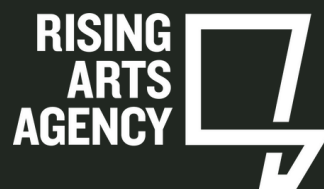


A partnership between  
Bristol City Council  
& Rising Arts Agency.



# MY LIBRARY MY SPACE

## EVALUATION REPORT



Photo © Alexa Ledecky

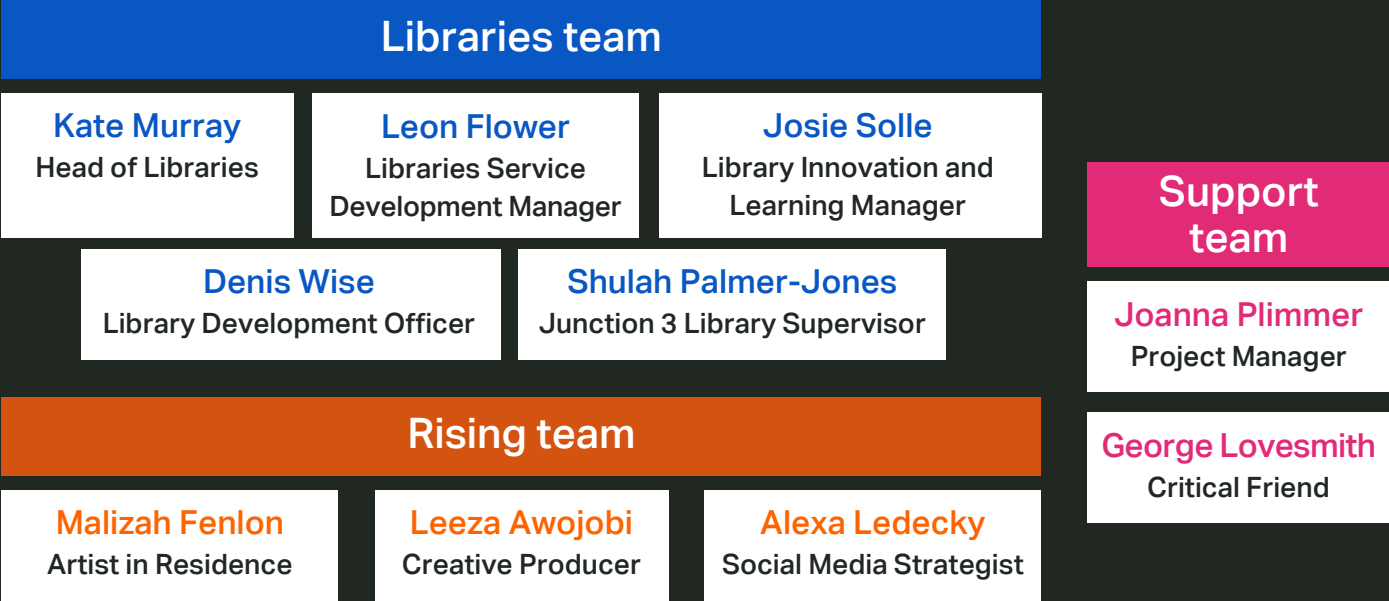
# INTRODUCTION

My Library My Space started in 2020 when Bristol Libraries commissioned Rising Arts Agency to facilitate a project aimed at discovering ways in which the service could better engage 16-24 year olds. The project focused particularly on the Junction 3 library located in Easton, Bristol. My Library My Space was built on the learning from RE/IMAGINE, a previous collaboration between both partners.

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# PROJECT TEAM



My Library My Space was delivered by a small team of young people recruited by Rising who were responsible for project planning, management, creative interventions, social media and marketing and evaluation. They then reached out to the local community around Junction 3 to contribute their ideas to the programme and commissioned young people to respond to the library as a space in various ways.

Bristol Libraries was the client, commissioner and funder of the project, with the Library Service Strategy and aims as primary drivers of the project. Bristol Libraries role was to enable a project team to work with, and support the young people involved, and enable relevant permissions and approvals for any creative interventions to be installed bringing ideas coming out of the project to life.

In order to deliver the project, Bristol Libraries brought in additional creative project management support from Jo Plimmer, Bristol City Council Arts Development Officer. To support with potentially testing physical ideas in library spaces, architect and socially engaged practitioner George Lovesmith was recruited as a Critical Friend.

## A DEVELOPMENT FROM RE-IMAGINE

My Library My Space emerged out of RE/IMAGINE which was initiated as follow-up to a city-wide council-led consultation on the future of libraries. It was an exploration into models of youth engagement and the potential for public spaces to become more welcoming and functional to and for young people in the city (specifically aged 16–24). Focused on libraries in areas where Rising had existing relationships (Junction 3 and Southmead) MLMS aims to build on that foundation and pilot a model of engagement that could be used across the city.

# PROJECT AIMS AND ORIGINAL PLAN

The project aims and original project phases were as follows:

- **Aim 1:** To support and enable young people as positive activists and agents of change within Bristol Libraries
  - **Aim 2:** To enable young people to activate and share their ideas through pop-up events and a mini-festival
  - **Aim 3:** To enable conversations between young people, library staff, Friends groups and the wider community
  - **Aim 4:** To make more young people aware of libraries and the potential space and services they can offer
- 
- **Phase 1: Research and planning:** Researching about interesting library initiatives in other cities around the world (Rwanda Kigali clubrafiki.com, Amsterdam LocHal). Visiting other interesting places such as Library of Birmingham which in recent years pushed an initiative to increase its engagement with youth around the city.
  - **Phase 2: Ideas design and creation:** Contributing to the interior design of the library by bringing in new furniture and accessories into the space. Architect and socially engaged design specialist George Lovesmith was to contribute to this phase as Critical Friend.
  - **Phase 3: My Library My Space festival:** Delivering a week-long festival of discussion, talks, storytelling, seminars and performances from artists based around Junction 3. Planning for this included engaging with local schools and youth clubs. The ambition was to hold a big celebration of young people and libraries.

## COVID ADAPTATION

As a result of the continued response to Covid the team weren't able to use Junction 3 as planned as it was closed during lockdowns and events were suspended. The March 2020 lockdown created a huge amount of work for the libraries service as it was physically paused but had to immediately switch to an online service. Staff were redeployed and services re-invented.

For Rising, this meant it was not possible to organise events in the library. Instead, the team designed a new approach and model to pursue more embedded and meaningful engagement. Rather than spreading ourselves thin under circumstances where we couldn't foster in-person relationships, we zoomed in and focused on deeper engagement with a smaller pool of young people. They would be ambassadors for what libraries can be like for and with young people.





## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

### Online launch

We started by hosting a soft launch online to officially announce the project. Two Bristol-based young artists, Moyra Ebelechukwu and Charles Hlangabeza, were paid to perform spoken word and dance respectively.

Artist in Residence Malizah Fenlon shared a poem she wrote to represent the project (see Appendix 1) and Critical Friend George Lovesmith and Councillor Asher Craig shared short talks about the value of the project and its change-making ambitions.



The launch line-up. Scan the QR code to watch the video

### Postcards & Grapevine

The Rising team commissioned young artist Abbi Bayliss to create two illustrations of a library which reflected the aims and ambitions of the project. The artwork was used on multiple occasions on social media and was also printed as postcards.

The team worked with Bristol-based start-up Grapevine, whose open-source AI software allows users to unlock content by simply sending a photo of a specific artwork to a Grapevine phone number on WhatsApp. Grapevine then scans the image, recognises it and sends the content that is linked to it.

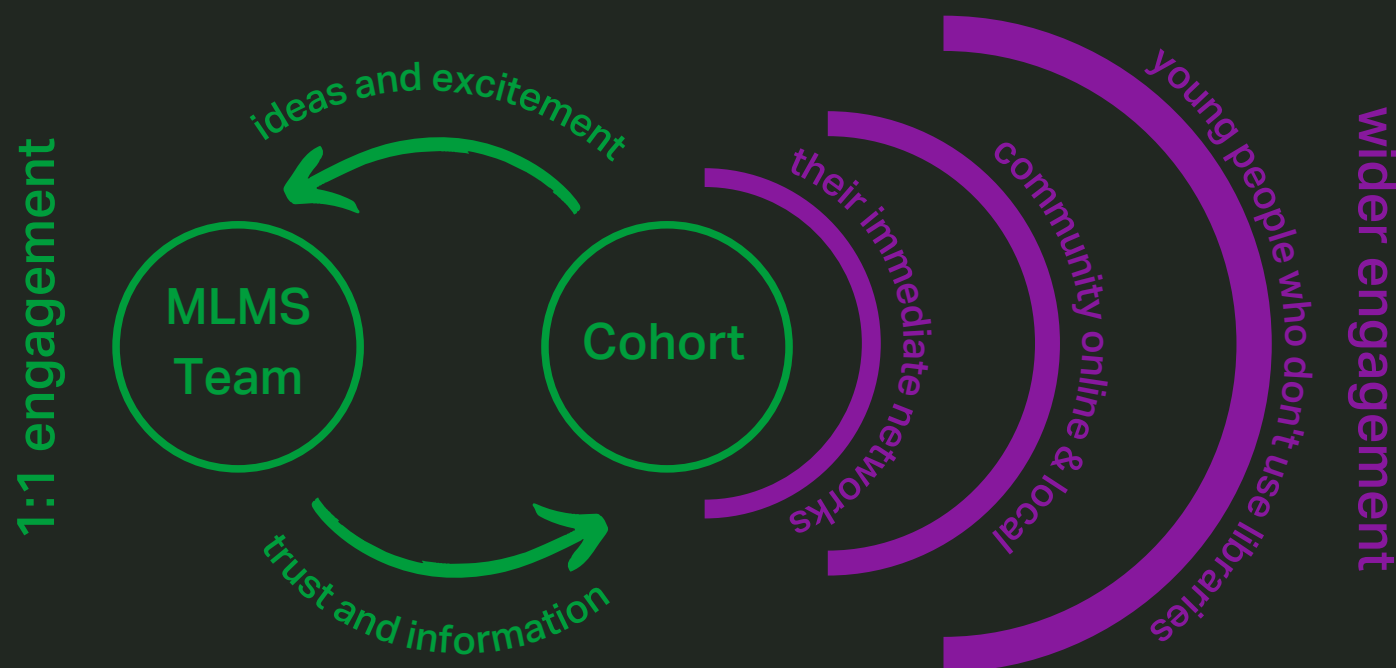
We set up the first My Library My Space postcard to send audio and text updates about the project, as well as artistic content such as Malizah reading out her poem "Reclaiming Our Space" (see Appendix 1). The second postcard was used as a token of legacy at the end of the project. It unlocked a link to the project page on Rising's website, which hosts information about the project and the cohort's artistic responses, and a reminder that libraries are there for young people to reclaim and redefine. You can see both postcards in Appendix 2. Follow the instructions next to the images to see how Grapevine works!

# ENGAGEMENT PROGRAMME

## The Model

Due to continued lockdowns and uncertainty we decided to refocus on in depth longer term engagement with a cohort of young people based in and around Easton who were interested in themes of wellbeing, education, creativity, public spaces, community building, libraries/books/reading.

With the aim that they could attend workshops and labs around various aspects of the libraries service and what it could be - culminating in a sharable creative response. As well as the labs and workshops the 5 young people we recruited received a £700 bursary for their time to participate and 1:1 mentoring with an industry professional relevant to their avenue of research and development.



Working alongside Esther, Jade, Sophia, Sholmiat and Aliya over the course of four months gave us the opportunity to have better insight into the needs and hopes that young people living near Junction 3 have regarding public libraries.

Our investment enabled the young people to create work which would engage the public and pique the curiosity of their peers as they modelled what it could look like for members of the same age bracket to engage meaningfully with their local library.



## Programming

Different members of the Libraries team were invited to join every workshop and lab in order to establish a relationship between them and the cohort members through reflection and learning.

Lab 1: Bristol libraries: a radical act?

Lab 2: Who's reading and how?

Lab 3: Beyond diversity: when we all gather in a space.

Workshop 1: Self-management and production

Workshop 2: Wellbeing and libraries

Workshop 3: Campaigning: how do we drive change forward?

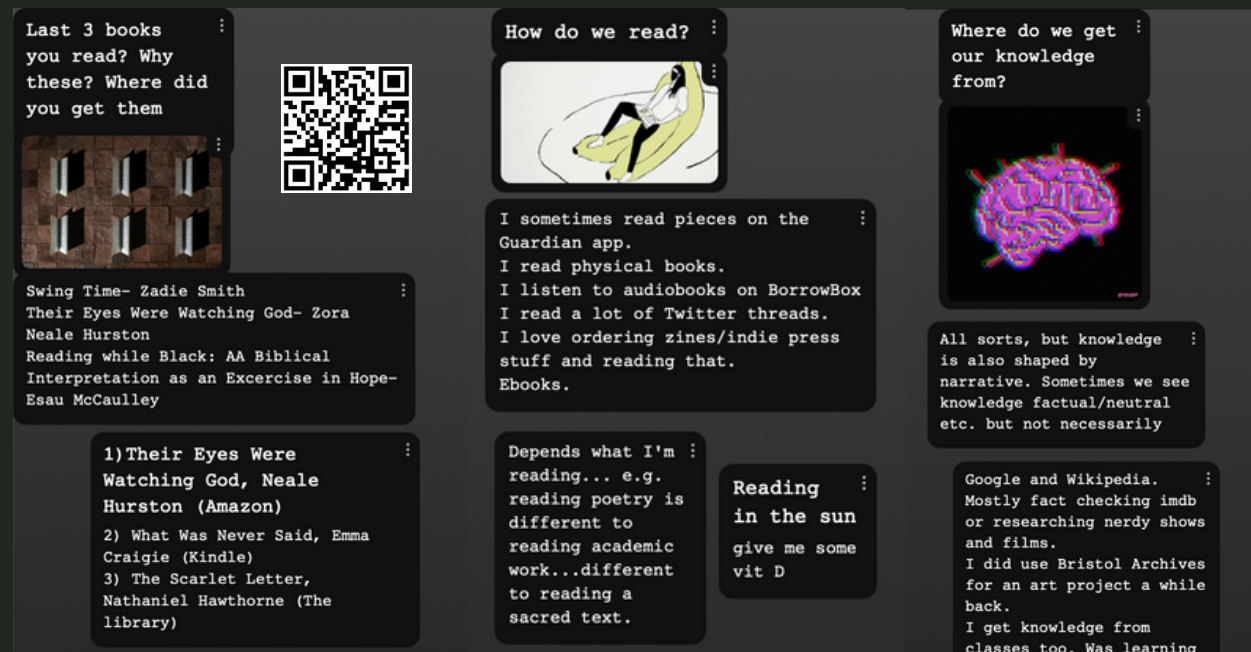
## Some lab reflections from the cohort

Do you see your local library as a space for radical thinking? Why?

- 'Calmness as radical act - a space for peace.'
- 'Do we want radical or a smaller, consistent, sustained?'
- 'Using libraries to their full potential. Libraries are such beautiful spaces and they should be utilised.'

How can we start bringing J3 closer to Abbi's illustration (see Appendix 3)?

- 'J3 blends in with the street - because it's grey, it's not very visible.'
- 'Colour is key. The exterior needs to draw people's attention.'
- 'Employing young people to do social media.'
- 'The space needs to feel like a home.'



A snippet of a mood board by the cohort: scan the QR code to access the full document

## How do we read?

- 'In all honesty social media. I like researching what I've learned on a basic level but that's more facts. The place I gain knowledge about life and people are through conversations, spaces dedicated to learning. Lectures, panels as well as through books and journals.'
- 'I like to read in different environments, it changes your perspective of the books you're reading e.g. parks, cafes, libraries.'

## Where do we get knowledge from?

- 'All sorts but knowledge is also shaped by narrative. Sometimes we see knowledge factual/neural etc. but not necessarily.'
- 'Through images and reading - often images leading to text and research.'

# The public sharing event

The engagement programme culminated in the public sharing event which took place on the 18th of August 2021. At this point, events inside the library still weren't allowed due to local Covid restrictions. The team worked around these and organised an event at nearby St Werburghs Community Centre. The cohort shared their artistic responses with the public and young people were commissioned to perform and play music.

Following this, the audience made their way to Junction 3 together to enjoy some food and drinks outside in the sunshine. They were also able to see the murals that were created as part of the project (see "Mural commissions", p7) and to engage in conversation with one another by the library. Several passers by stopped to ask what the event was and to express how positive it felt to see young people gathered in front of the library and reclaiming the space.





Some images of the public sharing event taken from Jade Ayino's short film (see Appendix 5)

## Some feedback from the cohort

Following the public sharing event, the team debriefed with the cohort who shared their thoughts about the process.

**Positive feedback:** The cohort generally enjoyed the process of the programme and found it stimulating having work that offered the advantages of a paid commissions, but with more freedom. All of cohort members found it difficult not being able to be in the library space and felt it restricted their inspiration. They also said they were able to "meet a lot of really interesting people from different fields" that they wouldn't have been able to engage with without the project.

**Areas for improvements:** One cohort member felt like the workshops and labs built up into a momentum, but found the pace was a bit disrupted once these were finished. Things needed more holding after this and they would have like the sessions to have outlined more obviously how the learnings were to be applied to the artistic response



# MURAL COMMISSIONS

The idea of a mural came out of a shared feeling that there needed to be more colour in libraries for young people to notice them. All cohort members agreed on the fact that 'Junction 3 blends in with the street and is not very visible' (see "A selection of lab reflections from the cohort", p4). There was also a strong ambition to make something tangible happen in the library in spite of not being able to use them due to the pandemic.

In line with the project aims, the team decided to support and develop local young people. Through My Library My Space, three artists got their first paid commission to create a mural on the street-facing windows of the library. This allowed them to feel valued for their work, develop their portfolio and network with one another and the project cohort.



Images of the murals being installed

# Feedback from the artists:

## Valentina

### 1. What has this first paid commission brought you as a young artist?

This was my first paid commission for a mural. It brought me financial security for another month, the courage to pursue larger scale projects and new creative contacts!



### 2. How did you feel working with the RIsing and J3 team?

I felt safe, relaxed and connected. It was lovely to work adjacent to creatives who were so happy to participate and Alexa was an accommodating brilliant DJ.

### 3. Has this experience impacted how you perceive and experience libraries? If so, in what way(s)?

I have always perceived libraries as a place of serenity, but it did confirm that. Experientially, it was nice to be playful as an adult, as usually libraries have allocated sectors for child/adult activities/content.

### 4. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very likely and 1 not likely at all), how likely is it that you will use library services more than before since having been involved in the project?

5! I am so happy that libraries are open again as it means I don't have to spend money going to coffee shops to work. I will definitely be going to J3 more, I am glad the commission was in that location, being near the roundabout it feels like a gap in time.

### 5. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very likely and 1 not likely at all), how likely is it that you will recommend library services to other people you know who are aged 16-24?

5! They are a brilliant alternative to renting studio spaces if your practice can be done from a rucksack, you are also surrounded by potential inspiration from books. Places of allocated quiet are grounding too, as that unspoken agreement gives permission to not have to interact.



# Isa

## 1. What has this first paid commission brought you as a young artist?

Being commissioned made me feel like the time and effort I'd put into art over the years has "paid" off. I do it because I enjoy it, yet a paid commission made me realise that other people value the energy I've channelled into my work. It felt like a recognition and has brought me an injection of confidence in and love for my art.



## 2. How did you feel working with the RIsing and J3 team?

Very safe. Everyone involved was lovely, and gave me encouragement in my moments of self-doubt; I really felt supported.

## 3. Has this experience impacted how you perceive and experience libraries? If so, in what way(s)?

I used to use libraries all the time, yet haven't as I got older. Revisiting one for the first time in years reminded me of their capacity to be a space for sharing and exploring ideas. The murals will hopefully catch people's attention and remind them too.

## 4. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very likely and 1 not likely at all), how likely is it that you will use library services more than before since having been involved in the project?

3 - I love drawing and writing in every book I read, which is the biggest thing that would hold me back from taking out a library book.

## 5. On a scale of 1 to 5 (5 being very likely and 1 not likely at all), how likely is it that you will recommend library services to other people you know who are aged 16-24?

5 - The premise is so good and helps prevent waste/unnecessary consumerism.



# ARTISTIC WORK BY MALIZAH

## "Reclaiming our space": a project launch poem

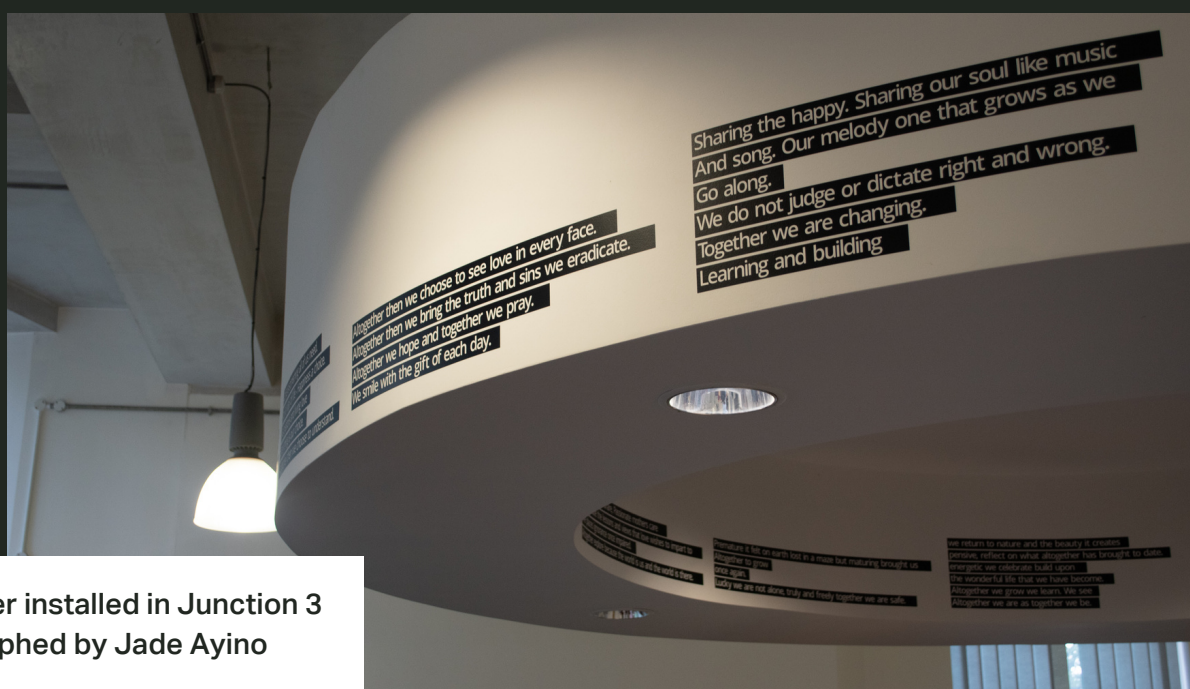
Malizah Fenlon started her role as Artist in Residence by writing a spoken word poem that reflected the aims and essence of the project called "Reclaiming Our Space". In it, she spoke of the ambition as young people to "reclaim our space", which was also used as a hashtag on social media, alongside #LibrariesAreMore. You can find a transcript of the spoken word poem in Appendix 1.

## "Altogether": a collective poem

"Altogether" is a community poem created through the project by Malizah. She curated it by intertwining contributions from dozens of Bristol residents throughout the project. As one of the final acts of the My Library My Space initiative, Malizah performed the poem in Junction 3 on National Poetry Day on the 7th of October 2021.

"Altogether" is not only a performance piece. Malizah also collaborated with George Lovesmith to explore how the poem might transform the feel of Junction 3 as a space. Together they devised a threading of the piece through the main spaces of the library, inviting readers to raise their eyes to the skies. Each stanza of the poem was transposed onto curved surfaces which hang down from the ceiling and leads them on a journey around the room, as the words of the poem uncurl.

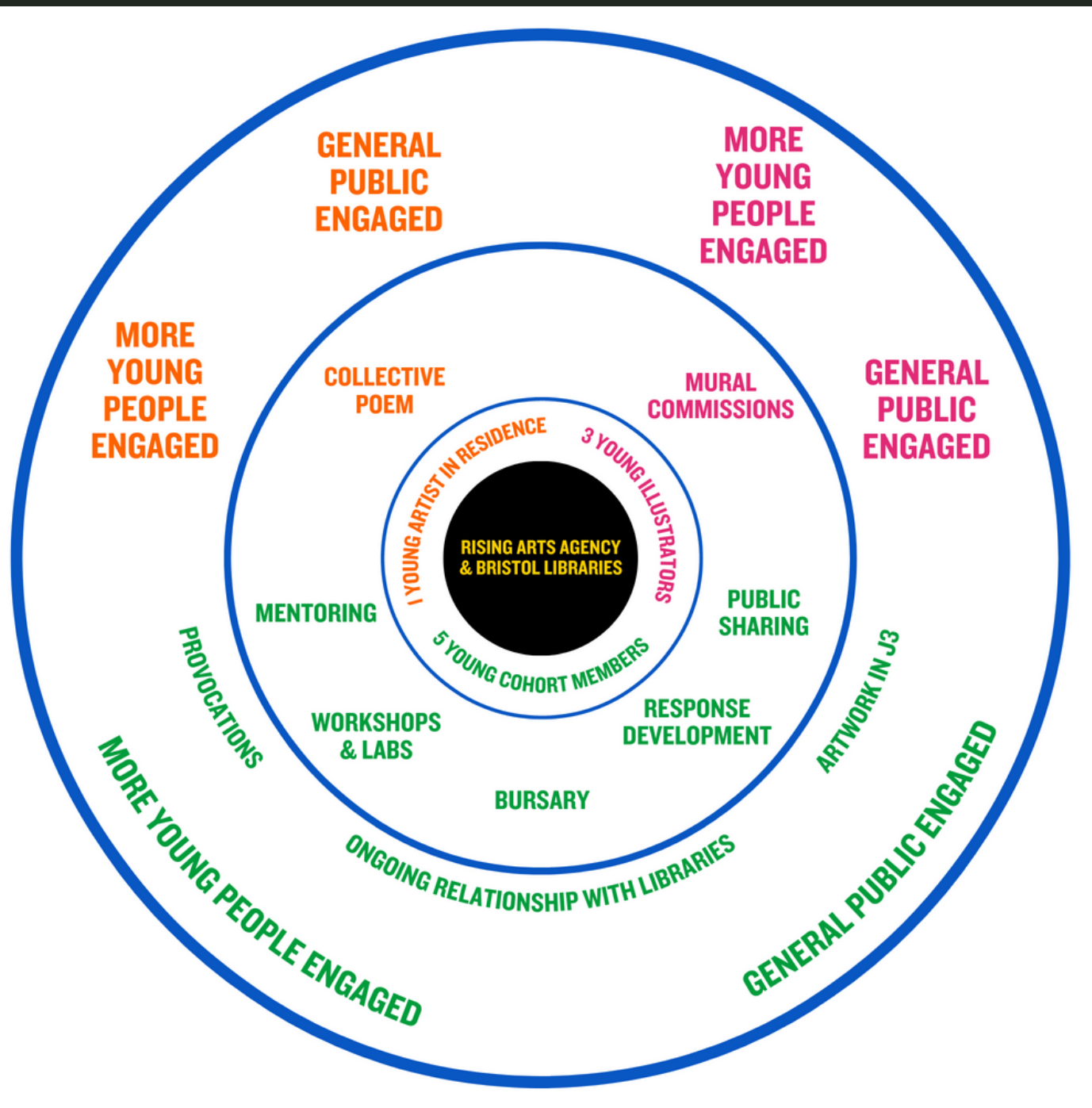
Thanks to Malizah's poem, members of the Bristolian community have effectively reclaimed the library space as theirs through their words. You can find a transcript of the collective poem in Appendix 4.



Altogether installed in Junction 3  
photographed by Jade Ayino

# IMPACT OF MY LIBRARY MY SPACE

How we brought Junction 3 and new audiences together



## The project in numbers



**£21,275**

directly invested in  
young people (1)



**800 hours**

worked by the  
Rising team (2)



**4 young artists**

got their first paid  
commissions



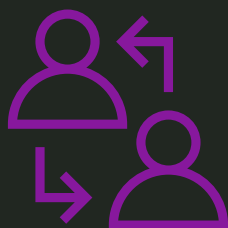
**5 cohort  
members**

over 4 months



**11 young  
performers**

and speakers paid



**415**

people engaged  
through events (3)



**137 posts**

to almost 12,000  
followers (4)



**37 local people**

contributed to the  
community poem



**85 hours**

spent engaging  
the community



**6 local creatives**

paid to deliver workshops  
and be mentors

(1) £480 performers, £645 young artists commissions, £3,000 artist in residence, £4,600 social media strategist, £9,400 producer, £3,150 cohort

(2) 488 hours creative planning and delivery, 85 community engagement, 573 admin

(3) 76 views + 304 impressions for the online launch event, 35 members of the public engaged at the public sharing event in August 2021

(4) 41 stories + 32 posts on Rising's Instagram which has over 7,000 followers, 32 Tweets on Rising's Twitter which has over 3,300 followers, 32 posts of Rising's Facebook page which is followed by over 1,600 people

# FINAL REFLECTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

## Partnership Working

There were many challenges to running a project like this in 2020, in the context of constantly changing government guidance, priorities and very real collective trauma.

These are our key reflections on the process of working together:

- Trust - there are reasons organisations like the Libraries Service want to work with smaller organisations like Rising as we can create trust and connection with young people in a way that institutions and services can struggle too. Given the constant adaptations to this project it was important to hold onto this trust in each other throughout and come back to the key aims of the project.
- Cultural Understanding - sometimes it was hard for Rising to navigate how the libraries team worked and vice versa, but especially given the changes in team both on the libraries side with staff displaced to emergency delivery and on Rising's side going through a transition and project lead changes with limited opportunity for handover. In hindsight we should have put more into this 'translation' from the start (eg, understanding the skills and capacity gap around social media for the libraries team that Rising could have supported with).
- Openness - at several points in the project both partners considered seriously whether to continue at all given the challenges we were both facing and often this led to periods of missed communication where the Libraries were grappling with council priorities and Rising were unsure how to proceed. A reflection here was that sharing some of that uncertainty would have led to more open communication and less stress from the project team given lack of direction.
- Representation - Services who are keen to engage with young people more should do so by hiring them and giving them some decision-making power. Giving a young person agency over marketing, for instance, will help reach younger audiences. If a service's structures do not allow this, challenging these structures is the first step.

## Cohort Engagement Model

This model was adapted from Rising's previous experience in creating meaningful engagement with a smaller cohort of young people which creates a ripple effect through their peers and networks and ultimately reaches people who would not have engaged in the original project.



These are some key reflections on this aspect of the project:

- Relationship Legacy - given the challenges facing Libraries staff unfortunately they were not able to work more directly with the cohort and create their own relationships for continued work. Where this happened (eg George commissioning Jade) the results were really special.
- Importance of Mentor Matches - this was an incredibly rewarding element of the programme where deep connections were made that had a massive input into the creative responses the cohort developed. These matches were made through the cohort themselves identifying areas of interest in their applications and then having a 20-minute taster session with a potential mentor to check everyone was happy with the relationship.
- Production Support - in hindsight whilst the labs and workshops worked well in fostering ideas in the cohort, with the drop off in activity to give them time to create their responses there could have been clearer direction (eg, a brief) and production support provided between these and the sharing event.

## Community Engagement

Having to conduct a majority of the project online did mean that people may have been excluded from engaging in all of the available content.

These were our key learnings from doing this project alongside Covid:

- Merging digital and physical with the postcards and Grapevine helped bridge the two worlds but the key areas of engagement happened in-person when we were able to be out on the street talking to people directly about the project.
- Making the most of this when government guidelines allowed was really key. Flyering, speaking to local schools and groups and bringing young people into the library, were elements we wish we could have applied further as part of the project.
- The in-person finale event was a key example of this - where not only those involved in the project, or who had heard about it online turned up. But also members of the public stumbled upon something happening in their community and wanted to find out more.
- It was a shame this wasn't able to happen within Junction 3 itself but shows the kinds of events that could take place in libraries to engage casual attendees or library users alongside those who have purposely come to see something new in the space.

## The Libraries team's feedback

"Due to the nature of the changing project, the number of positive activists and agents of change was fewer and more geographically restricted than we would have liked. However, the learning and legacy of My Library My Space will continue to engage greater numbers of young people and across the city in the future as can be seen in this report. Original plans for the festival had to be shelved as a result of continued Covid restrictions but the team were able to put on an excellent showcase event which highlighted the work of the young creatives and their responses to the project. Further activity is planned which will ensure greater visibility and continued engagement with the project and its aims.

The aim to enable conversations between young people, library staff, friends groups and the wider community was achieved to a degree for the cohort based in and around Junction 3. The young people engaged well with library staff and also contributed to a City Wide Friends Group meeting. Some conversations are continuing with library staff at Junction 3, Filwood and Bishopston Libraries to continue some project work. Engagement with the community around J3 has been harder and more limited due to the restrictions imposed on holding public events and engagement directly with the wider city community, except through social media, has been limited. We need to ensure that learning and legacy continue beyond the close of the project to fulfil this aim completely.

Making more young people aware of libraries and the potential space and services they can offer was the key aim of the project and the main reason it was commissioned. Given the pandemic and the need to work within the restrictions imposed, it was also going to be the hardest to achieve. Based on what we have seen thus far in the project, it is difficult to see evidence of how successful this has been. Again, the learning and plans to continue activity will help achieve this aim in the future so long as they are acted upon. The young creatives have provided us with useful tools, methods and means of continuing this work in creative and innovative ways that we, as a service, would otherwise not have developed and which we will take forward."



# LEGACY

Right from the start, the My Library My Space team reflected on ways to increase the longevity of the project beyond its end date, as this project is very much a pilot of how libraries can engage young people across the city.

So far, this has happened in the following ways:

## Lasting Outreach

- Our second postcard has been distributed at the end of the project to unlock resources around the project and direct people to the now open Junction 3
- Malizah's community poem 'Altogether' will be installed in Junction 3 library and remain semi-permanently for people who contributed to the poem to come and see
- Rising have suggested that an underspend on the original Access Budget should be ring-fenced to ensure future libraries events can be accessible (eg BSL interpreters, using captioning software etc.)

## Events

- This installation will be launched alongside a performance by Malizah at National Poetry Day in Junction 3 on the 7th of October
- George Lovesmith commissioned cohort member Jayde Ayino to create a short film about My Library My Space for international conference Radicality 2021. You can find a QR to access the video in Appendix 5.

## Other Libraries:

- Following an exchange with Filwood Community Centre & Library about the mural commissioning process we have donated £250 for them to commission a young artist to complete their own mural in October 2021
- The Friends of Bishopston Library are using MLMS as a model to build on their own young people engagement through a project that has received an Innovation Fund, launching in September 2021



We hope this project can serve as a spark that lights a fire in Bristol and beyond, and provide some light in terms of how young people and public spaces can engage with one another.

#ReclaimYourSpace #LibrariesAreMore

# CONCLUSION

## The original aims and how they were achieved

Whilst the structure of the project changed and adapted to the changing government guidelines and world around it - we made sure to stay true to the original aims of the project throughout. This is how we achieved them:

**Aim 1: To support and enable young people as positive activists and agents of change within Bristol Libraries**

Met through:

- The cohorts exploration of different topics related to the libraries service
- The murals which highlighted topics of community and Junction 3's role as a civic building within it's local community
- The topics covered in the online launch and final sharing around potential uses for library space and other library innovations

**"i was inspired by young people that i spoke to in which they told me that they feel like libraries are a space where their voice isn't really heard"**

*Cohort member Aliya on the short story she wrote as her creative response to the programme*

**Aim 2: To enable young people to activate and share their ideas through pop-up events and a mini-festival**

Met through:

- The online launch in December where members of the team and other creatives shared their ideas about libraries and hopes for the project
- The sharing event in August which presented the cohorts ideas and creative responses to a wider audience as well as facilitating conversations about the library space
- The murals too as a dialogue between those young artists and the surrounding community

**"It's important to remember that community and people and celebration coming together in a space is what keeps spaces like this alive"**

*Cohort member Jade on the finale sharing event*





**Aim 3: To enable conversations between young people, library staff, Friends groups and the wider community**

Met through:

- The workshops and labs with the cohort which libraries staff were part of and that were held in Junction 3 whenever possible
- Engaging the community through Malizah's collective poem and postcard distribution
- Speaking with Filwood and Bishopston libraries and providing learning for future projects to build on
- Donating resources and money towards Filwood commissioning their own window mural
- The sharing of this model and our learning in this report
- The film commissioned by George Lovesmith and made by cohort member Jade Ayino that was shared at Radicality Conference 2021

**"The approaches taken by My Library My Space were particularly helpful in shifting the focus more towards the involvement of young people in the planning process, and in inspiring ideas for activities"**

*From successfully funded Friends of Bishopston Library project.*

**Aim 4: To make more young people aware of libraries and the potential space and services they can offer**

Met through:

- The online launch in December watched by 76 people
- The embedded engagement of the cohort where they learnt about all aspects of the library service and potential uses for the space at Junction 3
- Through the murals which were a way for Junction 3 to have presence in the local community even when closed
- The public sharing event, where 35 new young people came to learn about the project and libraries
- The 137 posts put out to Rising's 12k followers over the course of the project

**\*I hope that people engage with the library space differently once we're able to share how that can be done and one of my hopes for this project is people then see the space differently and therefore engage with it differently"**

*Cohort member Esther speaking about her hopes for the legacy of the programme*

# APPENDIX I: "RECLAIMING OUR SPACE" BY MALIZAH

What is reclaiming our space?

It's reaching out to new possibilities and reshaping communities

Experiencing culture, connection and unity

In existing places we once felt we could not be

Carrying our stories and presenting them for all to see

Characterising our surroundings with you and me

And calling others to join and be unapologetically

Looking forward, loving the old and making it new

Reclaiming our space is leading the new generation of youth

In learning and living their truth

Arising and aiming high

Allowing our ideas to flourish and materialise

Imagining new opportunities for ourselves

And inciting the actions to create the vision we have felt

This is movement

Masterpiece and mastery

Making use of what we have access to

Mold what we wish to see

Inviting others to create and share

And involving ourselves in spaces we once felt left out from

Or apprehensive of, or even scared

Noticing our value, we bring to every place we are in

Giving to our community and giving to give

It's owning our identities and casting them onto our world

And accepting ourselves and those that share the spaces as well

This is where unknown becomes known through discovery

And alone becomes a family

We are realising the potential in togetherness

And recognising our equal right to the space we get

Space to express, to progress, to cultivate our best

Sometimes we feel a disconnect and some space feel as if they're not our own

So in our creative fashion we seek and shape a place that we can feel at home

This is personalising our space, allowing our ideas and free-thinking to be nurtured and grown

It is education, information to be drawn out and knowledge to be known

We are compiling our individual experiences to create a collective movement and voice

Collecting our needs and making a space that provides support, solutions and choice

Everybody - learn, share and be, in authenticity and create

For we are reclaiming our space.

## APPENDIX 2: ABBI BAYLISS' ILLUSTRATIONS

To unlock content with the image through Grapevine, follow these steps:

- Add Grapevine's number to your phone contacts: +44 7380 333721.
- Go to WhatsApp and start a conversation with the Grapevine number.
- Send a photo of the image of your choice.
- If you are having issues, check out the support video created by Grapevine by scanning the QR code below.



Abbi's first illustration that introduced the project



Her second illustration that concluded the project

## APPENDIX 3: THE COHORT'S ARTISTIC RESPONSES

To check out the cohort's artistic responses to the project which were shared as part of the event in August, head to: [rising.org.uk/my-library-my-space](http://rising.org.uk/my-library-my-space)

## APPENDIX 4: "ALTOGETHER" - A COLLECTIVE POEM

Altogether we grow we learn. We see  
Altogether we are as together we be.  
And together we will, into the future we will,  
Be each other's peace and move in unity.  
Love is something all of us need.  
Joy a way of life- Happiness a choice.  
As creators and living love  
Everything is our choice.  
Altogether then we choose to understand.  
Altogether then we choose to see love in every face.  
Altogether then we bring the truth and sins we eradicate.  
Altogether we hope and together we pray.  
We smile with the gift of each day.  
Sharing the happy. Sharing our soul like music  
And song. Our melody one that grows as we  
Go along.  
We do not judge or dictate right and wrong.  
Together we are changing.  
Learning and building  
Considerate of each person, place, animal, what others believe in  
Considerate of land, space, and the dreams we are dreaming.  
The scent of a new existence is smelling like flowers in season.  
Organised and what is known isn't always freedom,  
Altogether we are playing with the set ways of life  
To see what else can be  
Love is everything and without love there's way more sacrifice  
Than there has to be.  
Altogether – as why be alone  
Eat together, extend your time and create a place to call home,  
Altogether loyal is a trait we've grown  
Never turning our backs on self or those we hold close.  
Altogether we've endured hectic and give thanks for clarity and calm  
Celebrate with a drink, with a hug, with a psalm.

Celebrate like a party invite others into our joy  
What once was a hard time is now a space to rejoice.  
Altogether is beautiful.  
It is helpful and chill.  
As altogether – means more than one will.  
Altogether is sociable and filled with love.  
While one may be dozy another watches awake  
While one needs to relax another picks up from their break  
Altogether is not black or white it's a spectrum devoid of hate.



Some funny and less matter of a fact while others interact with the world and pressing needs for change.

Altogether we balance out each other's ways.

And when one feels down or held back there's someone who can lift you up or stand in your place.

Altogether is catchy, like rhymes and old slang we would say.

Altogether we are powerful.

We see the side of the world that's benevolent and we continue to create

Laughter

and we entertain.

Determined to not be divided again, altogether we go to

Places of community and celebrate our tastes, our difference.

Our expressions in unity

At Gigs and festivals

Theatres and restaurants

Playgrounds and people's homes

In new grounds and places filled with memories

where we have grown.

Quantum leaps – altogether less emptiness and defeat

Tender we speak altogether wholesome.

We skate across boundaries and labels and refuse to own them.

Curious and golden – walking across bridges we built that were once broken.

Ambitious and awoken – we relax with all we wished for not just a token

The bestest is recollecting that altogether was what we have chosen.

Raise a glass to reclaiming our space, our minds our bodies our world

Drink to the freedom that's gleaming and potent.

– the freedom realised

When difference does not hold on to the idea that we are not one

Motivate each other to see what greatness we exist to be

Altogether exceeding even history

share wisdom and learn as each through living and loving.

Knowingly and unknowingly teach.

Passionate – preachers preach, Passionate lovers speak.

Passionate children share, Passionate mothers care

Communicate the lessons and views that love wishes to impart to

The places ignorance once impaired.

Altogether explore because the world is us and the world is there.

Premature it felt on earth lost in a maze but maturing brought us

Altogether to grow

once again.

Lucky we are not alone, truly and freely together we are safe.

we return to nature and the beauty it creates

pensive, reflect on what altogether has brought to date.

energetic we celebrate build upon

the wonderful life that we have become.

Altogether we grow we learn. We see

Altogether we are as together we be.

Written by: Marie F, Reece.D, Lloyd.D, Jay.F, Dubz Du, Olu osinoiki, LT, JT, SB, RB, Elena Nikola, Kate dyer, JK, MH, MP, Clara Maville, Yolanda Fenlon, Cher Hughes Cole, JL, Aaron Campbell, Mark Elliott, Bristol Clothing Pushers, Sophia saffron music, Maria Torres, Felix, Mary Waters, Roseanna.D, Juvaun Griffiths, Ashley Fenlon, Izzy Mcpherson, Sian, Katrine, Kudzayi, KFC, John Brooks, Suraiya Griffiths, Ayana Griffiths.

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# APPENDIX 5: JADE AYINO'S SHORT-FILM

Scan the QR code on the right to watch Jade Ayino's short-film which was commissioned by George Lovesmith and screened at the Radicality 2021 international conference.

