

11 TECH 18

Festival of Cultures 2008



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FESTIVAL OF CULTURES PROJECT 2008

1. INTRODUCTION

There is no doubt that over the years, Britain has truly become multiracial, linguistic, cultural and multi-faceted and this is also reflected in our City of Nottingham. Awarded a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, 11 Tech 18, a voluntary organisation based in St. Anns, hosted the Festival of Cultures project in partnership with the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Racial Equality Council in 2008. The Festival was successfully held to celebrate the different cultures that make up Nottingham.

The setting up of a youth sub-group researched towards an annual festival of different cultures in Nottingham. This project empowered local children and helped them to learn more about different cultures in their local area. The money was spent on the organisation of the groups, delivering of the project and other multi-media based products and the development of a website. Additionally, funds went towards the Annual Events.

2. VENUE

The project activities were held in different venues, example meetings and activities were held at Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Racial Equality Council (REC), OSCAR Nottingham, 11 TECH 18, The Hyson Green Boys Club, the ANCA Centre and the New Arts Exchange. The main events were held at The New Art Exchange on Gregory Boulevard. This allowed for different people to be able to attend from all over Nottingham.

3. AIM

The project aim was to involve young people aged between 13 and 20 (or up to 25 for those with special needs) in heritage. We aimed to support and engage young people in a project to research and develop a plan of action to lead up to a Festival of all the Communities in Nottingham. We aimed to empower the young people to work alongside and learnt from the elders and take part in visiting culturally accepted local and national amenities (museums) to enhance cultural awareness, understanding and co-existence. Although our aim was to involve children from 13 upwards it was very hard to tell a parent that her younger child could not take part so we have children from as young as 5 years old who fully enjoyed taking part in the project. This project is funded by The Heritage Fund – Young Roots.

4. OBJECTIVES

These were to ensure that the youth gained sufficient experiences and benefited from the exposures and involvement by:

- Meeting new people
- Visiting different places
- Discovering new experiences
- Developing new skills
- Learning about other cultures
- Bring about the awareness of the different cultures within Nottingham



These were met through:

Support and engage young people

- ◆ Provide individual support via tutor support.
- ◆ Provide travel and encourage decision making.

Training of young people

- ◆ Oral History Training.
- ◆ Interviewing Skills Training
- ◆ Filming and Editing.
- ◆ Team Building.
- ◆ Cultural Diversity Training
- ◆ Communication Skills Training



Research and investigation

- ◆ Visits of museum & other places of interest
- ◆ Interview/research other authorities

Sharing the learning

- ◆ Teach website design
- ◆ Research the number and types of festivals and when they occur
- ◆ Develop DVD
- ◆ Complete calendar



Recognition & Celebration

- ◆ Preparation for festival
- ◆ Feedback from research
- ◆ An award ceremony to celebrate their achievement

5. ADVICE & GUIDANCE

The project was based on honest, open and transparent partnership to build our young people of today to become true champions of Nottingham tomorrow. Partners from a diverse background were called upon to share their experience, skills and knowledge in a whole range of activities including:

- Involve and engage young people from a diverse range of backgrounds to come together and work in partnership.
- Plan and deliver training
- Capacity build young people to become involved and engaged in research – equipping them with knowledge, experience and above all, necessary skills to translate needs into action planning.
- Organise a celebratory event for Nottingham
- Develop a template for best practice for partnership working – simple guidelines as to what works and what doesn't.
- Develop a partnership from whose aim would be to exchange ideas, share best practice and also to apply for funding jointly as is encouraged by many funding providers.



6. MARKETING

This project is marketing by **11 Tech 18**, by using leaflet distribution (posts and emails), word of mouth, and interviews prior to the project start date (Please see the attachments).

The project was prepared and promoted by:

- 13 meetings were held with Chief Executive and staff from Racial Equality Council (REC), Student Social Worker from Derby University, staff from Hyson Green Youth Club, Nottinghamshire County, Interfaith, Broadway, Meadows Partnership Trust, Refugee and Asylum Association and Welsh Society, Asian Arts Officer from Nottingham Asian Arts Council, and staff from CHASE, Vine Fruits, NCBI and Afro Heritage all to achieve an excellent result for the young people.
- Project promotion distributed by contacting:
 - Twenty Youth Clubs/Groups were contacted
 - Ten Community Centres
 - Other Associations and Voluntary Groups
- Interviews with Rosie Fyffe from Reach Higher Academy (Please refer to the DVD provided.)
 - Interactions with young people in the Afro-Caribbean Nation Artistic (ACNA) Centre.

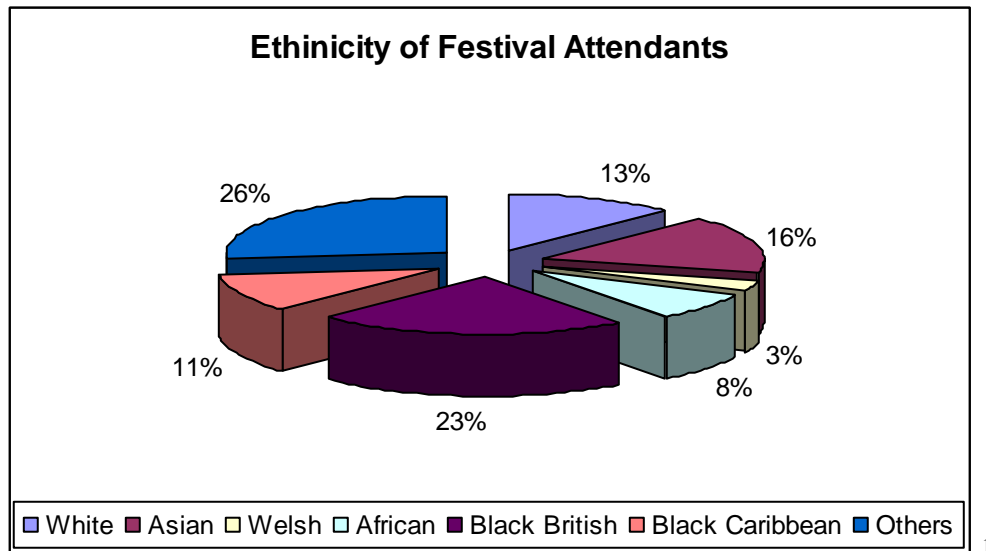
7. DURATION

The total duration of the project is thirteen months. The project started on 1st December 2007 and will end on 31st December 2008.

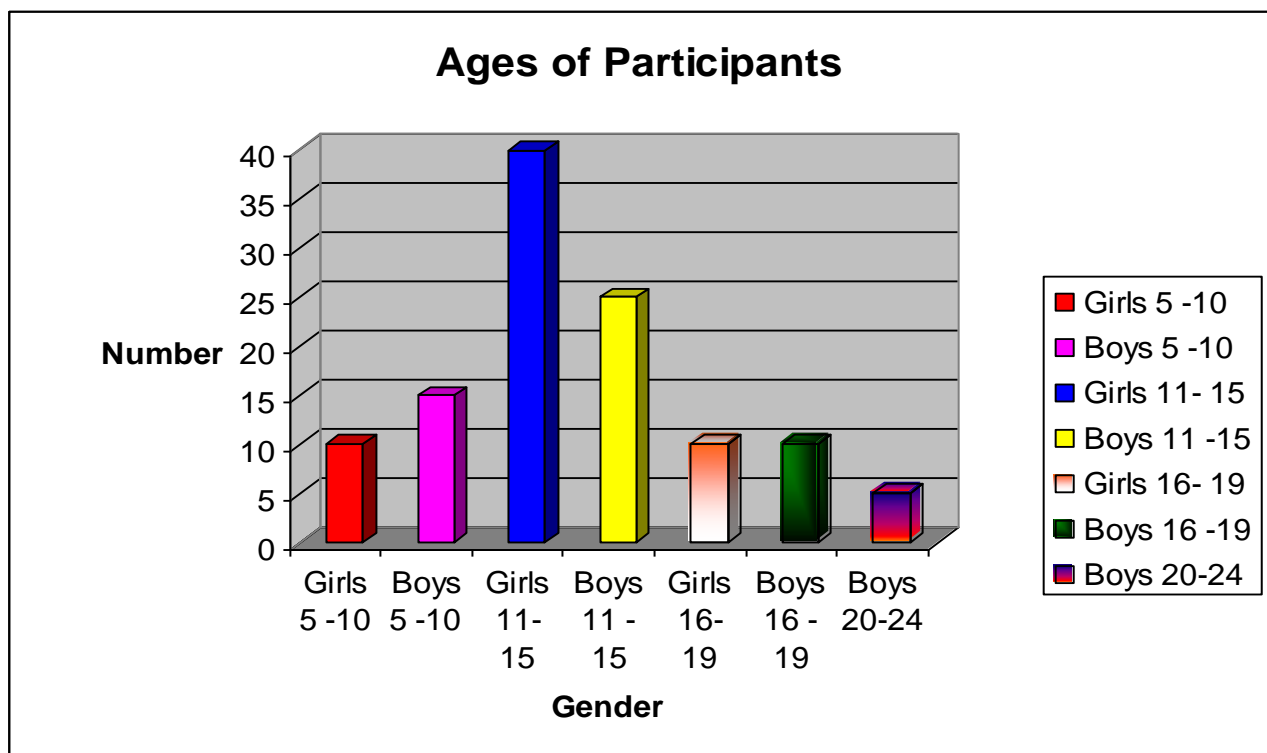


8. ATTENDANTS NUMBERS

The number of attendants registered to attend the project was three hundred and fifty, which covered Asian, Welsh, White, Black British, Black Caribbean and others wide ethnic categories.



PARTICIPANTS UNDER THE AGE OF 25 YEARS OLD



¹ Note: We got nearly 30 people to attend our festival from far off as Doncaster.
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9. ACTIVITIES TOPICS AND OUTLINE

The details of the following actions are all inclusive in Appendix (x).

- ◆ Support and engage young people
- ◆ Training and preparation of young people, partners and staff
- ◆ Research and investigation
- ◆ Sharing the learning
- ◆ Recognition & Celebration



10. FORMS

A number of forms were used throughout the project to aid the attendants with gaining their experiences. Please see appendices.

11. GROUP INTERACTION

It was a dynamic atmosphere in all activities held especially the festival performances. Please see DVD for further details.



12. RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

All overheads for the activities were obtained through funding by Heritage Lottery Fund.

Resources such as:

- Carnival costumes were prepared by the Carnival Troop;
- Tae-Kwon-Do Demonstration outfits were provided by Imran Asif from REC;
- Music was provided by Live Band Afro Heritage;
- Instrument of Celtic Harp performance was provided by Welsh Society;
- Drum performance of a Celebratory Chant was provided by Souljah Milla;
- Hands decoration facilities was prepared by a henna artist Ghazala Rauf;
- African dishes, Brazilian dishes and desserts and Welsh foods were provided by Safari; Catering, Costa Catering and Welsh Society;
- Certificates of the Ceremony are provided by 11 TECH 18;
- Cost for hire of Equipment are provided by 11 TECH 18;
- Cost of Training materials are provided by 11 TECH 18;
- Cost of Purchase of Equipment are provided by 11 TECH 18;
- Costs of Professional services are provided by 11 TECH 18.

13. YOUNG PEOPLE EVALUATION

Please see DVD for further details.

14. PROJECT MANAGER EVALUATION

The project was very successful; however, it was very difficult to get partners involved in the project. Getting the young people who I approached and the ones who were already part of a group was excellent they were all up for the project. Where I find it difficult was when I contacted the Community centres, Youth clubs and some local Community groups whose remit is to work with young people. It became apparent that although their remit is to work with young people they do not actually have young people attending their premises on a regular basis or they work with other groups to deliver their services.

I have contact a large number of community centres and only three centres responded. I gave one of my volunteers a task to contact them and actually visit the centre to see if they did not receive the information. This brought to light that some of them were closed, some were under renovation and some had no activities at present.

This was very disappointing for me as I wanted to get young people from all across Nottingham interested in the first festival because this would then give 11 TECH 18 a wider partnership base as well as it would be easier for us to then deliver the project again without so much being spent on advertising and marketing.

What I found was that the people who attend meetings sometimes have no authority to make decisions so they have to take the ideas back to the team or management to make a decision although you sent them information to share with their manager before coming to the meeting. This took up time in the process of actually starting the delivery as we had to go back and forth before decisions could be made and finalized.

Overall the partners who were involved enjoyed the project and is looking forward to other events, they stated that they would be more readily prepared for any other events as they have now taken part and know more or less what is expected of them.

The support I received from the REC was fantastic and the chief executive took time out of his busy schedule to attend most meetings if he was not available he would send a representative. I would like to comment him on his efforts.

15. MONITOR AND EVALUATION LIST

- Health and Safety
- Action Plans
- Minutes of Meetings
- Register of attendance
- Interviews with Youth People
- Filming and recording

17. FACILITIES

The New Art Exchange, Hyson Green Youth Club, REC, O.S.C.A.R, African-Caribbean Centre and Broadway Cinema provided the use of their facilities throughout the duration of the project.

18. FINANCES

Capital Costs

	Costs to date
Equipment	£ 1,307.36
Materials	£ 245.14
Total Capital Costs	£ 1,552.50

Activity Costs	Costs to date
Fees Freelance/Short-Term Contracts Only	£ 4,098.40
Project Specific Costs	£ 2,000.00
Training	£ 1,600.00
Travel	£ 550.00
Overheads	£ 300.00
Office Stationery	£ 450.00
Non Cash Contributions	£ 9,500.00
Other Activity Costs	£ 5,932.00
Consultancy and Expert Advice	£ 600.00
Total Activity Costs	£ 25,030.40

Other Costs

Contingency	Costs to date
Total Other Costs	£ -
Total Project Costs	£ 26,582.90

SUMMARY & RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

The project in its infancy stage was a great success; however, there are still things to develop if this project is to become a yearly event with partnership in its forefront. Partners need to be much more readily adaptable to change and professionalism in the way they conduct the running of their services as well as more transparent in their actions.

SPECIAL THANKS

I would like to say a special thanks to all who took part in this project to make it a success.

The Board and Staff of 11 TECH 18 would like to thank the Heritage Fund for trusting and giving us an opportunity to achieve one of our aims and giving the young people a beginning to exploring their local community and embracing diversity.

APPENDICES

- ◆ Sample copy of Minutes of Meeting
- ◆ Black History Month Booklet advertising the events on page 8 Celebrating Cultures and Page 11 Embracing Diversity
- ◆ A copy of a taste of Wales – Welsh recipes
- ◆ Sample copies of Forms used in the project
- ◆ Marketing Materials
- ◆ Young people interviewing work