



**YOUTH**  
scapes

# INTRO

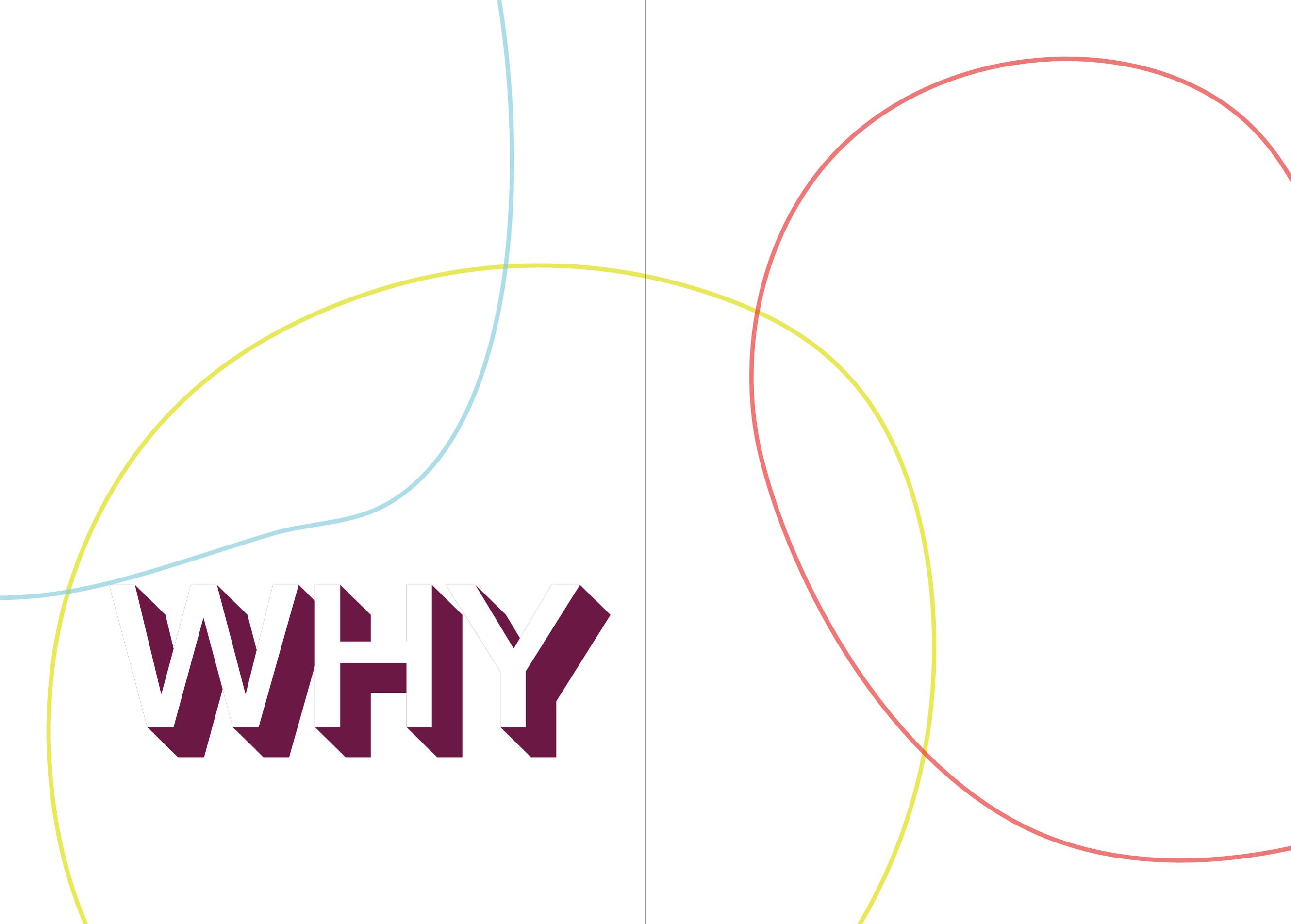
The concept of youth-friendly cities is becoming more and more visible, but groups such as adolescents and/or young ethnic minorities are still overlooked in the city-making process. Recent research has shown that almost 80% of UK youth have never been consulted on the future of their neighbourhoods despite wanting to be involved in the process. The risk of making assumptions or excluding their voices from urban and policy debates is a reality.

While everyone has been impacted by Covid-19, young Londoners from dense urban areas, marginalised communities or minority backgrounds have been especially vulnerable. Therefore, it is important to better understand their relationship with the city during the pandemic to recognise how their experiences and desires might have changed over the last year.

Young people are mainly visible at the moment as numbers through statistics or targeted consultations. Bringing young voices to the forefront of urban policy decisions needs to happen in a more inclusive way in which young people can become co-creators of London's recovery post-Covid. Young people are true citizen experts. Their familiarity with the neighbourhoods they have grown up or reside in can bring valuable perspectives to any city-making process. Their stories, lived experiences and observations of everyday life can be fundamental to help plan neighbourhoods that are designed to respond to young people's needs.

This is why Jane's Walk London, with support from The Academy of Urbanism, created YOU(TH)scapes as a way to give young Londoners a platform to make their stories more visible and help shape a more youth-friendly London.





WHY

The image features the word "WHY" in a bold, stylized, white font with a dark purple shadow effect. The text is positioned in the lower-left quadrant of the frame. A vertical grey line runs down the center of the image. Three large, overlapping, curved lines in light blue, yellow, and red sweep across the scene, creating a dynamic, abstract background. The blue line starts from the left edge and curves upwards. The yellow line starts from the left edge and curves downwards. The red line starts from the top right and curves downwards.

BECAUSE...

WE WANT

I am interested in joining this project because I want to explore my neighbourhood, and subsequently share it.

This is because it is often quiet and overlooked in terms of places people come round and know.

I am a passionate, musically inclined 16 year old who is interested in psychology. Psychology is the science of people which is why I love it so much. There's so much you can learn just by talking to people. Since there's around 7.8 billion people on earth, that's means 7.8 billion different perspectives and a lifetime of learning. Ever since I began to meet new people I began to deeply value the art of storytelling. I noticed that storytelling was in everyday life and essential for social interaction.

Whether that's bringing a smile to someone's face or leaving them shocked after hearing about Piers Morgan's daily rant. I also agree that young people are over looked despite them being the future leaders of tomorrow. Hence why this is such an amazing opportunity.

WE ARE

YOUNG LONDONERS

I want to be a filmmaker when I grow up, making animated movies. I have lived in this borough since I was three years old, so it is home to me. But something I always wished is that I could put the experience of living here, with these people, these kids and these smells and sights and the sounds of these people, into something beautiful. I never got to see this place on a screen in some way that made me proud to be here. I want to do that for the teenagers of the future. There is such vibrancy and life and culture and so many stories in this city and I want to bring this side of it to life. To me, life here always felt portrayed as dark and sad and difficult and dangerous. It is all of those things but also so much more. There is joy here and community and childhood and so many other things that are important to our lives here too. In animation there's a thing where you get to put magic into everyday things - cutting fruit, pulling down a pile of books from a long forgotten shelf, or running down the steps as you swing around each flight. These things, when animated right, bring attention to the wonder of the everyday, the mundane. We suddenly notice that 'hey, that's exactly what it looks and feels like to run down the stairs!', and then we appreciate these universal things with art and it's one of the most rewarding things - seeing the magic in the universal. I want to do that for the experiences of everyone I've grown up with and every kid I see in this city. I want it to be for them, learn about them, make something for them, cause I always wished I could see it for myself.

I'm on a gap year and looking for things to do. Gentrification is happening in my area and it's just decreasing our quality of life. I'm interested in initiatives around improving society that are led by those who are affected.

we

DREAM

# Dear London

WISH YOU HAD MORE CYCLING LANES

I WISH YOU HAD HOUSING FOR EVERYONE!

DEAR LONDON,  
I WISH WE COULD WALK  
ALONG THE RIVER  
THAMES UNINTERRUPTED  
AND THERE WEREN'T  
PRIVATE AREAS  
BLOCKING THE  
THROUGHWAY.

I WISH YOU HAD  
EVEN MORE SPACES  
WHERE CONTRASTING  
CULTURES CAN MIX

I WISH YOU WERE CHEAPER!

I WISH YOU  
HAD BIGGER  
PEDESTRIAN AREAS  
AND LESS ROADS

I WISH YOU HAD  
MORE SPACES FOR  
COMMUNITIES TO  
GATHER

I WISH THERE WERE  
MORE SWIMMING  
POOLS ESPECIALLY  
OUTDOOR ONES  
AS THERE WEREN'T  
ENOUGH LAST YEAR  
WHEN IT WAS HOT!

I WISH LOITERING  
WASN'T ILLEGAL

I WISH YOU  
OPPORTUNITIES  
PARTICIPATORY  
PLANNING AND  
SPONTANEOUS  
MEETINGS WITH  
NEIGHBOURS.

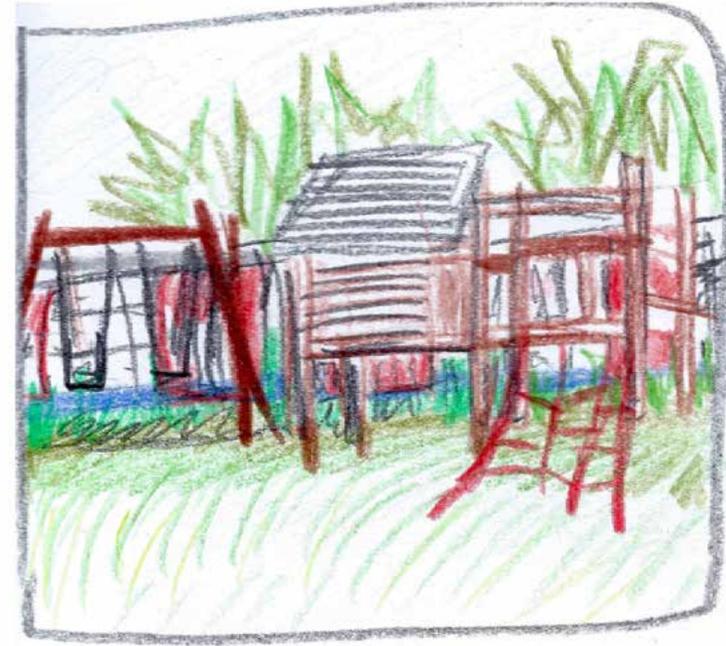
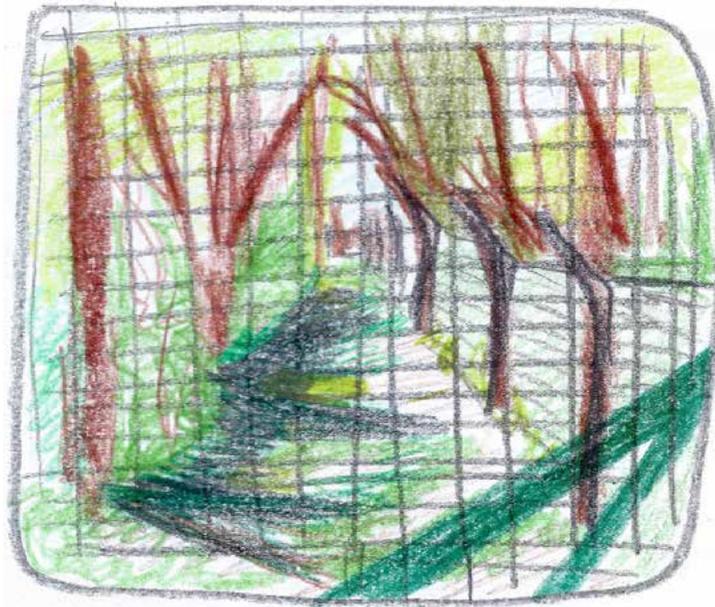
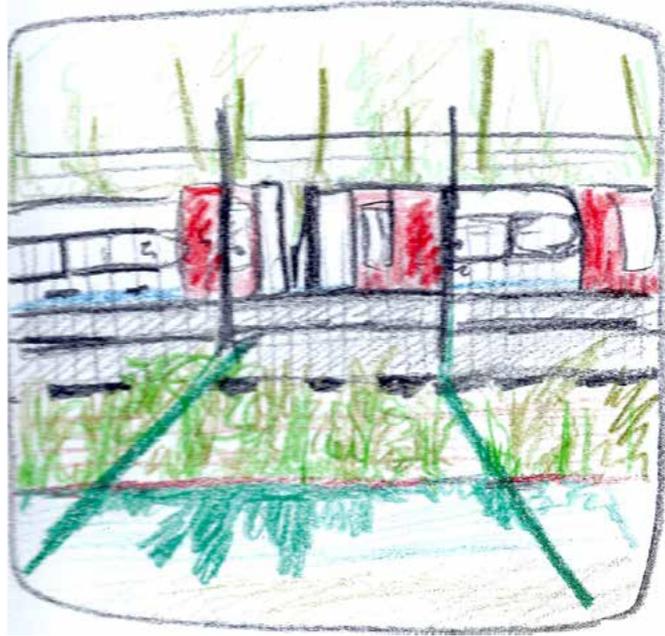
I WISH YOU HAD CLEAN AIR!

I WISH YOU HAD HOUSING FOR  
EVERYONE!

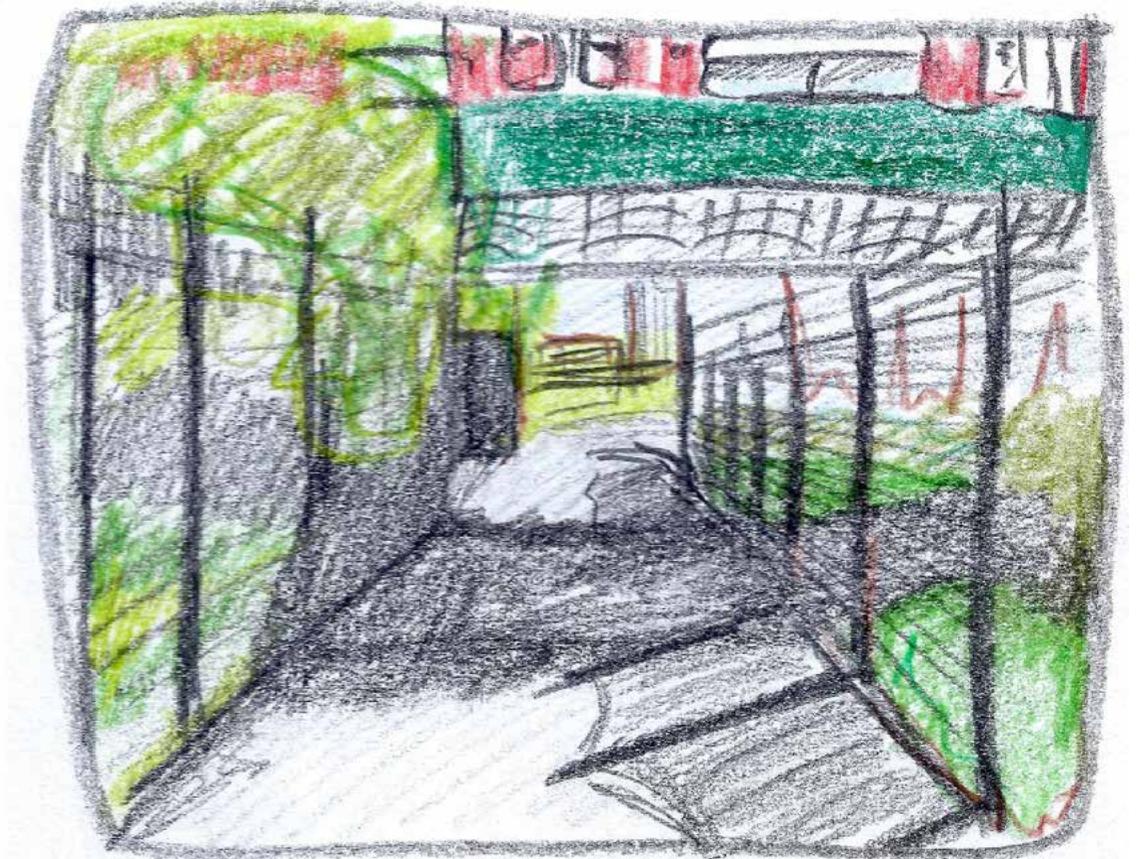


# OUR STORIES

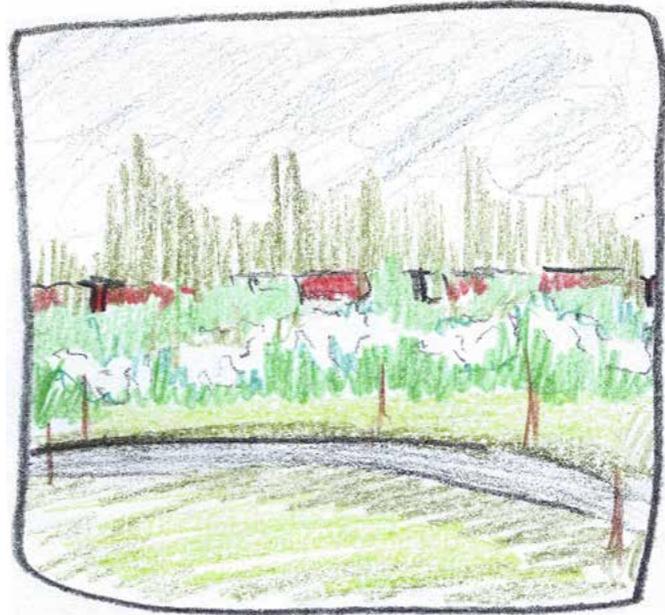
Following the first workshop, I began exploring more of my area, but instead of walking around aimlessly as I had done previously, I wanted to introduce some structure into my route. I decided to follow the Tube, since it happens to cross through my neighbourhood. Also, as it is so recognisable and synonymous with London, I thought the Tube would be a useful start to my urban exploration.



I started with doing some quick drawings, which forced me to stop for a little longer and look more carefully at my surroundings.



It was strangely comforting hearing the trains go by. The Tube reminds me of travelling and connecting with people outside my neighbourhood. It was nice to be reminded that the world is and will continue to run post-pandemic even if our lives feel as though they've been put on an indefinite pause. During my walk and after reviewing my drawings, I found myself most drawn to nature and green spaces, whether it was in the large areas such as the parks or in small, scattered pockets of green; my drawings felt like they reflected what I wanted to see and they depicted wilder, rawer scenery than what was actually there in my neighbourhood. Like most, COVID-19 has increased my interactions with the outdoors and has made me treasure and contemplate my time spent in nature. This prompted me to explore the ways in which nature is important and how we can maintain our improved relationships with it in the years to come.

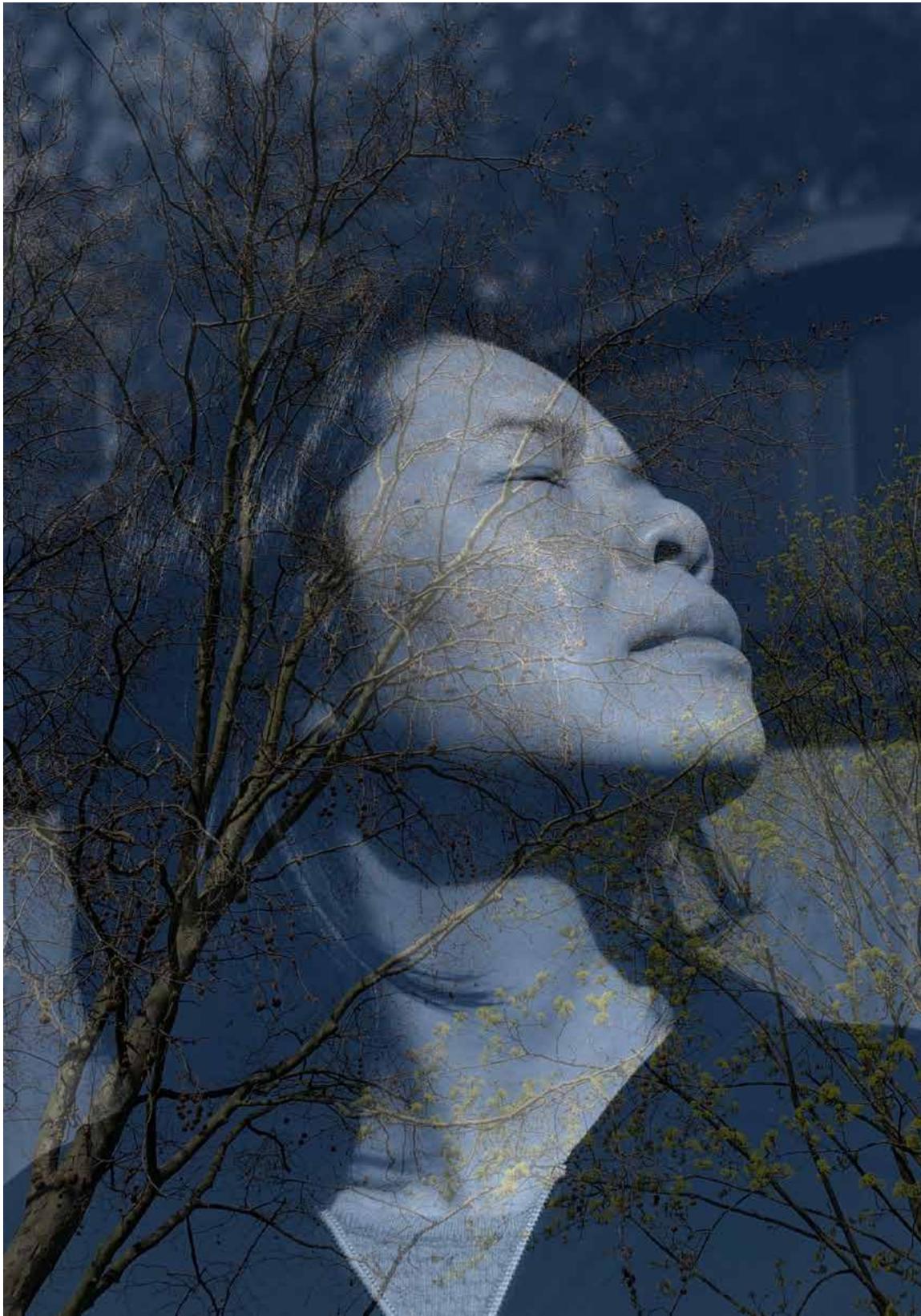


The importance of nature is evident in how many people turned to parks and outdoor spaces for relaxation, socialising, and exercise, among other activities.

But outside the context of the pandemic, nature has a wealth of other benefits. For example, spending time in nature has shown to improve our health and mental well-being and has positive effects on our moods and social skills. Nature also offers ecosystem services, providing key items for our survival like oxygen, water and food. More locally, in my neighbourhood I've seen a recent rewilding project where a new wetland area has been made to prevent flooding to nearby properties during heavy rain. A bridge was also put in place to allow people to walk across the wetland to see and be amongst the wildlife it attracts. The idea of rewilding as not only reintroducing nature and nurturing ecosystems but also of rediscovering and re-immersing ourselves in the natural world has further driven my curiosity in this topic.

I took some double exposures to convey this idea of how we depend on nature and how it will always be an integral part of our lives, regardless of how disconnected we might be right now. The idea of rewilding as not only reintroducing nature and nurturing ecosystems but also of rediscovering and reimmersing ourselves in the natural world has driven my curiosity in this topic. I want to welcome nature and the prospect of rewilding makes me excited for how we can and must incorporate more nature into our lives.





After learning about its obvious benefits, I was excited about the idea of living with and working together with nature. But while continuing to walk around I noticed instances where natural things such as trees and shrubbery felt paradoxically unnatural, where it felt like nature was being treated solely as an object. The beauty and magnificence of nature that I had researched about seemed to have been relegated to a passive version of itself.



This wasn't what I pictured when I thought of incorporating nature into our lives; each flower or tree or shrub felt isolated, connected to neither us nor the rest of the surrounding greenery. Plants definitely do brighten up an area but they provide so much more value than just in aesthetics. During the two weeks, I read about biophilia, which is an innate attraction to nature and other forms of life, and biophilic design, which is how we can use architecture to bring people closer to nature. There has already been evidence of nature thriving as a result of rewilding in cities around the world and evidence of its positive effects, such as mitigating damage from weather events or cooling buildings down. Knowing this deep, personal attraction, that there are feasible ways to incorporate this into our cities and reading about the success of these cases made me want to see how my own neighbourhood could be built to foster an intimate connection between us and nature and made me want to see whether we can start prioritising nature and biodiversity more than I saw on the walk.



I was also reminded of an article (right) I had read. The article reports that words relating to nature, such as 'buttercup', are being replaced by words relating to "increasingly interior, solitary childhoods", such as 'blog' or 'broadband'. This is worrying because, though there is a need to increase the vocabulary for young people to accommodate our modernised lives, this shouldn't result in losing knowledge of the wild and the outdoors. It's a small change but language reflects our culture and doing so would make our already isolated lives further distanced from nature. Despite being published 6 years ago, the core message still stands: more children than ever are losing knowledge and therefore connection with nature. Would this follow with indifference to issues such as the climate crisis since the younger generations won't know anything other than our denatured cities and might only learn about nature through documentary films through digital screens? It wouldn't be enough to just keep the words in the dictionary, the replacements just signal a worrying progression and a need to connect our children to the natural world. If human life is ultimately dependent on other species and ecosystems, we ought to know a lot about it and feel its presence more in our everyday lives. Climate change and biodiversity loss are two important issues that need to be addressed and are now increasingly likely to be problems the younger generation will need to tackle. It's an important issue to me and one I'd want to see my neighbourhood addressing too.

In my neighbourhood particularly, I've noticed lots of construction works. Wherever I walk, I see cranes in the distance or at least some sort of scaffolding. Seeing all this sometimes makes me doubt whether nature can thrive against the backdrop of construction and urban developments.



## Oxford Junior Dictionary's replacement of 'natural' words with 21st-century terms sparks outcry

**Margaret Atwood and Andrew Motion among authors protesting at dropping definitions of words like 'acorn' and 'buttercup' in favour of 'broadband' and 'cut and paste'**

### ● Five simple ways to get your child into the wild



But I still hope that the importance of nature becomes a bigger factor in future urban planning because I know we are in desperate need to reconnect with the wild. Especially in light of the pandemic and how the frequency of zoonotic spillover increases with human encroachment into the wild, we need to find harmony with nature, beginning with living alongside it.



Walking around has highlighted the importance of nature locally - nature needs to be readily accessible and people should be able to see and experience it in real life. Being in nature, being in touch with its rhythms and feeling grounded should become a part of our daily lives so we can fully appreciate the extent of our reliance on the natural world. We can even challenge the idea of cities being denatured and heavily maintained and of nature belonging only to the countryside. It feels like we're in a pivotal moment in tackling things like the climate and biodiversity crises so I think it'll be interesting to see the different ways we can address them, like changes we can make in our neighbourhoods and wider urban areas. I hope we're at a low point of nature in our cities and that future generations will live wilder, urbanised lives. This two-week project and this window of neighbourhood exploration has only scratched the surface of the possibility of rewilding our cities but has given me the confidence and drive as a young person to play a more active role in seeking those solutions. It has been a personal exploration but one that has inspired me to further my learning and explore rewilding's wider implications. I really do feel hopeful about the prospect of nature creeping its way into our neighbourhoods.

**18, Barnet**



The street which I walk to school everyday  
Today feels like an unfamiliar scene  
Is it because of the storm?  
Or am I just accustomed to it?

Curious I go for a walk despite the weather  
I find the streets robbed of footprints  
They used to be exhausted after the morning rush  
But now they are filled with a monochrome sadness

Sympathy arose once I realised the crime committed  
Spring was forced to wait until the storm had passed  
Remembering past times of what life looked like before  
The blossoms could bloom, the trees could grow

What began as wandering aimlessly to cure my boredom  
Became an escape from the horrors of the news  
“there’s a beauty in the quietness” I thought  
Standing still in the rain, whilst consumed by serendipity

Looking far into the distance  
I find a lost flower on the ground  
A lonely blossom wanting to be admired  
The petals perfect and unbruised by the storm

What seemed like the beginning of the end  
Turned into a journey of finding the not so hidden treasures of the world  
finding beauty in the simplest of things  
Finding peace in the storm

Though enlightened by the casual magic of the world  
I will wait for the days of spring to come  
Until the days the blossoms bloom again  
As long it lasts, as long it lasts



**VB, 16, Redbridge**



Scan the QR code to listen the story narrated by the author



*This article is called natural feelings and it centred on my emotions towards my past, present and the future neighbourhood I hope for.*

*In my 17 years of living, I have lived in 4 distinct neighbourhoods, in 2 countries.*

*The first was in Nigeria. It is a generally busy, loud and exciting country to live in. My neighbourhood was characterised by multi-story houses, broken-down houses, dusts, gusts and uneven roads. Although these characteristics, I now realise that the reason why I loved living there at a young age was because I experienced something that I will never get to experience in another country. For example, I experienced cool moon lit nights with my grandma and felt the sensation of soft breeze from the east on my cheek with my sister. But this type of nights, were quickly juxtaposed with the hostility of the day, so when I had the chance I lived it to the fullest.*

*Eight months after my seventh birthday, my family and I moved to Wanstead in the UK. Wanstead was beautiful I could enjoy the day and the night in all its glory.*

*This was due to the sun. It fell into every nook and cranny of the house. It wasn't sun like that of Nigeria, it didn't scorch, burn or almost damage your retina. But it was a peaceful sun, the type that made me happy, excited, merry, simultaneously serene. But it doesn't end here, the emotions triggered from the sun fell into the streets, on people's faces, wherever I looked there was smiles, laughter and people who showed real emotions. The down side is that I didn't get a chance to talk to them because of the fear of 'strangers'.*

*5 years later, we moved closer to my school in Woodford. Here we lived in a flat, it was a brand new experience! It was a block of flats with over 100 people in it, so I could never bond with anyone on a social level, because everyone was labelled as a stranger. Here I felt detached from everything: be it nature, people and the community. Although I was surrounded by nature, I felt cold towards it, it was not like Wanstead or Nigeria.*

*Now, my present neighbourhood. I've been here for almost 2 years and my experiences of it has topped that of the last 2. Here, I have seen what I call life at its finest, it is a mixture of hustle, bustle and relaxation. This as a result of having time to hustle, ie. Go to work at 8am sharp. I see multiple office workers and their not so ecstatic faces off to the train station. And relaxation after peak times.*

Firstly, I love this neighbourhood because I'm not seen as a stranger and I don't identify any of my neighbours as strangers because I've gotten a chance to know them, speak to them and appreciate them on a daily basis, that alone makes me feel safe and at peace.

Secondly, I love my neighbourhood because it is welcoming, especially by the faces of people on the street, the road layout, and the sizes of the houses, it doesn't overwhelm and it does not discriminate (they are all the same sizes). My street even triggers a Friday feeling; at 12 noon after school, where I feel that the weight of week has been lifted off of me.

The final and best feature about my neighbourhood, is the nature, it surrounds and envelopes my entire street and the garden of many people, including mine. My garden is like a mini forest, I have the best view of it and especially love looking at it when it is windy because the trees dance, swing and clap their hands during that weather.

Conclusively, if you ask me, 'what is the most important feature to be placed in a neighbourhood?', I would say it is nature. Because it has the ability to transform your mood, it changes your perspective about the way you see things; additionally, allows you to imagine anything, and as Alan Turing once said "those who can imagine anything can think of the impossible" examples for this, is where the soft gusts of winds in Nigeria said that there is a lot more of where it came from, I just saw glimpses.

I therefore began to think that there's a lot more than what meets the eye, so I began to pay attention to detail, and simultaneously see the bigger picture in situations. The intruding sun in Wanstead taught me that I am in control of my emotions and the state of my wellbeing. Because I could've easily complained about the sun shining too bright, instead I attributed its wonderful glow to feeling of happiness and joy. The static fields of Woodford flats taught me that life is what you make of it, if I chose to live there, a very dull area, I would be the product of my environment: very dull. But I chose to be bright and stayed in an environment that didn't hinder my glow from radiating. And my dancing trees taught me that the best treasure are in the places that I'll never think of looking.

**So if you have the power and /or authority to change community and how people interact with it, start with the fundamental: nature. Plant trees.**



Increase sightseeing events, It allows the mind to WONDER!



*Allocate benches (where people can sit and have proper conversation with each other). I've found that conversations that involve the present, what's currently happening in our lives, impact us the most and are therefore more memorable, than conversations that about the future, ie. "what do you want to be when you are older?"*



*Furthermore, nature brings serenity, in this day and age that's all we NEED.*



**17, Redbridge**

A body, stagnant in the earth - serene and unified, occupied and so recently forgotten as he leaves the school's belly. One grey line in the atmosphere, nearly light.

Now, on some early summer day, it cuts through the low sky. A frozen block, its life oozing out in buckets of green and navy. An enclosure of the winter, painted in sunny rays - white, finally against the blue of the earth.

They sound like you. But for an added grain of vigour that he is oblivious to; we pick on it easily, note the strains of overexertion as he shrieks over the plain. Gates tighten around them; bodies sweep through in speeds of freedom. The navy blue and faded pops of their uniform brand the heavy stream. They move, keen to change out, envelop themselves in cool Nike t-shirts, claim the summer suits before the day is gone.

He runs out to the bank, his peers swarm about him, spilling over skinny pavement, heads thick with visions of the trees, the wide green fields of their own, the lush in violet drapings, ornaments for their open sanctum. Intoxicated, he clocks the blockage.

It's rushed with units of the city - a business disregarded by youth. They're misplaced, ignorant of the good eagerness of young men and women. They push through dispersing crowds, disrupt the migration of a thousand newly awakened teens to the festivity of London summer.

He erupts into the oncoming day, steps into the valley and heads for the promise of the green ahead.

Cars jut behind him, and the focus in his eyes angers a driver. She flashes to a memory - a girl - too sure of herself; she curls in dismissal, rejects the nostalgia of jaywalking into the sun. She slaps her eyes back to the grey grain of this road, thinks of the work she still must bear at home, the daughter who is civilised and different and has not let herself go in the thrill.

Sweeps of them cross the barrier, land on the small ledge aside the railings and stretch out across its length.

Agreements to meet are thrown to the other side, exclamations for the future passed fast and sure overcharging adult vehicles. One kid, breaking with laughter and the gold on her spotted face, falls into the opening. Two girls catch her in and remind her of last year's tragedy. They think back to a moment, a call to something heavy and dangerous, a sense of obligation in their fleeting memorial that halts their world of liberty. Until friends are met and places are left and the summer belongs to them again.

They take up space, fold around the crossings, the cars determined to beat them. They wait at roadsides, supermarkets, corner shops, take their bikes with them, leave them, with brothers who go home. Chastised by staff, exiled to flats, removed and scolded and judged. They ward off dog walkers and university couplets, teachers and families and clubs for primary schoolers, the readers, the sentimentalists and the men who sit in silence.

They repel with their teenage stench - their unwelcome vitality for life, for smoke, for clothes, for games and balls and cans and bags that are set down under the trees, as they unravel in the sun.

# GENTRIFICATION NATION

I have always stuck to the northern line.  
From Brixton to Elephant & Castle  
That was my world.

I've never stepped foot in Pop Brixton.  
I remember first seeing the building plans  
Shipping containers? Bloody shipping containers?!  
But it will just look like a bin... allbeit an expensive bin.

I remember when it used to be a car park - the one my mum and I would race  
another family after my swimming lessons to the car. What thrilling lives we  
lived.

Don't get me wrong, I'm not crying over a car park  
Just the memories not created since then

I used to go to Elephant & Castle with my nan to do the shopping  
We would go to Tesco, followed by the 99p store to get toilet paper and  
sugar, then to Greggs to get a cream doughnut finger and to wrap it up, the  
chicken shop to get a box of chicken wings  
I'd eat a couple of the chicken wings in the kid's park because the journey to  
upstairs was too long of a wait

I now look at the kid's park and it looks so small  
It's a mixture of me being twice the height and the towering cranes cutting  
through the grey and blue  
I hope they don't get rid of it  
I know it's inevitable  
They'll let it deteriorate - 'its best we put it out of its misery'

After years and years I went back to Elephant & Castle  
Of course I'd gone through it, stopped off to meet a friend, but it's been years  
since I'd gone to Elephant & Castle, for Elephant & Castle

I passed my old music school, remembering my last lesson when my teacher  
shouted at me because I hadn't practiced - I just wasn't that into the recorder  
Sue



I remember when the Strata building was built and in my recollection I signal this as the beginning of gentrification of Elephant & Castle. That could be completely inaccurate, I just think it's interesting my brain seems convinced about this.

As I turned the corner, I saw Castle Square  
I'd never seen or heard about this new 'social hub'  
Confused, I don't really know what it is  
A thought pops in my head, and I think Brixton

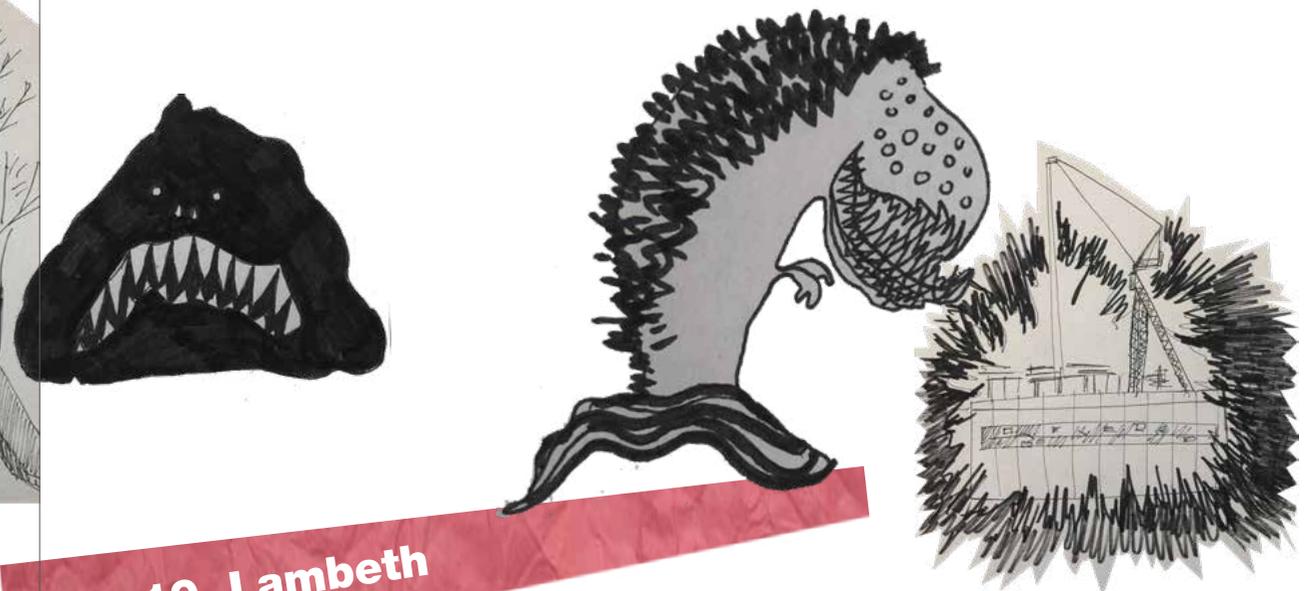
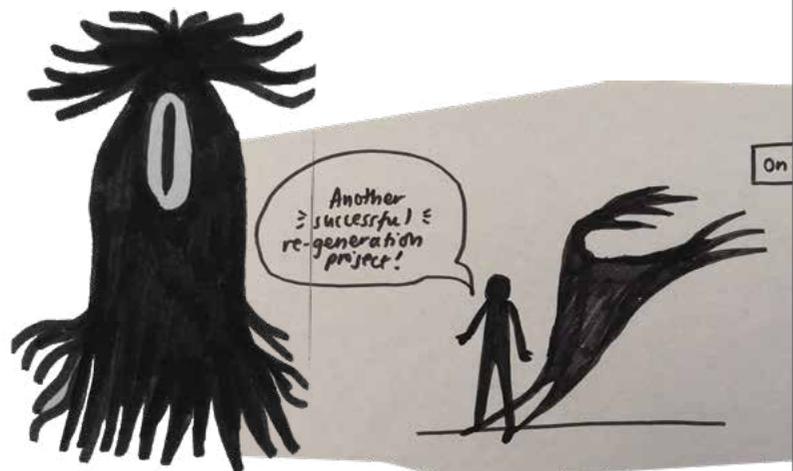


It's quiet  
There's a story of elephants on the floor that I don't really understand  
The matchbox shops sit quiet, I wonder who else, besides the builders knows  
this exists?

I take my pictures and leave quickly.  
It's lifeless.

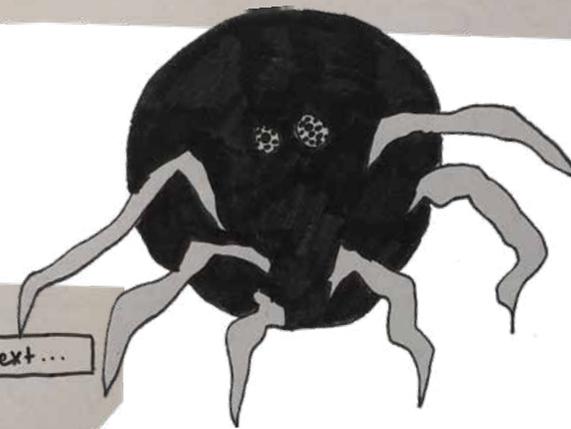
I see through the empty hollow,  
Replacements of what once was  
Cold. Empty.  
Not for me; not for us.

I'm craving the warm empanadas I had one Saturday  
I'm a vegetarian now, but I just want to know there's still some life left in  
Elephant  
I circle back around, my bus stop in sight  
I pass a stalking elephant  
It's amber eye catches mine  
Sad. It looked sad.



19, Lambeth

SOMETHING'S HAPPENING  
IN LONDON ...  
WHO'S THE CULPRIT?



# HOPES FOR YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD

OPPORTUNITIES TO STOP, LISTEN, TAKE A BREATHE AND ENJOY THE AREA.

MORE OPEN ACCESS GYMS AND LEISURE CENTRES

FOR A WILDER, PLAYFUL CITY WHERE THE SOUL OF OUR CITY IS VISIBLE AMONG THE STRUCTURES!

SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES OVER BIG CHAINS & CORPORATIONS

FOR THE FEELING THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE NOT A NUISANCE TO THE CITY OR THAT THEY ARE NOT SEEN AS INCONVENIENT OR DELINQUENT FOR SIMPLY TREATING LONDON AS THEIR HOME

FREE OUTDOOR PROJECTION CINEMA. DOCUMENTARIES OF THE AREA, SHOW IMAGES OF HOW IT'S CHANGED AND THE PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT THEIR LIVES AND THE AREA

FOR THE LIFE OF THE AREA TO BE KEPT EVEN AFTER GENTRIFICATION

MORE ATTENTION ON HOW WE CONSUME, PRODUCE, BUY AND SHARE FOOD, IT'S SO RELATED TO CITY ENVIRONMENT AS WELL

FOR BEING IN NATURE TO BE A NECESSITY, NOT A LUXURY

MORE OPPORTUNITIES FOR EVERYONE TO PARTICIPATE

LET NATURE BE NATURE. KEEP IT SIMPLE AND BEAUTIFUL

FOR GRAFFITI TO NOT BE A CRIME - ALLOW THE STREET ART MAN

MORE COMMUNAL LIVING & EXPERIENCES. SHARING FOOD, COMMUNITY MURALS, EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS. EVEN JUST KNOWING NAMES TO FACES

SUSTAINABLE & ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSPORT

MORE WILD FLOWER SEEDS BEING GROWN, IT HAS BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN SOME AREAS AND ALONG ROADS.

I WANT NEIGHBOURHOODS AND COMMUNITIES TO MAINTAIN THE SOCIAL BONDS AND MUTUAL AID INITIATIVES THAT STARTED WITH THE PANDEMIC

MORE SWIMMING POOLS (AFFORDABLE) MAYBE COMBINE WITH WILDING TO CREATE WILD SWIMMING POOLS LIKE IN THE KINGS CROSS DEVELOPMENT.

I HOPE EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE SIMPLE THINGS IN LIFE

IF NEW BUILDING DEVELOPMENTS DISPLACE NATURE THEY NEED TO RE INTRODUCE THROUGH ROOF GARDENS AND BALCONIES.

REMEMBER THAT CHANGE IS POSSIBLE, AND NOT BE AFRAID OF IT

REDISCOVER THE POWER OF STAYING TOGETHER IN THE SAME PLACE, WITHOUT LOSE WHAT WE LEARN IN THE LAST YEAR, IMPORTANCE OF NATURE AND GREEN SPACE, SLOWING DOWN, OTHER PEOPLE NEEDS

TO GET INVOLVED IN YOUR NEIGHBOURHOODS!

TO STOP USING PUBLIC SPACES FOR GENTRIFICATION MEANT FOR TOURISTS OR WEALTHY CITIZENS WHO DON'T NECESSARILY EVEN LIVE IN THE AREA - INSTEAD, DESIGN SPACES OR LAUNCH BUILDINGS MEANT FOR THE RESIDENTS OF THE AREA

## Project Organiser: Jane's Walk London

Jane's Walk London is part of the Jane's Walk network, a global movement and a community-based approach to city building that uses volunteer-led walking conversations to make space for people to observe, reflect, share, question and re-imagine the places in which they live, work and play. We encourage people to share stories about their neighbourhoods, discover unseen aspects of their communities, and use walking as a way to connect with their neighbours. We are particularly interested in opening the conversation around the city-making process to the wider public.

Jane's Walk London team: Franca Carassai, Diana Dobrin, Giorgia Scognamiglio, Laura Puttkamer, Federica Terenzi

## Project Sponsor: The Academy of Urbanism

Youthscapes is one of this year's YU Small Grants Scheme recipients, funded by The Academy of Urbanism, a politically independent, not-for-profit organisation and a cross sector community that brings together both the current and next generation of urban leaders, thinkers and practitioners. Their mission is to understand, promote and celebrate what makes great places and to apply these lessons to the improvement of towns and cities across Europe and beyond. Offering an active programme of learning the Academy's aspiration is to support people and organisations to deliver and sustain great places.

## Special thanks to

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# DISCOVER HOW WE HAVE MADE THIS HAPPEN

YOU(TH)scapes: a project about uncovering the urban experience of young Londoners from ethnic minorities during COVID-19 through creative storytelling.

For this project, we invited a group of motivated young Londoners and gave them a platform to express themselves. Over the course of one month, they attended dedicated training and mentoring in urban research, critical thinking, creative and storytelling skills. They attended 2 collective workshops and actively worked on crafting their stories with support from mentors in-between the workshops.

## **Getting started with urban creative storytelling**

In the first workshop, we brought all young people together and started by exploring the space of urban storytelling by thinking and discussing urban observation (what it is, how it's done, how we're all doing it unconsciously). With the help of creative mentors, we then explored some types of creative skills that can be used to turn observations about neighbourhoods into original stories. Young people had the chance to experiment with creative writing, digital art and illustration, digital collage, photography and think about what skills they'd like to use later on for their stories.

## **Bringing the neighbourhood stories to life**

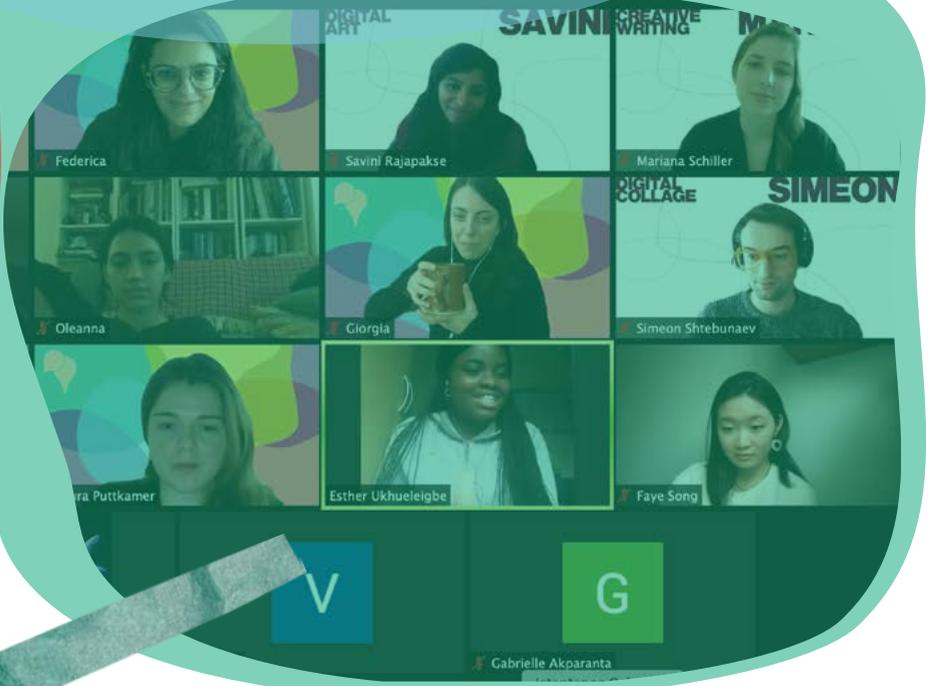
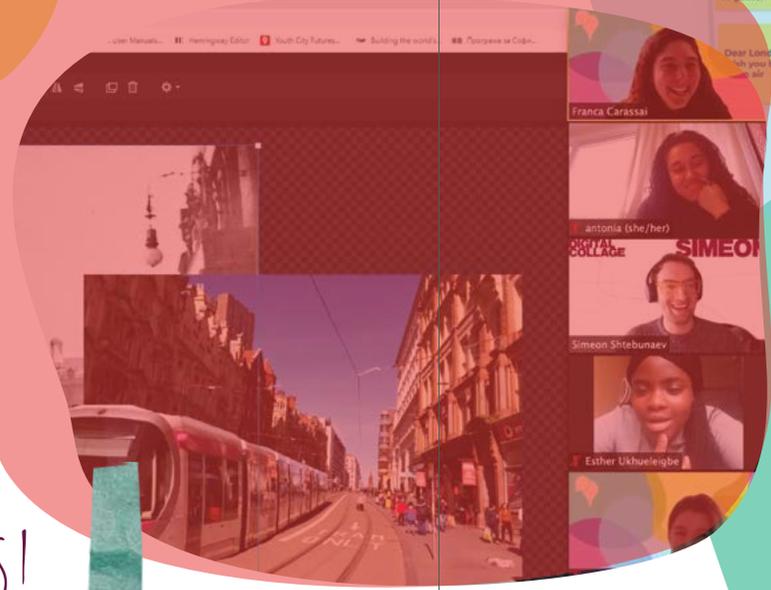
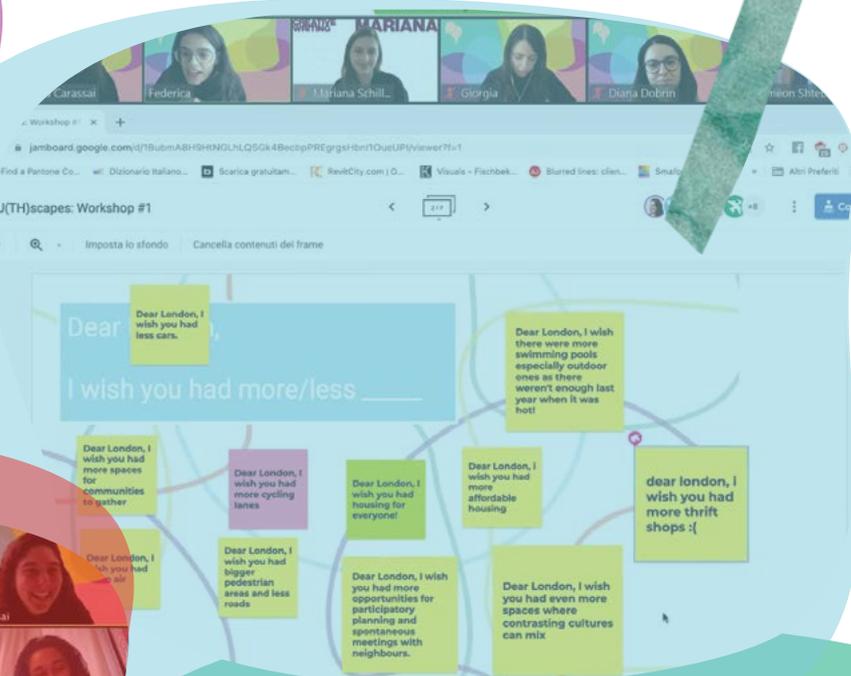
Over the next two weeks, we had time for urban exploration and story creation. Each young person decided on a topic in their neighbourhood to explore and started crafting their stories using a mix of creative skills with guidance and support from the mentors. All of these stories have been compiled in this zine!

## **Putting it all together**

For our final workshop, we gathered to discuss the stories that emerged from this exploratory period. Using a collective feedback process we discussed each story at a time, celebrating their authenticity and encouraging with new creative ideas. We explored how these stories can be brought to life in the zine and offered advice on taking these skills and experience further into study, work or future opportunities.

BREAKOUT ROOMS

WE SHARE OUR DESIRES FOR THE CITY



FIRST WORKSHOP

CREATIVE SESSIONS!

SECOND WORKSHOP

what

**young**

**people**

WANT you

to **think about**

next time

YOU

DESIGN a

neighbourhood



**YOU(th)scapes.**