



IMPACT REPORT

September 2024 - August 2025

B THE BRIGHT FOUNDATION



A WORD FROM OUR FOUNDER

It is my firm belief that the arts and creativity help children grow happier, healthier and more confident, enabling them to reach their full potential. My life's work has been devoted to costume design for film, television and theatre, and I have had the privilege of working alongside extraordinary artists and storytellers. Through The Bright Foundation, I want to tackle the barriers that prevent so many young people from experiencing the joy and power of creativity. My hope is that we can offer them experiences that stay with them – moments that might even change the course of their lives. It is remarkable to think that we are already four years into this journey. I am delighted to share this report, which celebrates everything achieved in our first full year of operations across both venues.

John Bright, Benefactor and Chair of The Bright Foundation / Founder and Director of Cosprop



A WORD FROM OUR CEO

This is our second Impact Report since launching our arts education charity in Summer 2022. We have come a long way in a relatively short space of time since we opened the doors of the Barn Theatre and Museum, and I have been astounded by how quickly we have been able to become part of the cultural fabric of Hastings and St Leonards and build a strong creative community of children, young people, families, teachers, partners and creatives. 2024-25 was the first year in which both of our venues were up and running and delivering a full year round programme. We were delighted to continue working with Evaluation Consultant, Catherine Orbach to undertake robust evaluation across our programmes. This report summarises an in-depth evaluation report for the year – the first to be measured against our newly adopted organisation goals.

At a time when funding for the arts is scarce and vulnerable, the scale of John's support and bequest makes The Bright Foundation an important addition to the arts and cultural offer for children and young people in this part of East Sussex, and provides an exemplary model for cultural philanthropy.

Polly Risbridger, Chief Executive Officer, The Bright Foundation



ABOUT THE BRIGHT FOUNDATION

The Bright Foundation is an arts education charity based in Hastings (East Sussex) established in 2018 by John Bright, an Academy & BAFTA Award winning costume designer for film, TV and theatre. Notable credits include designing for *A Room with a View* and *Sense and Sensibility*. John is also the founder and owner of the world's leading period costume house, Cosprop, based in London.

John brings this creative life, his vision, collections and connections to The Bright Foundation. His ambition is to use his lifetime's work to inspire a new generation of imaginative children and young people to reach their full potential. John is very aware that Hastings is a town with significant inequalities and is passionate about levelling the playing field, ensuring that children and young people who experience disadvantage of any kind have the same creative opportunities as others.

John has funded the development of the two venues and the launch of the charity through the profits from Cosprop. Alongside core operational support from Cosprop, we have a growing Supporters Circle of individual donors and are receiving a range of grants for programme delivery. He has bequeathed most of his estate to the Foundation, including Cosprop, to support it in perpetuity.

In June 2022 the **Barn Theatre and Museum** opened its doors at Rodgers Farm, just a mile north of Hastings. The renovated farm buildings include a 50 seat children's theatre and museum showcasing John's collection of antique toys, puppets and model theatre sets. This is all set within 24 acres of beautiful countryside. In Autumn 2025 we undertook an extension to the theatre creating a multi-use back-stage area and deeper stage, allowing us to programme larger scale productions.

In May 2024, the **Benbow Arts Space** opened in central St Leonards. This is a creative learning hub for young people dedicated to the art of filmmaking. It has an early cinema exhibition, an events space, a workshop space and a film production suite.

The Bright Foundation has a core group of 7 staff working across the two sites; a group of dedicated trustees, freelancers and volunteers; and 32 ambassadors from the world of TV, film and theatre who want to support the foundation in achieving its goals.



THE CONTEXT FOR OUR WORK

John Bright founded The Bright Foundation to focus opportunities and resources on children and young people experiencing disadvantage. Hastings is a creative coastal town with a vibrant cultural offer built around grassroots DIY creativity, alongside recognised international talent. However the town faces stark, deeply entrenched inequalities and many young people face significant challenges. The following context shapes our mission and our programmes.

ARTS AND CREATIVITY

- ▶ Hastings is home to a large number of artists and creatives with **539** creative, digital and technology business based in the town
- ▶ The number of jobs in the cultural sector rose by **33%** between 2011 and 2022
- ▶ The UK has one of the lowest levels of government spending on culture among European nations – local government revenue funding of culture fell by **48%** between 2010 and 2023
- ▶ The number of arts teachers in English state funded schools fell by **23%** between 2011 and 2024
- ▶ Since 2010 the share of GCSE entries in arts subjects has declined by **47%**

ECONOMIC HARDSHIP

- ▶ Hastings is the **3rd** most deprived local authority in England * (this is a decline from 13th in 2019)
- ▶ **27%** of children are living in poverty
- ▶ Average Free School Meals is **37%** compared to **22%** nationally
- ▶ Hastings has the highest number of children outside of London in temporary accommodation

EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT

- ▶ Hastings in in the bottom ten of the country for social mobility of young people from deprived backgrounds, with only 11% of pupils on free school meals achieving English and Maths passes and 5% completing a degree **
- ▶ **1 in 10** young people in Hastings leave school with no plans for higher education or work – almost twice the English average
- ▶ **2 out of the 3** of the local secondary schools require improvement
- ▶ **21.5%** of working age adults are employment deprived (5th highest in the country)

HEALTH AND WELLBEING

- ▶ **16%** of boys and **24%** of girls in Year 10 reported low happiness and high rates of bullying
- ▶ Only **17%** of pupils are active for at least 60 minutes a day, **12%** reported no daily physical activity
- ▶ Year 6 obesity (**21.6%**) is higher than the South East average

SOCIAL

- ▶ **Gentrification** of Hastings with big influx of Londoners resulting in divided communities, rising house prices and stark inequalities

PROGRAMME GOALS

MISSION →

To use the lifetime's work and collections of our founder, Academy Award winning costume designer John Bright, as a catalyst for creative learning and wellbeing, inspiring children and young people facing disadvantage to reach their full potential.

OUTCOMES →

CREATIVE SKILLS AND SELF-EXPRESSION

IMPROVED WELLBEING

INCREASED ASPIRATION

FOCUS →

1

SCHOOLS AND GROUPS - CULTURAL EDUCATION

4

IMPROVING ACCESS

2

PUBLIC EVENTS - AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

5

COLLECTION CARE AND EXHIBITIONS

3

CREATIVE SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

GOAL →

Offer children and young people a quality cultural learning experience drawing on our collections and creative spaces

Tackle barriers for the most disadvantaged children and young people to access the arts, filmmaking and creativity

Grow a family and young audience for theatre and performance, embedding opportunities for them to develop their own creativity

Exhibit John Bright's collections of antique toys, puppets, model theatre sets and early cinema to educate visitors, preserve our heritage and inspire creativity

Support young people to develop creative skills and understand creative career pathways - with a focus on film and screen

ACTIVITIES →

Experience Days (heritage, theatre, outdoor, filmmaking, creative careers)

Charity Partners - free tickets, experience days

Family theatre shows
Host Local Festivals

Toy and puppet museum
Early Cinema exhibition
Cataloguing and restoration
Museum trails and activities

Benbow Youth Film Collective

In-house production of schools theatre show

Free and discounted places on courses

Open Days

Heritage projects

Creative Intensives / Holiday Projects

Filmmaking projects

Transport Support Fund

Children's International Film Festival (CIFF)

National Saturday Club in Film and Screen

CPD and resources for teachers and artists

Special School partnerships

Children's International Film Festival

Staff Training

Work experience

Digital Badges

BFI Film Academy

VALUES →

EXCITEMENT AND ENJOYMENT

CHILD-CENTERED

ACCESS AND EQUALITY FOR ALL

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE

USING OUR HERITAGE TO INSPIRE THE FUTURE

EMPLOY LOCAL

PROGRAMME HIGHLIGHTS

SCHOOLS AND GROUPS - CULTURAL EDUCATION

Goal – Offer children and young people a quality cultural learning experience drawing on our collections and creative spaces.

This year we delivered **50 Experience Days** for schools and groups, welcoming **964 children and young people** – a 45% increase from last year. Time is spent building relationships with schools to ensure visits are tailored to children's needs. The days are offered free of charge with a transport support fund available to support schools with a high percentage of free school meals.

The activities have strong cross-curricular links and are led by highly experienced artist educators. At the Barn Theatre and Museum, workshops included Puppet Making, Outdoor Learning, History of Toys, Costume and Character, and a performance of *The Witch and the Egg* by Luminous Tales. At the Benbow Arts Space, children explored the Evolution of the Moving Image, animation and creative careers.

We also developed bespoke partnerships:

- A pilot **work experience project** with East Sussex College Group Hastings, where students formed their own production company to create a promotional film about the Foundation.
- A year-round partnership with **Torfield SEN School**, enabling every class to visit and participate in workshops or see a show.
- A filmmaking day for **unaccompanied young refugees**, delivered in partnership with East Sussex Virtual School during Refugee Week.

"Students learnt valuable production skills. from planning to shooting. They had the opportunity to use different filming equipment to what is at college, allowing them to expand their technical knowledge."

Bexhill College



"All aspects of what we did were led in such a way as to include the whole group and not only hold their attention, but to encourage them to go above and beyond what they felt they were capable of."

ESCC Looked After Children



PUBLIC EVENTS - AUDIENCE DEVELOPMENT

Goal – Grow a family and young audience for theatre and performance embedding opportunities for them to develop their own creativity.

From the start, The Bright Foundation has sought out quality children's theatre for holiday and occasional weekend shows, often featuring puppetry linking with the museum collections, or with an environmental theme connecting to the rural location. The Barn Theatre offers a unique, intimate and relaxed space for children to see theatre, often for the first time. A practical craft session inspired by the show is usually offered in the museum space, making a rich and multi-faceted experience and ensuring children have a chance to be creative.

During the year, we presented four **family shows** at the Barn Theatre: *The Witch and the Egg* by Luminous Tales, *The Snowman* by The Enchanted Cinema, *Anansi and the Lost Sun* by Swallow Wings Puppetry and *Shoe Baby* by Long Nose Puppets. Our annual **Open Days** transformed Rodgers Farm into a story trail adventure curated by Out of the Bag Theatre. Tickets remain affordable, with heavily discounted rates for low-income families. Through our charity partners, we also distribute free tickets and provide transport support.

We presented two free Family Open Days at the Benbow Arts Space as part of local festivals:

- **A Town Explores a Book** – over two days, we delivered a community animation project in which families created scenes of an animated film telling the evolution of the Iguanodon. Alongside this, we offered different interactive activities exploring dinosaurs, including a green screen experience where participants could walk with them.
- **Hastings Fat Tuesday** – we were a family venue for this annual music festival offering a space for families to enjoy high quality music and create customised umbrellas for the Umbrella Parade

We also participated in a range of **off-site events** including careers fairs at the De La Warr Pavilion and Hastings College, Market at the Museum at Hastings Museum and Art Gallery, a film take-over day at local skatepark Source Park, and screenings as part of the BFI Film Academy and Hastings Rocks Film Festival. The Open Days and the off-site events help expand our engagement across the town and raise public awareness of our programmes.

"Gorgeous show, engaging crafts activities and inspirational toy museum. Adults and kids all loved it."

Audience member





'I just wanted to say a massive thank you! Benbow has been such a fun experience and has really benefited me - the music video unit helped me land my international music marketing apprenticeship with Amazon. Lucy and I have been super inspired by our time with you and touched by the kind and welcoming nature of everyone at Benbow.'

Participant from Benbow Youth Film Collective



CREATIVE SKILLS AND EMPLOYABILITY

Goal - Support young people to develop creative skills and understand career pathways - with a focus on film and screen

With the opening of the Benbow Arts Space, this goal has become a major focus with the offer double that of last year. 142 young people have taken part in our courses, with over 54% of participants having special educational needs or in receipt of free school meals.

Programme highlights include:

- **Benbow Youth Film Collective** - weekly filmmaking courses for 11-15 year olds and 16-19 year olds, exploring making music videos, stop-frame animations and documentaries in partnership with skate park, Source Park. Each term ended with a screening of the films made for family and friends, including a pop up cinema at Source Park for the documentaries as part of A Curious Town Festival.
- **BFI Film Academy Short Course** - an intensive for 16 - 19 year olds to train with industry professionals and devise, write and film their own short film, screened at the Kino Cinema and the South East BFI Film Academy showcase.
- **Creative Intensives** - three different week long holiday projects supported by the East Sussex Holiday Activities and Food programme and Three Guineas Trust. *Play and Perform* took place at the Barn Theatre and Museum over Easter for 8-11 year olds who created a play in a week. *Creative Explorers* took place in August for children aged 8-11 years with autism. *Make a Film in a Week* took place at the Benbow Arts Space for 11-15 year olds to make a short film in a week over the Summer holidays.



IMPROVING ACCESS

Goal - Tackle barriers for the most disadvantaged children and young people to access the arts, filmmaking and creativity.

Across our ticketed activities we offer **discounted and free tickets** to events and courses. For theatre shows we offered a heavily discounted rate for anyone in receipt of benefits or from low income backgrounds, and we worked with **charity partners** to offer free tickets to their clients, including FSN, Bexhill Family Collective, and the East Sussex Foster Carers Association. For the Creative Intensives, 50% of places were free and received free meals (supported by the Holiday Activities and Food Programme), and the project for autistic children was fully free (supported by Three Guineas Trust).

We established a **Transport Support Fund** (supported by the Spencer Wills Trust) which paid for transport for young people and families who needed it, and offered 50% of travel costs for schools facing financial barriers to attend our Experience Days. We provided a door-to-door minibus service for the holiday project for autistic children.

We established longer term **partnerships with local special schools**, especially Torfield School, to run bespoke workshops and projects for their pupils.

'More opportunities like this should exist. The bursary was key to my daughter attending as we do not have the funds for this type of activity.'

Parent

THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

SEPTEMBER 2024 – AUGUST 2025

4,111

PEOPLE ENGAGED WITH THE PROGRAMME

59% children and young people

13% increase from previous year



121

DAYS OF ACTIVITY



50 School and Group Workshop Days

23 Public Events

48 days of Creative Skills Development

964



CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE ATTENDING SCHOOL AND GROUP VISITS

44% in receipt of free school meals or with special educational needs

43% increase from previous year

11 new schools or groups not previously worked with

2,462

PEOPLE ATTENDING PUBLIC EVENTS

21% accessing free or heavily discounted tickets

75% more people engaged than previous year



142

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE TAKING PART IN CREATIVE SKILLS WORKSHOPS AND COURSES

44% in receipt of free school meals or with special educational needs



4,300

SOCIAL MEDIA FOLLOWERS

34

CREATIVE FREELANCERS EMPLOYED

7 regular volunteers

32 high profile Ambassadors



£506,406

RAISED THROUGH DONATIONS

£25,174 raised through grants

£32,686 raised through charitable activities



WHAT MAKES THE BRIGHT FOUNDATION SPECIAL

Feedback from our audiences, participants and visitors highlight the following:



UNIQUE COLLECTIONS

Both venues feature exhibitions of John Bright's collection which inspires much of the programme activity

'The fact that they could touch and engage with so many old and precious toys and objects was wonderful, and certainly added to their levels of engagement and appreciation.'



PROFESSIONAL CHILDREN'S THEATRE

The purpose-built children's theatre is of immense value offering a relaxed performance space and quality performances, often a first theatre experience for children.

'All of the young people were so taken with the theatre performance. It was so special to experience that in such an intimate setting.'



DEVELOPING CREATIVITY

The focus on children and young people's own creativity is central to all our work, with practical activities incorporated into almost all activity.

'The whole process of watching the performance, meeting the puppets and puppeteers then designing and making their own puppets and learning how to operate them and perform with them. It was great for them to see and experience the whole process!'



LOCATION LOCATION

Two distinct venues – one set in the beautiful High Weald Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and one near the seafront of St Leonard's-on-Sea. Both have professional, high quality spaces and a quirky design.

'All the surroundings, it's nice and tranquil, everyone is calm, even the fidgety ones. The majority of their time they learn in the classroom so it makes a big impact.'

THE PEOPLE

The skilled staff team and guest creatives bring a wealth of experience and a child-centred approach.

'The people there are also what makes it a special place, I heard your staff calling children by their names, checking in on children, encouraging and challenging them.'



INCLUSIVE WELCOME

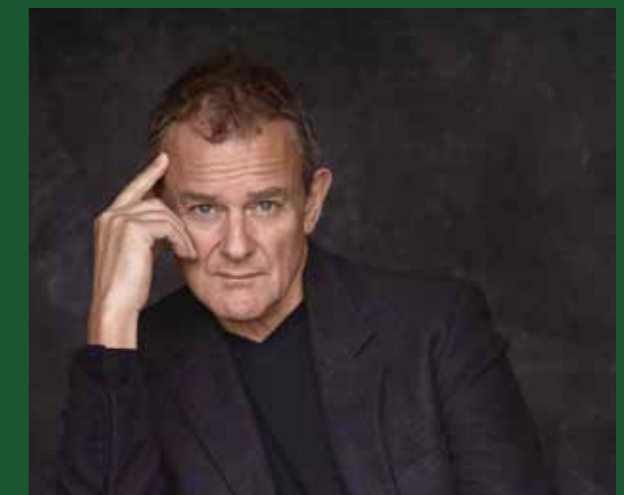
Little touches like headphones for children with sensory needs, visual stories shared with visitors in advance, quiet spaces, and the intimate setting of each site makes people feel safe, included and welcome.

'Mainstream, SEN and electively home ed working seamlessly together and producing something that is genuinely collaborative. One of the most genuinely inclusive provision there is. It doesn't say it on the tin, but it is.'



INDUSTRY CONNECTIONS

The backing of Cosprop opens a door to the creative industries that often feels closed to small community arts organisations. The high profile Ambassadors help raise the profile of the charity and support the fundraising drive.



"John Bright's contribution to the entertainment industry is unique and legendary. The Bright Foundation will ensure that a whole new generation has the opportunity to explore the what ifs of imagination and the arts. What a legacy, what a gift."

Hugh Bonneville, Actor and Bright Foundation Ambassador

IMPACT

Evaluation was gathered from participants, teachers, group leaders and parents / carers over the year. They were asked to rate a series of statements relating to our three OUTCOMES. The figures below show the percentage of people who agreed and strongly agreed with these statements.

Across every programme people were asked to say how likely they were to recommend The Bright Foundation to a friend or colleague. This is called a **Net Promoter Score**. The Bright Foundation has a **score of 81**. Anything over 70 is considered excellent.

1

CREATIVE SKILLS AND SELF-EXPRESSION



- 97% of school and group leaders agree that their group enjoyed their visit, were absorbed and engaged, learnt new skills/ knowledge and used their imaginations
- 90% of group leaders felt the visit motivated them to do more creative work
- 100% of young people attending courses and projects enjoyed themselves and 95% agreed they have learnt new skills
- 93% of parents/carers who visited were more motivated to do creative things with their children

2

IMPROVED WELLBEING



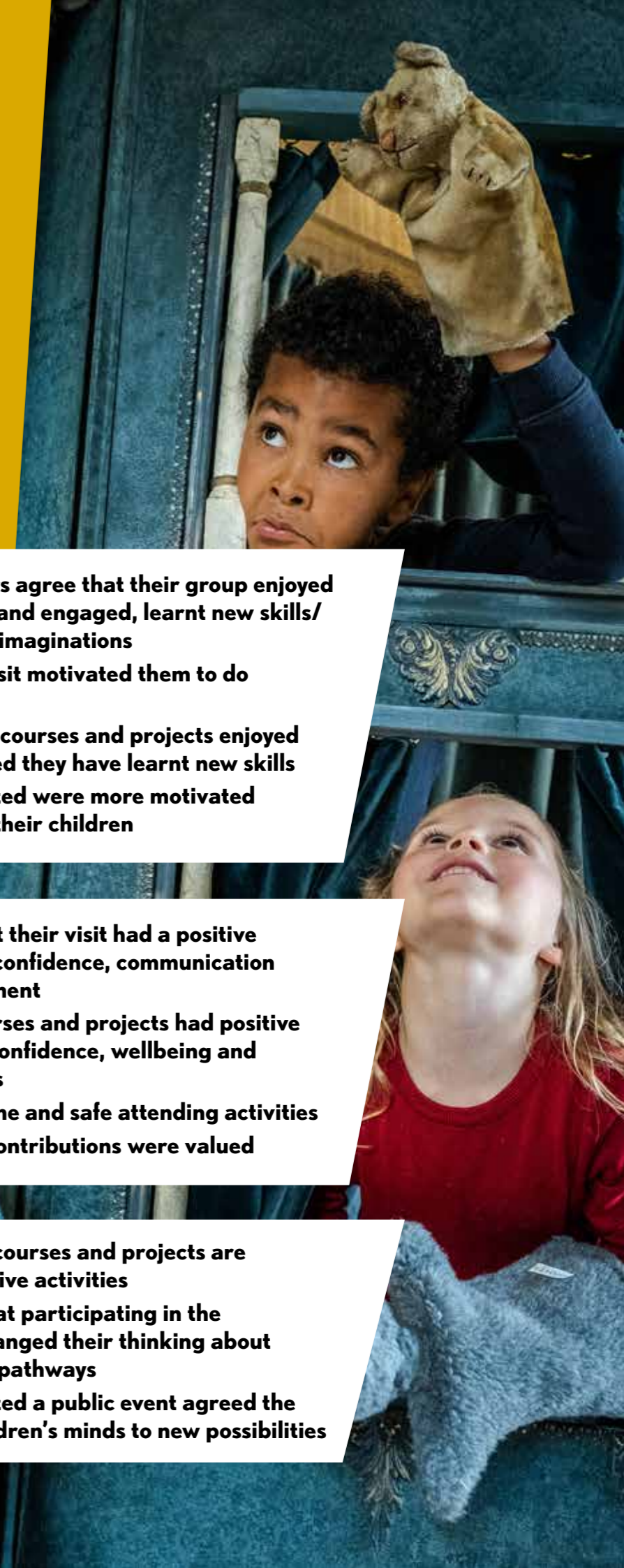
- 97% of group leaders agree that their visit had a positive impact of the participants confidence, communication skills and sense of achievement
- 78% of parents thought the courses and projects had positive impact on young people's confidence, wellbeing and ability to get on with others
- 97% of young people felt welcome and safe attending activities
- 92% of young people felt their contributions were valued

3

POSITIVE ASPIRATION



- 95% of young people attending courses and projects are motivated to do more creative activities
- 49% of young people thought that participating in the filmmaking courses had changed their thinking about future study and/or career pathways
- 92% of parents/ carers who visited a public event agreed the experience opened the children's minds to new possibilities



CASE STUDIES

CREATIVE EXPLORERS – A WEEK-LONG HOLIDAY PROJECT FOR CHILDREN WITH AUTISM

In August 2025 we delivered a week of creative activities at the Barn Theatre and Museum for children with autism and their siblings, culminating in an informal sharing at the end of the week for parents and carers. The project was supported by the Three Guineas Trust and East Sussex Holiday Activities and Food Programme, and the participants were recruited via our long term partnership with Torfield School – a local special educational needs school. The creative delivery team were supported by two teaching assistants from Torfield School. Their insight into the children's interests and needs was invaluable, and their trusted relationships helped create a calm, safe and joyful atmosphere. Door to door transport ensured that every child could attend.

Parents and teachers at the school were very clear that little exists for these children to do in the summer holidays. There are almost no activities where parents can leave children.

"You can't appreciate how POOR provision is for these children in the holidays. We want to do more but we need holidays too." School teacher

100% of parents agreed or strongly agreed that their child/ren's wellbeing had improved over the week. One boy who was normally very introverted at school, came out of himself over the week and surprised school staff with his exuberance and confidence. Another, a sibling in mainstream school, often on the verge of being excluded, absolutely thrived through the week, making new friends and enjoying himself in a way that he didn't at school. Another boy who had never sung on his own volunteered to write a verse of the song and sing it solo.

"They can't wait to come back each day. It has made the summer memorable for them. They enjoyed everything. My son is on the verge of being excluded at school but has thrived here. He has made new friends and fitted in well. He loved the painting and making." Parent

We also saw children grow more independent, focused and self assured. Throughout the week, they expressed pride in what they created – a testament to the power of the right environment, the right support and opportunities that honour their creativity.



BENBOW YOUTH FILM COLLECTIVE AND BFI FILM ACADEMY – FILMMAKING COURSES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

'Gemma' (not her real name) joined the Benbow Youth Film Collective after finishing her GCSEs in Summer 2024. She got the bug for filmmaking and subsequently applied for our BFI Film Academy Short Course for 16-19 year olds in October 2024. Taking part in the BFI Film Academy had a transformational effect on her future aspirations. She changed her A-level choices to pursue film and now speaks confidently about building a future in the screen industries:

"The course came at the perfect time. I had picked random A-Levels and just started at college but luckily I was able to change straight after the course. The experience was really useful. We had lots of talks from professionals – they made it feel realistic. Before that, film felt a bit abstract. It was good to see they were local. They gave good advice on how to be more creative and how to get your ideas out. I realised film was an actual option and how many people are involved in making a film. It made me want to invest my education in it."

Overall feedback about the filmmaking courses identified how valuable and multi-faceted the skills development has been, with 95% of participants agreeing that they learnt new skills and 95% feeling motivated to do more filmmaking.

Much of the parent/carer feedback has been about what an enabling learning environment it is. Access to professional equipment and the trust and guidance to use it is intrinsic to the experience:

"The professionals are very skilled – they treat young people like adults – this engenders confidence. It is judged perfectly – the level of independence. Not sure if they are trained teachers are not but they do it very well. They are trusted to do things that adults do." Parent of Benbow Youth Film Collective participant

The delivery team recognise the need to get the process right. Sometimes the participants' enjoyment can get overlooked with high expectations about a quality finished product. *"It can be a challenge to ensure all students are engaged at the same time with equal ownership over the creative process amongst more vocal participants. Film sets can be stressful, pressured places so we aim to create a calm and supportive approach, ensuring everyone has a clear role and understands the bigger picture of what we are working towards. But ultimately it is a huge reward to see their pride in presenting their finished films."*

The demand for the courses is growing and the long term vision is to become a hub where young filmmakers can come and get tailored mentoring, access to equipment and funding, and new networks and contacts to realise their own film ambitions and career aspirations.



WHAT NEXT?

Children's International Film Festival

Coming to Hastings in 2026 is the Children's International Film Festival – a one-day schools festival celebrating filmmakers under the age of 16 from around the world. Local pupils will have a chance to take part in workshops led by film industry leaders including BAFTA, National Film and Television School, and Cine Schools. This will be followed by an awards ceremony with a raft of awards for local, national and international young filmmakers. The British Museum is a partner giving us exclusive access to the team behind the Bayeaux Tapestry UK exhibition which provides the creative inspiration for the festival.

As the Community Partner, our filmmaking teams are working with 11 local schools on projects to devise, shoot and edit their own short films for the festival. We are forming a panel of young judges to decide the Bright Foundation sponsored, Best Local Film. The festival will become an annual event in our calendar as we work alongside our Hastings partners to spark the imaginations of young people and allow them to dream big.

"I'm delighted that the Children's International Film Festival (CIFF) in partnership with The Bright Foundation, will be bringing their amazing festival to Hastings in June 2026. I strongly believe the arts should be accessible to all our young people, regardless of background, and it is great to see events like this opening those doors."

Helena Dollimore, MP for Hastings and Rye



Launching our Supporters Circle and Celebrating Sixty Years of Cosprop

John Bright's costume house, Cosprop is celebrating 60 years and there was a retrospective exhibition of their work at the Fashion and Textile Museum from Sept 2025 – March 2026. To coincide with this we launched our Supporters Circle and Sponsor a Seat campaign. We have already secured sponsored seats in our theatre by Dame Judi Dench, Dame Imelda Staunton and Jim Carter OBE and Jenny Beavan OBE. This vital new support is helping to develop a sustainable funding model for the foundation and we aim to grow and diversify our funding base over the coming years.

"John Bright is the actors' costumer and The Bright Foundation is the most brilliant idea. I am delighted to sponsor a seat which I hope will be occupied by countless children, who will be inspired into adulthood by the magic of their first live theatre experience or a creative workshop"

Dame Judi Dench

Outdoor Creative Play Space and Sensory Garden

Plans are underway to transform an old sand-school for horse riding at Rodgers Farm into a creative play space, sensory garden and outdoor learning hub. The vision is to bring a disused part of our grounds back to life with a beautifully designed garden and creative play space that creates new habitats for wildlife; enables a multi-sensory experience for children to discover and learn about nature; and to extend the vision of our toy and puppet museum and theatre into an outdoor setting with natural play equipment and performance space. We are currently fundraising for this.

Making an Impact across our Town and Region

We are playing an active role in Arts Hastings – a network of cultural organisations, practitioners and partners to strengthen and promote culture across Hastings and St Leonards. This network advises on the cultural priorities for the Pride in Place programme bringing £21.5m into the town over the next 10 years and has worked closely with Hastings Borough Council to develop a bid to become Town of Culture in 2028. We are also on the board of Culture East Sussex, steering the cultural priorities at a county level; the Hastings Youth Partnership, networking with youth organisations across the town; and work with eXchange – a county wide arts education network.

New Children's Theatre Show

To celebrate the extension of the Barn Theatre and to show off our deeper stage and new technical stage equipment, we are commissioning and producing a brand new children's theatre show. After calling out to local creatives, we built a brand new team to devise and make the show. Inspired by conversations with teachers and children, we chose Little Red Riding Hood as our spark. The result is The Ballad of Red and the Wilding Wolf - a brand new show that over 800 local schoolchildren will experience for free in 2026, followed by a day of creative workshops with the cast.



"The Barn Theatre is the most magical and imaginative place, stimulating and nurturing, offering children a totally feel good, immersive experience. I've been there and marvelled at the sheer inventiveness of the whole glorious enterprise. Children are the future and the future is Bright!"

Dame Imelda Staunton

SUPPORT US!

The Bright Foundation can only continue to inspire young minds through arts, filmmaking and creativity with the support of our generous donors and sponsors.

Please consider joining our Supporters Circle



BARN THEATRE AND MUSEUM

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www.thebrightfoundation.org.uk

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COSPROP



The Three Guineas Trust