

# Colours of Redbridge Evaluation Report

Year 3 · 2025-2026

**PREPARED FOR**  
Colours of Redbridge

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**DATE**  
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## ABOUT THIS REPORT

*Colours of Redbridge* is a programme of community-led arts and culture in the borough of Redbridge, funded by Arts Council England. This report examines how well the programme has met its objectives, particularly in its third year of delivery (2025-2026).

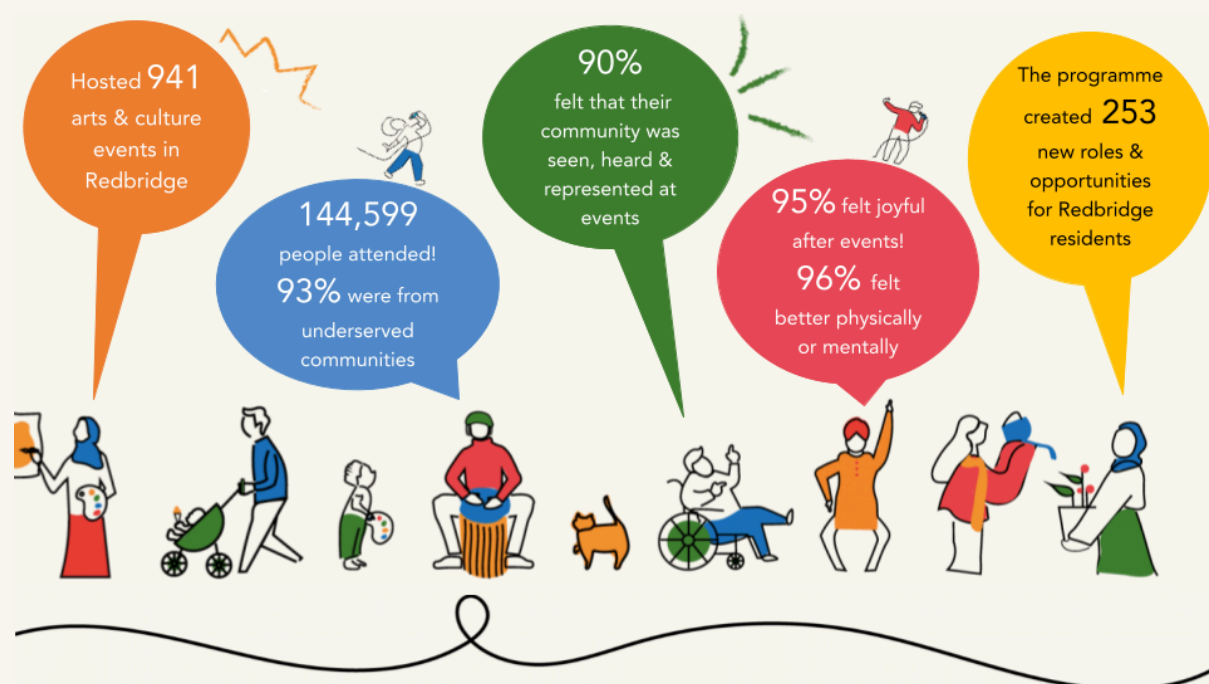


# What is this report about?

Colours of Redbridge is a programme of community-led arts and culture in the borough of Redbridge. It is funded by Arts Council England. The programme was originally funded for four years (2022–2026) and has now secured more funding to continue building on its work (2026-2029).

This report looks at how well Colours of Redbridge met both the Arts Council England objectives and its own core objectives during the first funding cycle. Core activity was focused into three years – 2023-2026 – which are referred to as Years 1-3 in this report. The report highlights what is working well and what could be improved, to make sure that the programme has a strong and lasting impact on the Redbridge community.

Here's a glimpse of some of the programme's major achievements in the first three years:



*(Some people attended more than one event, therefore the numbers do not represent unique individuals. To calculate percentages, we took the average of Year 1, Year 2, and Year 3.)*

This report mainly looks at Year 3 (2025-2026), as this is the final year of the first funding cycle and we want to know how the programme is working at this stage. While the focus is on Year 3, we also compare key results with Years 1 and 2 to show what has changed over time. If you would like to read the reports for Years [1](#) and [2](#), you can find them by clicking on the links.

The boxes below show how well Colours of Redbridge has met its objectives in Year 3. For each objective, we give an overall score (star rating). This score reflects both what is working well and what could be improved.

## Arts Council England Objectives

OBJECTIVE 1: To reach people who haven't been involved in mainstream arts and culture activities in the past



### What's going well?

Over the last year, 52,565 people took part in 437 Colours of Redbridge events. When we add the people who took part in Year 1 (6,329) and Year 2 (85,705), the total number of participants reached in 3 years is 144,599 – way over the target of 60,000!

Participation in Year 3 was lower than Year 2 because last year's Mural attracted many *spectators*. However, if we focus on *active participation* rather than spectators, numbers increased a lot from Year 2 (5,458) to Year 3 (11,262)! In Year 3, Colours of Redbridge focused on providing events that were not only large-scale but also *immersive and engaging* – which led to many more people *actively taking part*.

Almost all attendees came from communities that don't usually take part in mainstream arts and culture (97%). Many said that the event was different from things they had experienced before (86%), they got to try something new (60%), and felt inspired to be more creative in their own lives (55%).

### What could be improved?

Nothing! Colours of Redbridge is doing a great job of bringing arts and culture to under-served communities.

## OBJECTIVE 2: To ensure high quality in our projects and ways of working with people



### What's going well?

Most attendees were very positive about the events. They strongly agreed that:

- They would attend events like this again
- Events were well-organised
- Events were relevant to their lives
- Events were important to the local area

Each of the above received an average agreement rating of 85% or higher.

Ratings were similar to Years 1 and 2, showing that events remained enjoyable, meaningful, and well-run over time.

### What could be improved?

Nothing – Colours of Redbridge consistently provides high-quality events that are with and for local communities.

## OBJECTIVE 3: To understand what is working well and what could be improved



### What's going well?

We heard from lots of different people – including staff, partners, Consortium members, and community members – that Colours of Redbridge actively listens to the community, tries out new ideas, learns from mistakes, and makes changes based on feedback.

### What could be improved?

- The main challenges in Year 3 were mostly practical day-to-day issues rather than 'big-picture' things. This shows the programme is on the right track and mainly needs to keep improving how things are delivered as it grows and events become larger. Some specific challenges included short lead-in times before events (which made it harder to reach and engage some community groups) and not having a policy/system in place to deal with political messaging at events (which sometimes risked creating division).
- In Reflection Sessions with staff, partners, the Consortium, and community members, action plans were made to deal with these issues – and many of these plans are already in progress.

# Colours of Redbridge Objectives

*“Bring the joy”*: To increase a sense of fun in the borough, bringing different communities together



## What’s going well?

Most attendees reported feeling joyful (98%) and more connected to their community (60%) after the events. In terms of bringing different communities together, we saw increased participation from families who live in the same household (58% of attendees), people who are retired or over-65 (14%), children and young people (14%), and Black / Black British communities (10%). This is important because a big part of *Bringing the joy* is to make sure that under-served communities (or “target” communities) are well-represented at Colours of Redbridge events.

## What could be improved?

While participation from some of the target communities increased from Year 2 to Year 3, others declined a little. This includes Asian / Asian British people (40% of attendees) and people with disabilities or long-term health conditions (10%), whose attendance in Year 3 fell just below local population levels (47% and 14.5% respectively). This marks a change from previous years, when these groups were represented in line with, or above, local benchmarks. As a result, Colours of Redbridge lost a “star” towards this objective in Year 3.

It is important to note that these shifts are minor and we do not survey all events or attendees. Still, it may be helpful for Colours of Redbridge to review and strengthen outreach to these communities, to ensure that they are as engaged as possible. This could include:

- Building in more outreach time before events
- Working through trusted local community figures
- Further improving accessibility for people with disabilities at crowded events
- Engaging organisations that support people with long-term health conditions and those from lower-income households
- Taking activities directly into target communities and widening the geographic spread

*“Raise your voice!”: To create collective voices that were previously unheard or under-represented who can then tackle other issues in their neighbourhoods*



#### What’s going well?

For the first time since the start of the programme, Colours of Redbridge met all its targets towards this objective! Nearly half of their events focused on amplifying lesser-heard voices (49%), and nearly everyone who attended felt that their community was seen, heard, and represented (90%). Moreover, those who shared their ideas at events felt that these were valued (93%). Community partners – including Community Producers, Future Producers and Data Collectors – reported feeling motivated, empowered, listened to in their roles, deeply involved in the process, and comfortable trying new things (89%+ agreed).

#### What could be improved?

Nothing – keep up the great work Colours of Redbridge!

*“Learning for earning”:* To increase skills and opportunities that can lead to better employment or further education



#### What’s going well?

About two-thirds of Colours of Redbridge’s activities had a learning and development focus (63%). Over 13,000 people attended these events – around 10,000 more than last year! Half of those attending a public-facing *Learning for earning* event said they learned something new (50%), which is the first time that this ambitious target has been met! Most also said they would be able to use what they had learned in future (87%).

Colours of Redbridge also continued to offer paid and volunteer roles that help community members develop transferable professional skills. In Year 3, these included Future Producers (14), Data Collectors (5), Volunteers (75), Community Evaluation Group members (24), and supported training for young local artists (4). This brings the total number of paid and volunteer recruits to 122 – almost double the number in Year 1 (64) and Year 2 (67)! Colours of Redbridge also helped 18 community members move into further education or employment, which is well above the target of 1–2 per year.

### What could be improved?

Now that the 50% learning target has been reached, the next step is to push this higher so that it is comfortably above the halfway mark. The simple take-away resources introduced last year (such as zine-style recipe books and practice dance videos) appear to have supported learning well, so we recommend continuing and expanding these approaches.

*"Healthy bodies, healthy pockets": To improve physical health and wellbeing through low-cost or free creative experiences*



### What's going well?

About a quarter of Colours of Redbridge's public-facing events have focused on health and wellbeing (28%), which is above the target of 20%. Over 28,000 people attended these events, which is 43 times higher than the annual target of 660! Almost all attendees reported feeling better after the events (96%), be it mentally (24%), physically (14%) or both (58%).

### What could be improved?

Nothing – keep smashing it Colours of Redbridge!

*"Boost our neighbourhoods": To increase participation, activating spaces and making them vibrant even in the face of an economic downturn*



### What's going well?

For the first time, Colours of Redbridge met all its targets towards this objective! Event attendees felt strongly that Colours of Redbridge is making an important cultural contribution to the area (average strength rating of 91%). Almost everyone we surveyed felt that there was some neighbourhood benefit (97%), be it that the events brought people together (63%), made it feel more welcoming (63%) and brought energy and colour to the neighbourhood (50%). More than half said that the events encouraged them to get more involved in community activities (54%), and almost everyone reported feeling safe at events (99%).

### What could be improved?

Nothing – keep up the fantastic work!

Below, you'll see a table showing Colours of Redbridge's progress over time, based on the star ratings received for each objective in Years 1-3. As the table shows, Colours of Redbridge has made steady improvement over the years:

- Year 1: *Excellent* progress (5 stars) for 50% of objectives, *Good* (4 stars) for the rest
- Year 2: *Excellent* for 75% of objectives, *Good* for the rest
- Year 3: *Excellent* for 88% of objectives, *Good* for the rest

Objective	Progress over time		
	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Reach people who haven't been involved in mainstream arts and culture activities in the past			
Ensure high quality in our projects and ways of working with people			
Understand what is working well and what could be improved			
<i>Bring the joy</i>			
<i>Raise your voice!</i>			
<i>Learning for earning</i>			
<i>Healthy bodies, healthy pockets</i>			
<i>Boost our neighbourhoods</i>			

If you'd like to know more, please read on!

And if you'd like to share your thoughts on this report, please email the Lead Evaluator, Martine ([martine@insightalliance.co.uk](mailto:martine@insightalliance.co.uk)). She would love to hear from you!