

YOUTH PARTICIPATION

Youth Voice remains a key pillar of our strategy and we've made progress in our aims to embed young people at the heart of decision-making. We worked with partners, tenants and the wider community in Bristol and South Gloucestershire to bring together young people from all walks of life with those who can help them influence real change.

Participation in 2025 was active, practical and visible. Within the organisation young people co-designed sessions and events, reshaped spaces, took part in recruitment, and led conversations with partners and decision-makers. But we also helped young people amplify their voices beyond our walls as leaders influencing professional creative industries, informing local councils, shaping public narratives and contributing directly to national policy thinking.

BRISTOL HACK

In 2025, young people moved from speaking up to shaping change through youth-led events with real reach. **Over 70 young people and 10 youth organisations** came together for Bristol Hack, feeding lived experience and solutions directly into the Government's new ten-year National Youth Strategy. These moments show youth voice translating into influence - across policy, partnership and opportunity.

CREATIVE
YOUTH
NETWORK.



Around 250 young people had their voices heard by decision makers.

Many more gave feedback and ideas to our staff, to design and shape our own sessions, centres and activities.

96% feel listened to*

**Reported by young people filling in our Trusted Youth Worker survey.*



WE THE 33

Our flagship Youth Voice event series 'We the 33' continued in 2025 with young people sharing their voices, experiences, opinions and solutions with key decision makers in the region. This year, Youth Violence and kickstarting creative careers hit the top of their priority list.

Our Pathways to Music event brought together young voices and music industry professionals to champion youth participation and success in the music and creative sector. Young people performed and took part in roundtables and discussions leading to 11 pledges of action and support for young musicians, coaching and advice to affordable access to facilities. This event was funded by Youth Music thanks to the National Lottery via Arts Council England.

"The session gave [me] a comfortable space to reflect, reset and grow. I left with a much clearer sense of direction and greater confidence. Overall, it was a great experience - [I'm] grateful for the opportunity"

- Event attendee

BEYOND EVENTS

Beyond our internal feedback loops with young people and our event series, we lined up other opportunities for young people to shape culture and civic systems.

- ✿ Young asylum seekers led workshops at Ben & Jerry's Sundae Festival, bringing lived experience into national cultural platforms.
- ✿ Young people worked with Bristol City Council to influence how local public spaces around The Station support safety and belonging.
- ✿ Young people connected with the Bristol City Youth Council ahead of elections, shaping how peers engage with democratic processes.
- ✿ Decision-makers entered young people's spaces, with Carla Denyer MP joining an open-access session for direct, two-way dialogue.