

Creating Ground

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# Impact Report

2019-2020

Community  
education and arts  
across cultures





# Contents

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- 3** Founder's Forward
- 4** What We Do
- 5** Our Aims
- 6** Our Main Projects
- 7** Key Figures
- 8** Building Bridges
- 9** Culture Seeds Award
- 10** My Creative Skills
- 11** Women and Leadership
- 12** Felicia's Experience
- 13** Teaching Through Drama
- 15** Diversity, Cultural Awareness and Inclusion
- 17** Impact
- 18** Yewande's Experience
- 19** Words From Our Exhibition
- 20** Partners and Supporters



# Founder's Forward



Our third year has been full of accomplishments and successes such as, winning an Award for Community Creator by the Mayor of London, being invited to a reception for Faith and Community groups by her Majesty the Queen, being supported by the Mayor of London's Culture Seeds, Near Neighbours and University of Greenwich, becoming part of Citizens UK and establishing and continuing great partnership work with Theatre Témoins, Kairos Europe, Accademia Europea di Firenze, University of Loughborough, GWest among others as you will read in this report.

However, the thing I am most proud of is the support, love and friendship that developed among the participants as a result of our meetings. It is the words of encouragement the ladies tell each other when they meet, the genuine joy they have when one of us has positive news, the learning and sharing happened between us all and with teachers from around Europe; the good and honest partnership developed with other organisations putting social justice at the heart of our work; the great people who have decided to work at Creating Ground and become part of the team.

I am mostly proud of something that is not tangible and visible: the changes of perspective, the empathy and connection among different people who share so much regardless of their differences. For our future, I hope Creating Ground can continue to be surrounded and supported by strong, resilient, powerful and beautiful human beings.

**Laura Marziale**  
Founder and Director



# What We Do

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Creating Ground CIC is a not-for-profit organisation promoting cross-cultural awareness, learning and sharing across different communities in South-East London through collaborative arts and educational projects.

Through the use of art and drama, people share their experiences, express their feelings and overcome difficulties through reflection and learning.



# Our Aims

- To create a space where different people in different contexts and communities can share and utilise their skills, knowledge, expertise and talents to realise their potential and create a better society
- To build community cohesion through the arts and education
- To utilise arts as an educational and therapeutic tool to improve individual and collective well-being
- To promote dialogue, cultural awareness and understanding among different cultures





# Our Main Projects

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My Creative Skills

Building Bridges

Women and Leadership

Teaching Through Drama

Diversity, Cultural Awareness and Inclusion

AFRIL Parents' Forum

KA2 EU Project VAL

Erasmus+ Mobility Projects with Accademia Europea di Firenze



# Key Figures

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**210**

participants across all activities

**78**

hours of My Creative Skills workshops

**300+**

audience members for our Building Bridges showcase

**47**

trained education professionals from across Europe



# Building Bridges

We teamed up with the incredible Theatre Témoign, supported by the Mayor of London's Culture Seeds, to run this 16-week project that combined storytelling, puppetry and outdoor theatre.

We explored themes of 'home and 'journey' through drama, dance and song. This project was as much about the process as the final performance.

12 women attended the workshops and performed at Brighton Festival and Greenwich Family Arts Festival to over 300 audience members.

"Last year in May, we got an award from the Mayor of London, the Cultural Seeds Award. It was a very amazing thing because for you to get an award from the Mayor and going there, being called and going on the stage to get this award, a progress in one's life and not realising you can do such things."





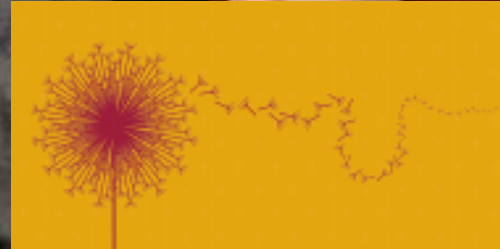


# Culture Seeds Award



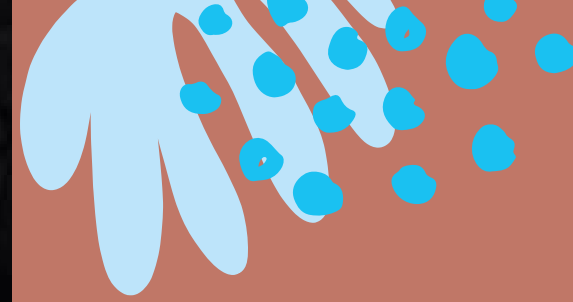
We are immensely proud to have received the Culture Seeds award for Community Creator in May 2019 by the Mayor of London Sadiq Khan for our Building Bridges project.

We are very grateful for all the hard work and dedication put into this project from everyone in our team and the collaboration with Theatre Témoin.

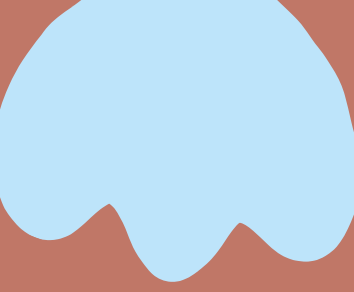


Building Bridges is supported by the Mayor of London's Culture Seeds





# My Creative Skills

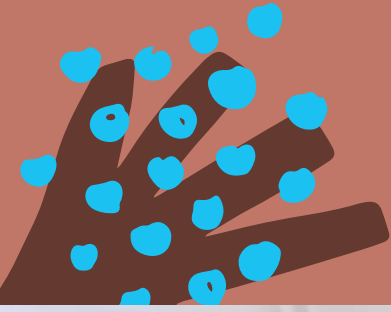


Creating Ground has been running My Creative Skills workshops since September 2016 and thanks to Near Neighbours and University of Greenwich we have been able to continue.

These participant-led workshops unite women from migrant backgrounds to develop their leadership skills and share their creative strengths and unique ideas.

We've worked with up to 17 women in these sessions which allow participants to focus their energy into various artistic pursuits, and have created a strong community in the process.

"I can be free to be myself here ... I can show my emotions and be accepted for who I am"



# Women and Leadership

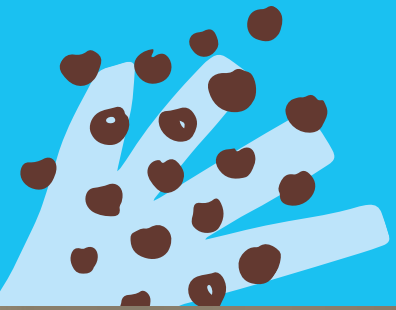


Creating Ground partnered with Citizens UK, supported by Near Neighbours & Church Urban Fund, on a programme to strengthen leadership and inspire community action.

The 11 participants explored issues that are affecting many more people and communities like ours, particularly around housing. Every meeting culminated in agreeing on next actions for change with three powerful phrases at the centre - 'nurture love', 'speak the truth', and 'seek justice and freedom'.

We continue into 2020 to create positive change in ourselves and our communities.

# Felicia's Experience



"I was born into a very religious family who taught me the way of the lord. My parents also instilled in me family and cultural values of generosity, kindness and sense of duty. They also made sure that I had good education that brought me wealth of knowledge and learning. Creating Ground has been inspirational. It has provided avenue to express myself and latent abilities. I hope to build a legacy that would impact the coming generation positively and let them know nothing is impossible if they set their mind to it."



# Teaching Through Drama

5

courses delivered

25

participants

100

hours of training

6

countries represented

Teaching Through Drama is a 5-day training course for teachers from across Europe. It looks at how education professionals can use drama as a tool to engage, motivate and support students. Creating Ground has been running the course since May 2016.

This year we have welcomed participants from Spain, France, Italy, Germany, Finland and Greece . We were able to offer 3 free spaces to Creating Ground participants and 2 free spaces for volunteers from our partner organisations.

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## *Did the course meet your expectations?*



"The course exceeded my expectations. It was extremely well designed and delivered. I learnt a lot."



"Yes it went beyond my expectations as it taught me I don't have to be an actress to do drama. It was fun."

# Teaching Through Drama

"Teaching Through Drama reconnects you to the very idea of teaching: having fun while learning"

"This is a course all teachers should take!"



# Diversity, Cultural Awareness and Inclusion

6

courses delivered

23

participants

120

hours of training

7

countries  
represented

Diversity, Cultural Awareness and Inclusion is a 5-day professional development course. We welcome participants from all over the world who want to improve how they work cross-culturally, to explore diversity, and to develop inclusive practices. Creating Ground has been running the course since May 2018.

This year we have had participants from Germany, Spain, Slovenia, Italy, Sweden, Poland and Greece. We were also able to offer 5 free spaces to Creating Ground participants.

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## *Did you find the course useful and stimulating?*

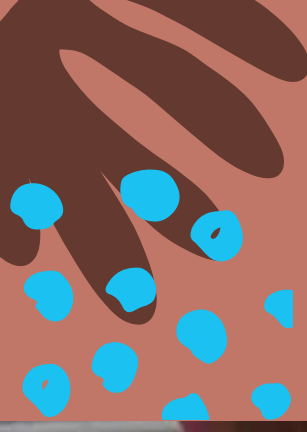


"All the things we have seen and learnt, I can use and transfer directly in my classroom."



"Lots of different activities, and points of view, made with kindness."

# Diversity, Cultural Awareness and Inclusion



"Love, empathy, appreciation, cultural awareness and respect are always a "process", a mixture of hands that reach out, a heart that is open and the impartiality of looking into someone's eyes. Creating Ground is a great programme for teachers that I can highly recommend and support!"



# Impact

Over the past year our small organisation has run 9 different projects in community education and arts across cultures, reaching over 210 participants.

Creating Ground's collaborative approach to all its work allows participants to gain confidence and capacity in a safe and encouraging environment.

Participants have reported a greater sense of belonging and confidence, as well as learning new skills.

100% of Teaching Through Drama course participants said they would recommend the course to other people.





# Yewande's Experience



"My name is Yewande, people call me Wendy. I am a caring, ambitious and committed lady from West Africa, Nigeria. When Laura started I was just looking for a volunteering position, and even with a two year-old daughter she took me in. I would come to the office with my daughter sitting in her pram so she would fall asleep and we both worked together and today its been a very long journey and great achievement for me. ... Creating Ground has been a very supportive organisation to me as a volunteer and much more as a member of the women's groups, which are My Creative Skills and Stronger Together Leaders. I have had the opportunity to meet new people from different ethnicity and multi-cultural background and I must admit that the experience is memorable. More so I have had the chance to develop new skills and put into practice my own existing skills, improving day by day. Above all I have had the opportunities to undergo some training while volunteering at Creating Ground. I hope for good health, wealth, joy and peace of mind for my families and friends. I also hope to have the opportunity to progress in my finance career and hoping every member of Creating Ground's desires come true."

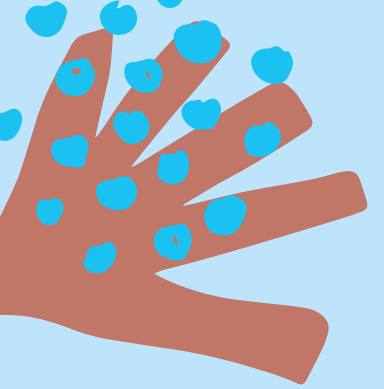




# Words From Our Exhibition

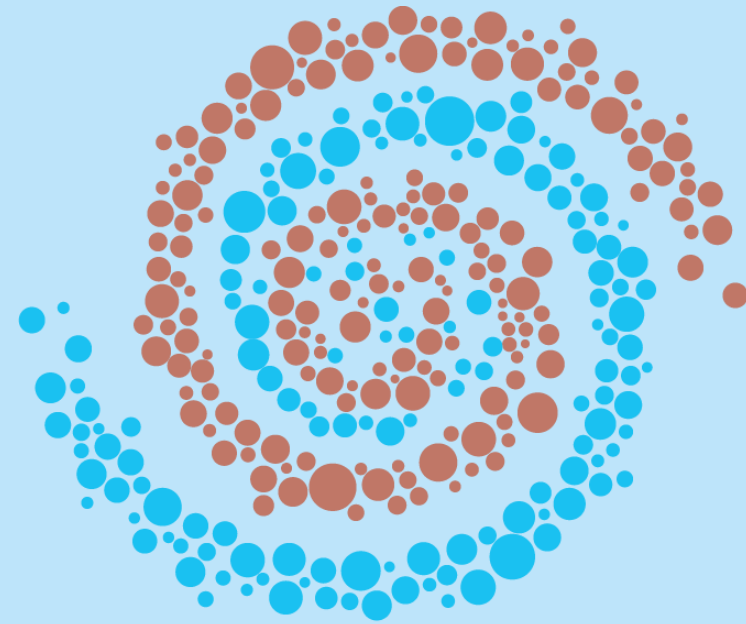
"Creating Ground is a place whereby we come, it gives us a new lease of life, where we can unload everything that is worrying us. Thank you to all of our founders, we are really really grateful. ... It's about the lives you're transforming, it's about the children you are giving hope, it's about the families you are giving a reason to laugh, to celebrate together. Thank you very much."

"We are all from different backgrounds, different whatever, but when we come to Creating Ground we become one."



# Creating Ground's Partners and Supporters





# Creating Ground

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