



SP

THEATRE

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Social  
Progressive  
Interconnected  
Diverse

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### **About SPID**

SPID is a youth charity who makes art that advocates housing justice. We specialise in high quality community theatre on council estates, using theatre, film and radio to celebrate and champion estates' history. Sixteen years ago, Historic England's Buildings at Risk register lead us to Kensal House – a Grade II\* listed estate who shares a landlord with Grenfell. After years of rejected funding bids, our call for investment in council estate communities was finally answered following the fire. But despite offers from 14 public funders, it took five years for the council to finally grant the permissions and fulfil the statutory duties needed for the works to start. We will always be grateful to the funders, press and local residents who spoke for us in the spirit of solidarity and never gave up hope. As the refurbishment to improve access and safety by restoring our stage and hall, install a lift and sloping corridor and improve our entrance finally begins, we are proud to have scaled up our free drama and heritage program. [A year with SPID](#) and [4 star review](#) of their showcase at the V and A gives a flavour of our work.

### **Spring 2022 Living History program**

In Spring 22 the Living History / Estate Endz strand of program attracted an impressive 29 participants, with young people enthusiastically joining a waiting list and taking part when space became available. 14 young people attended weekly for 13 weeks, including an additional session added to meet demand – and a record 45 certificates were awarded to 18 participants in 4 different skills

Living history teaches young people London wide the drama, heritage and advocacy skills they need to champion and celebrate estates' history, and organises free youth trips to museums and theatres.

This year the program partnered with: Targeted Prevention Group, Octavia Housing Association, the Museum of Brands, Full of Life, and Trellick Residents Association.

### **Approach**

Stories we Saved is one of a number of activities aimed at vulnerable and isolated young people, developed in partnership with established local support services and other organisations including the Museum of Brands and Chamberlain Dementia Support Services to ensure that the activities provide relevant opportunities for skills development, wellbeing and meaningful experiences

The outputs of the activities undertaken by young people are shared with others through performance, exhibitions, and oral history archiving thereby giving them a sense of contributing to their wider community.

Activities provide young people with a new opportunity to socialise whilst undertaking creative activity, such as film-making, arts and drama activities, alleviating issues of isolation.



### **Project participants in rehearsals**

*“Particularly in this area, with Grenfell, it’s been really like cathartic to take part,”*  
*Ruby*

### **Waiting list:**

Given that this was the first time there has been a waiting list, and that we didn't have any policies for waiting lists in place prior to this, It was decided that the most equitable way to do this was through a first come, first served system, with individuals who lived in RBKC, or who have lived experience of housing injustice, prioritised. This could do with some more thought going forward!

### **Outcomes**

The participant’s feedback showed:

85% thought they had performed well

90% enjoyed the programme

95% had developed an interest in the issues considered around social housing history

92% agreed they had learnt new skills

90% considered the organisation and facilitating good

All participants said they had developed an interest in local heritage, creative arts, and had developed increased confidence and people skills

Over 90% of participants reported they had:

- Learnt new skills
- A better understanding of the relevance of the history of social housing and change
- Improved wellbeing Developed new skills

Attendance at project sessions was 84%

*“It was really nice to see everyone working on the film together,” Gloria*



**Romario introducing the film at the Museum of Brands**

### **Partnership with Museum of Brands**

The Museum of Brands developed a partnership with SPID during their project, Estate Endz. We supported SPID with Professional Training on object handling and working with people living with dementia in arts settings as well as with a Reminiscence Session, where Museum of Brands staff and SPID young people led a session together with participants from a local care home, Chamberlain House. The Museum of Brands hosted SPID and the training at their conference room and offered free event spaces for the training through to the film premier. As a community development programme, The museum was excited to once again work with Kensal House, and would like to train more young people and get them to engage with people living with dementia in a considerate and kind way in their lives and also to aid young people to realise their interests and further their skills.

### Partnership with Chamberlain House

The project team reached out to Chamberlain House, who provide personal centred care for Older Adults, Over 65 (people with all abilities are welcome), they are a Dementia Friendly Day Service specialising in complex needs.

Post-session feedback was really positive from the young people and a lot of them clearly found it a powerful and moving experience.

*"I've never done anything like this before," Ashley*

*"It was great to see our local community's voice being heard," Sophia*



Ashley Youth Ambassador receives his "Stories We Tell" Certificate



A scene from the film "Stories We Save"