

**Rawmaterial**  
ANNUAL REVIEW



**ALL ROADS  
LEAD TO RAW**  
2022/23



# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

Welcome to our 2022-2023 Annual Review. I write this at an interesting and transitional time for Raw Material. We are currently relocated to our temporary home in Brixton, St Vincent's Centre, whilst we await the beginning of our major refurbishments at Raw HQ. A big shout out to St Vincent's who have welcomed us with open arms, and we are business as usual now until we're back again in a brand new building in 2024.

This annual review of course covers our last year in our building, some of which was spent heavily planning for this point. I would like to extend a massive thanks to Raw's fabulous hardworking Board of Trustees and team, all of whom have had to step up, attend a lot more meetings and quite significantly extend their knowledge and experience around this project, myself included!

Aside from the excitement around the development of the new space, as you will see from this review, some fantastic creative and developmental work took place. We were recognised for the first time in 22-23 with shortlisting for two prestigious awards, the Charity Awards and the Board Diversity Awards. I was also delighted to be awarded the inaugural Future Connect award for a Lambeth based programme supporting cultural leadership and creative business development in the borough. We had some major funding successes as one of only a handful of London based National Portfolio organisations to receive an increase (30%) in our core funding support from the Arts Council England for 2023-2026, demonstrating our commitment and track record in achieving their strategic objectives around supporting the creativity of people and communities. And we were thrilled to receive a 4-year grant from the Prudence Trust which specifically targets 16-25 year olds experiencing, or at risk of, mental ill health. As many of us know, this age group has been hit particularly hard over the last few years with what seems an epidemic of mental health issues, stemming both from the pandemic and the impact on society and their life chances since then. We are grateful to be able to do our bit towards tackling this for the younger members of our community, and it's really great to witness the positive effects on their wellbeing from the creative pathways they take with us.

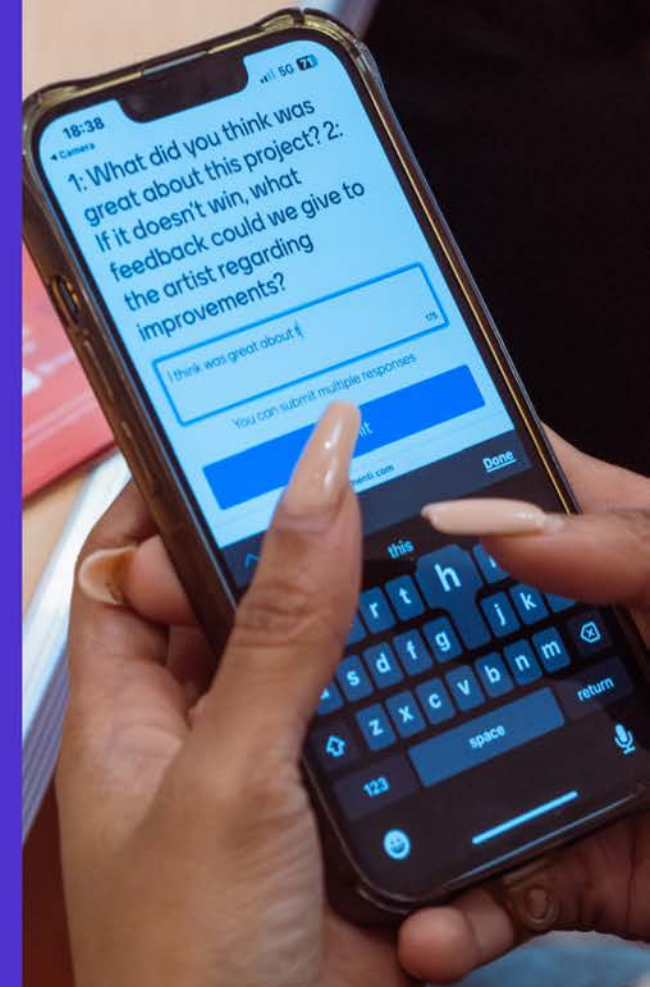
Programme-wise there have been many highlights. We continued to deliver an exciting and experimental programme of termly creative courses, as well as our 'In Reach' creative programme in hospitals.

We're particularly proud of the continuing establishment of our intergenerational Programme Committee which has opened up opportunities both to our community members to support the governance and artistic leadership of the organisation, and through open calls to reach out to new creative practitioners to come and try out new ways of sharing their practice with communities.

None of this work would be possible without the brilliant funders and partners who also form part of our community, shown at the back of this review.

Please read on for more detail, and thank you very much for your interest and continuing support of our work. We hope to see you at one of our events soon!

**Rachel Nelken, CEO**



# STATS & BREAKDOWN

**335** MEMBERS ENGAGED FROM AGES 11 - 65+

**1304** HOURS OF SESSIONS

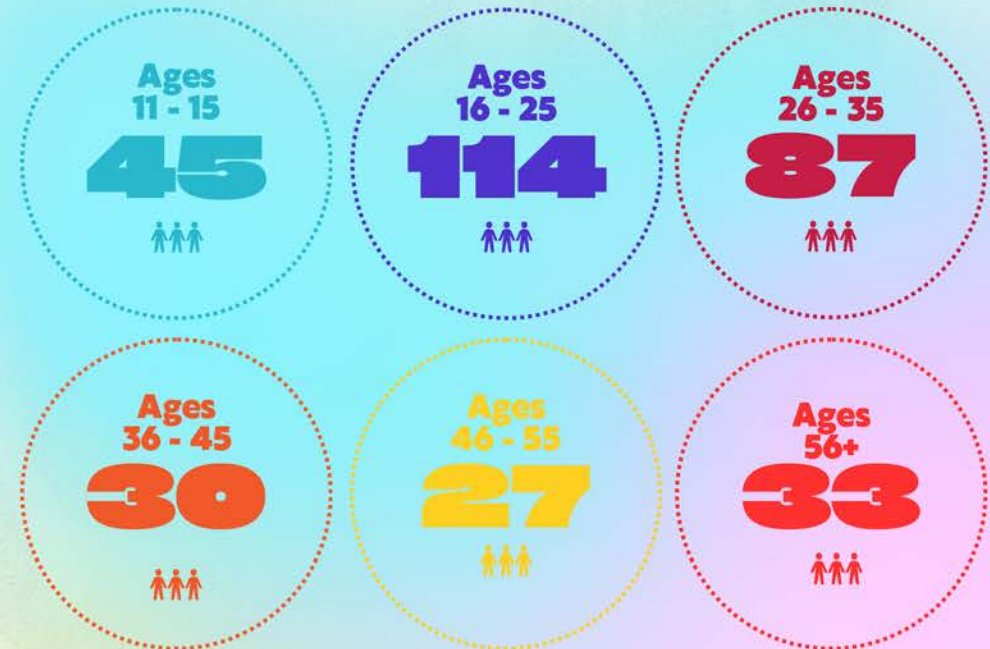
**342** SESSIONS OFFERED

**6695** AGGREGATE PARTICIPANT CONTACT HOURS

**5** LIVE PERFORMANCES

**3** PROGRAMMING COMMITTEES

**1543** AGGREGATE ATTENDANCE ACROSS SESSIONS



Increased sense of connection and feeling part of Raw's creative community	99%	Alleviation of anxiety	58%
Enhanced social and collaborative skills	65%	Alleviation of depression	48%
Improved music skills	56%	Alleviation of feelings of loneliness and isolation	69%
Increased self-confidence	59%	Improved technology skills	38%





# IMPACT

The impact of our work is exemplified through our programme evaluations and case studies, which show that our activities are instrumental in:

- **Supporting Positive Mental Health** through alleviating symptoms of anxiety (58%), depression (48%), and feelings of loneliness and isolation (69%).
- **Developing Creativity & Creative Skills** in a diverse range of music (56%) and technology (38%) disciplines.
- **Supporting Social & Personal Growth** through helping our members to develop new interests and careers, increasing their self-confidence (59%), and enhancing their social and collaborative skills (65%), enabling them to build supportive creative and peer networks.



# SUMMER AT RAW

Raw's 2022 Summer invited young people back into our building to partake in three vibrant courses; **Turbo Trackz**, **Design Your Own Merch** and **Perfect Pitch** funded by Arts Council of England. Turbo Trackz, hosted by **Flo**, **Robin Hopcraft** and **Lawrence Wilkins** encouraged young musicians to collaborate together for the first time. Across 4 days, the young musicians wrote 5 songs, trying new instruments, learning how to fuse acoustic and electronic music together and devising their own band arrangements. At the end of the week they hosted their first ever gig in the Raw Material live room to a supportive crowd.

Raw favourites **G2XRCM** returned to deliver **Design Your Own Merch** - transforming our live room and production suite into a production house. Young people learnt about brand design and themes and how to represent these across a variety of merchandise. They explored everything from fabric printing, to album cover design and tote bag making before hosting their very own gallery display throughout the Raw Material building at the end of the week.

Finally, we completed our Summer with Perfect Pitch, a football and music fusion project. Hosted by Emmanuel Nwosu, the project explored young peoples' experience of football as a community, encouraging them to write their own lyrics, develop their own beats and ultimately create a track they would like to hear on a pitch between games. The week ended with a showdown football match in central Brixton.



# YOUNG CREATIVES

Our **Young Creatives** programming continued to go from strength to strength with the introduction of new and highly popular youth-led courses and sessions. These sessions offered a mix of artistic and technical skills development, industry insight, opportunities to create, record and perform music collaboratively, and support for 11-25 year olds to gain access to specialist equipment and facilities, further creative training and mentoring, and to progress onto paid and unpaid volunteering and employment opportunities.

During the year Raw delivered 3 bi-monthly **In the Mix**, youth-led peer feedback sessions. Hosted by young creatives **Shogun** and **Damelola**, these sessions offer a safe space for young people to connect and share their 'work-in-progress' for input and feedback within a supportive and collaborative peer environment.

We also delivered 2 **Raw Sessions** - our 5-week audio visual production courses involving young people working as a crew with an emerging artist to produce a professional music video for a studio created song. Using industry standard Logic Pro X, Premiere Pro and Photoshop software and equipment, participants gained valuable creative and technical skills along the way.

In response to young people's requests for combining production, live vocals and performance, we launched **Co-Lab**, a termly course which has become a firm favourite and staple within our youth programming. Bringing together young producers, songwriters, vocalists, rappers, and MCs, who work across both live and studio spaces, Co-Lab engages participants in improvisation, lyric writing, and developing tech and composition skills, whilst collaborating to create original music.



For our members aged 11-16, there was **Young Producers** and **Character Design**. Young Producers - a 10 week introductory course to song creation and music production - offered sessions covering basic music theory, song structure, music production (using Logic Pro X software), sound techniques and effects, beat making, studio recording and sound engineering, allowing participants to develop composition and production skills whilst creating new work. And forming part of Raw's Holiday Intensives, our 4-day Character Design project involved participants learning and designing their own characters and creating an interactive story together, whilst using creative software and developing their drawing and digital illustration skills, imagination and creativity along the way.



# QUOTES

## FROM THE YOUNG PEOPLE



*“ I love the bubbly atmosphere that flows between the walls and through the floorboards. I love the welcoming energy as well.*



*“ I love raw because it gives people the opportunity to work towards and develop their skills and progress further.*

*“ Had a wicked time with David and Naz. Thanks for showing us the ropes!*

*“ The amazing diversity of people that fill the building with love.*

*“ Being able to use the equipment and be apart of this community*



*“ I loved being on a music video shoot. That experience was absolutely amazing.*

*“ For the people, from the people.*

*“ I love the community experience and opportunities to work with other artists*



# WHAT'S COMING

## FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Through "Young Creatives," we run a series of programmes which support young people's personal and creative development - whether that be in audio production, videography, photography, illustration or even set design. Our mission is to play our part in addressing the growing mental health crisis facing young people at the moment and we've been delighted to receive 4 years of funding from the **Prudence Trust** to help us develop our creative programmes of 'social prescribing' for young people. Through our programmes young people create new work and develop new skills together, increasing their confidence, building new relationships with our team and with each other, gaining a network and feeling part of a like-minded creative community. These programmes are already supporting early intervention with the young people we work with, who are telling us that attending the sessions and events helps to alleviate their experiences of anxiety, loneliness and isolation.

A recent initiative has been our **Young Ambassadors Programme**. This seeks to involve young people more closely in organisational aspects of the charity. The Young Ambassadors increases Raw Material's engagement with young people by taking an innovative and collaborative approach to our marketing, promotion and recruitment. These young people are supported in coming up with their own strategy, working together and achieving the objectives they set themselves.

They are also able to act as a representative sample of young people, who we can call upon for ongoing feedback. In return for their participation, we offer our Young Ambassadors formal recognition of their work, professional development training, free use of Raw Material facilities and attendance of our events, as well as paid compensation for their time.



Our young people's programmes are delivered by accomplished facilitators, and offer access to new resources and opportunities both at our organisation and through our many partnerships. Programmes like **Young Ambassadors**, **Co-Lab**, **Raw Sessions** and **In the Mix** support young people not only to develop their creativity but to reflect on their own and their peers' progression and lead their own journeys in self discovery and development. Young people gain confidence, communication skills, and the ability to communicate effectively and present their thoughts and their work. This ultimately supports better self knowledge and better mental health.





# RAW TALENT

Following its successful launch in 2021, **Raw Talent** our creative careers mentoring programme continued its successful partnership with **WMA Digital Agency**, **Vevo UK** and **Spiritland Productions** - industry leaders in music video, tv broadcasting and digital content creation - to provide young aspiring creatives with the industry insight, networking opportunities and skills development needed for them to pursue careers in the creative industry.

This year the programme incorporated: 2, 6-month mentoring schemes pairing 9 mentees with support from 8 industry professionals; 2 online masterclasses covering performance rights (PRS), artist management, and video, radio and tv production; and 2 industry events encompassing networking and productivity skills sessions, and attended by Tik Tok marketing and branding specialists and Vevo music video experts.



# UPRISING

## BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROJECT

In October 2022, Raw Material delivered '**Uprising**', in partnership with **Stephen Rudder of Quiet Voice** and **Rap Artist BREIS**. Across 5 weeks, this intergenerational project brought together young and elder black men to explore black male perspectives on what constitutes an 'Uprising'.

Participants used this starting point to provoke discussion exploring intergenerational views, and to inspire the creation of spoken word and a visual collage for an art event featuring themselves and their perspectives. The project culminated in a showing at **198 Gallery**, Brixton, as part of **Black History Month**.





# RAW SOUNDS

## ARTS & WELLBEING

The **Raw Sounds Arts & Wellbeing** programme continued to thrive, with over 250 members engaging in sessions throughout 2022-2023. Core activities included **Raw Band** and **song writing sessions**, **vocal** and **guitar tuition**, **DJ training**, **music production** courses in Logic Pro X and Bandlab, and **studio recording sessions**.

Raw members were excited to get involved in our new termly **programming committees**, a paid and facilitated session where members contribute to shaping our programming by voting on pitches by current and new freelance Artist Facilitators, and selecting new and exciting courses that broaden Raw's arts and wellbeing offer. During the year this included the introduction of new courses in spoken word and mindful music practice.

The **Mindful Music** project was designed as a programme in which members are encouraged to explore their own expression and creativity through group music making. With no set performance goals, the group meets each week and improvises music together 'in the moment', and what sounds emerge in the space. The group allows for members to come as they are, however they are feeling, and take part in the creative collaborative music making process.

Our **programme committees** enable us to consult, involve and understand the needs of our members with 'lived experience', and ensures that our members' voices are always represented and remain central to our decision making and programme offer





*“Raw Sounds has increased my mental health positively by tenfold since starting the sessions. The tutoring is done by professional, sensitive, talented, supportive and passionate tutors. This has increased my confidence, helped with routine, educated me re: music sessions, helped [me] to achieve goals and generally opened up a whole new world for me!”*

**Raw Sounds member**

We introduced a £10 **membership fee** per term, aimed at encouraging the members to understand the value of their place on a course and take accountability for their attendance. After implementing this membership fee, the attendance retention rate increased from 38% to 65%. A bursary was made available for those members who were unable to afford the membership fee.

Alongside our core Raw Sounds activities, we were pleased to offer members the following progressions opportunities:

- Excursion to **Metropolis Studios** to learn about mastering tracks
- Performance and producing opportunities at **South Facing Festival**
- Feature performance at **Lambeth Country Show**

Raw’s **End of Year Gig** was held at ‘**Off the Cuff**’ in Herne Hill. This was an exciting outing for us at a new venue, and featured 40 of our members who performed to a passionate audience of 80 supporters. The creative energy of our members was so infectious that punters watching the England vs Wales football match in the next room were regularly flocking into our gig to get involved in the action!



# IN REACH

Raw Material hosted 48 In Reach music sessions across **SLAM hospitals** (Lambeth, Maudsley & Bethlem) through 2022, led by Raw Artist Facilitators **Flo, Louise** and **MIRI**. The sessions helped patients to develop an understanding of different lyrical styles, musical genres and also the impact of music mentally, emotionally and physically.

These sessions were incredibly helpful in encouraging patients to express themselves and supporting patient recovery. Ward Occupational Therapists continually remarked on how they “*got to know*” their patients better through seeing how they interact with others and engage with staff during music sessions.

A highlight from this work was building new relationships with the **Bethlem Hospital**. Raw worked intensively with the **CAHMS** unit who provide specialist support for teenaged patients who have experienced a major mental health trauma. Many of these patients are often sedentary and display trust and commitment issues, and over three song writing sessions there was a vast improvement in the way participants connected socially and shared with the tutors.

We also had 3 ward patients join Raw Material’s in-house Raw Sounds programme after their discharge from hospital. Continuing their creative development at Raw Material has been a positive reinforcement in their recovery process, and also helped them to make friends and develop a sense of community.



# Tiny Brixton



**Tiny Brixton**, our in-house public event series launched in August 2022 with the purpose of bringing in a new audience to learn about Raw, to offer paid performance opportunities to local artists and generate some earned income to support our work at Raw. We were very lucky to have both **Brixton Brewery** and **Sofar Sounds** come on board at an early stage to help us launch this series, with Brixton Brewery generously donating their products for us to sell on our 'Tiny Bar' and Sofar programming fortnightly gigs with us and helping us broaden our reach.

Sofar

BRIXTON  
BREWERY



Marshall



## IN OUR FIRST YEAR TINY BRIXTON HAS ACHIEVED

programmed **8**  
shows as tiny  
brixton presents

given a platform to  
over **64** artists

had **900** audience  
members

created **3**  
employment  
opportunities for  
local young people

gained **400+**  
followers on our  
new social media  
account



With performers such as **Wu-Lu**, **Laughta**, and **Ali Woods**, Tiny Brixton has really been able to celebrate different art forms and genres, bringing in a wide range of audience members and having something for everyone on our programme.

Due to the generous support from **Scops Foundation**, we have been able to ensure that our performers receive industry standard fees for their work as well as being able to offer 10 free tickets per show to our community members, making seeing live music as accessible as possible. We have also been supported by the likes of **Marshall Live Agency** and **Women in Ctrl** with programming our artists.

This coming year will be a big one for Tiny Brixton, as we open our doors in 2024 with a new events space and improved resources, we're looking forward to having a regular event series that continues to champion local talent, offer progression routes and paid opportunities and becoming a sustainable income stream to help sustain the work we do at Raw.

Shout out to **Brixton Brewery** who have supported Tiny Brixton by generously donating stock to our Tiny Bar and supporting the income for our events, allowing us to support more artists. It's safe to say that we couldn't have started Tiny Brixton without the support of Brixton Brewery and they make our events even cooler!

**Sofar Sounds** have been running their intimate gigs at Tiny Brixton since August 2022, with our shared mission to support artists with their development and to shine a spotlight on emerging talent, Sofar have been a key part of the Tiny Brixton mission and have introduced us to some amazing names who we look forward to working with for years to come.

# FUNDING PARTNERS

Raw Material continues to maintain a strong and sustainable income, bank balance and healthy reserves, year on year to 2023. We are pleased to have been reselected as an Arts Council National Portfolio Organisation and this provides the organisation with a large part of its core funding.



Thanks go to all our funders who allow us to do what we do. Thanks for the continued support we had from ongoing funders for 22/23:



Supported using public funding by  
**ARTS COUNCIL ENGLAND**

**YOUTH MUSIC**

**Lambeth**

**Q CHARITABLE TRUST**



Maudsley Charity  
Health in Mind

**The Baring Foundation**

**CITY BRIDGE TRUST**

**W**  
Garfield Weston  
FOUNDATION

Although we have come to an end to our funding agreements with a few of these key funders, we are also pleased to confirm funding from some new funders in 22/23:

**PRUDENCE TRUST**

**the Tudor trust**



# WHAT'S NEXT?

Moving forward, our programme priorities will continue to focus on developing an inclusive and exciting offer, bolstered with rich and resourceful partnerships that enable us to:

Deliver high-quality courses and special projects that expand and diversify the creative experiences and learning of our members, stretching and challenging them to go beyond their artistic comfort zones, and nurturing their interests and talents to their widest potential.

Develop opportunities for our young and adult members to receive accreditation for their creativity, and acquire the everyday practical skills needed for them to be autonomous and entrepreneurial in their creative aspirations.



Offer clear pathways to progression that support and scaffold our members' transition to the next stages of their development, enabling them to envision and plan their futures with increased clarity and confidence.

Embed youth leadership and participation in our decision making, management and programme delivery practices, through consultation and co-production, youth-led programming and marketing, and engagement in our selection processes.

Continue to facilitate diversity and reach and engage those facing barriers limiting their access, participation and learning in music, media and creative health; including building opportunities that encourage female and gender diverse engagement in our programmes, and offer young people and those at the start of their creative journeys opportunities to simply try out and explore the depth and breadth of their creativity and personal niche, freely.

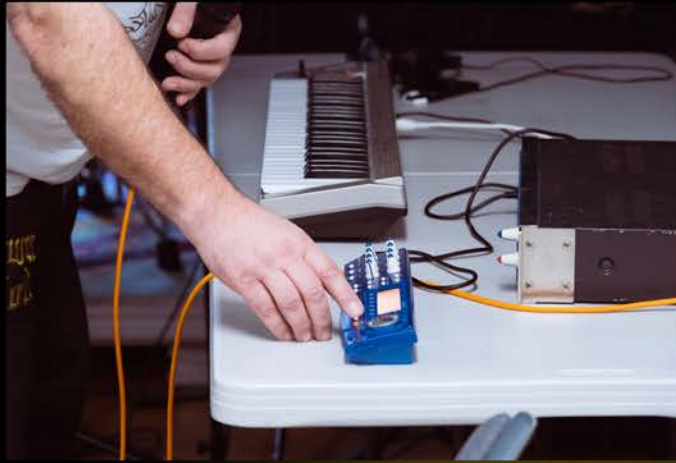
A photograph of three people sitting in a room with a perforated wall. On the left, a man with dreadlocks and a beard is looking towards the right. In the center, a woman with a large afro is looking towards the right. On the right, a woman with long, wavy hair is looking towards the right. The text 'RAW ARCHIVES' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

# RAW ARCHIVES

**Documenting the people  
and programmes which  
define who we are.**

Raw Archives is a photography and media project dedicated to capturing the present-day activities of Raw Material and to creating a growing historical document of our work and our community.

The following series presents images from **Mindful Music**, a staple course from our **Raw Sounds** programme. It hosts participants from both musical and non-musical backgrounds to participate in a spontaneous, creative and collaborative session of music-making. These sessions are all about giving participants the opportunity to express themselves through sound, to play a unique role within a musical group and to connect and communicate with others in the process.



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