

Evaluation and Impact Report Summary

Oct 2023 - Nov 2024

BRISTOL
REFUGEE
FESTIVAL



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Introduction

Jules Olsen, CEO

I am delighted to share with you this summary of our organisation's activity of the past year. Once again our small team of staff and volunteers have surpassed expectations and coordinated a rich and diverse programme of events and activities bringing communities together to celebrate and create meaningful connections for those seeking safety here in the UK.

At times over the last year it has felt quite daunting to continue to stay positive against a backdrop of volatile and unpredictable global conflict and the sudden far-right riots that took place during the summer were shocking and saddening. However, the love and solidarity shown for refugees and asylum seekers during our Festival in June and throughout the year reminds me that this is not a majority view and our work to overcome these misconceptions and create places of welcome and unity are more important than ever.



Photo: Zhenya Melesyk





Fatuma Mohamud, Chair of Board of Directors

The past 12 months have been truly transformative for our organisation, and it's with great pride that I present this year's Impact Report. This report reflects the significant progress we have made towards our vision of creating a welcoming environment where refugees and asylum seekers feel valued, empowered, and celebrated.

A cornerstone of our work this year has been centring individuals with lived experience of forced migration within our organisation. We have taken meaningful steps to achieve this, welcoming a new staff member, two board members, and two Youth Ambassadors—all of whom bring invaluable firsthand insight into the challenges and opportunities faced by refugees and asylum seekers. We are also pleased to welcome a new Programme Manager to our growing team.

It hasn't been an easy year. Like many in our sector, we have grappled with the lasting impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic and an increasingly hostile environment, compounded by distressing racist riots over the summer. Yet, amid these challenges, we have witnessed the incredible strength of community and the power of collaboration. In partnership with the Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership (BRASP), we continue to lead the sector by strengthening our collaborative approach—working strategically to align efforts, share resources, and build capacity. Most importantly, we ensure that our refugee and asylum-seeking community is meaningfully involved at every stage of our development, helping us build a more welcoming and inclusive Bristol.

Over the past year, we coordinated 33 events, engaging 5,777 attendees, including 966 refugees and asylum seekers. None of this would have been possible without the dedication of our team, our partners, and the incredible communities we work alongside. As I reflect on the past four years serving as a Non-Executive Director and Chair of the Board, I feel an overwhelming sense of gratitude and pride. I will be stepping down from BRF and passing the baton to Nawar Nasser, who will take on the role of Chair of the Board of Directors. For me, this role has been more than a professional commitment—it has been deeply personal. Bristol welcomed me as a child refugee, and I had the privilege of volunteering with BRF as a young person. This organisation gave me the confidence to show up as my authentic self, to embrace who I am, and to be heard and valued.

It has been an honour to contribute to the growth of this organisation. I leave confident in the excellent leadership of Jules Olsen and Nawar Nasser to guide BRF into an exciting new chapter and deepen our impact.

Bristol Refugee Festival (BRF) Overview



BRF coordinates a year-round programme of arts, cultural and educational events bringing together communities across Bristol, South Gloucestershire and the surrounding areas to celebrate and value the contribution of refugees and asylum seekers with a Festival in June as a focal point for celebration.



Vision

For Refugees and Asylum Seekers to feel welcome, valued and confident to celebrate and share their culture, skills and knowledge in their local community and beyond.



Mission

To support and facilitate newly arrived and settled communities to come together in celebration of inclusion and diversity through a year-round programme of events, with an annual cross art-form Festival at its core.



Values




Celebration, Inclusion, Collaboration, Integrity, Respect





This report

This report provides a summary of evidence collected between **October 2023 - November 2024**. It highlights the difference BRF's work has made and the ways that it has achieved the following aims:

-  Celebrating and valuing the contribution of refugees and asylum seekers enabling them to engage with and be more active members of their community.
-  Bringing settled local residents and newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers together, building strong relationships in and across communities.
-  Improving the health and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers and reducing social isolation.

The BRF programme is developed through collaborative engagement, ensuring a range of relevant opportunities are produced for a wide cross section of communities. BRF holds regular planning and consultation sessions that are open to all, encouraging collaboration with the BRF team and other partners and individuals. Whilst the team are responsive to the ideas and suggestions from people attending these sessions, BRF also highlights some of the themes that are important to incorporate, particularly ensuring that refugees and asylum seekers are involved from conception to delivery of any project or event.

This responsive and reflective approach ensures relevance and authenticity and works at the pace of trust to build meaningful relationships and sustainable connections. It also allows for more stakeholders to inform content and have a greater sense of ownership. BRF also achieves its aims through strategic partnership work as part of Bristol Refugee and Asylum Seeker Partnership: www.voscur.org/brasp

The final section of this report summarises the learning that has surfaced through this year's programme and the consequent actions that have been indicated.

BRF works with an evaluation consultant to develop and implement an evaluation framework and tools for evaluation. This framework enables the team to identify what evidence needs to be gathered, how well activities are meeting the aims and helps generate actionable insights and learning for the future.





The context of 2024

In the summer of 2024, a series of organised riots conducted by the far-right caused fear and anxiety to spread amongst many communities, not least refugees and asylum seekers:

On the evening of Saturday 8 August, a “Stop the Boats” protest came to Bristol. It began with violent clashes in Castle Park and culminated outside a hotel known to provide sanctuary to asylum seekers, which became the focal point of an evening of civil unrest. Bristol’s response to the ‘protests’ was significant and stands out nationally:

“In Castle Park, about 700 hundred counter-demonstrators gathered at about 6pm to show that the violence fuelled by racist, Islamophobic hatred that far-right thugs are bringing to cities across the country was not welcome here.”
(<https://thebristolcable.org/2024/08/bristol-far-right-riot/>)

Ultimately, the far right’s planned uprising in Old Market was halted due to the sheer number of counter protesters and the collective way in which the people of Bristol showed up and stood up to far-right extremists. Whilst resistance protests served to counter far right violence on these occasions, it must not be assumed as a given. Human rights to justice for refugees and asylum seekers cannot depend wholly on fragile and temporal solutions. BRF’s work, mission and aims are therefore more critical than ever in this context. The people of Bristol have made it clear that this is a City of Sanctuary, in which the BRF Programme can flourish and spread its influence and vision for newly arrived and settled communities to celebrate sanctuary and diversity together.



“ *I love that Bristol is a City of Sanctuary.* ”

(Participant 48, Knowle Peace Feast at Redcatch Community Garden, June 2024)



How BRF met its aims

- Collaborating with organisations and communities to develop a diverse programme which promotes better understanding, helps overcome misconceptions and supports successful integration.
- Enabling local communities to have the knowledge, resources and confidence to engage with refugees and asylum seekers in their area and create places of welcome and inclusion.
- Providing opportunities for everyday interaction between local settled communities and newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers to share skills, knowledge and culture.



Programme At a Glance

31
events

5,777
attendees

966
refugees and
asylum seekers

Festival Programme

Sat 8 Jun	Festival Launch St Werburgh's Community Centre, BS2 9TJ	Sun 16 June	Hometruths Exhibition Willow Park School, BS2 8BE	Wed 19 June	Welcome Home: creative event for young people The Station, BS1 2AG
Wed 12 June	Knowle Peace Feast Redcatch Community Garden, BS4 2RD	Mon 17 June	Nordic Walking Taster Southmead, BS10	Thu 20 June	Fairfield School - Refugee Festival Fairfield School, BS7 9NL
Thu 13 June	Women's Outdoor Theatre Workshop Trinity Arts Centre, BS2 0EB	Tue 18 June	Sri Lankan Cooking Demo with Kule St Werburgh's Community Centre, BS2 9TJ	Fri 21 June	Rock Climbing Fundraiser Mothership Climbing Academy, BS5 0FD
	BRR Open Afternoon Wellspring Settlement, BS5 0AX		Houria Community Feast Easton Community Centre, BS5 6AW		Green Border Film Screening by Modern Films The Watershed, BS1 5TX
Fri 14 June	Schools of Sanctuary Day of Welcome Citywide		RWOB Dance event (Women only) Easton Christian Family Centre, BS5 0SQ	Sat 22 June	Bristol Old Vic Free Tours Bristol Old Vic, BS1 4ED
Sat 15 June	Celebrate With Me Page Park, BS16 5LU		Picnic and Poetry with Borderlands Trinity Arts Centre, BS2 0EB		Dovetail Orchestra - Musical Migrations workshops Bristol Beacon, BS1 5AR
	Football Tournament Lockleaze Sports Centre, BS7 9XF	Wed 19 June	Making finance and enterprise more inclusive of refugees NatWest, BS2 0PT	Sun 23 June	Celebrating Sanctuary Queen Square, BS1 4LH
	Knowle West Fest Filwood Broadway, BS4 1JP				

Oct 2023

Arabic World event
Arnolfini, BS1 4QA

Dec 2023

Annual Celebration & AGM
Easton Community Centre, BS5 6AW

Feb 2024

BRF Fundraiser
Strange Brew, BS1 3DB

Feb 2024

Planning meeting
Bristol Old Vic, BS1 4ED

April 2024

Heritage Project
Hope Pole, Limpley Stoke

Sept 24

CSL Eastville
Nissen Hut, Eastville Park, BS5 6XA

Oct 24

Kingswood Welcome chat
Holy Trinity Church, BS15 4AB

Nov 24

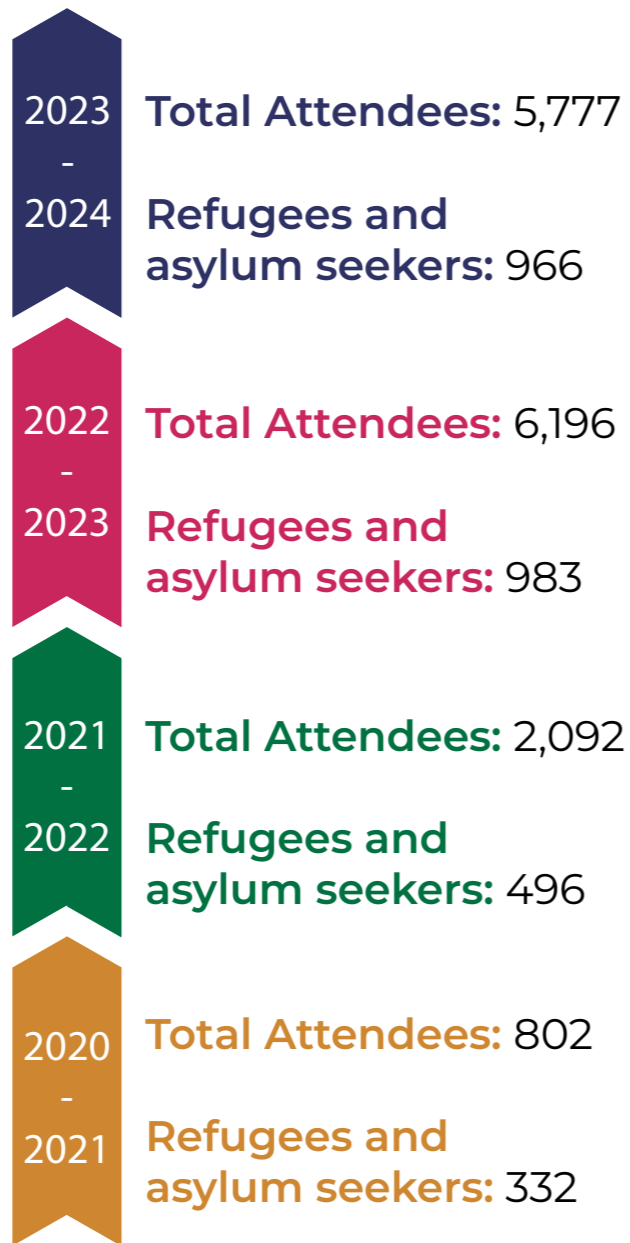
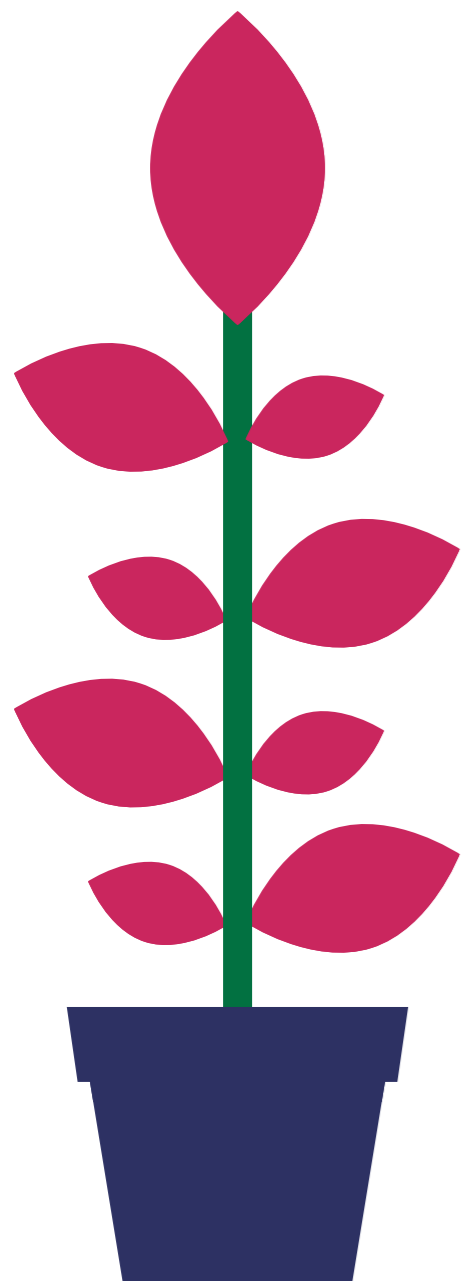
Kingswood follow up
The Park Centre, BS15 4AR

Nov 24

Planning Meeting 2025
Trinity Community Arts, BS2 0NW

Whilst the number of people taking part has slightly decreased this year, the percentage of participants identifying as refugees and asylum seekers increased, from **15.8% last year** to **16.7%**.

The feedback from this year has continued to acknowledge that music, food, craft and dance are fundamental in creating spaces of welcome and sanctuary.



“ I believe food and creativity bring people together, bridging cultural gaps and creating shared experiences. Few things connect us as effortlessly as a meal shared or a craft created together, and I’m excited to bring these passions into my role to help foster community spirit. ”

(Esther, BRF Programme Coordinator, blog November 2024: <https://bit.ly/3ZavxUF>)

One standout moment this year was a participatory 'Unity' dance at Celebrating Sanctuary Queen Square event facilitated by Penny-Marie Avery from Freedom Soul Dance.

“ The Unity Dance was amazing, bringing the audience into it, they felt included, and it brought people together. ”

(BRF team sense making session, November 2024)



Dance is important as a factor in bringing people together, as articulated by Penny Caffrey of MoveMa, interviewed at Celebrating Sanctuary Local, Page Park:

“ I think is really important for people to be in the same space, to communicate, to dance together, to really understand each other on a human level. ”

(Penny Caffrey, Director of MoveMa, Page Park, Celebrate With Me)

Through further reflection, the BRF team have recognised that other, similarly 'interactive' details have been equally effective:

“ The Sudanese procession was similar, those interactive things were really impactful. ”

(BRF team sense making session, November 2024)

Also smaller events have enabled people to make connections and get to know each other and been more accessible for those who cannot get to Queen Square or central events:

“ It's important that we do it in different places and some people are not able to come to the Queen Square. I prefer to do the different areas of Bristol. ”

(Nabil, BRF Ambassador November 2024)

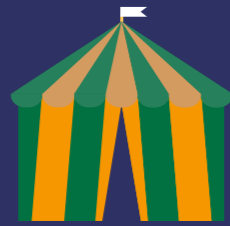


Aim 1. Celebrating and valuing the contribution of refugees and asylum seekers, enabling them to engage with and be more active members of their community.

The numbers of refugee and asylum seekers involved in this year's programme :



55 performers



12 traders



8 workshop facilitators



10 ambassadors
4 event crew members
11 volunteers

During the 2024 programme, BRF tried to ensure that refugees and asylum seekers were at the forefront of all events and activities during the programme, encouraging them to take the lead in all areas and offering training and support where necessary.

Participants recognised how BRF supports them to share their experiences through the programme and this recognition encouraged ever increasing involvement:

"BRF is always good on bringing in communities together under one roof irrespective of their caste, religion, and race. This kind of fair treatment actually attracts me towards working with them wholeheartedly."

(Volunteer 1 (RAS), Celebrate with me, Page Park, 15th June 2024)

"For me, the Page Park activity and in general the other activities that you organise are great. It is nice to feel supported in these circumstances and you always support us financially and emotionally. I am happy to demonstrate my culture and traditional dances of our country and it is a pleasure to show all of Bristol and the parts where they can see our dances and all the good things we have to contribute to this country and especially to Bristol that welcomed us with much love."

(Valeria, Celebrating Sanctuary Local, Page Park, testimonial 2024)

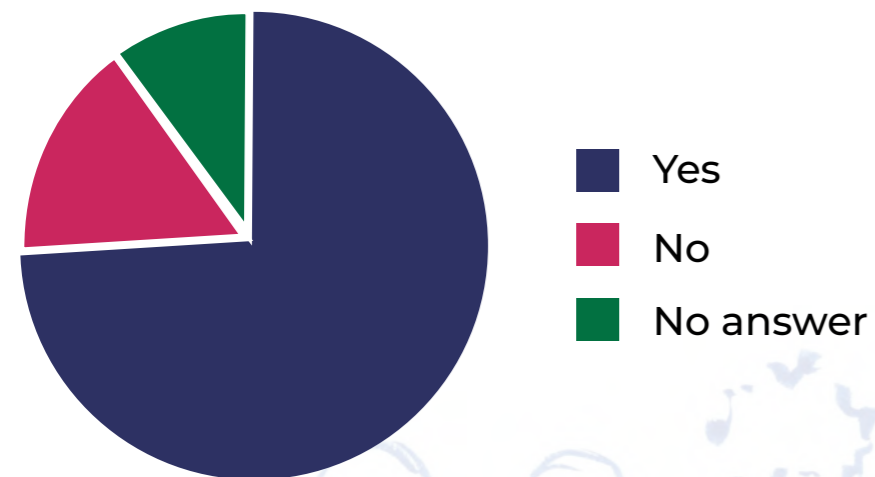
This emotional and financial support is crucial, and is one of the BRF team's strengths. This results in confident performers who feel safe and secure in their role.*(Fees if status allows or travel, subsistence and materials costs).



The value placed on refugees and asylum seekers' contributions, sharing cultural experiences and learning something new was captured in our survey:

74% of event attendees learnt something new

Did you learn anything new?



“ Sudanese food, Tibetan dancing and singing with the community. ”
- (Host 1, Southmead Festival, July 2024)

“ My daughter learned new dance moves from Nicaragua's dance. ”
- (Participant 38, Celebrate with me, Page Park, 15th June 2024)

“ How to say hello in different languages. ”
- (Participant 51, Knowle Peace Feast at Redcatch Community Garden, June 2024)

BRF advances diversity, equity and inclusion in arts and culture for all Bristol citizens, including refugees and asylum seekers and settled communities, through opportunities to learn about and get to know each other.

“ I have learnt that there are people who believe in humanity, equality and how much British people welcome all and they have opened their arms around the world for better lives for everyone who went through a hard time and can find yourself between a wonderful place and superlative people. ”

(Host 6 (RAS), BRF Launch and Community Open Day, June 2024)

BRF Ambassador roles also ensure that people with lived experience inform the BRF programme. Ambassadors offer their skills and knowledge and encourage participation from the wider refugee communities. In turn, Ambassadors have opportunities for training that expand their skills and confidence, including how to run events:

“ They have found us some training in filmmaking and other different things, public speaking and other different training, which was good because lots of us couldn't speak very well, and this has helped learn how to share your ideas. I have learnt lots of things, how to manage the events or manage the invitation of people and how to make that easy, how to advertise the events ”

(Host 6 (RAS), BRF Launch and Community Open Day, June 2024)

Ambassadors also experience opportunities that introduce them to other contexts in which their work and contributions will be valued:

“ Being part of the Bristol Refugee Festival is more than a title... It's opened doors to meeting incredible souls and diving into the richness of diverse cultures and religions. ”

(Reem, BRF Ambassador, Ambassador Blog: <https://bit.ly/4fyAuMM>)

The BRF programme enables refugees and asylum seekers to be more effectively engaged and supports them to become more active members of their community.



BRISTOL REFUGEE FESTIVAL

CELEBRATING SANCTUARY

SUNDAY 23RD JUNE 2024 - 12.30 - 6PM
QUEEN SQUARE, BRISTOL

OZCAN AND PIPPA - ANATOLIAN SONGS • TIBETAN SONGS AND DANCE • OASIS ONE WORLD CHOIR - CHOIR FROM THE OASIS CARDIFF, A CENTRE FOR REFUGEES • UNITY DANCE - INTERACTIVE DANCE • SPEAK OUT SHOWCASE - NEW SONGS FROM GRADUATES OF MOYAH'S SPEAK OUT COURSE • DOVETAIL ORCHESTRA - MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD • CECILIA NDHOLVU - MUSIC AND SINGING FROM ZIMBABWE • NICARAGUAN DANCERS • THE BRISTOL GRIOT - SENEGALESE MUSIC FROM MASTER KORA PLAYER • SUDANESE PROCESSION • AFIDANCE WITH RUBBA & DRUMMERS • SERVO - MUSIC FROM MASTER CONGOLESE MUSICIAN AND HIS BAND

PLUS FREE ACTIVITIES FOR ALL THE FAMILY, CRAFT AND INFORMATION STALLS, DELICIOUS FOOD, CAKES AND REFRESHMENTS

PLEASE TRAVEL SUSTAINABLY
www.bristolrefugeefestival.org

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL
John James Bristol Foundation
SNG Sovereign Network Group

Aim 2. Bringing settled local residents and newly arrived refugees and asylum seekers together, building strong relationships in and across communities.

BRF has been effective in bringing together settled local residents and refugees and asylum seekers, building strong relationships in and across communities through our engagement programme of Welcome Chats and Celebrating Sanctuary Locals (CSL). These programmes are incredibly important in supporting the integration of refugees and asylum seekers in the city, as often people are placed in areas away from central support agencies.

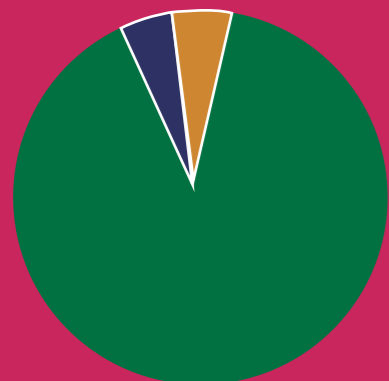
BRF has continued to work in key wards across the city including Southmead, Brislington, St Werburghs, and Easton through the co-production of CSL events. Through prolonged engagement over the years, these communities have built confidence in working directly with BRF Ambassadors and local refugee and asylum-seeking residents to deliver localised events that celebrate culture and diversity, facilitate understanding and nurture lasting connections, to create strong cohesive communities.

This programming has expanded into identified priority areas including Knowle West, Filwood, Lockleaze, Hartcliffe in Bristol and Kingswood and Patchway in South Gloucestershire. In these areas the programme begins with Welcome Chats in local hubs. These facilitated informal conversations connect local residents with refugees and asylum seekers in the area, beginning the process of welcome through discussing interests, needs, co-creation and how to be involved with the project. Each chat is specific to the needs of the local communities.



Photo: Zhenya Melesyk

Consequently 92% attendees feel more connected to their local community.



Has this event made you feel more connected to your local community?

- Yes
- No
- No answer

“...the “Welcome Chat” in Kingswood, where community members gathered to connect, share ideas, and offer skills. I loved seeing the warmth and support for each other and am excited for our outreach into new areas around Bristol and South Gloucestershire.”

(Esther, BRF Programme Coordinator, blog November 2024: <https://bit.ly/3ZavxUF>)

Through these strands of work and through supporting local organisations involved in CSL events, BRF has enabled host communities to have the confidence and knowledge to engage with refugees and asylum seekers in their area, enabling them to create places of welcome and inclusion:

“ The community together. ”

(Participant 2, Southmead Festival, July 2024)

“ Everybody is together and can share the beauty of their different cultures. ”

(Participant in the ‘Celebrate with me’ film, Page Park,

“ Big thank you for everything that you do, and for supporting us as we grow as an organisation to be more inclusive and welcoming. ”

(Host 2, Knowle West Fest, June 2024)



A highlight of this year has been the development of ‘Schools of Sanctuary’ (SOS) participation in the Festival. Strong collaboration between the SOS and BRF has been vital to this being a success. Our Community Engagement Officer has been part of the Steering Group of SOS resulting in three events in the programme. This year’s theme of ‘home’ has been a prompt for work with schools.

“ The children’s artwork was wonderful to see and it was great to speak to the children about their drawings... Was nice to talk to the children and learn about their drawings and experiences. ”

(Participant 32, Home Truths Exhibition by Willow Park School, June 2024)

The school team has been enthused by the project in ways that will encourage them to do more community engaged work in future. We are continuing to work with SOS to further support their participation in the Festival programme. It is apparent that the expertise of the BRF team, in understanding how to produce events has been valued in this context:

“ It was really helpful to work with Vandna because she had experience about how to organise the event and keep it simple rather than it being elaborate, so that the event would be one where all those families, who are cooped up in hotel rooms, had a chance to meet each other and share food and space. ”

(Interview with Tessa McNab, Bristol Schools of Sanctuary Coordinator, November 2024)

Home Truths at Willow Park Primary involved pupils making models of 'home' and Fairfield School has been supported to host a refugee festival. Details of both are pictured below.



The BRF team have commented on this strand of work as being exemplary, in many ways:

“Refugee led and joyful contribution from Willow School, where a lot of students go who are living in hotels, non-school community members attended, day of welcome on 14th June (Diorama).”

(Team sense making, November 2024))

Climate and ecology are hugely important issues in the context of refugee communities, as more people are being displaced because of climate change. Art projects and activities at BRF events raise awareness in simple ways, such as using recycled items for craft activities. The 'home' dioramas are a good example of this.

BRF has created places and spaces of welcome and inclusion, that build connections and allyship for RAS in their local communities, so they feel welcome, valued and empowered to share their skills, knowledge and culture. BRF invests in people, places and partnerships in order to respond creatively to need and support social change.

Aim 3. Improving the health and well-being of refugees and asylum seekers and reducing social isolation.

The programme has reduced loneliness and isolation and improved mental health and wellbeing, through specifically focussing on opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers, volunteers and hosts to make meaningful and enduring connections with each other and develop a sense of community.

BRF events and activities present opportunities to be active, through activities such as dance and football, which is recognised as one of the five ways to wellbeing:

“ Keep active into the community is very rejuvenating and keeps you fresh. ”

(Volunteer 1 (RAS), Celebrate with me, Page Park, 15th June 2024)



The programme includes opportunities to develop healthy habits, such as through sharing experiences of cooking and eating healthy food. It also programmes events with a focus on health and wellbeing through art, including theatre, poetry and craft activities. Craft activities are incorporated into most events and are always popular.

“ Taking part in creative activities is now widely understood to have benefits for our mental health and wellbeing, including for children and young people. ”

(Harriet Lowe, The Baring Foundation, 2023: <https://bit.ly/4eGqNdY>)

As evidenced throughout this report, BRF's programme also successfully nurtures connections between people and across communities, counteracting feelings of loneliness and isolation and make a positive difference to how people feel:

“ A lot of the people at the event have come from the same place as me/ been through similar situations which makes me feel closer to the community. ”

(Volunteer 11 (RAS), Bristol Refugee Festival Launch and Community Open Day, June 2024)

“ Thank you so much for arrange such a good festival for us, who missing home country every day. In future, we want more like this type of event. ”

(Participant 57 (RAS), Celebrating Sanctuary Local, Eastville Park, September 2024)

“ Thank you so much - these events bring me so much joy. ”

(Participant 20, Houria Community Feast, June 2024)



One off projects such as the Bristol Heritage Skills Project proved a valuable experience in learning and creating new connections :

“ When I was granted indefinite leave to remain in 2016 (right to work in UK) I was alone and all support was cut off overnight, I felt lost with no opportunities to learn new skills and that has had a knock on effect. This course has given me a valuable opportunity and I really enjoyed the site visit and the course was very informative. ”

(Mohammad, Bristol Heritage Skills Project Participant, April 2024)

Involvement in BRF has nurtured pride amongst refugees and asylum seekers as well as host communities and organisations:

“ I am proud to be part of it. ”

(Participant 24, Houria Community Feast, June 2024)

“ Our asylum-seeking children being proud of their work. ”

(Host 13, Home Truths Exhibition by Willow Park School, June 2024)

RAS and host communities have benefited through a mutual exchange of skills and culture, developing lasting connections and strengthening community cohesion, which also underpins health and wellbeing, as people are less lonely or isolated.

Outcomes, Learning and Future Plans

As has been evidenced throughout this report:

Stronger relationships and greater connectivity has been established between refugees and asylum seekers and the wider communities in which they live to create positive, meaningful relationships.

Host communities have developed confidence and knowledge to engage with refugees and asylum seekers and create places of welcome.

Refugees and asylum seekers feel more welcome and included in their local communities, able to share and contribute their skills, knowledge and culture, build stronger connections and loneliness and isolation has been reduced.

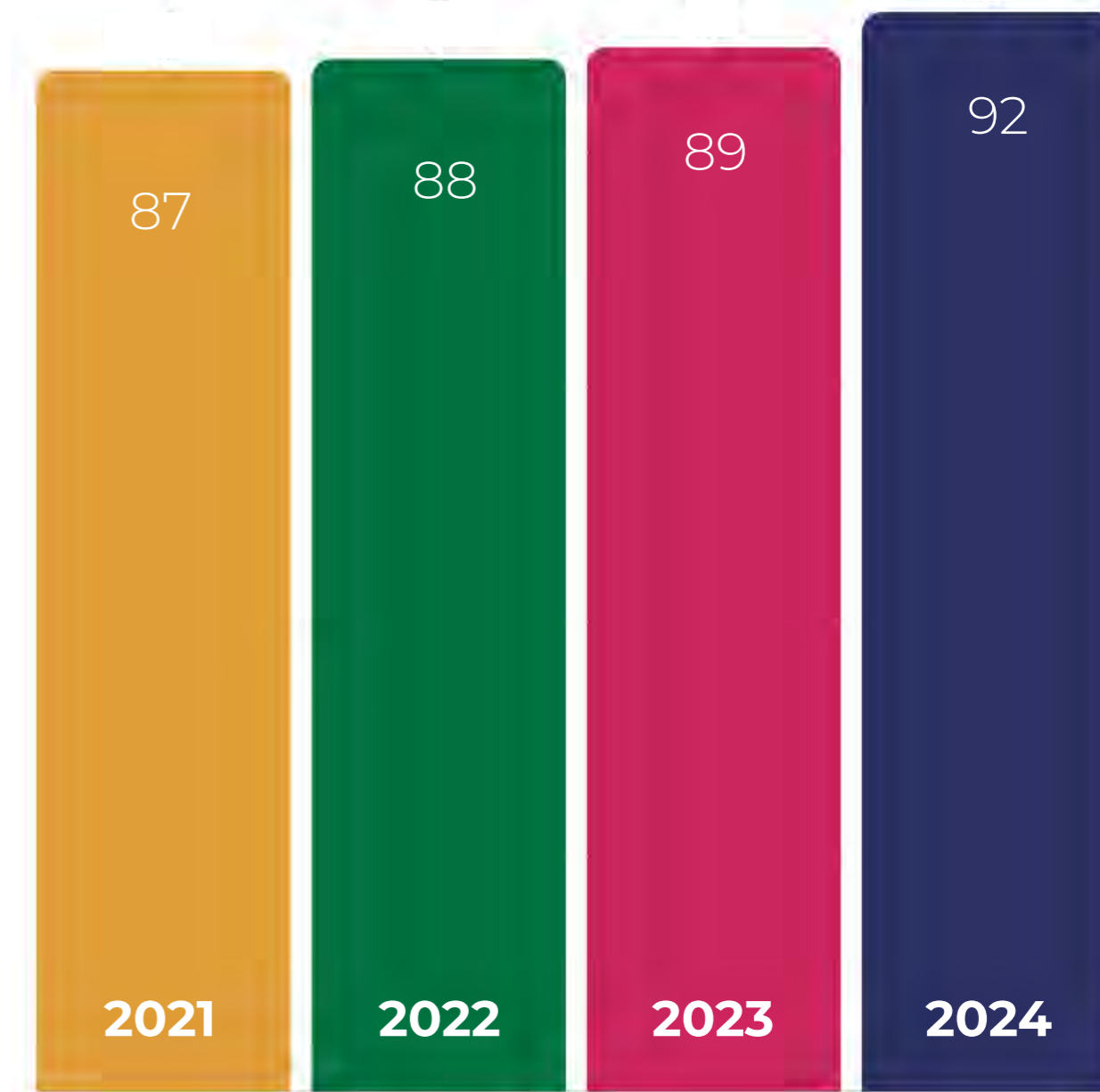
Communities across Bristol have been enriched and strengthened through celebration of different cultures and diversity and the exchange of skills and knowledge.

Opportunities for refugees and asylum seekers have increased through volunteering and paid work with BRF, local community hubs and partners.

BRF events have become more successful, in terms of people feeling more connected to their local community, as shown in the table adjacent.

Has this event made you feel more connected to your local community?

Percentage responding yes to the question





Learning

The BRF team has identified areas of learning that have emerged through the development and delivery of this year's programme:

- A need to create a more cohesive programme, working more strategically to ensure different projects are more closely aligned.
- More training and tools for the ambassadors to enable them to take more roles and lead activity.
- Marketing materials in more languages to enable more refugees and asylum seekers to find out about the programme.
- More volunteers from local communities would be useful, to help encourage local community involvement and support refugees and asylum seekers in their area.
- More clarity about the levels of support for partners and moving communities forward to continue to become 'places of welcome' independently.
- Ensuring partners are paying fair rates for refugee artists.

Future plans and Actions

The above learning indicates a set of actions that can inform BRF's ongoing development. The team has identified the following priorities for the coming year:

- Skills audit and workshop with ambassadors to identify what skills they want to develop in relation to the programme.
- Develop a training programme for ambassadors relevant to the programme.
- Develop clearly defined roles for volunteers and crew and more efficient processes.
- Model co-production as much as possible.
- Develop stronger relationships with Bristol Council, given the city's renewed status of City of Sanctuary.
- Further develop toolkits and guides to support partners.
- Further develop marketing and comms to ensure more refugees and asylum seekers are aware of the programme.
- Work more collaboratively with City of Sanctuary and Bridges for Communities on community outreach and partnerships and creating a 'Places of Welcome' network.



Photo: Diego Pena



Dovetail Orchestra performing, this and other illustrations by Nikki Groom.

“ Keep going and making Bristol an inclusive safe space. ”

(Volunteer 4, Celebrating Sanctuary, Queens Square, June 2024)

Thank you!

A heartfelt thanks to everyone who continues to support Bristol Refugee Festival to achieve its aims.

Our hardworking dedicated staff team, ambassadors, volunteers, freelancers and board members.

Our generous donors and funders and all our wonderful partners and communities across the region who are committed to creating spaces of welcome and inclusion.

Report compiled by Dr Roz Stewart-Hall
Design by Sevilay Kaya





BRISTOL REFUGEE FESTIVAL



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