ages**, including small children. There were hopes expressed by some parents that Escape 2 Make will soon be running when their children come of age to access it."

"It was great having the chance to engage with the public and tell them more about E2M's new space and the workshops. **I felt very proud of the young people and volunteers** - their enthusiasm, energy, and willingness to interact with the public was ace!!"

"The Escape2Make Fair was a fantastic event allowing the young people to **build confidence** through showcasing the fantastic artworks that they have created over the week"



RECOMMENDATIONS



OUTREACH

We ran a trial outreach session at Our Lady's School to increase participation from different groups. This was felt to be successful: future projects should allocate budget for more outreach sessions in schools, youth and community groups.

CENTRE

Having our own space made planning and delivery of the project easier. Future projects will use the Centre as a hub for activity, but we must also make sure we continue to deliver some activity in Morecambe and other areas to ensure all young people can participate.

EVENT

This was the first time we have run an event spread out across the city, rather than in one location. Many participants and attendees enjoyed this, and it worked well for more socially anxious young people who don't like big crowds or noise. However, some groups felt isolated if stuck at one venue all day.

Further reading: Two interns from Lancaster University supported our evaluation and wrote a report, which can be found [here](#). You can also read more about the E2M Fair project [here](#).