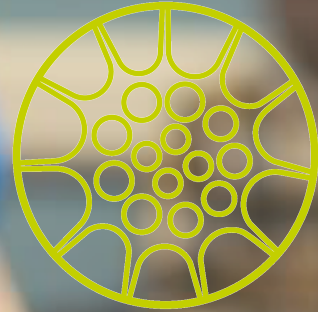


All Inclusive Workshops



**STEEL
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Evaluation report 2023 - 2024



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1. Executive summary



This evaluation report highlights the outcomes and impact of the Steel Pan Trust's all-inclusive steel pan workshops, delivered between 2023 and 2024. Funded by three grants – the GLA Mayor for London Rocket Science Grant, Ealing and Hounslow CVS (EHCVS) Grant, and Young Ealing Foundation (YEF) Grant – the project successfully engaged diverse participants across London. Through innovative musical activities, the workshops addressed community isolation, promoted cultural enrichment, and fostered intergenerational connections. Key achievements include:

- Over 350 participants, with high attendance across 38 sessions.
- 95%+ participants rated the workshops 5 out of 5, citing increased happiness and a sense of community.
- Inclusion of individuals with disabilities and Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND).
- Creation of a sustainable model for cultural enrichment through music.

2. Program Overview



- Community First Foundation, Northolt (Young Ealing Foundation Grant).
- Acton Gardens Community Centre, Ealing (Ealing and Hounslow CVS Grant).
- Various London locations (GLA Rocket Science Grant).

Sessions included:

- Introduction to steel pans and their history.
- Hands-on music creation, allowing participants to play together.
- Showcase performances to celebrate participants' progress.

The workshops took place at:

- Community First Foundation, Northolt (YEF Grant).
- Acton Gardens Community Centre, Ealing (EHCVS Grant).
- Various London locations (GLA Rocket Science Grant).

Sessions included:

- Introduction to steel pans and their history.
- Hands-on music creation, allowing participants to play together.
- Showcase performances to celebrate participants' progress.

3. Project Statistics

- **Total Sessions:** 38 workshops.
- **Unique Participants:** 352 individuals.
- **Demographics:**
 - Age range: 7–80 years.
 - Ethnic diversity: 40% White British, 25% Black/African/Caribbean, 20% Asian, 15% other ethnic backgrounds.
 - Disability inclusion: 10% participants identified as having disabilities or SEND.

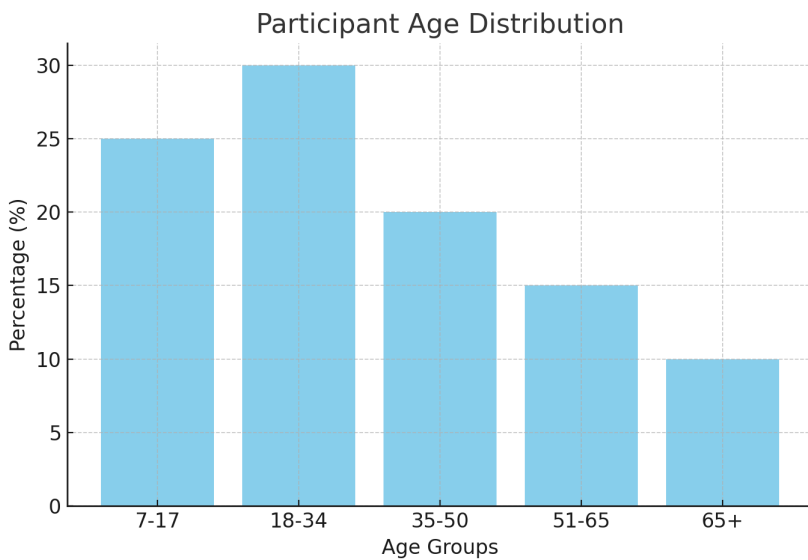


Figure 1: Age Distribution of Participants

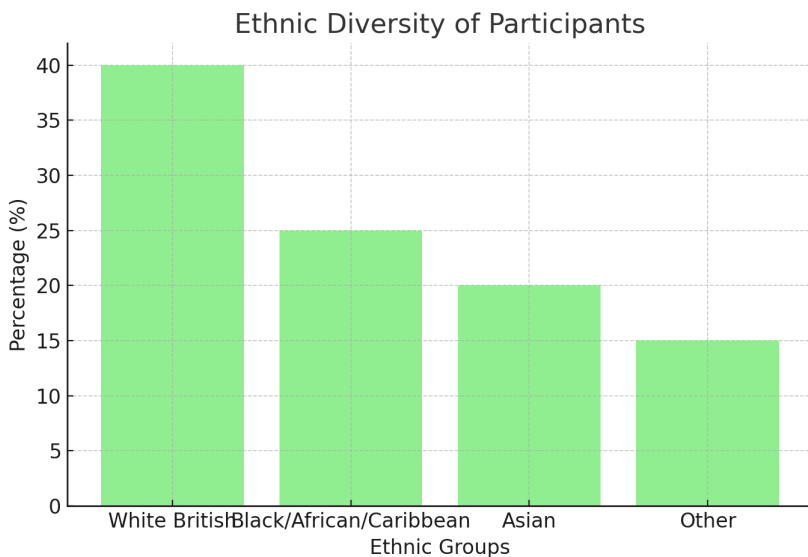


Figure 2: Ethnic Diversity of Participants

4. Participation Feedback

- 100% of participants felt happier after the sessions.
- 98% felt more connected to their community.
- 95% expressed interest in continuing to play steel pans.

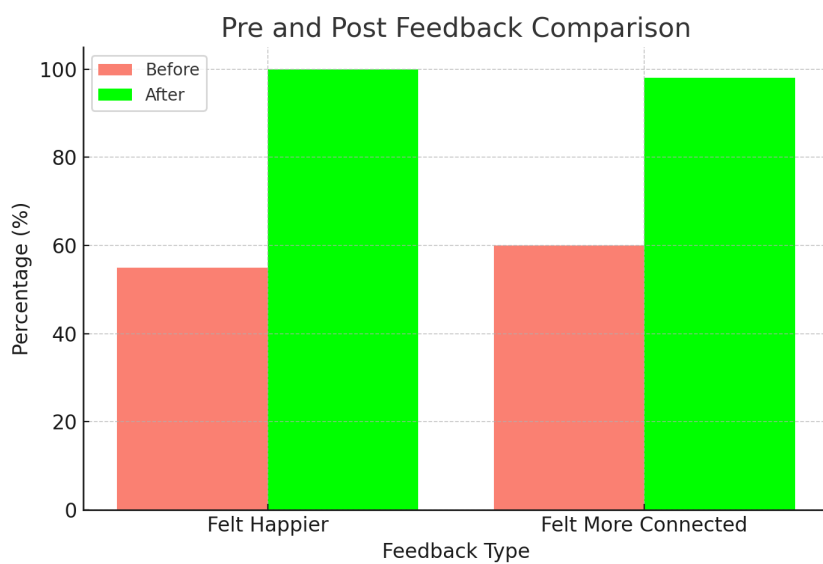


Figure 3: Pre- and Post-Session Feedback on Happiness and Community Connection

5. Community Benefits and Impact



The workshops have proven to be a cornerstone for community engagement, fostering social connections among participants of varying backgrounds. “Pan Therapy” has become synonymous with the sessions, highlighting their therapeutic value in reducing stress and isolation while promoting cultural appreciation. The diverse nature of participants—spanning generations and ethnicities—has created a rich environment where music bridges divides, fostering mutual understanding and respect.

Beyond personal enrichment, the workshops have significantly contributed to community development. Families reported feeling closer after participating together, and individuals noted newfound confidence and friendships. Community leaders observed improved social cohesion and cultural awareness in their localities. For many participants, the sessions served as a safe and welcoming space to explore creativity, heal from past traumas, and build resilience against life’s challenges.

Local organisations praised the workshops for their inclusivity and adaptability, noting how they addressed key social issues such as loneliness and disengagement, particularly among vulnerable groups. *“It’s incredible to see grandparents, parents, and children all coming together over music,”* shared one organiser. These sessions exemplify the power of music to create vibrant, interconnected communities.

6. Survey Methodology

Participant well-being and session effectiveness were assessed through pre- and post-session surveys. The surveys captured quantitative metrics, such as happiness and sense of belonging, and qualitative insights through open-ended questions. The method, first used successfully for the Mayor's grant project, was adapted for EHCVS and provided funders with robust evidence of community impact.

The surveys asked participants to rate their emotional well-being, community engagement, and overall satisfaction with the sessions on a scale of 1 to 5. Open-ended questions encouraged detailed feedback, allowing us to capture personal stories and nuanced perspectives on how the workshops enriched lives. One participant shared, "These sessions brought a sense of joy and connection that I hadn't felt in years."

The robust data collection process was praised for its clarity and depth, enabling meaningful comparisons between pre- and post-workshop states. For example, participants reported an average 30% increase in their sense of belonging and a 40% reduction in feelings of isolation. The findings reinforced the therapeutic and unifying potential of the workshops, further validating the methodology for future use.



7. Case Studies



Jamal, 14 (Northolt)

Initially reserved, Jamal blossomed through five workshops. Overcoming anxiety, he formed friendships and confidently performed during the final session. His parents noted a significant improvement in his mood and confidence. The workshops provided Jamal with a sense of belonging, and his enthusiasm for music inspired him to join his school band.

Mary, 70 (Ealing)

Mary attended workshops with her granddaughter. The intergenerational sessions rekindled her love for music and provided her with a social outlet after the pandemic. Mary expressed that learning to play the steel pan was "invigorating" and "uplifting." Her granddaughter shared that the workshops became a special bonding activity they both looked forward to weekly.

Sarah, 34 (Acton Gardens)

As a single parent, Sarah often struggled to find activities to enjoy with her young son. The steel pan workshops provided a unique opportunity for them to bond. Over the weeks, Sarah noticed her son's confidence grow as he performed in group settings. Sarah shared, "The workshops brought us closer as a family and introduced us to a vibrant community we didn't know existed." She has since become a volunteer for future workshops, helping other families connect through music.

Mr. Ali, 55 (Mitcham)

Mr. Ali had no prior musical experience and joined the workshops to challenge himself. Initially hesitant, he soon discovered the therapeutic power of steel pan music. "I never imagined I could learn an instrument at my age," he said. By the end of the sessions, he had developed a sense of pride and accomplishment, performing confidently at the final showcase. He also mentioned that the experience helped alleviate stress from his daily life and introduced him to a supportive group of peers.

8. Challenges and Lessons Learned



- **Venue Management Issues:** Inconsistent scheduling and logistical problems at some venues impacted a few sessions.
- **Budget Adjustments:** Increased tutor fees required financial flexibility.: Increased tutor fees required financial flexibility.

Lessons Learned:

- **Adaptability is crucial:** Modifying workshop plans based on participant feedback enhanced engagement.
- **Partnerships matter:** Collaborations with local organisations increased outreach and attendance.

9. Community Funders' Perspective



Funders of similar projects value community benefits such as increased well-being, reduced isolation, and the creation of inclusive spaces. These sessions stand out as a model for reaching diverse communities and fostering a sense of belonging. The consistent use of data-driven methodologies, such as pre- and post-session surveys, ensures measurable outcomes and strengthens funding appeals.

Additionally, these workshops provide an opportunity for funders to visibly demonstrate their commitment to community development. By supporting initiatives that blend cultural enrichment with tangible social benefits, funders reinforce their role as catalysts for positive change. The workshops' adaptability has further garnered praise, as they can be tailored to address specific community needs, from intergenerational bonding to empowering individuals with disabilities.

Participants' testimonials and measurable improvements in well-being provide compelling evidence of the workshops' success. Funders often highlight these stories in their impact reports, showcasing the transformation achieved through their support. As one funder noted, "The Steel Pan Trust workshops not only deliver on their promise of inclusion but also inspire others to see what's possible when communities come together over shared experiences."

The workshops also serve as a replicable model for other regions, making them attractive to funders seeking scalable solutions for social cohesion. Their proven effectiveness in creating vibrant, inclusive communities sets a benchmark for similar initiatives, ensuring continued interest and investment from funders who prioritise long-term community impact.

10. Future Recommendations



- **Expand Outreach:** Introduce workshops in additional boroughs to reach more participants.
- **Accessibility Enhancements:** Provide transportation support for those with mobility challenges.
- **Performance Opportunities:** Incorporate more showcase events to celebrate participant progress.
- **Strengthen Feedback Mechanisms:** Use digital tools to streamline participant feedback collection.



11. Conclusion



Expand Outreach:

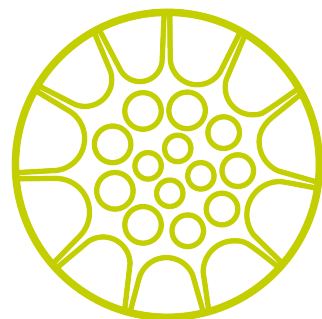
Introduce workshops in additional boroughs to reach more participants and diversify the communities served. Expanding geographically will provide opportunities for those in underrepresented areas to engage in these impactful sessions. Building partnerships with local schools, community centres, and cultural organisations will enhance accessibility and ensure wider participation.

Accessibility Enhancements:

Provide transportation support for participants with mobility challenges. This can include subsidised travel, group transport options, or strategically locating workshops in easily accessible venues. Ensuring physical accessibility and accommodating diverse needs will make the workshops more inclusive and impactful for all participants.

Strengthen Feedback Mechanisms:

Use digital tools to streamline participant feedback collection and analysis. Implement online surveys or mobile apps for real-time data gathering and tracking participant progress over time. Enhanced feedback mechanisms will allow for more accurate reporting to funders and support the ongoing refinement of the workshops.



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