



Elsa James

Community Engagement Work

A selection of devised, produced and facilitated workshops, programmes and artistic projects created working collaboratively with children, adults, young people and the elderly in a variety of contexts and settings.

The Chatterbox Project

Lead Artist and Producer

2013

The Chatterbox Project was created working collaboratively with the pupils from Milton Hall; one of Southend's most culturally diverse primary schools.

The project brought a public awareness to the school's thirty-eight spoken mother tongue languages by producing a large-scale sound installation to showcase at Metal's 2013 Village Green Festival. The festival was attended by over 20,000 visitors.

Selected pupils participated in creative workshops at the school before recording individual 'sound bites' in their mother tongue language which related to their favourite things about Southend.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
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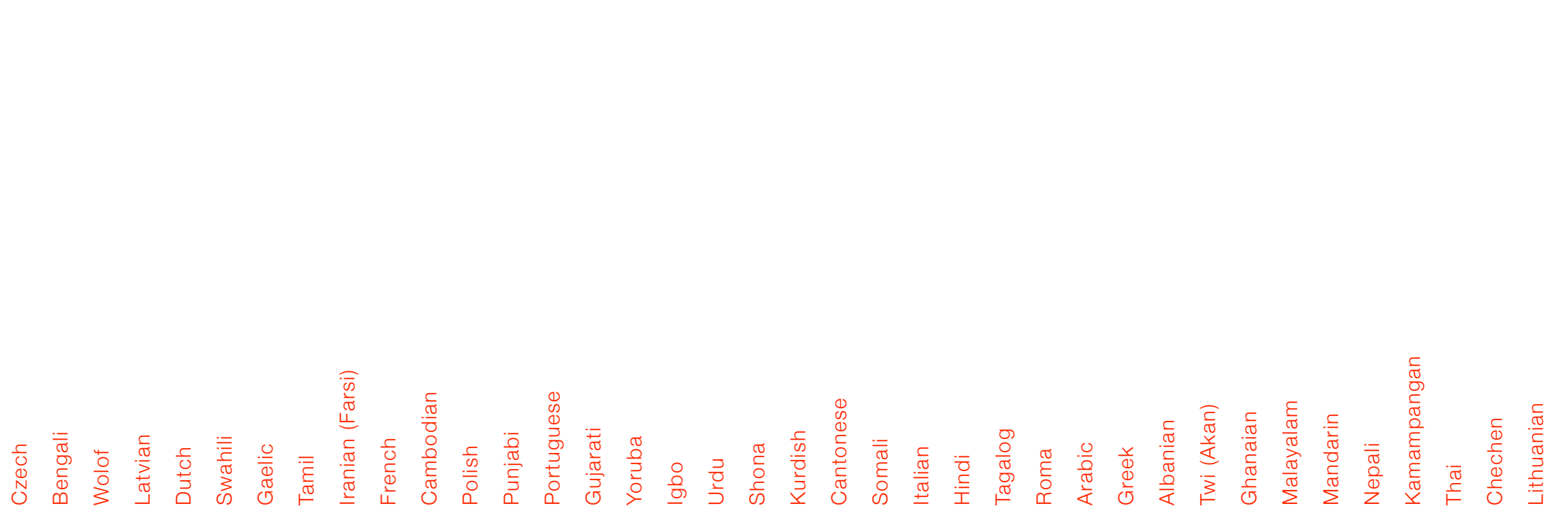
Metal



Reception children waiting to record



In the studio recording favourite things about Southend



Full list of spoken languages

I was scared at

first but then

it was not that

scary and

I loved doing

the ~~work~~shop



Two year old participant

Covered

Lead Artist and Producer

2014

Covered brought together two disparate groups from our society - older people living with dementia from Longfield Care Home in Maldon and young pregnant women already mothers with toddlers from a nearby young mothers group.

Through workshops at the care home, the participants created a 6 x 4 ft contemporary patchwork quilt together using a selection of Ghanaian batiks. The workshops became a space to meet, chat, create, laugh, share, remember, connect, collaborate and above all challenge the negative stereotypes of young and older people.





Covered participants working together



The 6 x 4 ft finished quilt

NetPark Education Programme

Artist Workshop Facilitator

2015

Appointed by Metal to work with Year 5 pupils from Thorpe Greenways Junior and Milton Hall Primary School to facilitate the development of the visuals and narratives to create two digital story Apps for NetPark. The Apps use geo-mapping technology for users to experience the stories around Chalkwell Park in Southend. The completed stories, *The Epic of Scentopia* and *Cake Work* were two of the five inaugural story Apps produced for the NetPark project launch in October 2015.

Pupils worked with a mixture of traditional materials and iPads to gradually develop an understanding of narrative set in the park. This creative media process employed core skills of literacy, visual thinking and group work.

Metal



NetPark



The Epic of Scentopia App workshop



Clockwise from left: *Cake Work App* illustrating session; *Cake Work App* iPad session; *Epic of Scentopia App* characters workshop



Young people devising a 'rap' about the estate

Changing Face of the Rise

Lead Artist and Producer

2015

Changing Face of the Rise was a programme of creative community engagement consultation commissioned by Thurrock Council to engage with the residents who live on Seabrooke Rise estate in Grays going through a major housing regeneration programme.

The community engagement consultation was carried out in July 2015 at Village Beach Festival located just two minutes away from the estate. To ensure the engagement was accessible to the widest number of residents, five interactive activities were devised; each targeted towards different age groups that required varying levels of participation.

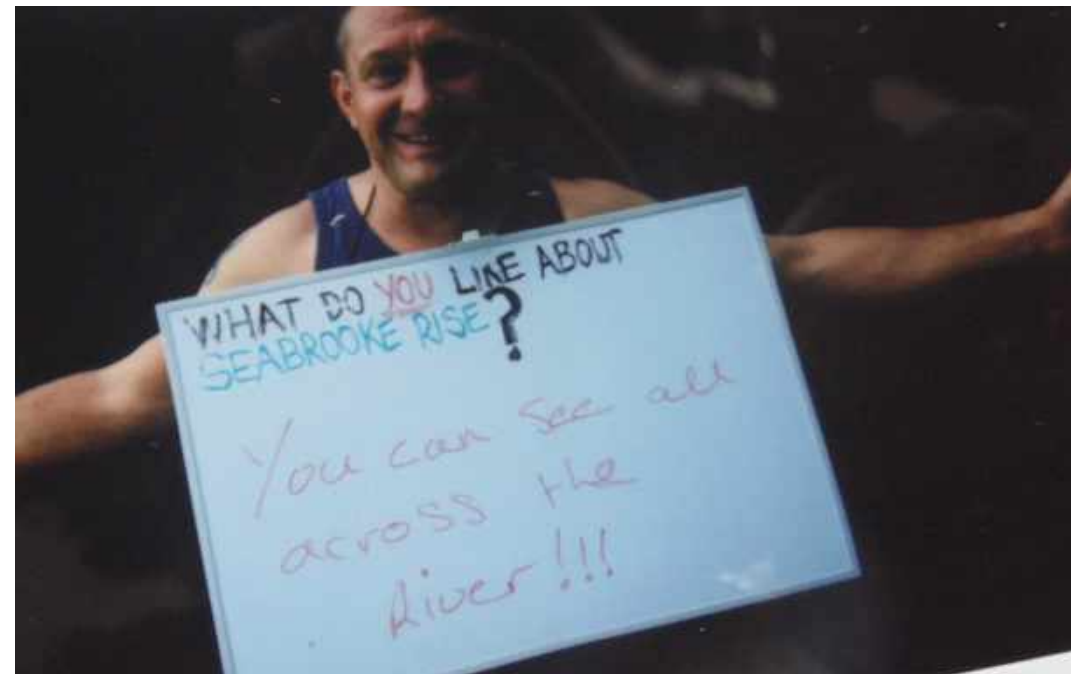
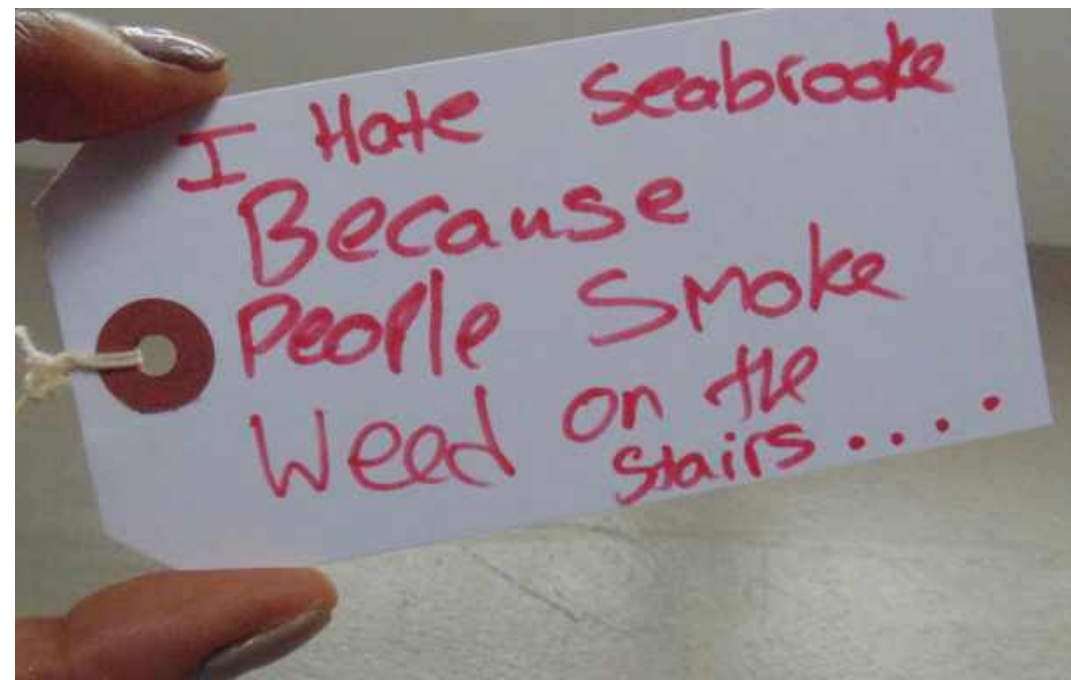


thurrock.gov.uk

Metal



A resident giving her views about the estate



Clockwise from top left: Children writing Postcards from the Future Estate; The Anonymous Message Tree tag; Collection of 'Be Heard, Have Your Say' badges; A resident's view on what he likes about the estate

HenPower Southend

Artist Workshop Facilitator
2016

HenPower is a nationwide award-winning project that creatively engages older people living with dementia in arts activities and hen-keeping to promote health and wellbeing and reduce loneliness.

Appointed by Equal Arts, two-hour creative workshop sessions were delivered to residents living at Nazareth House and St Martins Care homes in Southend.



Improving older people's
lives through creativity





For more information go to www.cityofdenver.gov/artsandworks
Arts Services at (303) 733-1891
Painted 21 June 2016

Pointillism workshop at Nazareth House



Above: Pointillism workshop at Nazareth House



Above: Hen collage workshop at St Martins Care Home



Recording and documenting dementia participant

The Garden of Remember

Project Development and Lead Artist

2016-17

An NHS England commission for Southend Borough Council to devise and lead a workshop programme to develop a Dementia Awareness App working with NetPark virtual digital platform.

The App involves sharing stories and the experiences of two older men who live with dementia, with a small group of primary school pupils and disadvantaged young people.

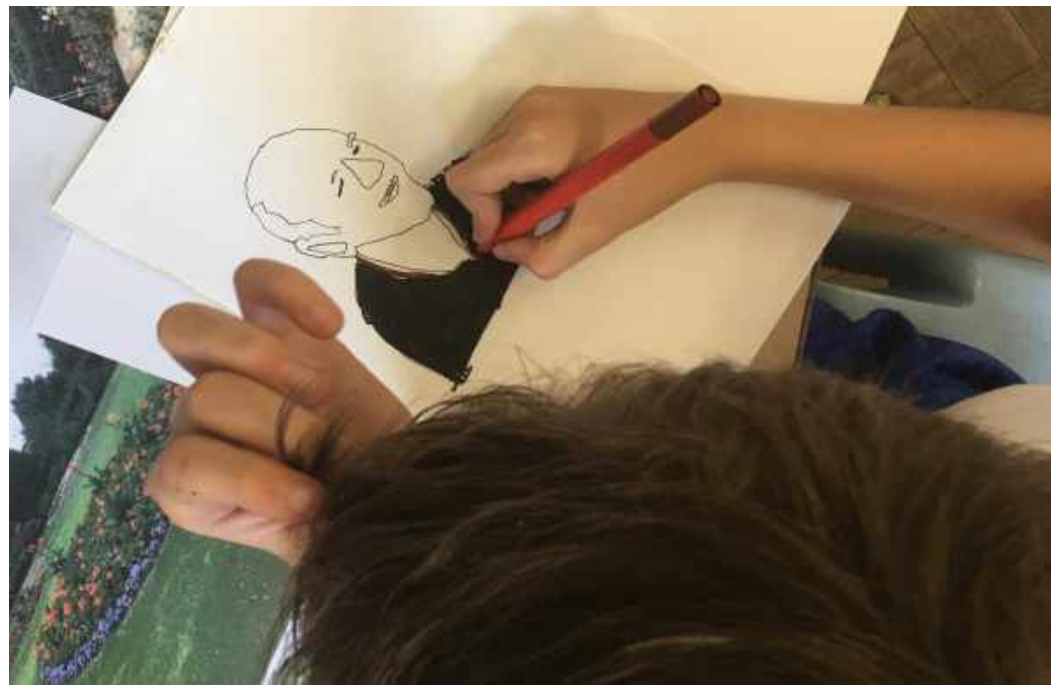
The workshops included dementia awareness training; working with digital drawing software for iPads and professional microphones; as well as working with a professional writer and illustrator. Overall the workshops employed core skills of literacy, visual thinking, collaborative and intergenerational working. The App was published in February 2017.





Tony didnt have any pets and
wasnt sure if he wanted one.
said that the games ~~said~~ are
"me bly that went bad game"
was announced he was ~~evacuat~~
school

blinky
In Clacton on
Coast so there's
the walkways
of the rosecrans that
2 dupst truck
of the rosecrans
evild.



Clockwise from left: Learning to record onto an iPad; Drawing workshop; Listening to the app in the Chalkwell Park

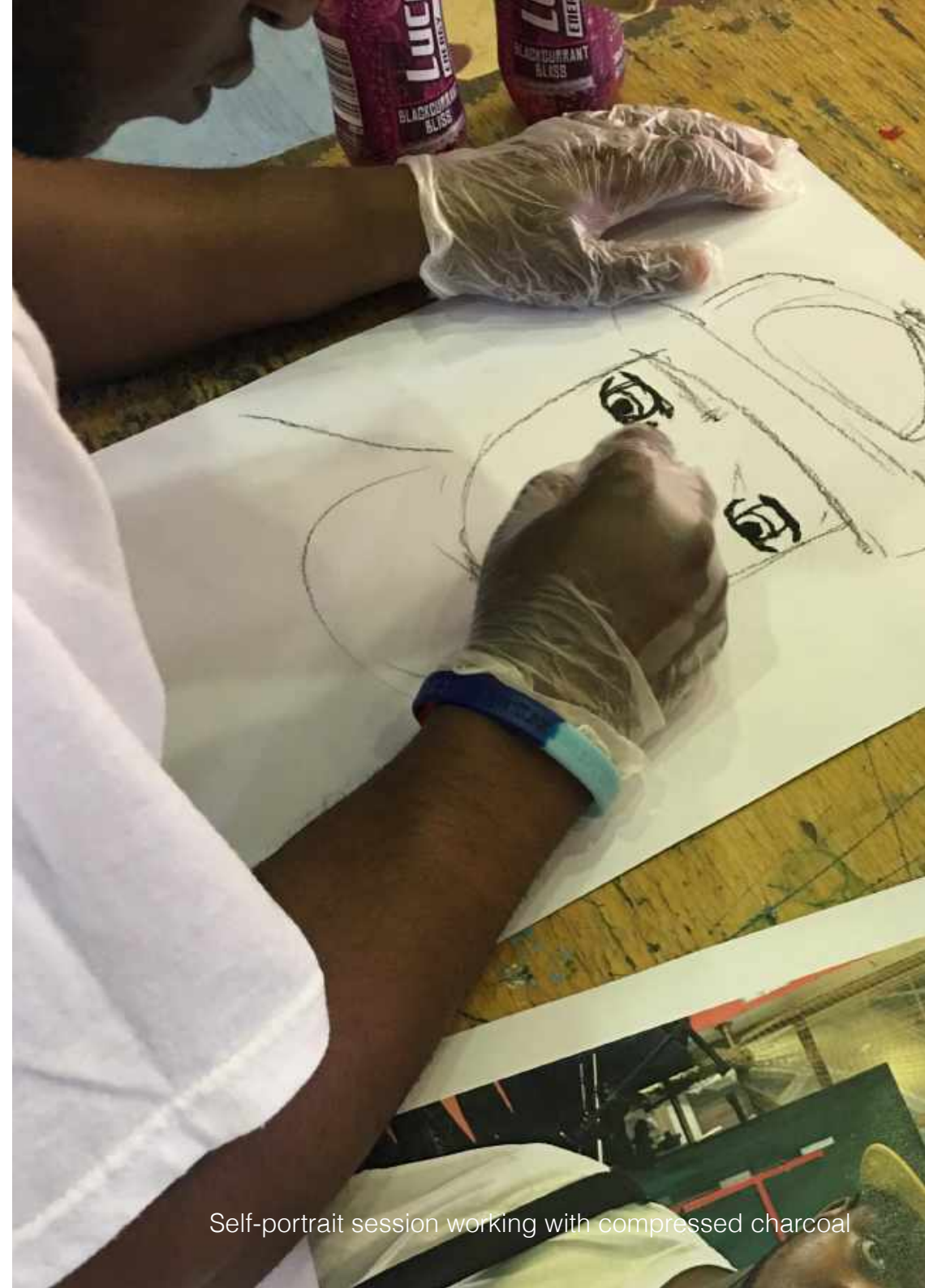
HenPower Hackney

Associate Artist

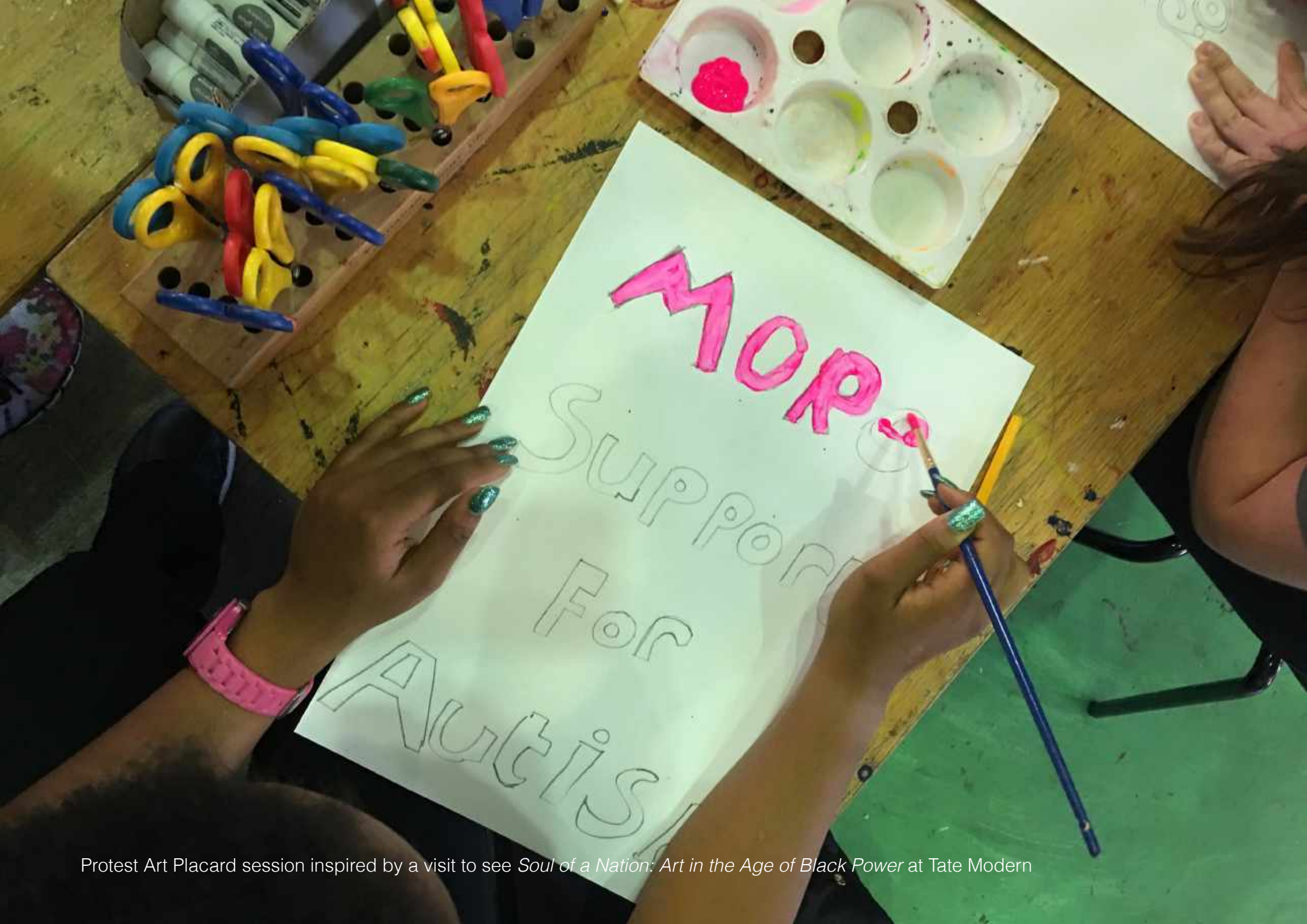
2017 to 2018

The Huddleston Centre enables children and young people with special needs living in Hackney to take maximum control of their own lives and play a full and active role in all aspects of the community.

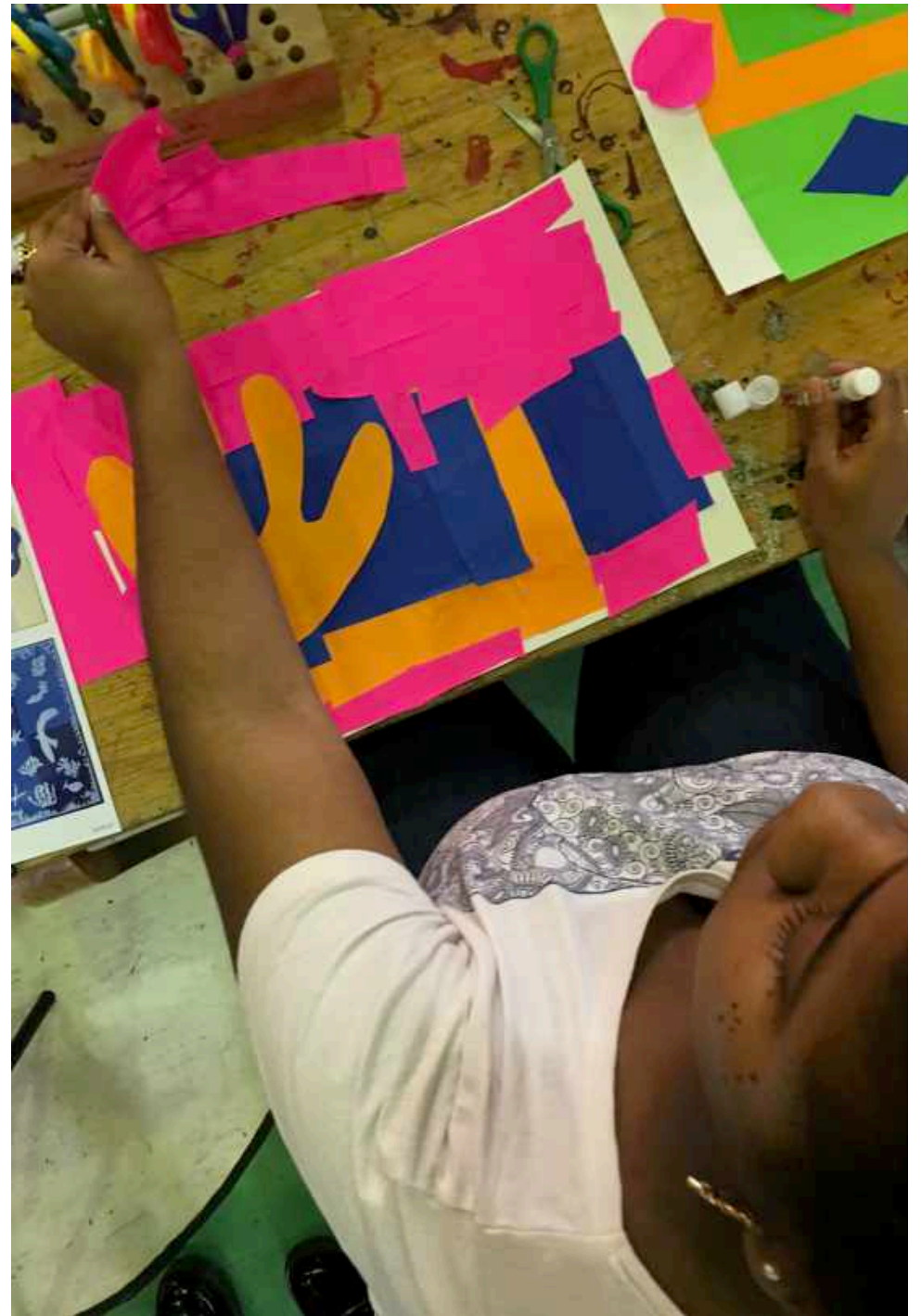
Appointed by the Huddleston Centre, weekly sessions are delivered for young people to engage in a wide range of creative activities in addition to caring for their hen lodgers through provision supported by national award-winning project, HenPower.



Self-portrait session working with compressed charcoal



Protest Art Placard session inspired by a visit to see *Soul of a Nation: Art in the Age of Black Power* at Tate Modern



Clockwise from bottom left: Soft pastel template drawings; Compressed charcoal cityscapes; Matisse inspired workshop



Open Arts

Artist-led Workshops

2017

Open Arts is a charitable community arts and mental health project managed by Essex Partnership University NHS Foundation Trust.

Appointed by Open Arts, this was a six-week wellbeing programme of creative art workshops aimed specifically for Muslim women living in and around Basildon, Essex.

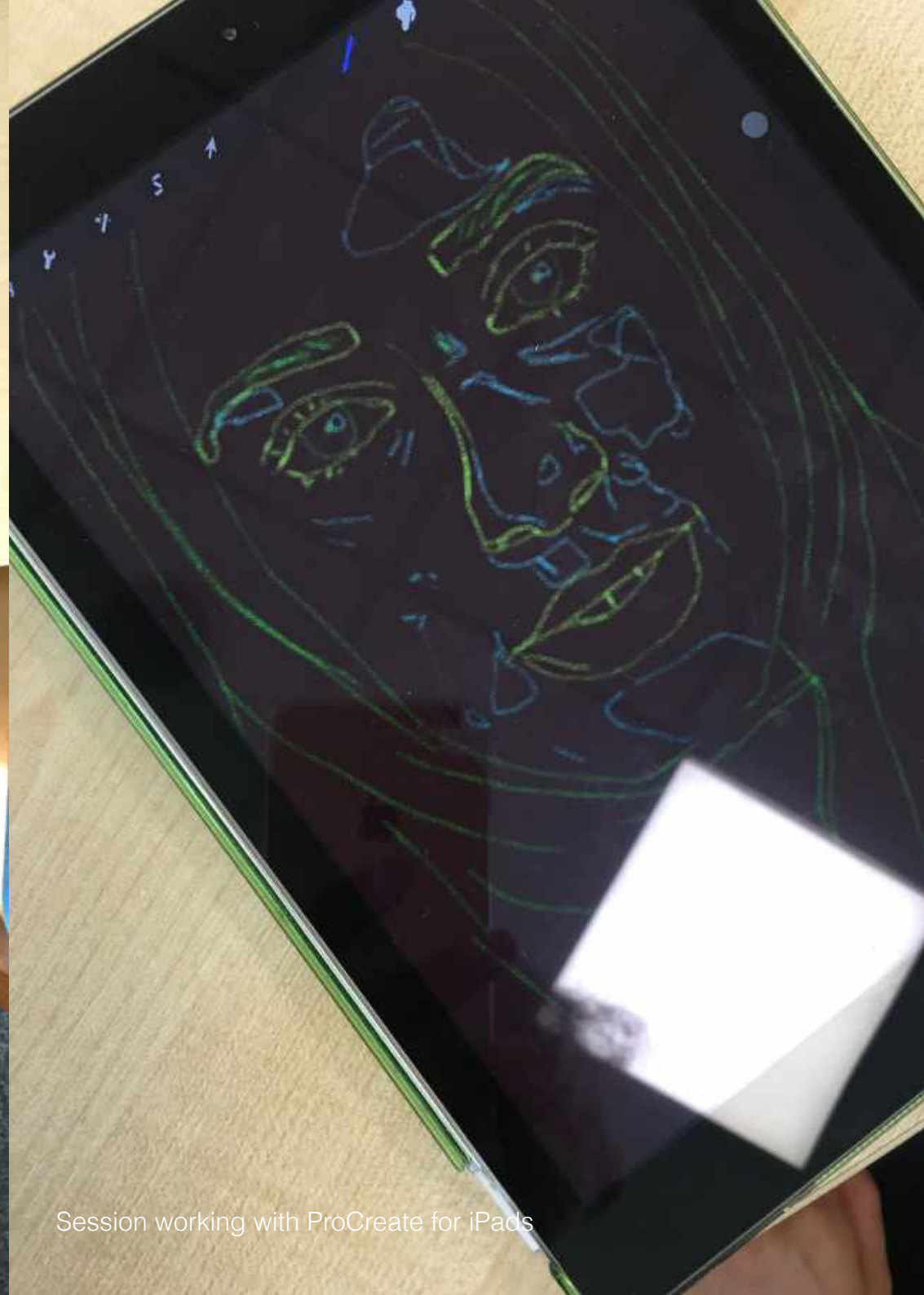
The group worked with theme of identity, and using a range of collage techniques were encouraged to create bold and ambitious self-portraits. The portraits were exhibited at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon in November 2017.

Open Arts
mental health and wellbeing
through creativity

NHS
Essex Partnership University
NHS Foundation Trust



First session having fun with a still life composition



Session working with ProCreate for iPads

Start

Artist-led Workshops

2017

Start is a UK-wide programme that aims to reach children who are missing out on a creative and cultural education. *Start* gives children in disadvantaged circumstances access to high-quality arts experiences that increase their confidence, boost their self-esteem and raise their aspirations over a three-year period.

Appointed by Focal Point Gallery workshops reference the gallery's current exhibition and offsite programme to consider the philosophies and working methods of the artist(s). Practical sessions combine hands-on digital activities and public screenings.



ROYAL
OPERA
HOUSE
BRIDGE



CHILDREN
& THE ARTS





Session working with year 4 pupils from Milton Hall School referencing the exhibition *Theatre* by Hilary Lloyd. The pupils made cut-outs working with a selection of materials Lloyd uses in her exhibition to frame new spaces that they 'performed' in and then photographed.



Left: Pupils interacting with the layered projections in the main gallery space. **Right:** Pupil experimenting with a cut-out frame.



50 Notable Black Britons

Artist-led Workshop

2017

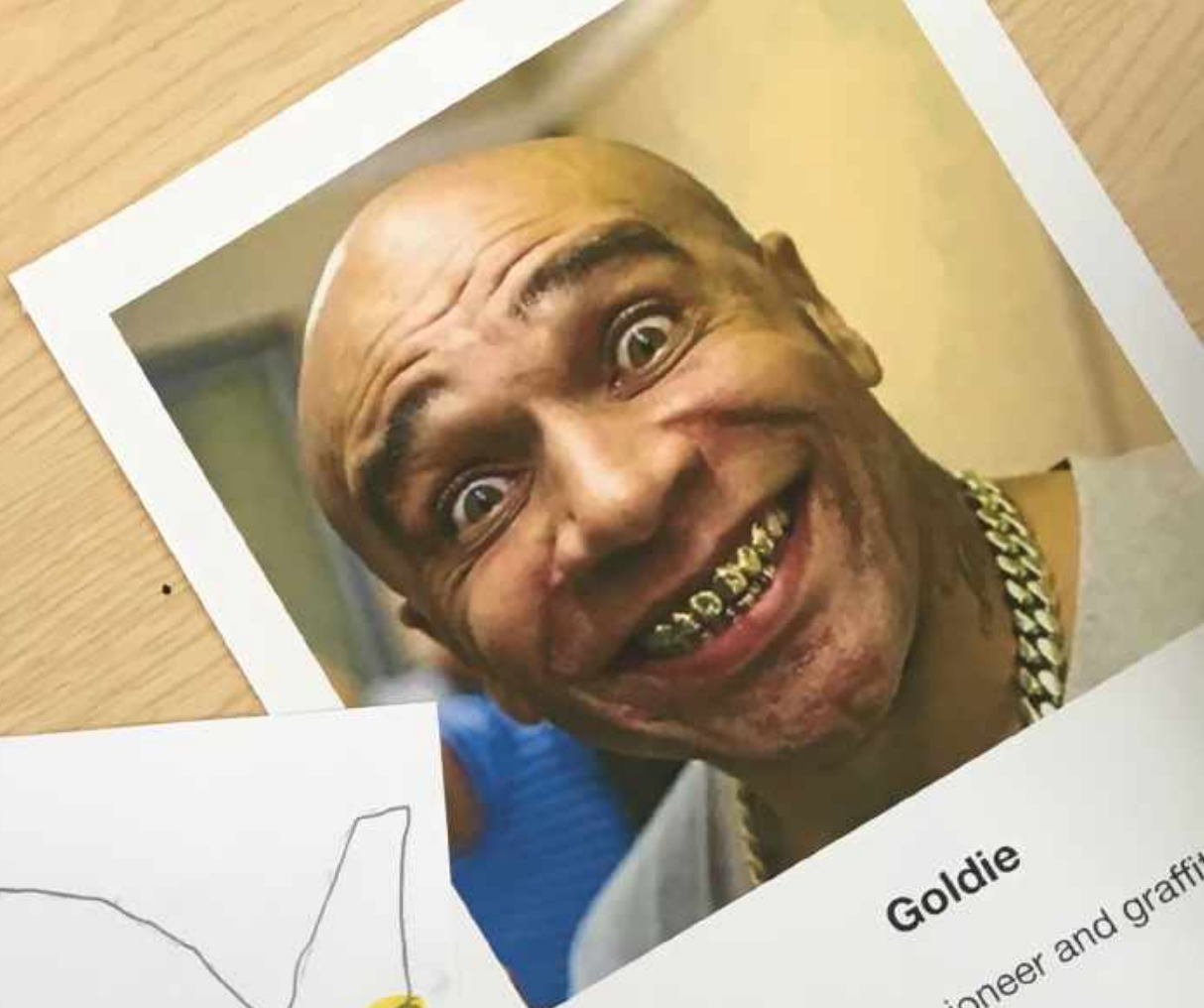
Appointed by Open Arts to devise and facilitate an art workshop to celebrate Black History Month for the residents of Basildon.

The workshop challenged participants to reproduce 50 drawings depicting 50 notable black Britons from throughout history to today. The drop-in style workshop, which attracted a range of participants from aged 5 to 75, also became a cultural learning zone as participants gained knowledge about the person they portrayed.

The 50 drawings were exhibited with a collection of other *Open Arts* artworks at the Towngate Theatre, Basildon in November 2017.

Open Arts
mental health and wellbeing
through creativity

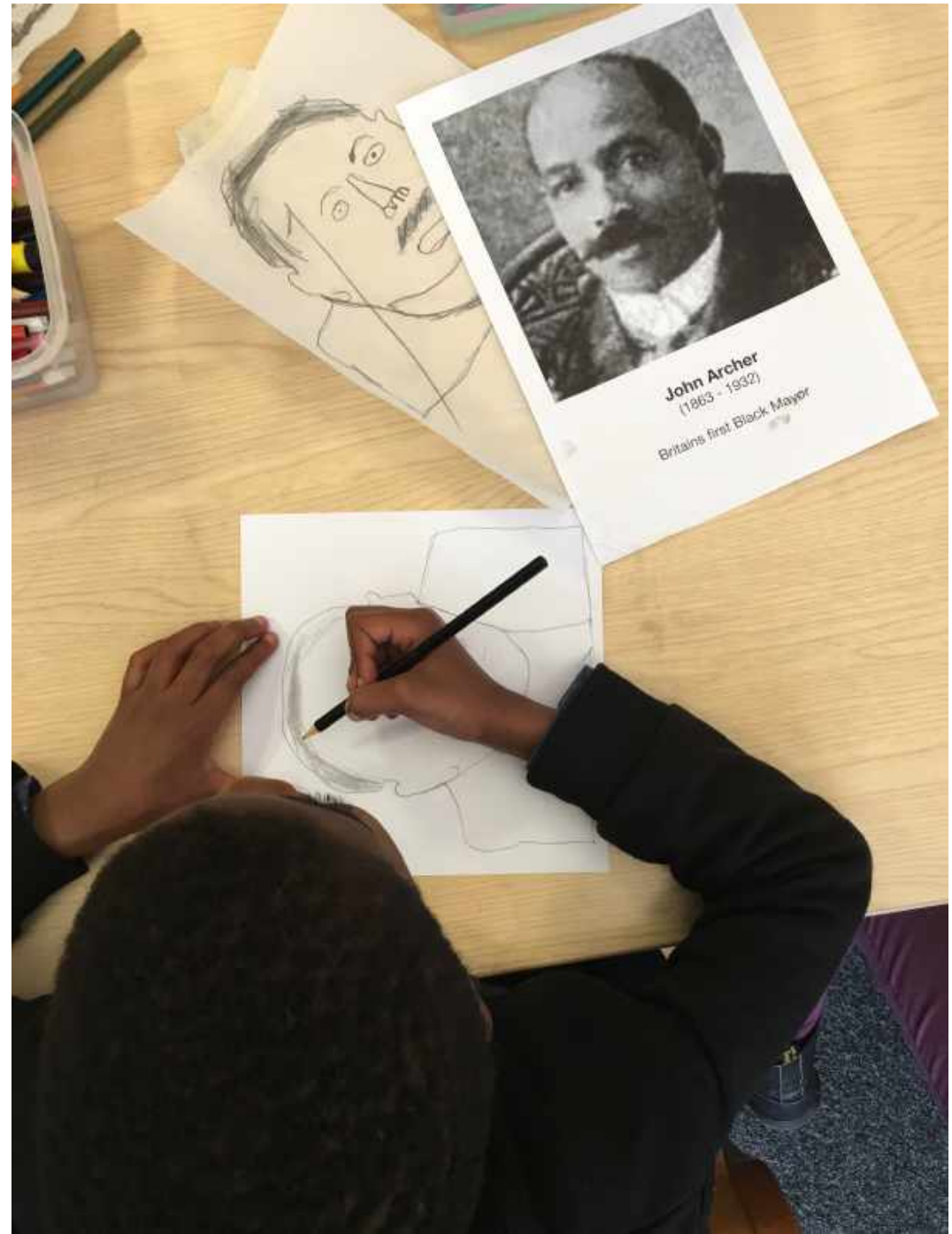
Basildon Council
BASILDON • BILLERICAY • WICKFORD



Goldie

Jungle music pioneer and graffiti





The Digital 'Selfie' Portrait

Artist Workshop Leader

2018

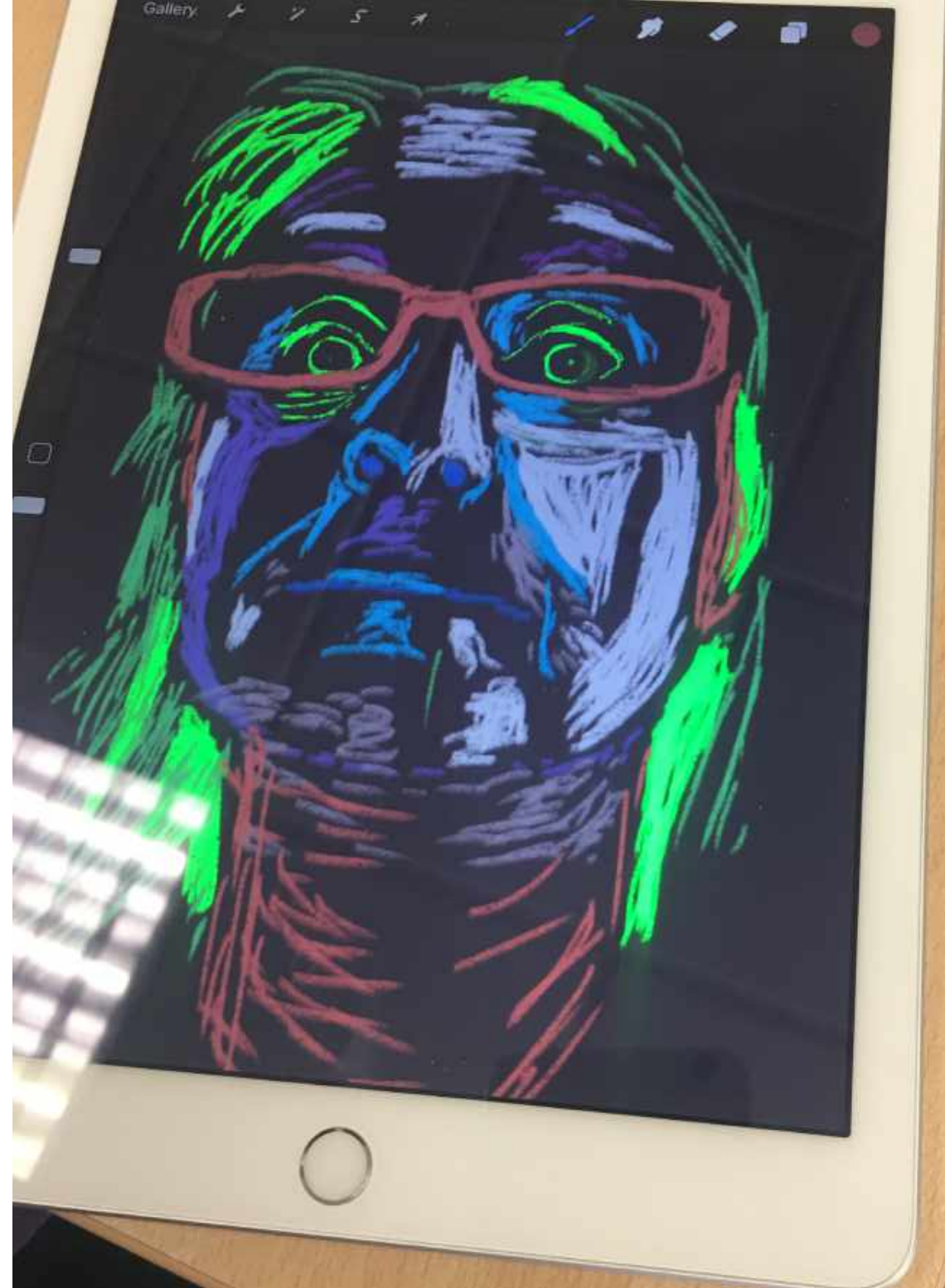
The self-portrait has had a long and distinguished place in art history from the old masters to Andy Warhol and Cindy Sherman.

Appointed by Suffolk Libraries Arts Programme: BLOC (Building Libraries on Creativity) this fun workshop used iPads with the drawing software ProCreate to demonstrate that thanks to technology the 'painted' self-portrait is available to all.

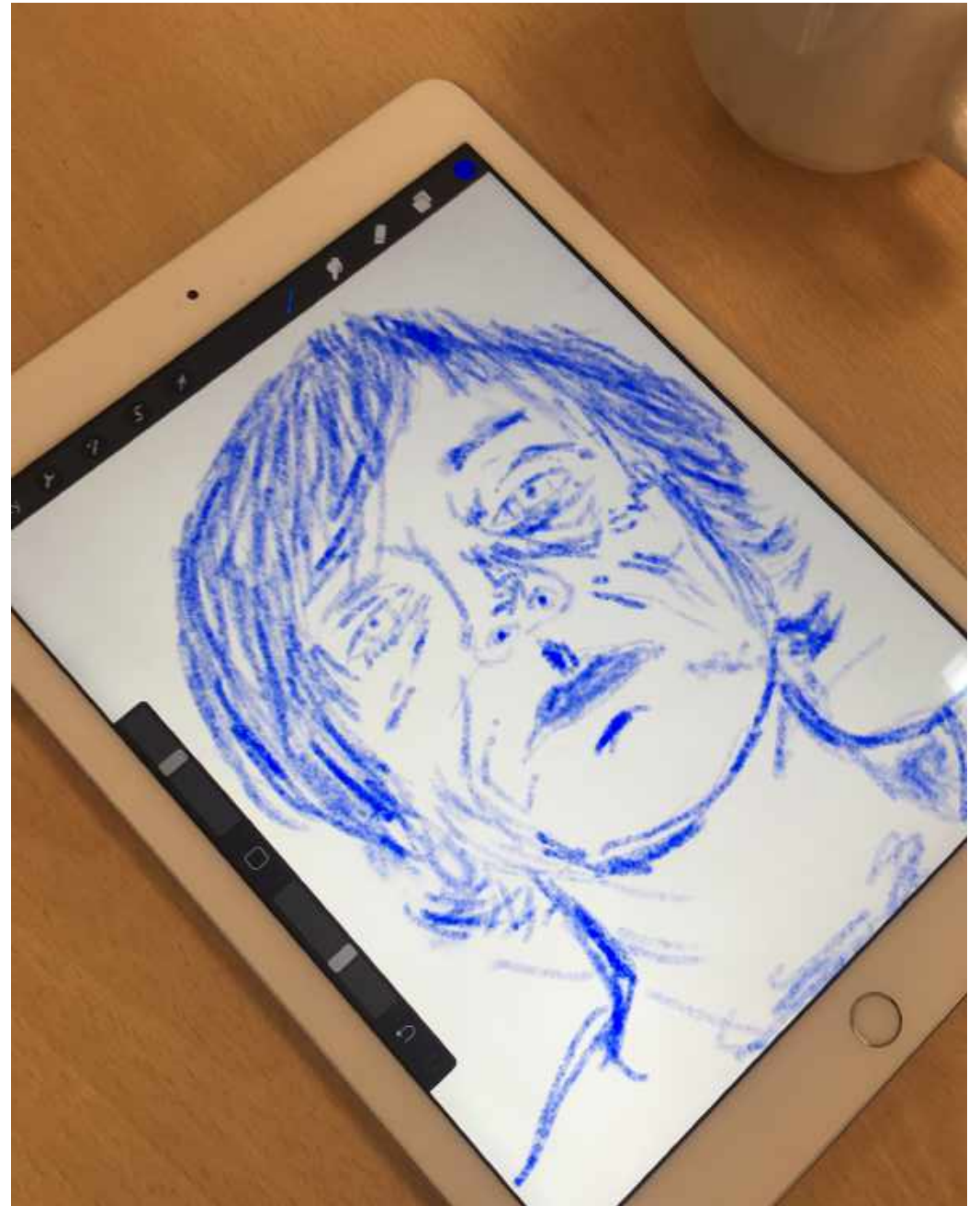
BLOC BUILD
YOUR
STORY
BUILDING LIBRARIES ON CREATIVITY



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For further enquiries
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or visit www.elsajames.com