



BUILD UP
IMPACT REPORT
2021 - 2022



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Welcome!

This year has been Build Up's busiest ever, and I'm proud that we have worked with 317 young people across 8 projects and launched our longitudinal evaluation of projects from 2018-21. I'm excited to be taking over the leadership of Build Up's trustee board and would like to thank Hannah Monteith for her work as chair and welcome new trustee Neba Sere.

Putting our projects back on has required a huge amount of work, and I would like to acknowledge the support of all our partners in doing so. Running youth and community organisations in the aftermath of Covid-19 is an enormous day-to-day challenge; and their staff and volunteers have set aside a huge amount of time to enable young people to have a voice in their community.

The efforts and hard work of all our staff, volunteers, young people, partners, funders and supporters have made this year and our recovery possible. Thank you for your continued support!

- Linnie Mclarty / Chair

I got involved with Build Up when I was in college and the teachers recommended doing some work experience to use our skills. I liked the idea of what Build Up did so I joined the charity on two projects, one at a youth theatre and another at a youth centre.

Build Up not only generally cares about young people's ideas, but also allows them to assist in making them. The projects also help the community by building what they need, and this improves quality of life for everyone.

We need more Build Up projects to help more youth understand that they can change things in the world around them.

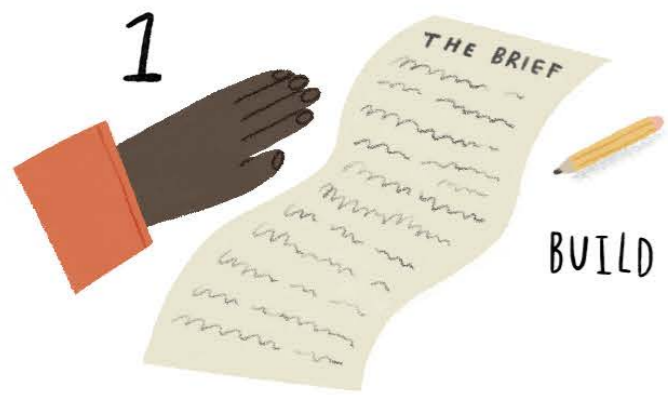
- Joshua, 19 / paid work experience

Our aim is to **build the power** of young people to shape where they live, and to fundamentally **change who can make decisions** about London.

Build Up runs practical design and construction processes for young people aged 10 - 23, which create permanent, high-quality and accessible spaces for local communities. We have three main goals:

1. Young people develop skills, confidence and power to lead change
2. Local people are involved and included in regeneration
3. A stronger sense of community, now and in the future





1
BUILD UP WORKS WITH LOCAL PARTNERS
TO CREATE A PROJECT BRIEF.



6
A SHARED SPACE
DESIGNED, BUILT
AND OWNED
BY LOCAL PEOPLE

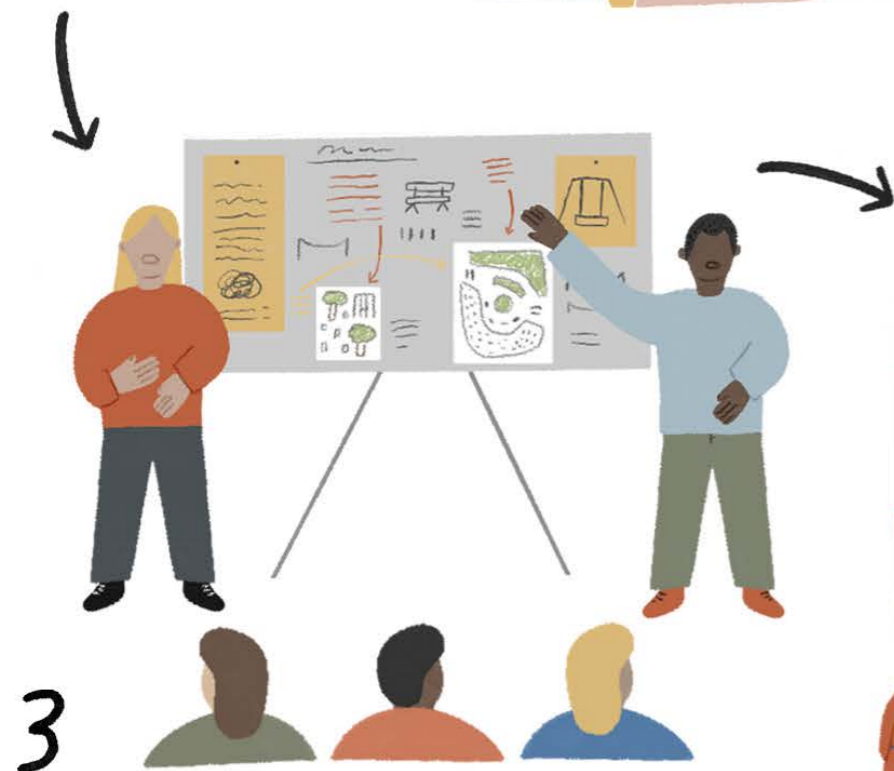
2
YOUNG PEOPLE CONSULT
PEOPLE OF ALL AGES
AND DEVELOP A DESIGN



5
THE NEW SPACE IS
OPENED BY YOUNG
PEOPLE



4
YOUNG PEOPLE BUILD THEIR DESIGN,
SUPPORTED BY PROFESSIONAL STAFF
AND VOLUNTEERS



3
THEY PITCH PROPOSALS BACK TO
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

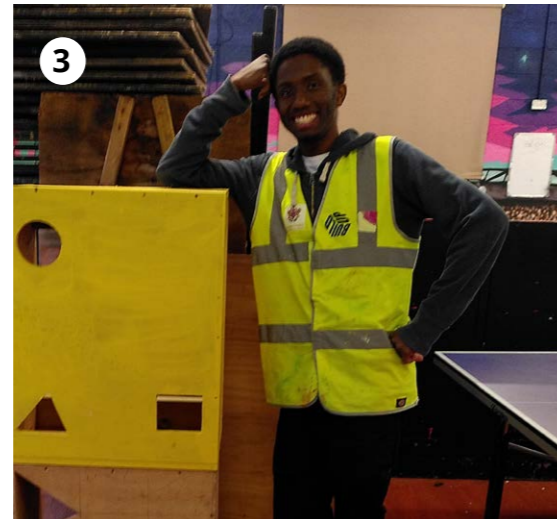




Our year in numbers:

- 8** spaces transformed
- 317** young change-makers
- 22** partnerships formed with schools, youth clubs, local businesses and community groups
- 37** local volunteers working in collaboration with young people
- 42** residents involved in the design and planning of neighbourhood spaces

2021 - 22 Highlights



1. WE LAUNCHED OUR OPEN CALL FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO NOMINATE OUR NEXT PROJECTS

We invited local young people and youth and community organisations to submit an idea for a project to improve their local area. In September and February, our youth panel selected the two projects they felt would have the most impact. These were a new treehouse in Haringey and Theatre seating in Lewisham.

2. WE RETURNED TO ALDRICHE WAY TO CONTINUE TO SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE TO SHAPE THEIR ESTATE

In summer, 38 young people came together to design and build the second phase of "The Shade" community space. The roof was omitted from the original design due to antisocial behaviour (ASB) concerns. However, after no recorded ASB incidents on site in the last 3 years, in 2021 the roof was given the go ahead and built alongside new seating and games. The project was opened by young people and the leader of the council at an event attended by 250 people.

3. WE LAUNCHED OUR NEW ANNUAL PAID WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMME AND RECRUITED OUR FIRST COHORT

This year we expanded our work placement scheme into a regular yearly programme offering older young people London Living Wage paid roles in both design and construction. In February and March, we recruited for our programme cohort, who have now worked on our projects at Tottenham Rec, Belvedere Community Centre and Lewisham Youth Theatre.

4. OUR PROJECTS RECEIVED MULTIPLE AWARDS

Build Up won TET's Inspire Future Generations Award (Commended), was Regional Finalist at 2021 Civic Trust Awards, and the Shade was shortlisted for a Waltham Forest Design Award.

5. OUR WORK WAS FEATURED IN THE BRITISH COUNCIL'S PUBLICATION FOR THE VENICE BIENNALE

Build Up was featured as a best practice example of youth-led design in this year's publication for the Architecture Biennale in Venice, commissioned by The British Council.



**THIS YEAR'S PROGRESS
TOWARDS OUR GOALS...**

1. YOUNG PEOPLE DEVELOP SKILLS, CONFIDENCE & POWER TO LEAD CHANGE

This year **317 young people** have taken part in Build Up projects, leading the transformation of parks, estates and public spaces in their local neighbourhoods.

POWER & SELF BELIEF

After taking part, **97%** of young people feel that their views about the local area have been listened to.

100% of parents & guardians felt that their young people developed more personal confidence and self-belief during the project.

CONFIDENCE IN THEIR ABILITIES

83% feel more confident to overcome challenges

91% feel more confident in leading their or their teams work

80% feel more confident to communicate their ideas

DEVELOPING SKILLS



97% learnt design and construction skills



77% improved their listening and communication skills



80% developed skills for working with others

“ We got a chance to say our opinions and make all the decisions, which is really important because we’re going to be the future adults. ”

- Sakura, 11 / project participant



“ They come from 0 and end at 100. The kids were so excited with what they made and they were calling over to their friends and their family and saying ‘look what I did, look what I made’. And soon as we finished it all, the kids were out there playing with it, ”

- Joshua, 18 / paid work experience

“ It’s important that we built it, because it shows what we can accomplish together as a team. ”

- James, 12 / project participant



Tayshia's Story

Tayshia, 15, has been going to Somerford Grove Adventure Playground since she was 9 when her Grandma signed her up to Sisterhood (girls group). She took part in her first Build Up project four years ago when the Sisterhood group built seating, and in October 2021, Tayshia took part in Build Up's treehouse build.

"Usually I wouldn't be using any tools, I'm not the type of person who would as I'm scared I might hurt myself, but doing this, makes me feel like if a job was needed doing I would do it and use the drills again". Tayshia 2018

When Tayshia got involved in her first project, she had only recently started going to the Sisterhood sessions and would be shy and noticeably lacking in confidence amongst her peers. When interviewed in 2022, Tayshia recounted it was her first-time using tools and talked about how she had developed skills and confidence on projects since then; so much so that she was now having pro sawing competitions with her peers.

"We had this one part, where I was so confident at sawing we had a little race, to see who can saw the most efficient and fastest and who had the cleanest cut. I didn't win the race but my cut was so smooth and straight I felt like I won". Tayshia 2022

Through talking to Tayshia its clear how much her confidence has grown. Somerford Grove playground is always changing, and she has been able to use her skills in the new developments on site. As a result of her experience, she has recently chosen to take DT for her GCSE's.

"It is important to have a space where girls can mostly do construction because it is like with football: people say that girls can't play football because they don't have the talent, they aren't in the big teams and they don't get recognised on TV. So girls need a space where they can play football, and it's the same with construction." Tayshia, 2018.

Most of Tayshia's friends don't attend the playground anymore, but she still helps out and is keen to continue to be involved in building projects and shaping the future of the playground that she loves.

“

I think it's good, 'cause they have watched us build it and now they're using it. If that gets taken down when they are older, they can say to the young people that are here, I saw that being built, or I was a part of the building. So I think just that in itself is really good.

"It's history, because that part there, I can say to my children, ah you know I built that, you know when I was younger, back in the old days. I built this, I built that. It was such a great experience, it taught me life skills. I'm doing something to help out, if that makes sense."

2. LOCAL PEOPLE ARE INVOLVED AND INCLUDED IN REGENERATION

100%

feel the project has made a **positive change** to the local neighbourhood.

100%

feel more included in change that's happening locally.

“ Sometimes the council don't really listen, or they're just busy or not bothered. So it's important to take action like we've done. ”

- Paul, 12 / project participant

“ We wanted to work with young people in a meaningful way rather than in a tick-box way, and bring in specialist skills to reach young people in a way that we can't. Build Up gave us the vehicle to do that in a safe and directed way. And the project absolutely delivered that. It also acted as a catalyst for other projects, as well as a good hook for cementing relationships with the local school and councillors. And it demonstrated the successfulness of our [community] business model. It was successful in everything that I wanted it to achieve. ”

- Sarah Cotton, project partner





NOTICE
Please do not enter
this area without
permission of the
management.

Build Up

Community
Court

NO
BALL
GAMES

3. A STRONGER SENSE OF COMMUNITY, NOW & IN THE FUTURE



100%

feel that the new space is more appealing to spend time in with friends or family



70%

feel a stronger sense of connection to their neighbourhood



100%

of people engaging with the project say they've had a chance to work with people from different backgrounds

“ We live and work in a really poor area. There’s a lot of violence, a lot of crime on the street. Very often children are directly affected by it and when we speak to children they often tell us how afraid they are going out to play or going to and from school. A lot of the young people that we work with on a regular basis are from quite difficult environments at home, quite stressed environments at home. And you can see how that plays out on them when they come in. ”

By working with Build Up, it allows our children to interact with new adults in a different way so that they can then present themselves with a fresh set of eyes. And then they feel the sense that they’re appreciated, they feel valued. When they’re involved in a project from start to finish, they have a huge sense of confidence-building, and they can show how resolute they are and what skills they’ve got. Children have their own ideas about how other people see them, and that’s important for them. ”

- Tam, project partner





Next steps...

Our aim this year was to recover from Covid-19 and we are proud to have got our projects back to full capacity, working with more young people than ever before. Next year, we want to build on exciting developments in the past twelve months and develop youth opportunities for progression and leadership across all aspects of our organisation.

- 1. Expand our Paid Work Experience Programme, giving more young people aged 18-23 paid experience as part of our team**
- 2. Support more young people to identify, design and build the projects that are going to have the most impact on their communities**
- 3. Develop new types of project to enable Build Up to work with more grassroots community groups.**

Want to get involved?

We're always keen to connect with people and organisations that can help set up projects or support our work. To find out more, please visit our website or get in touch with using the contact details below.

Phone: 07427 704291

Email: info@buildup.org.uk

Website: www.buildup.org.uk

Instagram: [build_up_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/build_up_foundation)

