

IMPACT REPORT 2026

E2M® ESCAPE 2 MAKE HERITAGE FESTIVAL

LOCAL HERITAGE CELEBRATED THROUGH CREATIVITY

Throughout the summer holidays, we ran free creative workshops for 11–18-year-olds, providing safe, offline spaces to connect, experiment and have fun while learning about their heritage. Through performance, willow weaving, gargoyle making, discovering witches and so much more, participants explored local history, learned traditional skills and boosted their wellbeing. Working with Lancaster City Museum, Lancaster Black History Group and other Heritage sites across Lancashire and Cumbria, they brought this learning to life at a series of free, interactive, youth-led festivals sharing fresh perspectives with the wider community and helping preserve local traditions for the future.

180 unique young people got the chance to dive into a diverse selection of activities. Also approx **5.4K** members of the public enjoyed a creative celebration at our Heritage Festival event day and travelling festivals.

The Summer Camp and travelling festivals also meant that the E2M magic took to the road to locations at Windermere, Preston, Clitheroe, Kendal, Burnley and Carlisle.

The Festival day itself was hosted at Dalton Square and the E2M centre in Lancaster and celebrated young people and the local community connecting with their surrounding history, giving people a sense of place.

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We successfully raised over **£112,000** for the Heritage Festival.
We are grateful for every contribution that made this possible, which included:

HERITAGE FUND

Rebecca Scott

ARETI CHARITABLE TRUST

£630 in-kind support from

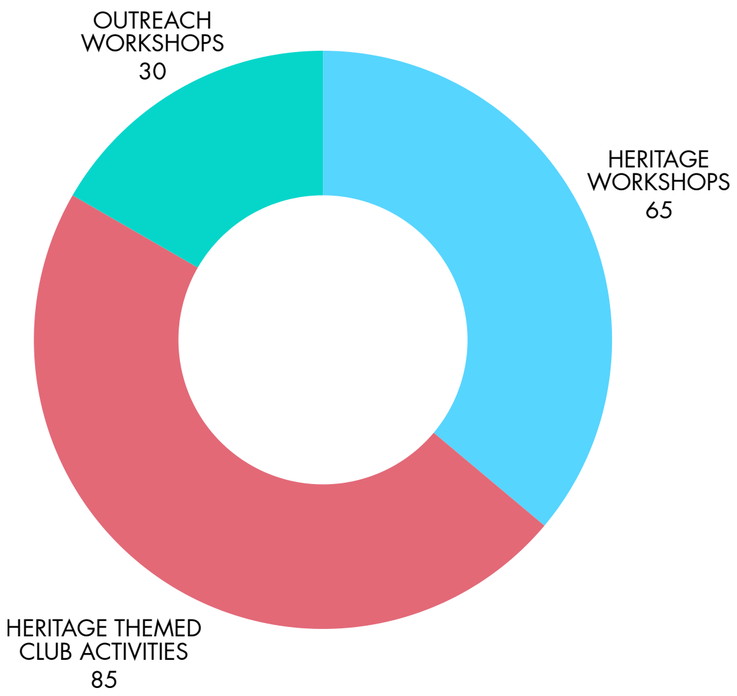
- **ASDA**
- **Co-Op**
- **Atkinsons**
- **Arteria**
- **Old Gun Shop**
- **DF Studios**
- **LUSH**
- **Boots**
- **Standfast & Barracks**
- **Abbott Lyon**
- **Nando's**
- **Proper Lovely**
- **Sharon Burns**
- **The Borough**
- **Montane**
- **NDH**
- **Waterstones**
- **Re-Set**

And how can we forget the generous in-kind support from local businesses!



PARTICIPATION

WORKSHOP & CLUB ATTENDANCE



180

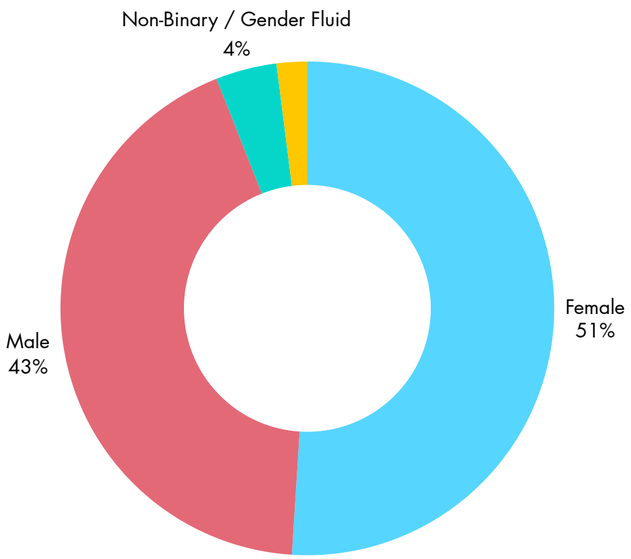
UNIQUE YOUNG PEOPLE ENGAGED

65 Unique Attendees Heritage Workshops
85 Unique Attendees Heritage themed Club Activities
30 Unique Attendees Outreach Workshops



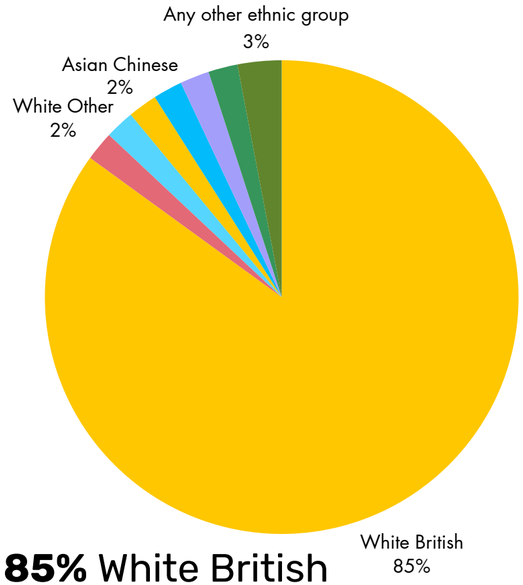
WHO ARE OUR PARTICIPANTS?

GENDER



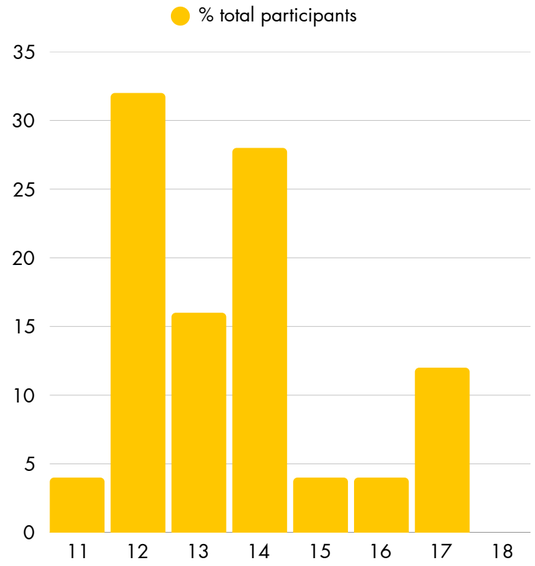
51% identified as female
43% identified as male
4% non-binary/gender fluid/other
2% prefer not to say

ETHNICITY



85% White British
2% White Other
2% Mixed White/Black Caribbean/Asian/Other
2% Asian Chinese
2% Mixed White Asian
2% Black Other
2% Asian Other
3% Any Other Ethnic Group

AGE



36% aged 12 or under
48% aged 13-15
16% aged 16 or over

GENDER
Stats from Heritage show a **10% increase in male attendance** compared to Cabaret 2026 & Summer Escape 2025

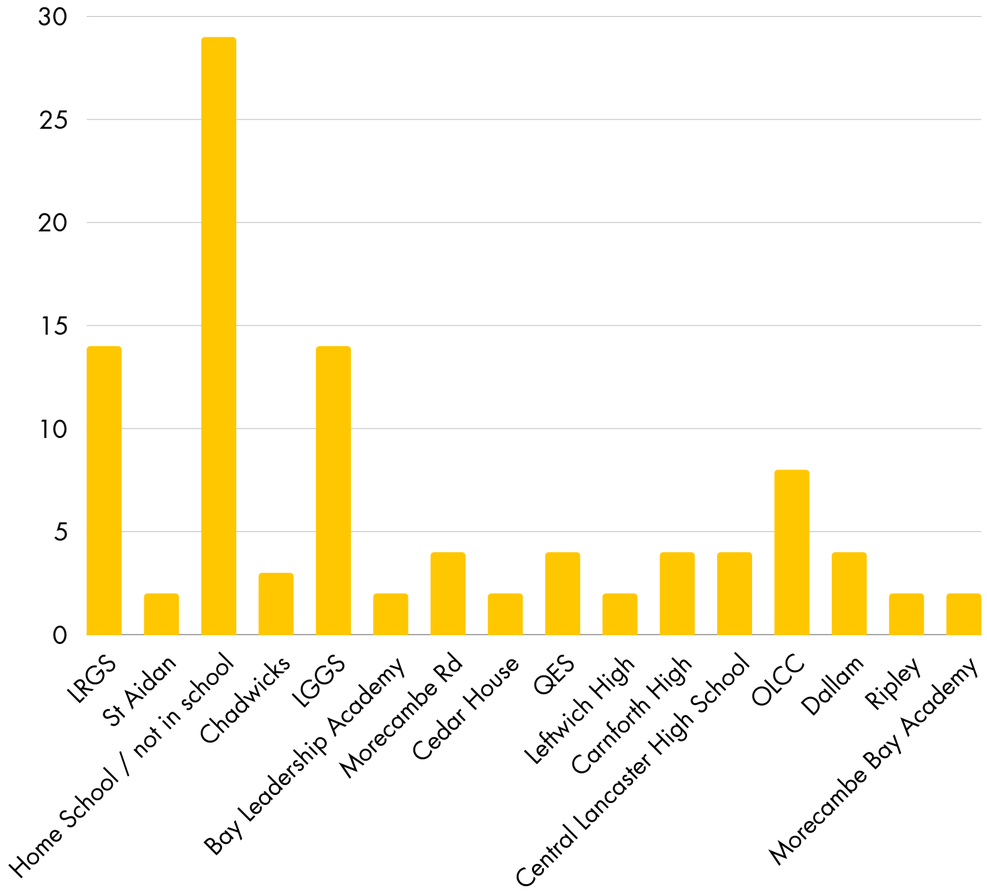
ETHNICITY
Although the % of White British is higher than our previous 2 large scale events, there is **more diversity within the rest of the attendees than previous projects**

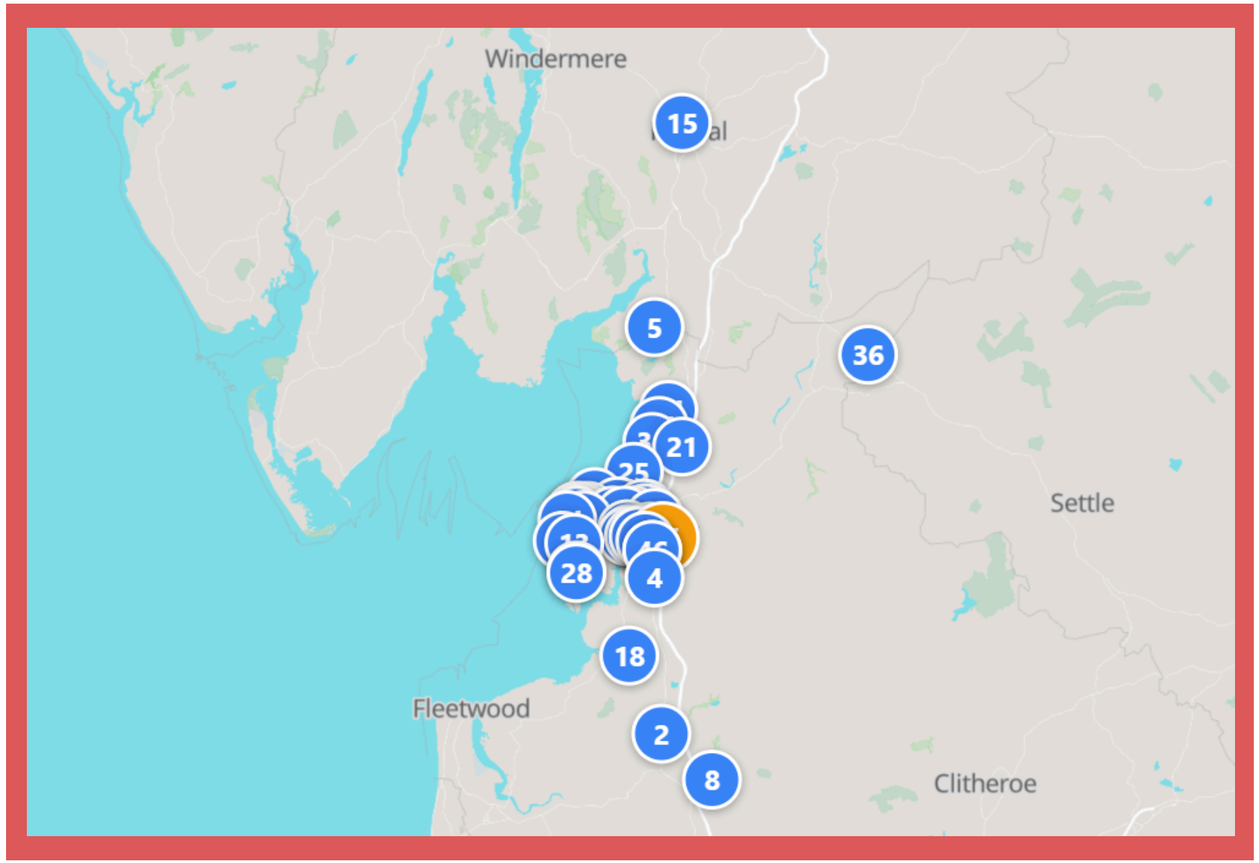
AGE
More 12 and under reached than previously. **Up 14% on Summer Escape 2025 and over double that of Cabaret 2026**

Statistics above based on unique young people who attended activities
Ethnicity note: Lancaster District is **93.1%** White British, far above national average (2021 Census)

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PARTICIPANTS' SCHOOLS AND LOCATIONS





Young people came from **15** different educational settings **29%** were not in school or were home schooled

% of home schooled / not in school attendees **doubled** that of our Cabaret in 2026 & **2.5 times** that of Summer Escape in 2025

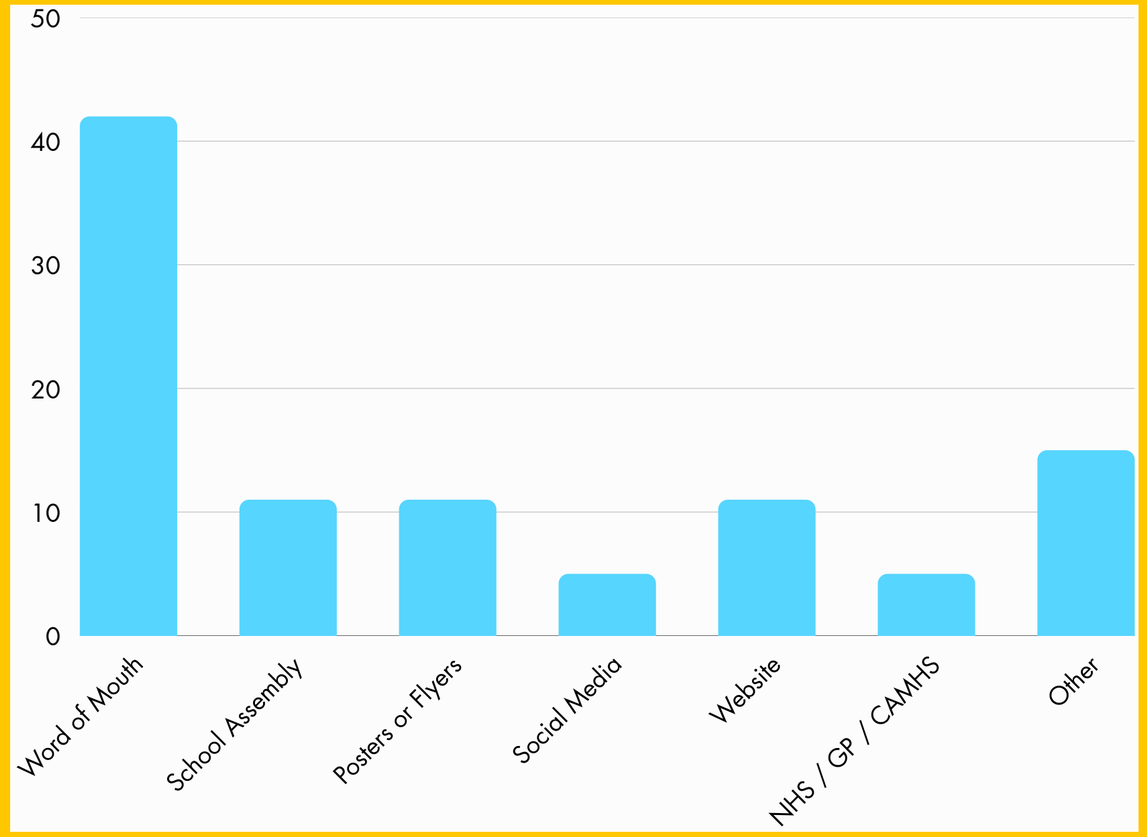
20% of participants live in one of the **20%** most deprived wards in the country.

% of attendees from deprived wards **equal** to our Summer Escape 2025 but **down 14%** on Cabaret 2026 event which was set in the West End of Morecambe

61% of participants faced inequalities inc. ADHD, Autism, minor learning disability, Social Anxiety.

% of those facing inequalities is **the highest it has ever been. Up 6%** from Cabaret 2026 and **up 49%** Summer Escape 2025

HOW DID THEY HEAR ABOUT ESCAPE2MAKE?



Most participants found out about us through word of mouth, while school assemblies, physical and digital marketing also helped us reach participants.

Noteworthy statistic: **we saw 5% attend via referrals from the NHS, GPs and CAMHS compared to 1% at our Summer Escape 2025**

% of respondents to the question ‘How did you hear about us?’ - mostly answered by new participants.

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IMPACT

100%

Responded positively when asked how attending made them feel including **95%** feeling **AMAZING. GREAT & GOOD! and 5% "OK!"**



The young people surveyed said if they had not engaged with the Heritage Festival they would have otherwise been:

"Lying in bed and doing nothing."
"Probably sat at home and not doing much."
"Barely anything."
"Scrolling on my phone."
"Being bored."

"Not much we couldn't pay for a holiday this year and my friends are away, so I only saw them a little."

"I don't have any plans so this gets me out of the house."

"It definitely helped me to keep busy! a lot of my friends are on holiday."

Responses taken from **74** surveys demonstrate the value of free school-holiday provision and the role E2M played in reducing holiday boredom

100%

Enjoyed their activity

83%

Learnt something new **63%** felt they knew more about their local Heritage!

100%

Would attend E2M in the future

59%

Made new friends at the workshop

WHERE DID THE HERITAGE LEARNING COME FROM?



Lancaster Black History Group
Black History Training with LBHG raised valuable awareness



Lancaster Museums
Lancaster City Museums connected our artists with historians and heritage experts through consultation sessions



Six Heritage Sites
We partnered with six North West heritage sites, tailoring workshops to celebrate each area's local history



Heritage Workshops
Young people explored Lancaster and Morecambe's heritage through hands-on creative activities inspired by local history

HERITAGE

63%

felt they knew more about their local Heritage!





QUOTES FROM THE PARTICIPANTS

"Everyone is very nice and I feel very happy, welcome and safe."

"It brings out the creative spirit!"

"It's inclusive and not overwhelming."

"It's really fun and you'll most likely feel very important and heard."

"If you are creative or looking to make friends this is a great place for you!"

"Such a lovely group of adults very understanding and kind."

"I didn't know there were so many cool people in Lancaster and Morecambe."

"It is really fun and that it helps you become more confident and creative."

"Reasonable adjustments made to help me take part."

"I gained knowledge that was previously unknown."

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E2M TRAVELLING FESTIVALS



For the first time ever, in addition to an event in Lancaster or Morecambe, E2M held a Heritage Festival event in 6 different North West locations, with museums & heritage sites ....and they really took off!

In total, approximately 900 people attended these events. We reached young people who wouldn't ordinarily access Escape2Make to spread knowledge of their own local heritage through the arts.

People of all ages made driftwood boats, lino prints, gargoyles and birds, turned their hand to natural weaving, clay carving, collage...they could even create their own mascot or froggy familiar!



Towneley Hall
Burnley



Abbot Hall
Kendal



Clitheroe Castle



Windermere Jetty Museum



Tullie Museum
Carlisle



The Harris
Preston



Illustration from travelling festivals feedback form

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QUOTES FROM THE TRAVELLING FESTIVALS!

"We had a great time today my son had lost his creative confidence and recently started drawing again. It was wonderful to watch him engage with the activities today and be proud of the things he has made. It also drew us into the museum for our first visit. We will be back! Thank you"

"It was an extremely fun experience I love the cute fox keyring I made it was really easy and entertaining for all ages young to old."

"Fabulous! Lots of choice of creative crafts. Great resources, tuition and friendly! Hope you can come back sometime."

"We had a fantastic day trying lots of new activities and getting lost in our thoughts while producing some great new items. Thank you"

"My niece who has SEN absolutely loves joining in the arts and crafts session and the dino trail thank you."

"I stopped by the witchcraft stall which my daughter had contributed to over summer WOW! The enthusiasm artwork plant knowledge... all MAGIC in itself. I would love this nature connection and imagination combined can continue with the other seasons of the year wonderful work everyone"

"This is a great opportunity for all ages to experience different crafts. Especially as schools don't have the time for a lot of these experiences/practical activities! These are all things that can be repeated at home. They are all excellent for the mental health and wellbeing of all ages!"

"Absolutely fabulous! What an amazing afternoon out!"



Illustrations from travelling festivals feedback forms

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AND THERE WAS EVEN A SUMMER CAMP ADVENTURE!

The experience for the young people was fulfilling and created a legacy of memories and connections as well as skills!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank THE ARETI TRUST for their support in making this outdoor adventure possible

"The E2M camp experience for me was free flowing, fun, flexible, full of creative experiences and good friendships. We had an unexpected baby hedgehog rescue mission; where young people had first hand experience of hedgehog conservation" Helen Leece, Gathering Fields



7 young people took part in a residential overnight camp at The Gathering Fields and took part in hands-on heritage activities such as foraging, wild cooking, glass painting and other creative, inspiring activities whilst making new friends! They cooked and ate around a campfire and learned about natural heritage by building heritage crafting skills.

OUR OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Our outreach workshops bring creative opportunities directly into communities, helping to remove barriers to participation, reach new young people and connect them with Escape2Make.

NHS CAMHS
created heritage inspired collages

Stanleys, Morecambe
made clay carvings inspired by local history

CancerCare, Lancaster
made stop motion animated films

The Zone, Lancaster
created models of gargoyles

"I loved this session so much I wish I can do it again"

"Enjoyable experience able to switch off and get stuck into something fun! Thank you!"

"This was such a great day – really let you have some fun and be creative thank you!"

"Having offers like this takes pressure away from us. We have to think of new activities to do each week, and having someone come in and deliver something means we don't have to think about it for a week and gives the young people something new to do." (the host)

"This session was really good and quite soothing after a long week at school"



52 total attendances

Young people who attended included those dealing with grief, poor mental health and people from low-income areas

OUR CORE CLUBS GOT IN THE FESTIVAL SPIRIT!

Our clubs that operate year-round contributed to our Heritage Festival giving young people the opportunity to learn about historical crafts and be involved in a public-facing community event!



Drama Club
devised workshop activities inspired by heritage & local history



Makers Club
made musical instruments to re-create analogue sounds



Craft Club
fashioned mini felt hats from bygone eras



Film Club
made an immersive interactive film about surviving the 1600s



Pottery Club
created clay makes inspired by historic landmarks



Dungeons & Dragons Club
took people to another world where they could win prizes!



Art Club
were busy making heritage viewfinders

15 HERITAGE-FOCUSED WORKSHOPS OVER THE SUMMER

Specific activities suggested by our Youth Board, run by professional artists over the Summer holidays included:



Gargoyles
Designed & built wildlife-inspired gargoyles influenced by Lancaster Castle & local wildlife.



Discovering Witches
Explored Lancaster's witchcraft history through foraging, natural remedies & zine-making.



Chocolate Making
Created personalised chocolate crests & handmade truffles.



Paper City
Built an imaginative sculptural city based on local landmarks using willow, illustration & letterpress .



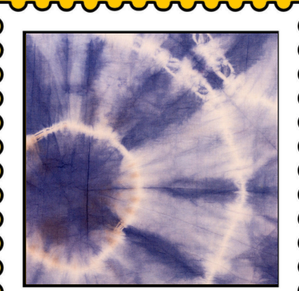
Interactive Film
Created an interactive film, exploring acting, filming, prop-making & set design.



Lino Printing
Designed and printed cards and postcards inspired by Lancaster's historic landmarks.



Driftwood Boats
Created decorative boats using natural & coastal materials, including driftwood, rope & shells.



Natural Tie Dye
Explored natural dyeing & weaving techniques to create colourful textiles.



The Great Arrival
Created a collaborative textile sculpture inspired by the migration of birds.



Street Band
Wrote, rehearsed & performed an original song together as a band.



Clay Carving
Designed & carved ceramics inspired by Lancaster & Morecambe's landscapes & heritage.



Giant Shrimp
Created a giant shrimp sculpture celebrating Morecambe's heritage using paper and recycled materials.



Jewellery Making
Designed & made jewellery using wirework & macramé techniques.



Performance
Developed & performed a routine inspired by Lancaster & Morecambe's heritage.



Local Legends
Brought local historical figures to life through costume, music & performance.

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WHERE THE WORKSHOPS TOOK PLACE



Maritime Museum

(Lancaster)



More Music

(Morecambe)



Morecambe FC

(Morecambe)



E2M Centre

(Lancaster)



Good Things

(Morecambe)



The Gregson

(Lancaster)

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WHO WORKED WITH US?



17 Facilitators working across Heritage workshops, outreach & travelling festivals



£35,638.80 invested in the local freelance creative workforce, plus professional training delivered about Black History and Accessibility Training



1 Freelance Event Producer & 1 Marketing Consultant



22 Volunteers offering **236 hours** of support for the workshops and event



19 paid Workshop Assistants supporting young people in workshops, outreach & travelling festivals



12 event professionals & performers

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FACILITATOR FEEDBACK

100% Enjoyed their experience with 100% of facilitators, workshop assistants and volunteers

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

From 24 survey responses

"We had a young participant who was reluctant to take part because he struggled with keeping focus (ADHD) and was not sure it was something he would be able to start and finish... The young person was able to keep their focus and created a beautiful lino print which he was so proud of."

"We had a young person come to us from CAMHS who was nervous at first, needing supervision from a carer for the first session... In the last two days, however, they were acting on screen, explaining the interactive film's concept to a newcomer without prompting, and using their created pieces in the stop motion and as a costume."

"There was a lot of shyness in the group and it was a pleasure to see everyone come out of their shells, like they had found their people."

"E2M provides vital creative opportunities that local young people otherwise may not have, and fosters real engagement and community."

"They made friends, became more confident, had fun and learned new skills."

"After the workshop a young person said 'I normally go to sports clubs over the summer, but this is more my thing, I will remember this'."

"One young person, who is normally extremely quiet, started a conversation with me multiple times, they were even asking me questions. Super lovely."

"Seeing an idea through from a sketch to a finished sculpture they had designed gave them a real sense of accomplishment and something to take home they could be proud of."





HERITAGE FESTIVAL EVENT DAY

The E2M Heritage Festival took place across two venues in Lancaster on Saturday 29th August 2026.

Roaming performers and the E2M street band created a vibrant link between our centre on Church Street and Dalton Square.

An estimated 4.5k members of the public engaged with the event across both sites.

96 people engaged in workshops within the centre.

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QUOTES FROM THE EVENT

“I attended the Heritage day events with my teenage daughter and my partner. We were all really impressed, there was obviously **so much thought and creativity put into the day**. There was a variety of musical entertainment, we were actually drawn to the event after hearing the stunning vocals from a beautiful, talented opera singer floating through the streets and there were people paused all over the street enthralled , **it actually brought tears to my eyes** it was **an emotional uplifting experience**. Soon after **a band of young people from E2M started playing and they were so enthusiastic, and it was great to see them and the music gave such a great vibe!** We were **invited to pop in E2M in to take part in some craft activities and engage in friendly conversation and learn about all the different activities on offer**. We followed the band through the streets to Dalton Square, where we had some delicious food, all whilst making craft lino prints and listening to music. There were some great comedy street performers entertaining too and so much more.” Parent

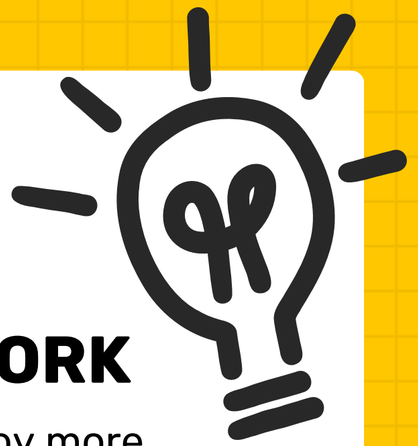


“I thought it was **brilliant**, in a word. I enjoyed seeing **how engaged the young people involved with the charity were** in the **various activities occurring around town** as well as **how much engagement they managed to get from young people who are not yet involved with E2M.** ” Charlie Lawson, Rathbones and Pottery Club Sponsor



RECOMMENDATIONS





ATTENDANCE

Attendance during some sessions was not as high as expected. A change to our project structure, involving our ongoing groups more should boost attendance across future projects

WEBSITE

A website error created a problem that affected attendance. More thorough website testing will avoid errors like this for future projects

YOUTH WORK

We wish to employ more workshop assistants with youth work experience to provide a stronger backbone of support in sessions, supporting facilitators to deliver creative workshops

SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

We did not hold as many school assemblies as planned. An objective before the next project is to build better communication with local secondary schools

REPORTING

A longer reporting period is needed to allow sufficient time to settle payments and complete evaluation. This also includes creating invoice templates for freelancers to reduce administrative confusion

WORKSHOP NAMES

We found some workshops deterred potential participants due to confusing or misleading workshop names. We will endeavour to keep workshop names simpler and more descriptive in future


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