

ZERO LDN: THE IMPACTS

Zero LDN is an environmentally focused community project in Hackney.

June-December 2019

ABSTRACT

This document attempts to capture the many varied impacts that the Zero LDN project has produced during the first six months in Dalston's Gillett Square. The project was a collaboration between ReSpace, a non-profit voluntary organisation and the building owners, Hackney Cooperative Developments. The aim was to give communities and social enterprises access to the space for the duration that the building would have sat empty, awaiting redevelopment.

Zero LDN impact report, by ReSpace Projects



A powerful message in the eyes of eight year old Gretchen, at the third Zero LDN sustainable fashion show



“The best place in the world!”



Willow, age 10, describing Zero LDN

Social impact of the Zero LDN project in Gillett Square

ReSpace Projects created this document to demonstrate the many benefits of giving communities the free use of wasted resources and empty buildings.

ReSpace was born in Hackney, at the Hive Dalston - the other end of the Kingsland Road. We've since worked in different boroughs and outside of London, so coming back to Dalston for our latest project, Zero LDN, has been an absolute joy.

We started this because we saw a problem with buildings being left empty, whilst communities struggled for space and yet there was no simple way to resolve it.

The systematic waste of empty buildings and other resources is a huge missed opportunity: Everyone benefits when we support those who are struggling; society gets healthier, local economies grow and diversify, streets get safer – people become more resilient. We set out to prove it.

We're so proud of all that's been achieved by the Zero LDN project; the following pages give a good indication of many of these important impacts, but they can't capture the beauty behind the everyday stories of the space. We're so grateful to the communities in and around Gillett Square who have been so warm and welcoming.

Gee Sinha, founder of ReSpace



Gee hangs a hand-printed sign, made from material reclaimed from local supermarket waste

Executive Summary

Since ReSpace were given the keys to the empty workspaces on Bradbury Street, Dalston, the Zero LDN project flourished. Initially a six-week tenure, over the course of five extensions, the project is still active ten months on. This report covers the first six months. When we consider what has been achieved in this time – and by so many people – the benefits of giving local people access to wasted space really are indisputable.

The range and breadth of activities that took place is remarkable and it has been a pleasure to see that not only have collaborators developed professionally, but that everyone has learned from one another, sharing these experiences with local people who regularly visited the project.

Zero LDN Top Three savings statistics:

1. A total of £103,680 saved by local people in the hire of space over a six-month period (see page 6)
2. Around £10,000 of resources saved for use by the community at Zero LDN over six months (see page 11)
3. We estimate that the building owners, HCD, have saved nearly £10,000 on basic building security (see page 1)

Some nice words from important people:

“I’m responsible for managing the Pop Up Playground and safeguarding the children playing in the square. Since ReSpace have been active here the square has opened up. People have started respecting the space more – and it’s been much calmer generally. Local people and local businesses are collaborating in a way we’ve never seen here before.”

Gillett Square Engagement Co-ordinator, Keyo Yendi

“I would like to thank you for all of the wonderful work you and your organisation has done over the past few years, your interventions have certainly enhanced and created opportunities for many local people and social enterprises within the borough.”

Area Regeneration Manager, Dalston, Hackney Central, Homerton, Cory Defoe



Online survey results

“how would you describe the project?”

- A unique space for communities to grow, play and learn. A much-needed space for people to develop personally and professionally!
- **A social enterprise/ collective where like-minded persons come together to re-purpose materials which would otherwise go to waste/ landfill; including using offices which would otherwise be empty; all done in spirit of community, inclusion, acceptance, connection and love**
- Brilliant! Using empty space to provide all sorts of events/ services/ safe spaces/ meetings/ recycling projects etc. for the benefit of the local community. Grass roots action by the people for the people
- **A beautiful example of what inspired individuals are capable of imagining when in an environment that gives them the time and space to do so. Although everyone has come from different backgrounds it's been a place to see differences as a way for us all to learn about where we can go in our personal lives**
- A collaboration of independent social interest groups/ organisations, local artists and business, all united by giving back to the community and having a community focus - and also supporting and working with each other rather than in competition. As importantly, it's a social and alternative use of empty buildings which benefits the wider community as an alternative to property guardian companies. Forging a link with local community that inhabit the square and maintaining the original ethos of the building it was set up to be
- **This space is valuable to the community, it allows artists, therapists and practitioners to have a space to be able to offer low-cost or free workshops to the community... It also gives the opportunity to come together for the greater good of our environment with the common goal of not allowing things to go to landfill, to be creative and innovative with waste for the greater good of mankind and our planet for future generations**
- A (radical) grass-roots eco-friendly community centre
- **Amazing, world changing**
- A much-needed resource that can create spaces open & inclusive for all the community to benefit from
- **A fantastic project connecting community and environmental projects for all. Friendly and warm**
- Innovative, community focussed, effective
- **A beautiful community collaboration**
- Brilliant way to create community spaces

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Who are ReSpace?

Set up in 2015 to help address issues of waste and inequality, we help communities access space and wasted resources for free. Our showcase project, the Hive Dalston, ran for over two and a half years – delivering over one million pounds worth of benefits to communities, local people, businesses and the landlord - all from a start-up cost of £250! We have since supported 'respace' projects in Highgate, Newham, Southend, Peterborough and also resourced and advised numerous other groups in Romford, Cornwall, Islington, Crouch End and Croydon. All of this has been achieved with no funding – and we're all volunteers.

We have been called a “solution to homelessness” by the Huffington Post, and featured on the BBC, both on TV and on the Radio 4 show *A Waste of Space*. We have also received glowing testimonials from ‘father of modern day linguistics’ and political dissident Noam Chomsky, who described ReSpace as “impressive”. This year we also received two Sustainable City Awards from the London Sustainability Exchange – Innovative Spaces and the Overall Winner.



Gillett Square and Zero LDN

Gillett Square at its best is a vibrant, musical and family-orientated public square. At its worst it is an occasionally chaotic and sometimes bleak area, visited by drug dealers. It is a unique and much-needed space in London, where people can socialise, watch their children play, drink coffee and listen to jazz or reggae, without needing to spend much money. There is a strong sense of community – enhanced by the Pop Up Playground and regular events. However, there is also significant levels of poverty. Even when in active use by paying tenants, the Bradbury Street workspace has reportedly always had issues with drug dealers using the door way – and even the entrance hall or toilets – as a place to conduct transactions. Due for redevelopment, the building was vacated by tenants in the early summer and became vulnerable to being squatted or used for illegal activities.

ReSpace accepted a collaboration with building owners, Hackney Cooperative Developments (HCD), to help safeguard the property in exchange for rent-free use of the space for community projects until building works were ready to commence. **We estimate that by lending the empty building to the community, our partners, HCD will have saved around £25,000 in business rates¹ and nearly £10,000 saved on basic security.²** Over thirty collaborators share the space, offering free workshops to the community such as carpentry, wellness and weaving in exchange for their place in the building. Sixteen of these groups were pre-established, eleven are in the early stages of development. In addition to the focus on using wasted resources and giving access to communities, Zero LDN has worked to promote positive environmental behaviours. Through

finding creative ways to reduce waste and encourage recycling, collaborators worked within the five biggest polluting sectors; food, tech, plastics, buildings, fashion.



¹ Several councils have now made the progressive move to exempt ReSpace Projects from paying business rates. Savings have been calculated using the government business rates calculator (found at gov.uk/correct-your-business-rates).

² We used the estimate that HCD would require security to cover three shifts a week - Thurs/ Fri/ Sat - for 26 weeks, the total period for the contract, at an hourly rate of £12.

the Zero LDN project at Gillett Square



Keyo's Pop-Up Playground moved indoors for a day



The Re-Live pop-up shop sold sustainably made gifts



The square is a colourful, family-friendly place



A sustainable fashion show on our steel catwalk



The loom room was popular with all ages



A social enterprise workshop by Be You Be Me

Impact reporting

The project has been started and maintained with no financial input from anyone except the collaborators themselves, to cover costs like environmentally friendly soaps, cleaning materials and refreshments for events. Our initial contract was for six weeks, but we were given five extensions, giving us a total of six months active in the building. It can be difficult to capture the rich and varied feedback we have received from visitors to the project and to the square, often because the most valued positive comments have been from people in vulnerable situations. The following impacts are not exhaustive but give an indication of the breath and variety of the social impacts which have resulted from just six months access the Bradbury Street workspace.



The Mayor of Hackney visits, describing Zero LDN as ‘amazing’ – a realistic alternative to exploitative property guardianship models

Transitional spaces

ReSpace specialise in working with temporary or transitional spaces. The Zero LDN project in particular has been an opportunity to engage with local people who have negative or confused feelings towards the proposed redevelopment project of the Bradbury Street workspace. In areas of redevelopment there is often a significant threat to existing communities and local people have expressed concerns about the future of Gillett Square during and after the redevelopment. There has been a narrative around gentrification, displacement and social exclusion.

Stepping into existing communities requires sensitivity, inclusion, transparency and an open mind: ReSpace has promoted discussions with an expanded range of stakeholders – including local community leaders, businesses, residents, regular visitors and local authorities – to explore solutions to existing issues in Gillett Square. This has focused on long-term communication to encourage a coordinated approach to safeguarding.

We believe the HCD redevelopment project has the potential to become a London-wide showcase for sustainable, community-led redevelopment. Despite local concern that the redevelopment project will inevitably lead to some form of privatisation of Gillett Square, in just six months Zero LDN has made huge steps in helping to foster more positive feelings towards HCD, tenants and the building itself. A redevelopment strategy that includes the local community in the planning will have greater long-term success – and will help establish a model for councils everywhere to emulate, promoting Hackney as a leader in ethical regeneration.

Christmas lunch and the Street Boutique, part of the winter fair



As part of the winter fair, we held Christmas lunch for homeless people in what had been an old solicitor's office



Thanks to Joan and Streets Kitchen for arranging the event!



Christmas lunch was free to ensure no-one was excluded. Everyone was welcome and the food was delicious!



We also ran a 'free shop' with pre-loved clothes given out to those in need



Thanks to our fashion stylist, Twinks and life coach, Miranda for preparing the 'Street Boutique'!



Visitors to the 'Street Boutique' were invited to also choose items as presents for friends

Figures for comparable space hire

There are numerous ways we can compare financial benefits of local communities being given access to free space. For example, space hire locally sits at roughly £10 per hour, with a £100 security deposit – for example Stamford Hill Community Centre, Hindle House and Boiler House. Some of these have an additional charge of £40 for ‘out of hours’ use, which is after 4pm, weekends or bank holidays. This alone would rule out most of our collaborators at Zero LDN who couldn’t afford such costs – especially as many work ‘irregular hours’ – such as the Dominoes club, Streets Kitchen, Cut Above Creations, F*ck Fast Fashion and the Re-Live project.

Whilst in reality our collaborators often used the space six days a week, for the purpose of making financial estimations on monies saved, we suggest twelve studio spaces were used on average for three days a week, for eight hours each. If we take the above costs, this would mean **a total of £103,680 saved by local people in the hire of space over a six-month period**³. Other collaborators used the space for storage, saving them roughly £1000 each over the six month period⁴ – this is the case for at least four collaborators. In each case, individuals were unable to pay this sort of money and had been in danger of losing furniture, equipment and materials. We also hosted numerous weekly events in the two ‘round rooms’ – Wing Chun, physical training, film nights, life coaching and yoga, adding

up to around 180 hours of weekly events over this period – another £1800 saved by local people (hiring space at £10ph). Those events held ‘after hours’ were saved a collective £1440 on top of this.

We estimate that in terms of workshops offered by our collaborators for free to local communities, savings that can be compared are as follows:

- The ‘loom room’ provided workshops in textiles, such as felting, knitting and weaving, **saving around £900**.⁵
- The Re-Live project ran numerous sessions working with plastic and ‘waste’ materials in a creative and sustainable ways, such as sign and banner making, plastic fusing, outfit and jewellery design – **saving around £600 in local skill-sharing**.⁶
- Cut Above Creations offered introductory woodwork sessions to anyone who expressed an interest; an extremely conservative estimate is that this space **saved people the equivalent of £1200**.⁷

³ This figure has been worked out in the following way: Twelve studio spaces were actively used after 4pm, for on average 24 hours a week. These spaces have been used for around six months – 24 weeks. The ‘out of hours’ charge alone would add up to £120 per room, per week, amounting to £2880 total for each project/ group of collaborators - in addition the hourly rate saved on room hire for each workspace totals at £5760. Therefore £2880+£5760 = £8640 x 12 workspaces = £103,680 saved.

⁴ A storage facility in nearby Clapton charges £43.75 per week for 502 ft of storage space.

⁵ A Hackney-based organisation runs a three hour ‘learn to knit’ session for beginners at £45 per person. Between our resident weaver and knitter, they offered around 60 hours of free introductory textiles workshops – the equivalent of twenty, three-hour sessions.

⁶ There are no comparable local workshops to gauge costs saved and so we used the same cost as the above textile workshops – with around 40 hours of workshops hosted.

⁷ A Hackney-based group run evening introductory carpentry sessions at £30 per hour. Again, Cut Above Creations hosted around 40 hours of workshops.

an array of events and workshops for children and adults



Plastic-fusing banner-making workshop for local campaign



Stencil-making at the children's carpentry workshop



Textile skills offered in the Loom Room



A vision-board workshop, promoting positive life goals



An introduction to weaving for children



Halloween-themed children's film night



“What ReSpace has done has just blown me away. It’s amazing to see what a difference it’s made to the square - and me personally. They’ve given me the chance to expand my vision for Atomik Bubbles - I’ve been able to buy and store more equipment as well as trial new ideas”

Tom Riley
Founder of Atomik Bubbles
@Atomikbubbles

Impacts

There can be significant cross over between various impacts, such as where an activity helps reduce isolation and therefore impacts on mental health and wellbeing.

We have attempted to break these down into themes for ease of reference.

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Mental health

- Cut Above Creations established a weekly 'men's group' which explores male identity, relating to children and the need for male role models in communities.
- 16 Wellness and Mindfulness sessions with qualified life coaches.
- 4 art therapy sessions.
- Several collaborators and volunteers have reported benefits to their own mental health through being part of the project's community.
- We have received a number of reports 'off record' from people dealing with illness, trauma or depression, who state the project "saved their life."

Physical health

- 14 weekly boxing and football training sessions organised by Majay Academy.
- 14 weekly self-defence Wing Chun martial art sessions.
- Streets Kitchen organised a bi-weekly distribution of food for homeless people.
- A connection was obtained with a local bakery for the provision of good quality surplus bread.



Thanks to Dusty Knuckle for their delicious bread – and our volunteer distributors!

Environmental health

- Environmental behaviours were promoted throughout the project, e.g. diet, waste, energy, recycling, reuse, use of materials, and brand patronage. Recycling bins and signage were built from reclaimed materials.
- **Landfill and energy waste was minimised – over £10,000 worth of resources were saved from going to scrap, landfill or incineration.**⁸
- **The Re-Live Project managed to produce just one small plastic bag of ‘rubbish’ for landfill from their studio over six months!**
- Eco-friendly methods of creating or acquiring furniture, décor, food, clothing etc. were encouraged.
- Best practices in ethical and sustainable business and purchasing were shared.
- The Small Steps charity held their first ever ‘zero waste celebrity shoe auction’, sharing the ReSpace office after they were made homeless when their landlords, the ‘Ethical Property Company’ gave premature notice to vacate whilst their premises were redeveloped.
- Three sustainable fashion shows were held.



Waste and surplus materials were found locally to create signage and recycle bins

⁸ £1k food, £1k clothing, £2k wood, half a tonne of cardboard, £500 paint, £3k worth of counterbalance looms, £300 fabric – and around £3k of equipment, i.e. a laser printer, laser cutter, 3D printer, plastic extruder, seven knitting machines, five iMacs and three speakers = over £10,000 of resources saved and redistributed

Family health

- We were able to engage people from the square who traditionally present problems for the space, such as some of the young dealers at the door. One joined us for several events, including Open House workshops, where he was able to spend time with his children and girlfriend away from his usual activities in the square.
- Parents reported how their children have grown in confidence and ability since the building has been open to the community. One father told us that both his daughters, but the younger especially, who is autistic, “have really come out of their shells and instead of playing in the square – they are choosing to go to the various workshops.”
- Parents also reported the benefits of having access to free space where their children could interact with both parents in a neutral, creative environment. One mother commented that her children’s father sometimes struggled to engage with their autistic daughter; she was then thrilled that he had come along to several of the workshops where he found it easier to interact with his daughters when there were more adults around to support with any challenging behaviours.
- Around eight of the children who routinely play in the square were involved with the three fashion shows. They noticeably grew in confidence – both in the performance itself and in their ability to design and create. They requested workshops to make their own outfits, which collaborators curated so that the theme of environmental protection was developed. The final show had an ocean theme where children designed their outfits, chose slogans, made banners and also displayed their work on the catwalk, announcing their slogans into a mic.



Children at the first fashion show wore headpieces by the Re-Live Project, made from upcycled t-shirts



For the second show, children made their own outfits at the Re-Live workshops by fusing together plastics bags and wasted materials

the children's third sustainable fashion show



Children designed and made their own outfits using packaging and surplus materials in the Re-Live workshops



The theme of the show was 'protecting the oceans' which inspired their designs



They made protest banners using low impact methods, with sea-themed slogans



They showed off their outfits on the stylish steel catwalk



They had a special after-show party in the Re-Live workshops, to celebrate their achievements



Each child took a turn on the mic, announcing the demands on their banners to the crowd

Jobs, education and enterprise

- Access to workspace and technical equipment was provided for teaching new skills, such as weaving, knitting, felting, using woodwork tools and fusing techniques to reuse plastic.
- Experience and CV skills were provided for collaborators, volunteers and visitors.
- Various local enterprises were supported, giving them access to store equipment and materials to create and display new work and launch new projects.
- Collaborator and stylist, Twinks Burnett, starred in BBC documentary *Misfits Salon*, a series about the impact of fashion on mental health and wellbeing. She says having access to the Zero LDN studio space created a “pivotal moment in her career.”
- Tom Riley, a local parent with an enterprise called Atomik Bubbles, has been so inspired by having access to office and balcony space, that he has expanded his entire vision for the square – and even been asked to take part in an immersive performance at the Vortex Jazz Club.
- The project supported sixteen pre-established groups and enterprises and helped launch eleven more into the early stages of development.

Safety and crime

- Local authorities including Gillett Square management, local law enforcement and community members have commented that the square feels safer, with fewer violent incidents reported. A senior member of HCD commented that this time last year they were “wiping blood off the square,” but that now it felt “noticeably calmer.”
- Local law enforcement officers commented that they had noticed the benefits of having ReSpace present during the building’s redevelopment.
- ReSpace has engaged local residents, authorities, businesses and communities, to help develop a more co-ordinated and long-term approach to safeguarding in Gillett Square.

there were a wide variety of activities



The old solicitor's office makes an ideal games room



Introduction to using a table top loom



The children were very happy with their woodwork!



Blue Hands Massage had a stall at our third Open House



F**K Fast Fashion held weekly print blocking workshops



The Re-Live project always welcomes makers!

Social health

- Several local people who reported feeling socially isolated and lonely have thanked us for making them feel welcome and inviting them into the project.
- Local people, women in particular, have been relieved by the opportunity to have access to the toilet on request. People have commented that despite this, the toilets have remained cleaner than previously, when the doors were closed to the public.
- Locals have commented that they prefer seeing the space animated in the evenings, with workshops and late-night shops. People have compared the square with previous years when the public tended to avoid it completely after nightfall. Since we have been active in the building, this has become less noticeable.
- Visitors comment on the project; that it is a great idea, good use of wasted space and a positive example for other building owners and councils to follow.
- There have been numerous examples of workshops and events that have promoted intergenerational relations; such as where children, parents and other adults have had the opportunity to share skills and enjoy workshops and round rooms.
- A local child and regular visitor called Zero LDN “the best place in the world!”
- We received a visit from some MA students reading Social Enterprise at Goldsmiths University – one of whom described Zero LDN as “a perfect place.”
- A couple of local people joined an open meeting to discuss the project’s impact, commenting that “people like what you do” and “are really inspired by what’s being achieved” – going on to say the project has “had a big impact on the community” which has felt “uplifted.”
- The children’s cinema nights have given several local families the chance to co-parent – sharing responsibility for taking care of the children and the space.
- We were proud to observe that each time we’ve kept the front door open to the public – at our five Open House events – the building was treated with respect – locals have helped us out with carrying things, lending things and even cleaning up!
- “Cynthia”, a local vulnerable lady, attended a wellbeing workshop. She enjoyed it and became engaged in more activities, going on to ask collaborators for help when she encountered difficulties. They helped her find a hostel and she went on to engage with local authorities and accept assisted accommodation, out of the area which had been problematic for her.

the project encouraged collaboration and shared learning



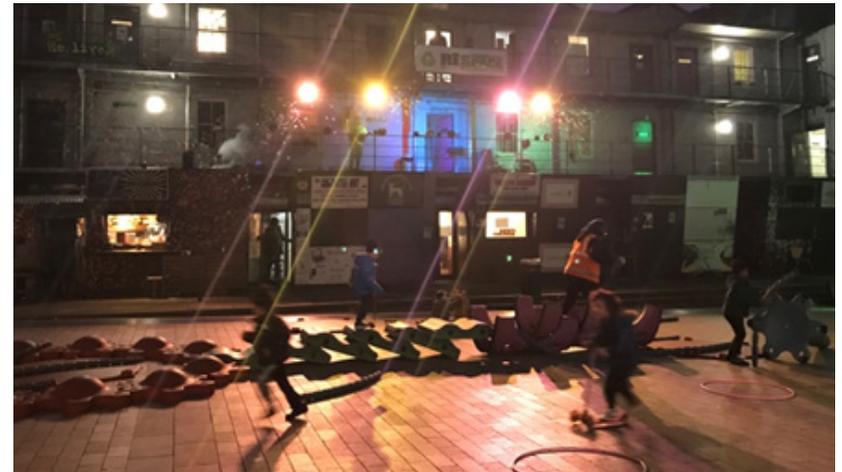
'Sistas on decks' in the Re-Live Late Night Pop Up!



Masters students from Goldsmiths University in the ReSpace office



The very first collaborators meeting!



Lights and activity help animate the square at night, making it feel more safe and welcoming

Online survey results

“has Zero LDN positively impacted Gillett Square?”

- People who know the square well have repeatedly talked about the positive impact of the project, from bringing people together, giving them hope, changing attitudes and encouraging people to be more respectful of one another
- **Valuable contribution to keeping the square open and keeping negative effects of delayed development to a minimum. Improved quality of life for some square users. Has been a great demonstration of reuse potential**
- It has shown people who otherwise would not have had the chance that there is an alternative way of doing things that leaves a lasting positive feeling
- **I know for a fact it brought people in who otherwise wouldn't have come. The square felt more cared about in my honest opinion**
- The Zero LDN project has allowed people to imagine the possibilities, which is then a kind of reassurance rarely found elsewhere. Even if their own energy is spent elsewhere it can empower them to change and be closer to do what they may want to be
- **The children that come into the square have been able to take part in workshops and activities of a design and nature to enrich their creativity. Teaching design and traditional skills, with a focus on environmental issues**
- A bridge between the longstanding local Gillet Square community and the landlords of the units. Inclusive, it has helped to reduce the 'them and us' mentality. Positive impact on reducing anti-social behaviour and safety in the square by the presence and community activities of Zero LDN
- **Getting locals involved in crafts and creative, sustainable activities. Inspiring the younger generation in a somewhat troubled area - priceless**
- Gives disadvantaged people, people of all ethnicities and wealth, a chance to be creative, learn new skills and work together
- **It seems much LESS of a place that is 'on edge' in a dystopian way...**
- Turned it into a more family friendly, inclusive community space. The energy and tone of the Square feels changed. Safer, clean & friendly
- **Some have been inside the building for the first time and accessed opportunities they may not have previously experienced**
- More interaction between various groups that use the square
- **Providing space for people to do what they need to do**
- Strengthened community with the feel of people looking out for each other
- **United, as one community helping each other, as it should be**
- More community spirit and support
- **Made it more vibrant and welcoming**



the project encouraged collaboration and shared learning



The Fero Arts Collective curated three sustainable fashion shows



Models wore clothes and jewellery from local artists and designers



Models wore clothes and jewellery from local artists and designers



The steel catwalk was clearly ahead of the curve - a week later at Paris Fashion Week, Chanel showcased a rooftop catwalk with very similar aesthetics!



Local designer, Freda Phontane, gives the finishing touches to her model, Dara's outfit; a fair-trade crystal from Re-Live



Backstage with the models before the third catwalk

Changing minds

Our model of reusing wasted resources for community benefit involves a new way of working, which is not centred around money but around sharing resources; be that time, skills or space. This way of working requires flexibility, tolerance and shared vision. Initially, the project sounds good and people assume it must have a catch; it can be difficult for people to understand the concept of a space that has the community and social benefit as its core goal.

Our approach to working with communities is to be transparent about our purpose and operations, as well as welcoming to everyone. It takes time to establish relationships with some people, but this is essential to make sure as many communities as possible are reached. We sometimes encounter resistance from people who may be suspicious or slow to trust. However, we tend to find that the projects speak for themselves and most people become extremely well-disposed towards our endeavours.

Testimonials

“I’m responsible for managing the Pop Up Playground and safeguarding the children playing in the square. Since ReSpace have been active here the square has opened up. People have started respecting the space more – and it’s been much calmer generally. Local people and local businesses are collaborating in a way we’ve never seen here before. The square has come alive – it’s really opened up! From what I’ve seen, ReSpace encourages people to be resourceful and take responsibility. Have you noticed there’s been less drama?”

Gillett Square Engagement Co-ordinator, Keyo Yendi

“Hackney Council enforcement officers have recognised the benefits respacing has brought to Gillett Square and have supported this work while units on the square have been vacant for redevelopment.”

Hackney Enforcement Team

“I would like to thank you for all of the wonderful work you and your organisation has done over the past few years, your interventions have certainly enhanced and created opportunities for many local people and social enterprises within the borough.”

Area Regeneration Manager (Dalston, Hackney Central, Homerton) Cory Defoe

“ReSpace has helped to realise HCD’s early dreams for the square! The Zero LDN model is ideal for what we need in Hackney – it’s an amazing project.”

Mayor of Hackney, Phil Glanville



Social media



smallstepsproject • Following
Gillett Square

smallstepsproject This #givingtuesday we would like to give a big thank you to artist Ange King, who creates the most incredible jewellery from tyre inner tubes (pictured here with potter #carolmccoll). Ange has given #smallstepsproject a pop up shop in her studio, where we are selling hand made tyre soled sandals, #liveinlovenotlandfill tees and pay it forward gift cards. Come down this weekend Friday 20th & Saturday 21st to grab your last minute Christmas gifts- that make a difference. Buy local, ethical & help divert from instead of contribute to landfill.

Liked by ernesttheimportanceofbeing and 16 others

DECEMBER 17, 2019

Add a comment... Post



andreadawson108 • Following

andreadawson108 A weave made from disused telephone cable that would have gone to landfill otherwise #Recycled #Sustainable #landfill #telephonenumber #ZeroLondon #weave #woven

5w
frankelly108 Amazing - you are so imaginative - well done!!

Liked by fabricswatch and 78 others

DECEMBER 7, 2019

Add a comment... Post

Eco-fashion show to dazzle in Dalston

By Andrew Kersley - 22 October 2019



Models in the eco-friendly clothing at a fashion show earlier this year (photo: Shannen Samuel)

feroartscollective • Following
Dalston, Hackney

feroartscollective SO @hackneypost ONLY WENT AND WROTE AN ARTICLE ABOUT US & OUR UPCOMING SHOW!! 🍷🍷🍷 Some very kind words about us xxx this Saturday guys, doors open 2pm & catwalk 6pm

Very proud of the Collective, @zero_ldn_uk, @respaceprojects and Dalston projects for all the work we have achieved over the past few months! #Steelcatwalk ... #respaceprojects #recycle #upcoming #hackneypost #rooftopcatwalk #zerolondonproject #feroartscollective #artactivists #emerging #fashionshow #fashiongram #fashionfilm

Liked by originalsinha and 46 others

OCTOBER 22, 2019

Add a comment... Post



cut_above_creations • Following
Redbridge Drama Centre

cut_above_creations A big thank you to everyone involved with the Father Figurine theater performance tonight. It was a pleasure being part of the panel to discuss mental health and the issues that go with it. And what made it even more special was the tickets for the group were paid for by a donation given to the Men in Motion group for the good work it's doing in the community.

Liked by shanainthecityjungle and 13 others

OCTOBER 16, 2019

Add a comment... Post



Everything in the Re-Live workshop is made from waste materials, remade into something beautiful and useful! The fabulous 'ocean bar' is made from cardboard boxes and visual merchandising, discarded by the local shopping centre.



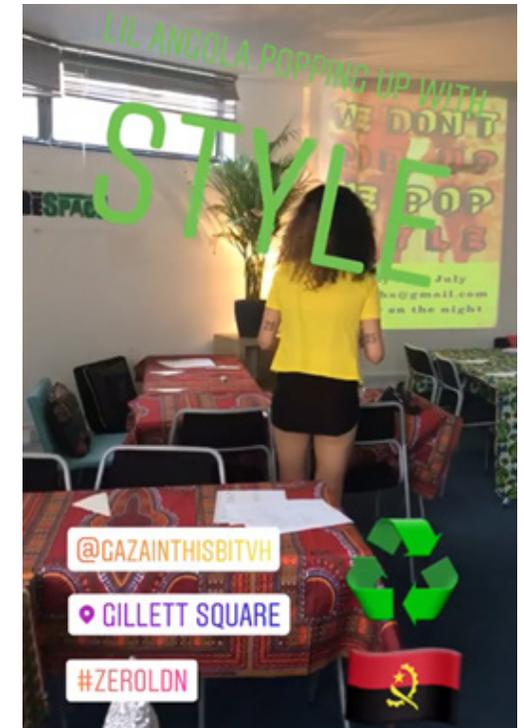
Small Steps spoke on London Live about their first ever zero waste celebrity shoe auction!

They reduced their overheads by joining Zero LDN, ensuring almost all money raised went to help children living on landfill.



Children loved the stencil-making workshop at our Open House events!

Cut Above Creations use wood that would otherwise have gone to landfill.

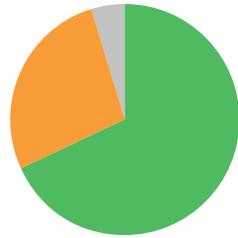


This 'pop up' Angolan food event from Lil Angola took place within weeks of the room being a solicitor's office.

They went on to lend furniture to the project for other events for several months.

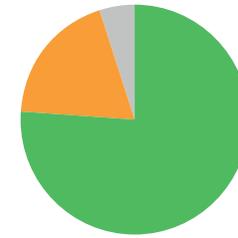
Online survey results

“Zero LDN is a great place to learn new skills and information.” Do you agree?



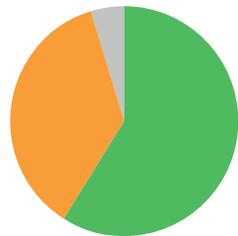
15 strongly agree 6 agree
1 no opinion 0 disagree

“Zero LDN empowers people to get more actively involved with social issues.” Do you agree?



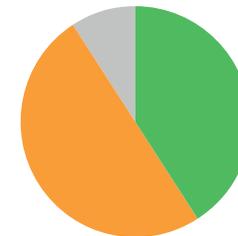
16 strongly agree 4 agree
1 no opinion 0 disagree

Has Zero LDN helped to increase your understanding of environmental or social issues?



13 a lot 8 a little
1 not at all

Since joining Zero LDN, has your behaviour grown more environmentally responsible - e.g. recycling, energy use, dietary habits?



9 a lot 11 a little
2 not at all



“The thing about ReSpace is it’s so versatile. It gives everyone a chance to have access to resources to help them start and grow a business or enterprise”

Chris Jones
Founder of Hexisplus
@Hexisplus

Chris speaking on the panel at the *Men in Motion* performance evening

Case studies

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Case study of collaborators

Case study 1: The Re-Live Project

This social enterprise by artist Ange King works with wasted or discarded materials to create new, useful, and desirable items. Materials including plastic bags, cardboard, rubber and newspaper, and are repurposed and designed to consider lifespan, end use and ability to biodegrade. Products include ethical jewellery, shoes, furniture, wallets, décor and soft furnishings.

Ange helpfully kept a guestbook, with over 600 sign-ins – however around 70% of people did not sign in, which suggests the Re-Live Project alone saw around twelve hundred visitors over six months, which averages to around eight people every day (many of whom are repeat visitors).

As a result of the access to free studio space, the Re-Live project has been able to:

- accept larger commissions – such as the Peter Bedford community fair
- offer space and expertise to local campaign group to create the ‘save Ridley Road Market’
- pilot larger products such as furniture
- pilot a Late-night Pop Up Shop in the run-up to Christmas, selling ‘guilt-free gifts’
- collaborate with local sustainable fashion designers to showcase work

One in three visitors buy something, whether it’s a fair-trade crystal, item of jewellery or tote bag.

The Re-Live project delivered fifteen free workshops to the community.



Case study 2: Cut Above Creations

A young woodwork enterprise by craftsman Kyle Addy, creating jewellery, furniture and décor from off-cut and left-over wood.

The project introduced over 100 people to woodwork.

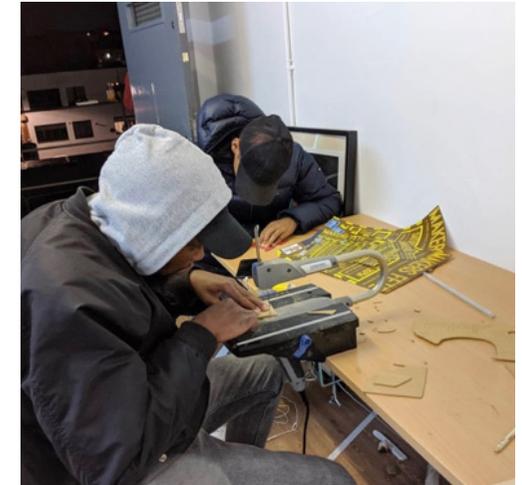
As a result of the access to free studio space, Kyle has been able to:

- accept larger commissions such as furniture
- set up a men's discussion group, with around fifteen people directly engaged
- speak on a panel and radio show as a result of starting the men's group
- build a table for the dominoes club out of reclaimed decking

Cut Above Creations delivered free workshops to the community, including a children's gift-making workshop at Christmas.

“Having access to the free studio space meant I could get creative, with the tools and room to experiment.”

Kyle Addy



Case study 3: The Loom Room

A display and crafting room for artist and weaver, Andrea Dawson. On graduating from a three year textiles course, Andrea rescued looms from going to landfill and was able to establish them in Zero LDN as a textiles workshop, sharing the space with her colleague who specialises in knitting.

Over the course of the five open houses and weekly workshops, this room introduced 100 people to a mix of weaving, knitting and felting.

As a result of the access to free studio space, Andrea has been able to:

- prevent three looms going to landfill, saving around £3000 worth of equipment from being wasted
- save an additional £3000 in storage over six months
- rescue five knitting machines from going to waste
- learn how to set up a counter-balance and a counter-march loom from scratch
- experiment with weaving with waste materials – including telephone cables and industrial bubble wrap

The loom room offered eleven free workshops to the community.



Case study 4: Small Steps Project

A small charity which helps support children who live on landfill sites were made homeless after their landlords 'the Ethical Property Company' gave them premature notice to vacate whilst they redeveloped. Instead of spending their funds on storage for office furniture, they shared the ReSpace office at Zero LDN, enabling them to continue their daily business of resourcing children who live on rubbish dumps in Kenya and Uganda with shoes, education and medical supplies.

Small Steps held their first ever 'zero waste' celebrity shoe auction at Zero LDN.

They raised £37,410 through auctioning shoes donated by celebrities including Kate Moss, Brian May, Kylie Minogue and Rod Stewart.

As a result of the access to free studio space, Small Steps have:

- saved an estimated £5,750 on renting office and storage space during their transition period, instead using money directly to help more children
- given a talk about their work at our open house
- paid for wifi in the ReSpace office and shared their iMacs to edit video footage for a short film about Zero LDN
- featured in the Re-Live 'Late Night Pop Up Shop', where t-shirts, charity gift cards and sustainably made shoes were available for sale

Possible future collaborations between Re-Live and Small Steps' 'Green Steps' initiative, in which the charity is looking to make their practices more sustainable.





“I think the important thing about ReSpace is that it’s open to everyone so it’s really inclusive. Anyone is welcome to get involved and that can have a great impact on local communities”

Miranda DiPino
Life and Relationship Coach
@MirandaDiPino

Miranda teaching a young fashion show model how to cut the reclaimed cardboard for their banners

Recommendations

In the time ReSpace has been working with communities local to Gillett Square, there has been a marked improvement in people's attitude towards the building and even the redevelopment project. There had been a consistent rhetoric about displacement, gentrification and privatisation, largely due to the fact that regeneration schemes in London are notorious for having a negative and long-term impact on local people. The Zero LDN project has encouraged more discussion about the Bradbury Street building – its use, owners and redevelopment. This increased and transparent communication with local people has promoted more positive feelings towards HCD and even the prospect of the redevelopment.

People have shown consistent goodwill towards Zero LDN, mainly because they see that community benefit is at the heart of our work. Informed by our experiences during this project and developments in recent months, we have two recommendations for the future of the 3 Bradbury Street workspace:

- The redeveloped building should include at least one large room, managed by key community members for meetings, board games, consultations, indoor play, afterschool clubs and training, and much more. This would enable the positive impacts detailed above to have sustained and long-term benefits. Having such a space in this vital but deprived area would enable the goodwill, energy and respect that has taken root to grow and flourish.
- The economic fall-out from Covid-19 may have implications for the Bradbury Street development, with issues such as delays with builders impacting heavily on initial redevelopment plans. We believe that the regeneration project would most benefit from using local builders, craftsmen and tradespeople. This would help keep the money in the local economy, as well as giving people more reasons to be well disposed to the development. We also recommend that the redevelopment project be revised to include green walls and renewable energy generation.



A mural was arranged by some of the collaborators. The hope is that local artists will develop the piece

With thanks

Our time at Gillett Square has been one of the most inspiring and memorable adventures so far - and we're grateful to everyone who helped Zero LDN become a reality; Our fellow collaborators provided such interesting and diverse workshops - keeping the space active, night and day. A whole host of volunteers and friends of the project lent a helping hand – lifting things, lending things, filming things, sharing things and welcoming people to our open house events.

Thanks to everyone on this list – and anyone we've missed off. Thanks also to everyone who simply made us feel welcome!

With love and thanks to:

Amy @SmallStepsProject
Andrea @pocket_learner
Andrea @andreadawson108
Andrew
Ange @Relivecommunity
Awet
Chris @Hexisplus
Hughie
Iggy @inneradio
Jane @streetskitchen
Keyo @keyoyendi
Kyle @cut_above_creations
Medjay
Miranda @MirandaDiPino
Peter
Renata
Shaz @shannenmariasamuel
Simon
Skye

Sophie @BYBM_COOP
Star Man
Tom @atomikbubbles
Twinks @Twinksburnett

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Brendon
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Clare
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Clendon
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Connor
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Doug
Dwayne
Elodie
Fatou
Fiona
Francis
Freda

Freya
Hayley
Ian
Izzy
Joan
John
John
Jonathan
Josephine
Josh
Josh
Joshua
Julio
Justin
Lee
Levi
Liam
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Marley
Masood
Mikey
Milo
Moses
Nadine
Ollie
Paul
Paul
Pete
Petter

Phil
Ray
Richard
Robert
Roman
Roxy
Shosh
Shubha
Soraya
String
Terry
Terry
Tony
Tuty
Valentina
Viola
XR youth team (north and south)
Zakiya