

CULTURAL FREEDOM:

KEY THEMES THAT HELP OR HINDER YOUNG PEOPLE'S CAPACITY TO THRIVE THROUGH DEVELOPING THEIR CREATIVE POTENTIAL.

A NEW DIRECTION

We create opportunity

Influence and power

Amplifying hidden voices

33% of Londoners are aged 0-25, yet young voices are typically underrepresented in policy decisions in and outside of culture. Without increased consideration of young voices we risk further isolation and disconnect between generations in London.

"Compared to 2015, turnout rose most among young people [in 2017], to match their estimated turnout levels in the EU referendum, while it fell very slightly among older people – but older people were still much more likely to vote overall" (Ipsos Mori, 2017).

18-24 turn out in 2017: 54%; 65+ turnout in 2017: 71% (Ipsos Mori, 2017)

"From a voting perspective, younger voices are being drowned out by older people..." (UK Young Ambassadors, 2017)

50% of young people felt that the world was changing for the worse and only 35% felt it was changing for the better. 34% of young people felt they were incapable of keeping up with this change, with young people from lower socio economic backgrounds more likely to feel this way (British Youth Council, 2017).

"From data submitted by National Portfolio Organisations in 2015/16, we see that: • 17 per cent of the workforce is Black and minority ethnic • 4% self-defined as disabled • 55 per cent of the workforce are female • the most represented age group is aged between 20 and 34, making up 29 per cent of the workforce". ("We welcome the continued progress with Black and minority ethnic representation across the workforce of the National Portfolio, which now stands at 17 per cent against the working age population average of 15 per cent") (ACE, 2015).

Research has highlighted how the capital's young people are ambitious to succeed, aware of the chances that London might offer them and are specific about the support needed to achieve their goals; for example, through having spaces where they could work on creative projects or collaborate together (London Youth, 2017).

The shifting funding environment has placed a renewed emphasis on inter-organisational partnership and multiagency working to improve efficiencies and effectiveness. It has also emphasised the important role played by 'young cooperatives' in coordinating services. Such collaborative efforts are encouraged as they strengthen youth organisations and ensure their longer-term sustainability (London Youth, 2017).

We have seen increased traction in recent years in models of youth governance, recruiting young trustees, and considering how young voices are heard across programming and organisational decision-making. As well as supporting relevance and 'live feed-back' mechanisms for programme development, being involved with organisational governance can support our future cultural and artistic leaders to build relevant skills and experience for their future roles, or in starting their own organisation.



www.anewdirection.org.uk/challenge

References

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