

Impact Report

2025-2026



**BRIXTON
HOUSE**

Welcome to Brixton House's 2025 Impact Report.

We are incredibly proud to present this year's report to our friends, supporters, artistic and civic community, partners, and prospective partners.

2025 was a landmark year for Brixton House. We delivered our most ambitious programme yet - from the powerful *UPRISING Festival* commemorating and reflecting on 40 years since the 1985 Brixton Uprising, to staging *BLACK POWER DESK*, a 5-star, critically acclaimed production and our largest show to date. We launched a new *Young Associates* programme designed to upskill and develop local young people and continued to grow our much-loved *Brixton House Good Neighbours* project - using creativity to improve wellbeing and reduce social isolation for older adults from the Windrush generation.

Through bold new work, deep-rooted local collaborations, and a continued commitment to amplifying voices too often overlooked by mainstream funded culture, Brixton House has grown as a vital creative home for South London and beyond.

But this growth has not always been easy. We are operating in a shrinking cultural funding landscape against the backdrop of an ongoing cost of living crisis and a wider political climate that is deepening inequality, inequity and division.

In the heart of one of London's most culturally rich yet socio-economically unequal boroughs, we see every day how opportunity is not evenly distributed. Too many young people are locked out of education and employment pathways, over a third of children are growing up in poverty, and nearly half of older residents are experiencing isolation and loneliness.

And this is where Brixton House plays a vital role. We use storytelling, narrative, civic engagement and the power of culture as a tool for social change, social justice and social mobility - creating space for our communities; Black British and Caribbean, Latinx and LGBTQ+ artist, audiences and participants to be recognised and valued. As a civic space, we do not simply present work - we respond directly to local need, building confidence, connection and pathways. Our driving purpose is to create a space for a shared cultural and creative experience that has impact. Large or small. Inside or outside our building. Led by us, supported by us or championed by us.

This report goes some way in talking about the impact we have had to date, but for me, this has been the warm up. Over the next few years our intention is to be bolder and to reach further. At a time when barriers and destructive narratives are rising, we will continue to ensure that Brixton House is a place where cultural connections and creative possibility still exists for our communities and beyond.

Delia Barker, CEO

From our Chair, Levi Roots

"Brixton House is more than just a theatre, it's a space for community, creativity, and cultural exchange. South London is my home, and Brixton House embodies everything I love about this area - it's diversity, vibrancy, and its spirit."

Vision, Values and Mission

Our vision is to empower the undervalued, unheard, and excluded communities through our creative and cultural spaces. Our mission is rooted in the rich and influential history of Ovalhouse Theatre, from which Brixton House has emerged as a dynamic new cultural hub. We are dedicated to presenting and collaborating with voices and perspectives that are often marginalised in mainstream funded culture.

We are a values-led organisation, clear about what we do and what we stand for:

Enterprising

We are a strong creative enterprise providing security and stability for creative freedom to be realised.

Welcoming

We will remain connected to our communities and treat everyone with kindness and respect. Brixton House is their home from home.

Nurturing

We foster a caring and compassionate environment that inspires to be and give their best.

Radical

We encourage people to be authentic, affirm their rights, be critical, bold, resolute and determined.

Collaborative

We are proactive in working with others, locally, nationally or internationally on a shared understanding of community enrichment.

Celebratory

We embody a spirit of hope.

Our Impact

In 2025/26, Brixton House continued to inspire, innovate and reach communities across Lambeth and beyond - on stage, with schools and through community and civic-driven projects.

The Challenge

- › In the 2024 Act for Action report conducted by Irvine Partners for Black British Theatre, **70%** of respondents were concerned with the lack of representation and understanding of diverse experiences within theatre narratives.
- › Respondents emphasised the industry's tendency to base roles on a narrow, stereotypical portrayal of Black characters, rather than authentic and multifaceted representations.
- › Despite being one of the fastest-growing ethnic groups in the UK and specifically in Lambeth, the Latinx community is often considered invisible as there is no formal ethnic minority status in the UK census.
- › There is a persistent lack of institutional support and visibility for Latinx artists, with few Latinx performers cast in lead roles.



What have we done?

- › Connected over **18,000 intergenerational** audience members to **17 co-productions** that centered Black, Latinx, Queer, and Global Majority voices, amplifying narratives of resilience, joy and social justice. In partnership and association with PlayWell Productions.
- › Brixton House staged the world premiere of new musical *Black Power Desk* by Urielle Klein-Mekongo. Inspired by the real-life events of the Mangrove Nine, the work centered a rarely explored part of British history, reinforcing Brixton House's commitment to investing in stories that honour collective Black British history and authentic representation.
- › **31** *Black Power Desk* performances attracted nearly **5,000 people**; **40%** from South London, **70%** first-time bookers and **52%** from Black backgrounds – demonstrating the cultural, historical and social resonance of this production and a clear sector need for diversified stories and representation.
- › Worked in partnership with CASA, a multidisciplinary arts organisation centering the talent of UK Latinx and Hispanic Caribbean artists and La Linea Festival, the UK's leading Latin music festival, to present an evening of dance and inclusivity, celebrating the power of movement, music, and community.
- › Continued the development of Spanish surtitling for our in house produced shows to offer stronger engagement for the Latinx community.



The Challenge

- › The 2024 Act for Action report found that **70%** of young Black respondents cited significant obstacles hindering their entry into the theatre industry.
- › Many described the industry as inaccessible due to historical disadvantages, limited opportunities, and gatekeeping practices that restrict entry.

What have we done?

- › Continued to grow and develop *Housemates*, Brixton House's flagship artist development festival that directly addresses the industry decline in investment for new work from culturally diverse backgrounds and perspectives.
- › In partnership with No-Name productions, staged *Limp Wrist & The Iron Fist* by Emmanuel Akwafo as part of Housemates Returns, a platform designed to showcase new writers' work and provide industry networking opportunities and support that disrupt obstacles to being seen and celebrated in the theatre industry.
- › *Limp Wrist & The Iron Fist* delivered **22 performances** to sold out audiences who connected with the play's call to arms - an honest, unapologetic celebration of black and queer resilience.
- › We proudly sponsored the **Black British Theatre Award's** Best Playwright award - reinforcing our commitment to new writers, new stories and new work.
- › We continued our commitment to community and artistic power building by investing in two place-based associate companies **Trybe House and CASA** - a collective of artists and facilitators representative of the communities we engage and work with. Brixton House supports the development of these organisations through mentorship, subsidised space, financial support and performance opportunities.



"Housemates has been my opportunity to share my play in my local area, I wouldn't have been able to put this on stage again without the support of Brixton House."

Housemates 2023



The Challenge

- The percentage of Key Stage 5 pupils who progressed on to education, apprenticeships, or employment is lower in Lambeth than anywhere else in London or England.
- NEET young people aged 16-17 (not in education, employment, or training) is higher in Lambeth than elsewhere in London.
- Recent reports highlight only **11.4% of jobs** in the creative industries are held by Black, Asian and minority ethnic people, and only **11.5% of creative directors** are women. Research also found that class-based exclusion is more pronounced in the creative industries than any other sector.



What have we done?

- We launched the Young Associates programme and welcomed **12 local young people, 18-26** to a year-long programme of multi-art-form skills labs, commissions, activism training, civic storytelling, and performance with hands on opportunities to shape activity at Brixton House and connect with cultural partners including National Youth Theatre and Frantic Assembly. This initiative is crucial for fostering the next generation of artists and building essential routes to further training and employment.
- In partnership with Waltham Forest Borough work placement scheme, we hosted a further **4 Future Technicians** at Brixton House delivering a programme of technical training, mentoring and career progression routes, supporting skills development and routes into employment.
- We have continued to nurture relationships with Lambeth schools, connecting pupils and teachers with performances and workshops that not only showcase the power of performance, but the creative industries as a viable career path. **15 schools** attended *Black Power Desk* during September 2025, **7** of which were new to Brixton House and **71.4% of attendees** were from Lambeth.
- We continued to grow our culturally diverse and highly representative workforce and board, truly reflective of the artists and communities we seek to amplify and support. The organisation is led by an all-female leadership team, **90% of our board** and over **70% of our staff team** are from Black, mixed Black and Asian backgrounds demonstrating our commitment to improving access to jobs in the creative industries, disrupting intersectional barriers of ethnicity, class and gender.



"The students were so inspired, the message and themes [of Black Power Desk] felt very relevant to them... None of the students had been to Brixton House before and many live close which was also a really good outcome."

Teacher from Saint Francis Xavier Sixth Form College



The Challenge

- Approximately **36% of children** in Lambeth live in poverty, surpassing both the London and National average.
- The percentage of over 64 year olds on pension credit is much higher in Lambeth than England and over **10% of Lambeth's population** are over 65.
- **47% of people 65+** live in a single person household which has been correlated with higher levels of loneliness and social isolation.
- A recent study estimates there are approximately **250,000 people of Latin American**, or Latinx, descent in the UK. Over half are living in London, with the majority based in Lambeth and Southwark. Visibility and representation of this community is an ongoing issue.



What have we done?

- Welcomed over **800 intergenerational participants** to free, open access family activities during school holidays, removing financial barriers and prioritising residents from our four hyper-local estates through a mix of hands-on craft, storytelling, drama and movement-based workshops.
- Delivered **33 sessions** for elders 65 + from the Windrush generation as part of Brixton House Good Neighbours, a year-round programme of creative sessions that aim to reduce social isolation and loneliness, help manage long term health conditions and improve wellbeing, through poetry, creative writing, cultural reminiscence and storytelling.
- Secured partnership funding from Axis Europe/Premier Roofing to offer free tickets to local residents, families and community groups from our hyper-local estates.
- Delivered our first 'Brixton Christmas' community event – a festive celebration in partnership with Free Books campaign, supported by Axis Europe. We welcomed **456 local participants** to an afternoon of storytelling, arts and creative activities, free food and refreshments, and gave away **over 1000** free books igniting a love for literacy.
- Delivered **30 Brixton House Community Choir sessions** attended by an average of **40 participants** per session, building a safe space for connection, expression and performance opportunities throughout the year.
- Worked in partnership with the IndoAmerican Refugee and Migrant Organisation (IRMO) and Highrise Theatre to deliver a Black Power Desk workshop for Latinx participants.
- Delivered a series of free, *Latinx focussed family activities* as part of our open half term programme in February 2026.
- Continued to work in partnership with Latinx Youth Theatre providing a safe, trusted home for their work and opportunities for their young people to see performances at Brixton House.
- Delivered two No-car day festivals in partnership with Brixton BID, taking our work outside the building, meeting communities where they are.



"It gets me out of the house, meeting other people and socialising"

Brixton House Good Neighbours member

"My 7 yr old daughter loved the family activities... the fact that it was all free was massively appreciated. We were only able to come because it was free. This is so important and valuable, as half term can be hard!"

The Challenge

- A local business economy that is seeing reduced footfall and revenue, **71%** and **59%** respectively across Brixton licensed premises coupled with post-pandemic decline.
- Reduced vibrancy and concerns about increased anti-social behaviour.
- An ongoing and deepening challenge for arts and cultural venues operating in the context of diminishing grants and rising costs.



What have we done?

- Prioritised local businesses and suppliers for The Brixton House Bar & Cafe and hire client's food & beverage, contributing over **£15,000** to the local Brixton economy.
- Continued to establish the Brixton House Bar & Cafe as a safe, welcoming space, hosting inclusive and culturally resonant activations including La Linea Festival and CASA's Queer Salsa take over, exhibitions that challenge, disrupt and ask critical questions, weekly DJ nights with established and emerging local artists, and offering an informal space for young people to meet after school.
- Delivered **173 charity and public sector hires** providing spaces to create, connect and celebrate, grow footfall, and drive earned income.
- Welcomed **4 new funders** to our supporter portfolio to strengthen our work with young people, local communities and our work with elders.



Highlights

- » The critically acclaimed **Black Power Desk**, our first musical production that opened to Brixton House's highest advanced sales since opening, became our best-selling show to date and won the 2026 Stage Award for Best Campaign. Following an extended and critically acclaimed sold-out London run with **31** standing ovations, the show went on tour to major regional theatres including **Warwick Arts Centre, Lowry** (Salford) and **Birmingham Hippodrome**.
- » **Uprising Festival**; curated by multi-disciplinary artist, creative director and performer Danny Bailey and Tobi Kyeremateng, the festival delivered over **30** incredible multi-disciplinary events attending by **2000 participants**, from **12 South-London boroughs**, **75%** of which were first-time visitors – coming together to celebrate activism, impact and resistance.
- » Launched a new Community Evening Hire Offer offering affordable rates for local people and organisations who live in or support the Lambeth community.



“Black Power Desk wasn’t just a performance it was a living dialogue. The writing, the rhythm, and the cast all carried a pulse that felt both urgent and deeply human. You could feel the legacy and tension of history being unpacked right there in the room... Brixton House has become one of those rare places that doesn’t just host culture it creates it.”

Audience member and supporter of Brixton House

Looking Ahead

- » Over the next 12 months, Brixton House will deepen its role as a civic and cultural hub, expanding access, strengthening community connection, and creating pathways for those excluded from the arts.
- » We will grow our building as an inclusive, welcoming space shaped by local communities, increasing open-access activity and engagement with hyper-local estates. We will support young people aged 14–30 through innovative skills development programmes like Young Associates and Rampage Youth Project, offering skills, mentoring and paid opportunities that build confidence and employability.
- » Our artistic programme will continue to centre Black, Latinx, Queer and Global Majority voices, while initiatives like Housemates will provide vital platforms for emerging artists.
- » We will also tackle isolation and improve wellbeing through programmes such as Brixton House Good Neighbours and our community choir. Alongside this, we will strengthen partnerships and invest in organisational resilience, ensuring we can sustain and grow our impact.
- » Together, this work will connect communities, nurture talent, and create lasting social change.



Thank You

The support of charitable trusts, foundations and corporate partners enable Brixton House to craft a creative, inclusive future where the audiences, artists and stories of British theatre represent the country and communities we live in.

We extend huge thanks to the following partners for their continued support of Brixton House's vision, mission and values:

- Arts Council England
- Cockayne Grants for the Arts
- D'Oyly Carte Charitable Trust
- London Freemasons Charity
- Alchemy Foundation
- Amazon Regional Creatives Fund
- L&Q Foundation
- Axis Europe and Premier Roofing

If you are interested in partnering with Brixton House to support our work, please get in touch with Fleur Taylor-Sutton, Commercial Director, at fleur.taylor-sutton@brixtonhouse.co.uk

