

The Creative Library

Issue 1:

Liberating the library



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Welcome to the Creative Library Liberate the Library Zine!

The Creative Library was an AHRC-RLUK funded collaborative project co- led by the Students' Union Liberation Officers and the University Library at the University of Sheffield. The project co-produced, co-delivered and co-evaluated library based creative workshops in the Library's Digital Commons during the autumn and winter of 2023-24. Our workshops involved a range of creative activities incorporating collage, stitch-craft, virtual reality, artificial intelligence, 3D printing, life and creative writing and poetry. The workshops aligned with the liberation priorities of our students and were organised to coincide with Black History Month, Disability History Month, Reclaim the Night, and LGBT+ History Month. Our study reflected on the potential of information creation as a process (in the context of equality, diversity and inclusion) and we adopted a pedagogy of joyful hope to enable our ambition to develop a living library within our Information Commons. Our hope is to make the library an inclusive and empowering site of transformative learning.

This zine showcases the different stages of the project. Our planning section captures the work we did to co-produce and recruit for the workshops. Our connecting section shares the ways we connected with ourselves, each other, the theory and our university. These connections developed and strengthened over the course of the project. The creating section showcases fragments of the creative outputs from the workshops. The reflecting section captures how we see our work as iterative, not complete but always in the process of becoming. The hoping and dreaming section shares our jar of hope, a physical jar used at the end of each workshop to capture what we were hoping for in the weeks ahead. It also shares the dreams we made using the change technique of appreciative inquiry. This led to our plan to sustain and develop the project through a library festival - Lib Fest. This is planned to run in the Digital Commons during 2024-25 and beyond and will include creative workshops, exhibitions of student work and reading for diversity reading groups, organised with the Students' Union and Book Soc, our student reading group. These will all take place in the Digital Commons, within the University's Information Commons, through a continued Library and Students' Union partnership.

Dr Vicky Grant AHRC-RLUK Fellow

start

RESPECT

WE G

insp

Collaboration

The secret language of Parlyaree
<https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/library/news/lan-guage-fairground-community-secrets-parlyaree>

LIBRARY STUDENT ASSOCIATES & LIBRARIANS CO-PRODUCED WORKSHOPS - EXPERIMENTING WITH DIFFERENT MEDIA AND REFINING IDEAS TOGETHER THROUGH CONVERSATION & MIND MAPPING

IDEAS

Ballroom design - for workshop 5/6

ADD SUGGESTIONS AND YOUR INITIALS :)

Clay/ Logo / Digital stitch-craft / Poetry / Life writing / Mask making / Generative artificial intelligence / Placards/ posters / Oral narratives / 3D printing (VOC)

Open Brush on VR headsets? (RWW)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q5cbSEUvUkA>

From the archives, eg borrow artefacts and write to them :)
Arantza is our contact
a.barrutia-wood@sheffield.ac.uk Not available on 6th Feb 2023 as it is launch of mental health exhibit

Write your own story using images/people from the National Fairground and Circus Archive

PLAN

Clay key making

We'll be taking keys, a symbol of self soothing and self defence, to create our clay keys. We'll describe affirmations, words, and drawings on them to others.

Unit grounding markers:



Disability History Month

ad

ON ➔

The Night Workshop Activities
Wednesday 22nd November
Nation Commons Library,
Digital Commons

University of Sheffield

University Library

Scan the QR code to register!



Tote Bag Decorating

Using sewing machines, we'll be creating tote bags with messages, slogans, and pictures, standing in solidarity with the Reclaim The Night campaign.



RECLAIM THE LIBRARY!

PROMOTION TO STUDENTS



GATHERED

Inspiration

DEVELOPED OUR
STATION SKILLS THROUGH
WORKSHOP.

NING



Images from the Sanger Family Collection, National
Fairground and Circus Archive, University of Sheffield



Workshop plan: WORKSHOP TITLE
WORKSHOP LENGTH (e.g. 120 min)

Discovering Understanding Questioning Referencing Creating Disseminating

Learning Outcomes

- To experience a range of digital creative activities
- To experience being an active creator
- To experience a collaborative learning opportunity

Preparation required

Materials and equipment required

Session outline

Time	Section	Teacher input	Student input	Differentiation	Resources	Reflect
0-5 mins (5 mins)	E.g.	E.g. Present, explain activity, demo	E.g. Listen, complete activity, reflect on	E.g. Expand explanation and	E.g. Materials, equipment e.g.	E.g. What do they already know

Collecting

RESOURCES.

VR Session

Screening the documentary Grenfell:
Our Home and a collaborative mural on
"Home".

What we are doing

CHOOSING
ACTIVITIES

Black Imaginings panel event

Led by Black students and staff members discussing
personal reflections and sharing their perspectives and
viewpoints

Tote bag and T-shirt designing

In celebration of Black diasporic
design and fashion techniques



LISTEN

CHIMERE

have self love

Connecting activities



Exciting mood

Principled Space

JO

SHARE

TRANSFORMATION

CONN

Connecting

THEORY

to

theories



Connect over time





ed

Y

CTING

sions
me



COLLABORATING

across

the

Student - Student

Staff - Student

Staff - Staff

University



RECLAIM
THE NIGHT

DISABILITY
HISTORY
MONTH

Identity

and

Intersectionality

Who
am
I?

LGBT
HISTORY
MONTH

BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH

CREATING

DATE

WORKSHOP

25/10/2023	Black History Month
22/11/2023	Reclaim the Night
06/12/2023	Disability History Month
07/02/2024	LGBTQ+ History Month
21/02/2024	Digital Storytelling
13/03/2024	Zine making

WORKSHOPS

BHM

COLLAGE

ON THE DARK SIDE

Stuck in the Mud

On the edge

IN HONOUR OF
DIASPORIC CREATIVITY
WE PAID HOMAGE
TO TRADITION USING
TEXTILES AND PRINTS
TO CELEBRATE BLACK
WORK. WE DECOLONISED
BODIES AND BUILDINGS
THROUGH HOUSING
ACTIVISM

PAINTING

I AM PROUD TO BE A BLACK GIRL WITH DREAMS AND ASPIRATIONS IN
SHEFFIELD ♥

CREATIVE WRITING

READING

DOMINATING, TRAUMA AND WAITING: The
Greenfield Building Safety Crisis in England

Author: [illegible]

This article was used to inform our understanding of colonisation and its impact on the vulnerability of such practices. We explore the impact of the Greenfield Building Safety Crisis in England, which has led to the deaths of 62 people and the potential for further deaths. The article discusses the impact of the crisis on the Black community, who have been disproportionately affected. It also discusses the impact of the crisis on the wider community, who have been affected by the loss of life and the potential for further deaths. The article is a call to action for the Black community to demand justice and for the wider community to support the Black community in their fight for justice.



RTW

POSTER MAKING

Far more
than just a
pretty
face.

RECLAIMING
OUR RIGHT TO
SPACE!!!
CREATIVITY CAPTURED THE FEAR,
ANGER, AND
TRAUMA THAT
WE COULD NOT
PUT INTO
WORDS



desperate spaces, sites which reflect their marginalisation from the values that define the mainstream and where their bodies may be subject to sexual debasement and abuse. For many commentators, therefore, they are spaces which symbolise and legitimate the oppression of women, maintaining the dominant construction of the city as masculine and heterosexual (Walkowitz, 1980). inevitably then, the meaning of these spaces differs from place to place and from prostitute to prostitute, that meaning being constructed through the everyday working practices of the women who occupy them.

Lethal and non-lethal self defence
- Firearms Act 1968, Self defence
sprays are illegal

A petition was created for the
UK Government to make it legal
to carry non-lethal self defence
weapons. This petition closed on
10 September 2021 after only
receiving 35,617 of the required
100,000 required signatures.

SOURCE:
<https://petitionline.com/2021/09/22/lethal-non-lethal-self-defence-laws-need-to-change/>
Link: <https://www.petitionline.com/2021/09/22/lethal-non-lethal-self-defence-laws-need-to-change/>
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From the Office for National Statistics
Perceptions of personal safety and experiences
of harassment, Great Britain: 2 to 27 June 2021

- 4 out of 5 women do not feel comfortable
waking at night, in parks, or in other open
spaces
- Three out of five women aged 16 to 34
years experienced at least one form of
harassment in the previous 12 months.
- Disabled people felt less safe than non-
disabled people when in public spaces.
- [Our Streets now]: 80% of mixed-race girls,
82% of Black, African, Caribbean, and Black
British girls have experienced public sexual
harassment

KEY MAKING

STITCHING

choice

WITCH

Together we protect
Our way
of life

FURIOUS

COLLAGING

we are

FIND YOUR
VOICE

mad.

less-not-by-choice

NO

you are not alone

the night will be my friend

DDHM

FIDGET TOY
MAKING

DRESS
DESIGN

Blessing

SOUND
SYMPTOM

LOVE. PRESENT. TO BE
ACKNOWLEDGED. OUR WORK
-SHOP WAS A PROTEST
AGAINST SILENCING, AGAINST
CONSTRAINTS, AGAINST
UNDERESTIMATING POTENTIAL



THE QUEERING OF
OUR WRITING, OUR
DRAWING, OUR
SEWING, WERE ALL
IN ODE TO A CELEBR-
ATION OF LGBTQ+
HISTORY MONTH

INVISIBLE / IN
CREATIVE WORKS

When I look in the mirror / it looks away first /
star fist open jaw / how the shine becomes you / clean
friend / taller than yesterday / spine on unravelling plot /

When Angel looks in the mirror / it looks away first /

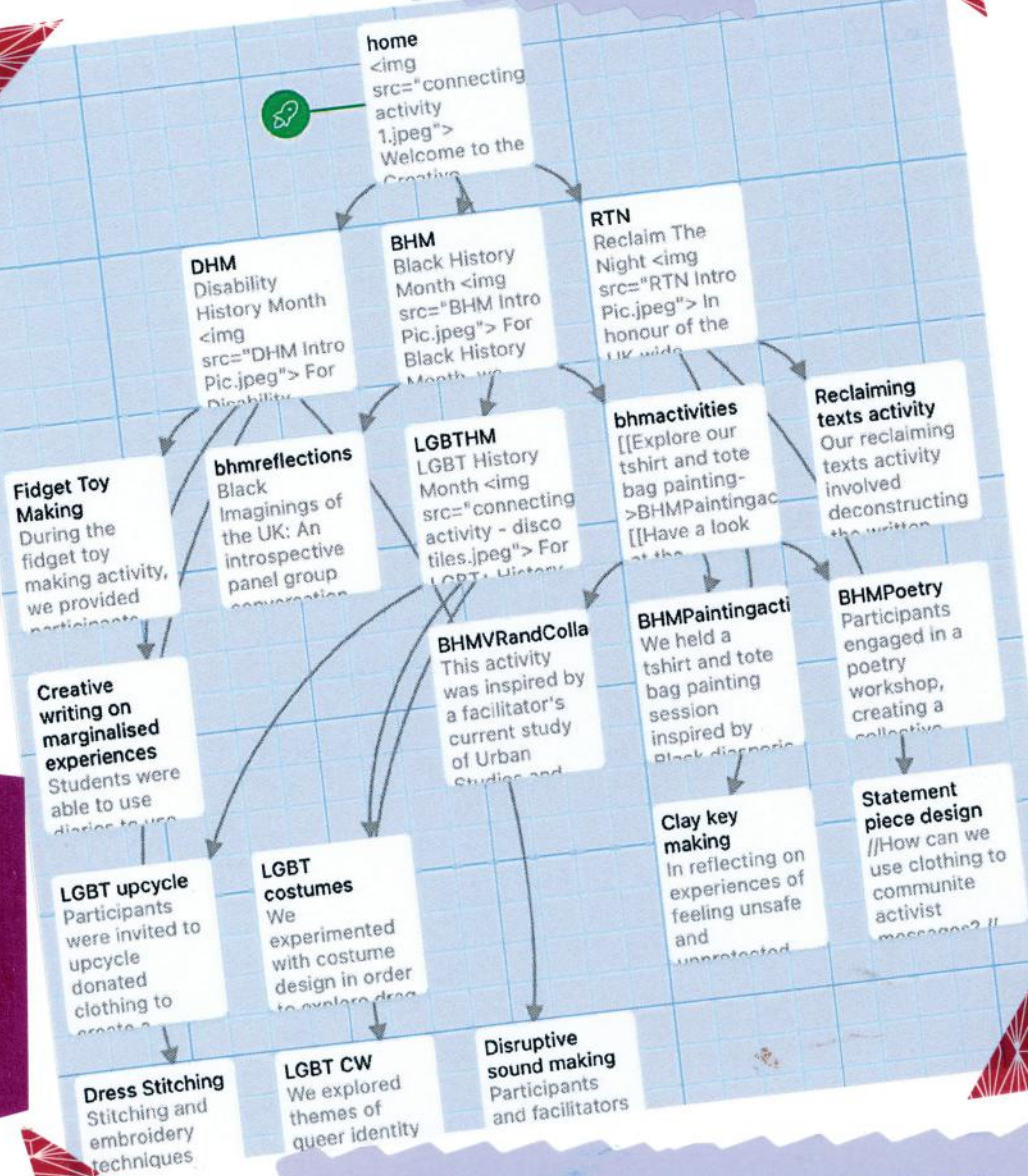
star fist open jaw / how the shine becomes you / clean

friend / taller than yesterday / spine on unravelling plot /

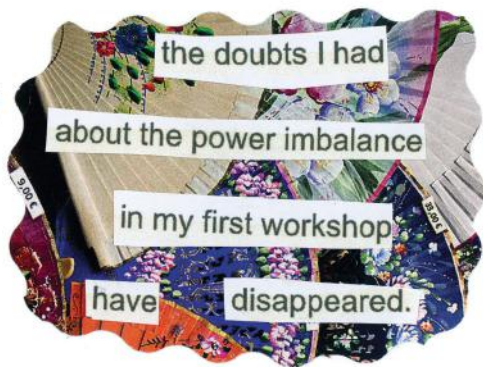
DISCOTHEQUE
CULTURE

FASHION SKETCHING

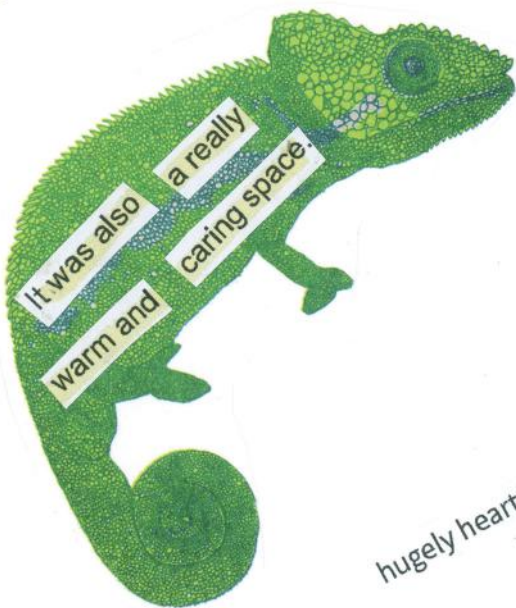
Twine is an online interactive storytelling tool which utilises coding to input texts and images with the ability to navigate through them as a narrative.



Twine was used to disseminate the workshops from their key concepts, artefact production, and key reflections shared by the students/facilitators.



REFLECTING



hugely hearten

opened a dialogue

about disability

intersectional, creative and

puts community at the heart.

activities of feminist resistance

free-flowing a
engage the

On CLP
I'd like to
Say...

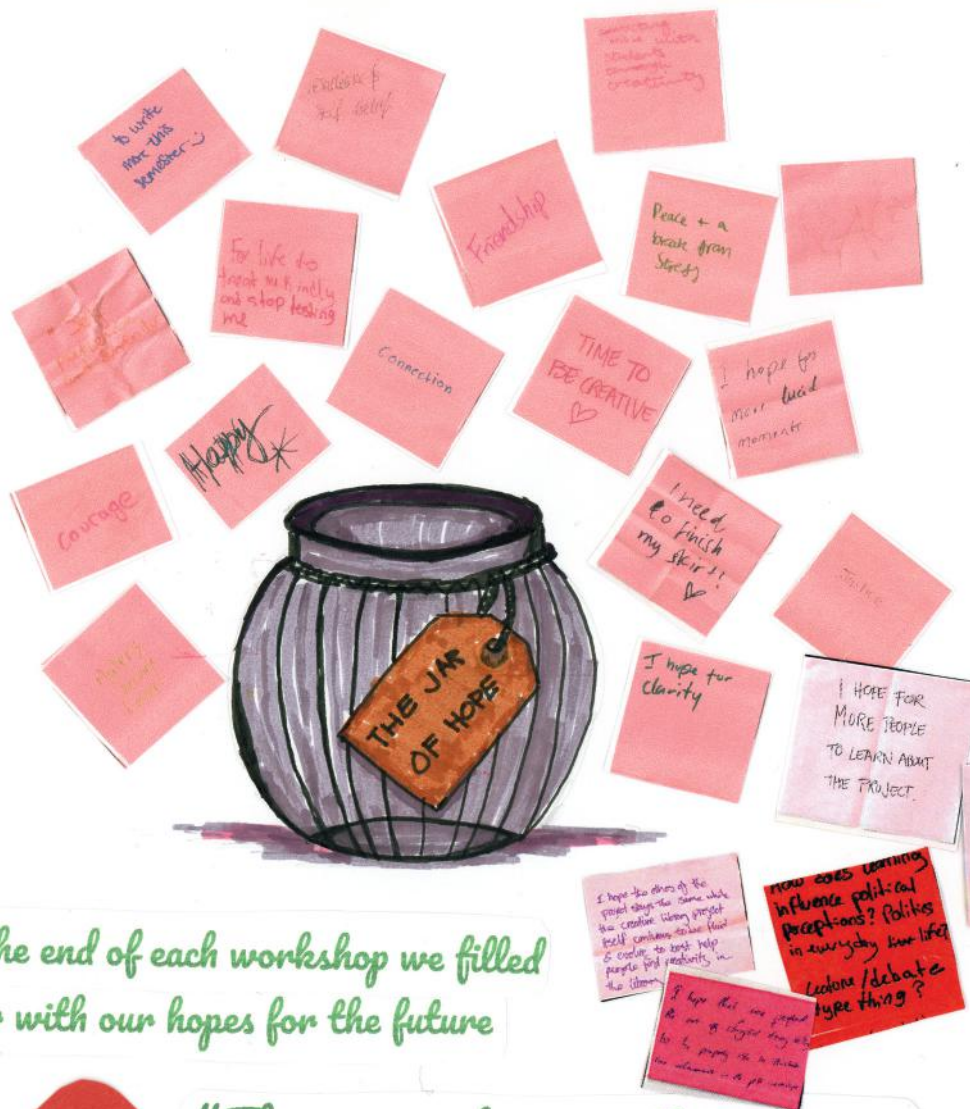
safety of library spaces

I felt very comfortable

ing to be working collectively



H O P I N G



At the end of each workshop we filled a jar with our hopes for the future

"There is no change without dreams, as there is no dream without hope".

Paulo Freire, 1992.




PROJECT TEAM

Project Leads

- Dr Vicky Grant - Creative Library Project Lead
- Tomás Rocha Lawrence - SU Liberation & Inclusions Officer & Creative Library Project Co-lead
- Rhian Whitehead-Wright - Creative Library Project Officer
- Courtney Wood - Lead Library Student Associate and Creative Library Project Officer

Project Associates - Library Staff Associates

- Jenni Adams - Library Scholarly Communications Team representative
- Claire Brady - Library Community Volunteer
- Georgie Broad - Library & Information Advisory Team Representative
- Ro Daniels - Library & Information Advisory Team Representative
- Catarina Gomes - Development Placement Creative Library Project
- Rosa Sadler - Digital Literacy Librarian
- Caterina Sciamanna - Information Literacy Librarian



Project Associates - Library Student Associates

- Chimere Achinanya - Library Student Associate
- Léna-Soraya Bodiong - Library Student Associate
- Nabila Cruz - Library Student Associate (Research Student)
- Becca Gutierrez - Library Student Associate
- Niamh Harvey-Kelly - Library Student Associate



Project Associates - Students' Union Liberation Officers

- Laura Edwards - SU Disabled Students' Officer
- Jephthah Ekogiawe - SU LGBT+ Students Officer
- Zoe Lancaster - SU Women Students Officer



Academic Partners

- Dr Liz Alvey - Academic Partner Faculty of Science
- Dr Pete Mylon - Academic Partner Faculty of Engineering
- Dr Richard Steadman-Jones - Academic Partner Faculty of Arts and Humanities
- Dr Lauren White - Academic Partner Faculty of Social Sciences

The Creative Library Project Website:

<https://sites.google.com/sheffield.ac.uk/thecreativelibrary/>

Contact us:

library@sheffield.ac.uk



Image by Nifty Fox Creative

