

Appendix 5: Consultation Process

The engagement process included:

- 3 Roundtables (Cultural Sector, Civic Organisations, Creative Industries)
- One-to-One Interviews with key cultural leaders and funders
- Two Online Surveys (Creative Practitioners and Audiences)
- Steering Group (Councillor Fleur Donnelly-Jackson, Amit Bhagat, Libraries Manager, Colin Chester)

Estimated total engaged: ~79 individuals (plus wider networks via survey promotion and partner outreach).

Roundtables

Number of sessions: 3

Format: 2-hour discussions on priorities, barriers, and opportunities

Participants: ~30 people

Roundtable 1 Cultural Sector	Roundtable 2 Civic Organisations	Roundtable 3 Creative Industries
Iain Goosey – Executive Director, Kiln Theatre	Peter Flack – ASC Studios	Rubie Charalambous – CEZ and Town Centre Manager
Clary Salandy – Founder, Mahogany Carnival Design	Nicola Moore – ASC Studios	Ellishia Stewart – Principal Regeneration Officer, Brent
Sophie Flack – General Manager, Deafinitely Theatre	Alan Medley – Kilburn State of Mind	Ace Ruel – Creature Bionics
Zoe Cook – Co-director Venue & Events, Lexi Cinema	Cristina Antonini – We Restart	Richard Hay – Kilburn Town Centre Manager
Bethany Haynes – Senior Producer, Punchdrunk Enrichment	Nataliya Kharina – Unique Community	
Tom Philpott – Director of Artistic Planning & Partnerships, Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO)	Clare Barstow – Brent Artist Network	
Sarah Smith – Stock and Reader Development Manager, Brent Council	Jessica Rabello – Educator, Brazilian Community	
Thomas Mabey – Regeneration Officer, Brent Council	Yoel Berhane – Senior Programme Manager, Brent Public Health	

Roundtable 1 Cultural Sector	Roundtable 2 Civic Organisations	Roundtable 3 Creative Industries
Diana Manipud – Archive Officer, Brent Council	Hilary Seaton – Principal Planner, Brent	
Colin Brown – Founder, UK Reggae History	Leone Buncombe – Head of Talent and Community, Garden Studios	
Peter Baxter – Culture Project Manager		
Diane Shrouder-Johnson – Serene-One		
Ronald Amanze – Arts for Dementia trustee		

Key Themes Emerging from Roundtables:

- **Cost of Living & Inequality:** Financial barriers to participation, lack of affordable workspaces, and pressure on schools.
- **Mental Health & Wellbeing:** Growing need for cultural interventions in social prescribing and community health.
- **Youth Engagement:** Lack of youth services, need for free, high-quality creative spaces, and pathways into cultural careers.
- **Access & Inclusion:** Digital literacy gaps, language barriers (ESL), and physical accessibility challenges.
- **Cultural Identity & Cohesion:** Desire to celebrate Brent's diversity while addressing fragmentation and building civic pride.
- **Infrastructure & Spaces:** Shortage of performance and visual arts spaces; need for better use of libraries and green spaces.
- **Trust & Co-Creation:** Communities want authentic involvement and transparency in decision-making.

One-to-One Interviews

Number of interviews: 5

Organisations represented:

- University of Westminster
- Fresh Arts
- Greater London Authority
- Royal Philharmonic Orchestra
- Unique Community

Key Themes Emerging from One-to-One Interviews:

- **Mental Health and Wellbeing:** High demand for mental health support among children and parents; rising anxiety and low mood linked to cost-of-living crisis.
- **Social and Economic Inequality:** Significant wealth disparities; limited access to affordable cultural activities; cultural careers seen as financially unviable.
- **Youth Disengagement:** Drop-off in participation despite opportunities; disconnect between proximity and access.
- **Lack of Strategic Coordination:** Fragmented partnerships; poor alignment of cultural initiatives; underdeveloped cultural infrastructure policy.
- **Transparency and Engagement:** Residents feel excluded from decision-making; limited visibility of plans.
- **Cultural Space Deficit:** Shortage of affordable creative spaces; gentrification reducing free community spaces.
- **Environmental and Technological Gaps:** Green infrastructure lacking; digital upskilling opportunities need scaling.

Surveys

- **Creative Practitioner Survey:** 22 responses
- **Audience Survey:** 19 responses
- **Total survey participants:** 41 people

Top Issues Identified in Surveys:

- Cost-of-living crisis
- Mental health and wellbeing
- Unemployment and social isolation

What Brent Needs Most:

- Enhanced cultural and heritage facilities
- More opportunities for creativity and skill development
- Support for mental wellbeing and community cohesion

Barriers to Participation:

- Financial expense
- Limited availability of provision
- Travel and accessibility challenges

What Would Encourage Engagement:

- More free cultural opportunities
- Better promotion of events
- High-profile and culturally relevant programming