



Cosmopolitan Boston

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Institute for Community Research & Development
(ICRD)

South & East Lincolnshire Cultural Conference
May 2024



**Social and Community
Wellbeing**



**Criminal Justice and
Violence Prevention**



**Tackling Inequalities
through Heritage and
the Arts**

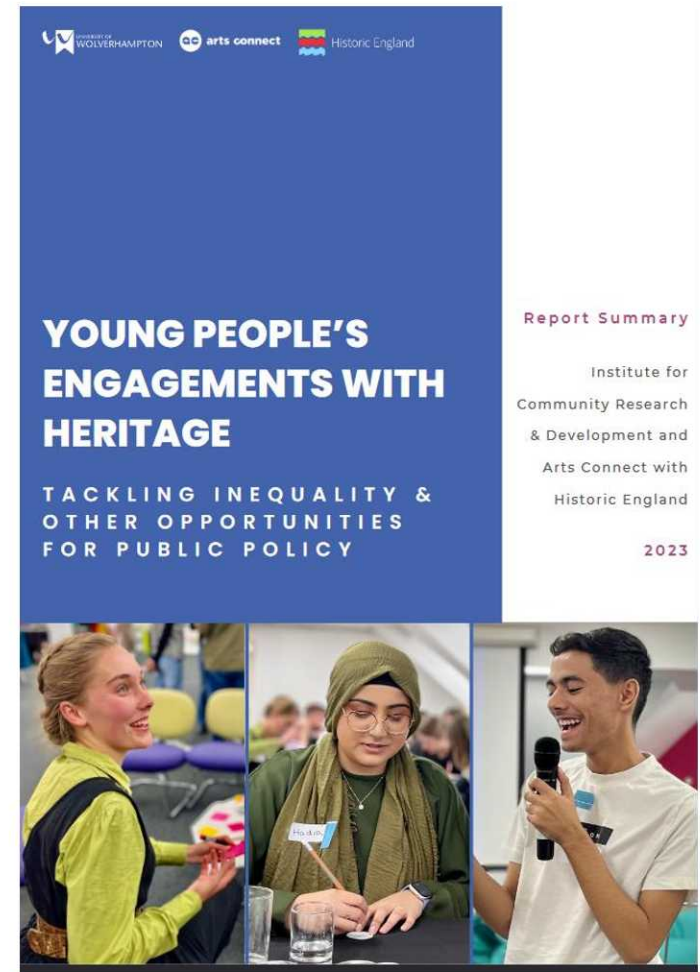


**Migration and
Mobilities**



Young People & Heritage

- A lack of robust evidence regarding young people's engagements with heritage, particularly that which is place-based and extra-curricular
- What are the broader societal benefits that arise from engagements with heritage?
- Growing recognition that heritage spaces need to be more diverse and democratic
- Additional urgency provided by the UK Government's *Levelling Up White Paper*





Stand Out (Burnley)



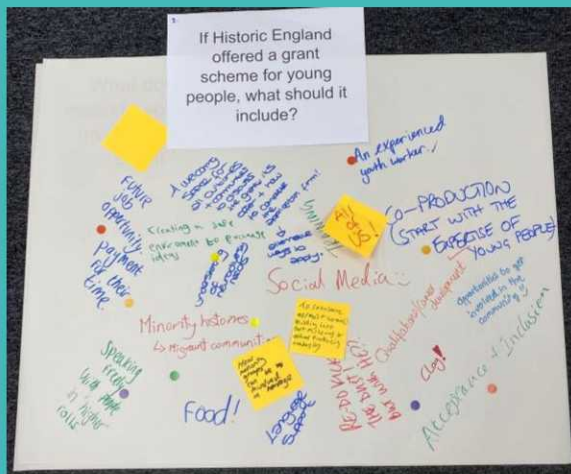


Connecting with Yemeni Elders' Heritage (Liverpool)





Young People's Showcase



An amazing day exploring heritage with our young people! Great to hear about all the projects from around the UK & meet others excited about heritage, identity & youth empowerment 🤝

@house_memories @NML_Muse @HistoricEngland

@studiovenues

@wlv_uni

@ArtsConnectWM

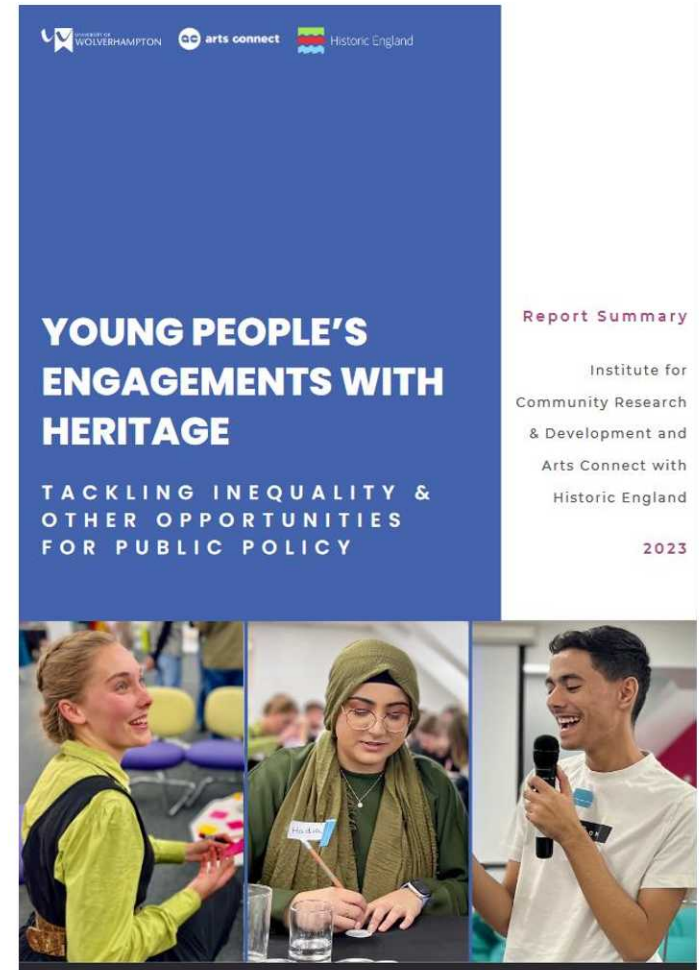




Key Findings

- (1) Personal Development
- (2) Pride in Place
- (3) Social Inclusion & Social Cohesion
- (4) Tackling Regional Inequalities

“There is clear potential for heritage to address first the ‘emotional geography’ of places which enables diverse residents to claim meaningful ownership of the place in which they live and to feel as though they belong and, secondly, to more indirectly fertilise the ground for economic revival by promoting the acquisition of skills, social capital and trust, and encouraging civic participation and collaboration between partners”





Recommendations

- (1) Young people should be invited to explore aspects of their own heritage and should be engaged in the **co-production of activities** from the outset
- (2) Focus not only on youth outcomes but families, neighbourhoods, communities, schools, and other stakeholders
- (3) Activities should demonstrate commitments to **partnership-working** – how will they work with non-heritage organisations to share learning, build community capacity, and ensure that the wider societal benefits of the programme are maximised





Further Information

We welcome you to explore the resources we have collated including:

- [The full report – Young People’s Engagements with Heritage: Tackling Inequality & Other Opportunities for Public Policy](#)
- [A condensed report](#)
- [Our academic literature review](#)

As well as accessible films and presentations bringing to the fore the voices of young people and our researchers:

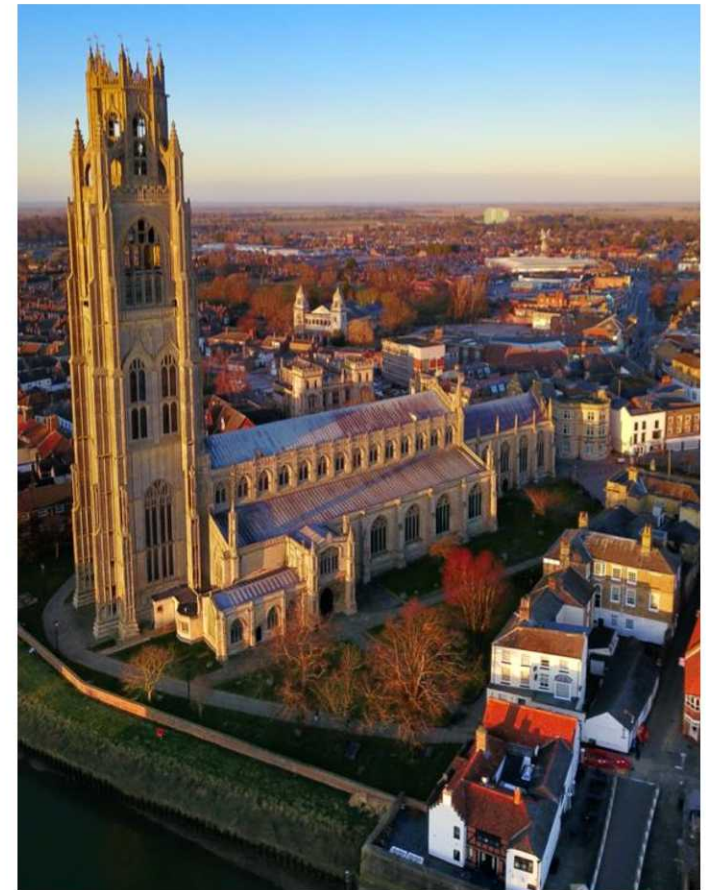
- [The recording of our hour-long webinar, discussing the report and interviewing participants](#)
- [The PowerPoint presented at our report launch webinar](#)
- [Our 5-minute film illustrating our *Young People’s Showcase* event in October 2022](#)
- [Our presentation at *Hope Evolves* in November 2022](#)
- [A guest blog by Kenzie Chadburn, member of Stand Out youth project](#)

<https://artsconnect.co.uk/heritage-report/>



Cosmopolitan Boston

- 10 x residents as 'community researchers'
- Exploring neighbourhood and community histories and heritage through gathering oral histories, collating materials and artefacts, and archival research
- Culminating in a public celebration of the work through an exhibition, workshop, video, or other agreed output





- To explore hidden histories and stories of the town
- Bringing new voices into conversations about heritage
- A chance to create new narratives for the way Boston is understood
- Residents having the opportunity to learn more about the different organisations and services within the town and what they do



- What is an effective model for engaging diverse communities with heritage?
- What are the outcomes when residents engage in this activity?
- To what extent do those activities contribute to cultivating a “sense of community, local pride and belonging”?





The Learning

- Some participants overdelivered, others underproduced
- The timeframe was too ambitious
- Some partners didn't come good in the way that we hoped
- Some young people didn't stay with us
- We needed a local facilitator or partner organisation who can deliver

BUT...

- The participants learned new skills, gained new knowledge, and met new friends
- The project inspired residents to think about the town in new ways and helped to generate conversations amongst family members and friends
- It showed how heritage is open, exciting, and alive with possibilities
- ... and how heritage can bring people together



THE UNIVERSITY OF OPPORTUNITY